

National Hispanic Leadership Agenda

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

December 18, 2017

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA)—the coalition of the nation's 45 preeminent Latino advocacy organizations— **we urge you to oppose the conference report on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (H.R. 1). NHLA will closely monitor votes on the conference report for inclusion in future NHLA scorecards evaluating Representatives' and Senators' support for the Latino community.**

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act undermines the progress our country has made since the Great Recession by prioritizing corporate interests over those of hardworking American families. Our nation's richest individuals and largest corporations get a tax cut while increasing the deficit by \$1.4 trillion and leaving millions of working families and children worse off. Big corporations would see their tax rate drop from 35% to 21% and the richest 5% of households would get about 52% of the bill's tax cuts. Meanwhile, over 40 million working and middle-class families will see their taxes raised by 2027.

Massive tax cuts for the wealthiest individuals and big corporations will largely be paid for by cutting federal programs that help working families and low-income people make ends meet. The Speaker of the House and others in Congress have already called for massive spending cuts to close the deficit that H.R. 1 would widen. From nutrition and rental assistance to refundable tax credits, these federal programs keep millions of Latinos out of poverty and help provide basic living standards for Americans struggling to stay healthy, put food on their table, and keep a roof over their heads. Reduced funding for these programs will jeopardize the health and well-being of 18 million Latinos and 10.7 million Latino children who rely on Medicare and/or Medicaid. It will also place an additional 6.3 million Latinos, including 3 million Latino children and 351,000 Latino seniors, who obtain critical federal benefits at risk of falling into poverty.

Further, H.R. 1 is an attack on taxpaying immigrants and their children. This legislation would restrict immigrant taxpayers' eligibility for the Child Tax Credit (CTC), by requiring individuals to provide Social Security numbers for each qualifying child. This provision would increase the burden, complexity, and red tape for hard-working mixed-status families. In 2015, the CTC kept nearly 1 million Latinos out of poverty, including over 560,000 Latino children, this restriction could push many into poverty.

H.R. 1 also repeals the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate, which is estimated to result in 13 million more uninsured and increase insurance premiums by 10 percent. Repeal of the individual mandate compounds the actions of the Trump administration earlier this year to end cost-sharing reduction payments, further destabilizing the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Over four million Latinos obtained health insurance coverage thanks to the ACA, bringing the Latino uninsured rate to a record low of 16.2 percent. Congressional action to undermine the ACA would jeopardize that progress.

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alianza Americas
American G.I. Forum
ASPIRA Association
Avance Inc.
Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network
Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute
Farmworker Justice
Green Latinos
Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities
Hispanic Federation
Hispanic National Bar Association
Inter-University Program for Latino Research
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
LatinoJustice PRLDEF
League of United Latin American Citizens
MANA, A National Latina Organization
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
Mi Familia Vota
National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures
National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives
National Association of Hispanic Publications
National Day Laborer Organizing Network
NALEO Educational Fund
National Association of Latino Independent Producers
National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc.
National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators
National Hispanic Council on Aging
National Hispanic Environmental Council
National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts
National Hispanic Media Coalition
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Institute for Latino Policy
National Latina/o Psychological Association
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
Presente.org
SER Jobs for Progress National
Southwest Voter Registration Education Project
UnidosUS
United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
United States Hispanic Leadership Institute
United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce
U.S.- Mexico Foundation
Voto Latino

For Puerto Rico, which faces the dual struggle of a fiscal crisis and an uphill recovery from Hurricane Maria, H.R. 1 brings more bad news. The bill would eliminate tax incentives for manufacturing on the island, resulting in the loss of tens of thousands of jobs and a significant portion of tax revenues needed to rebuild Puerto Rico's infrastructure and economy.

H.R. 1 would cut taxes for the richest Americans and largest corporations, balloon the deficit, and put tens of millions of working families, seniors, and children, including millions of Latinos, at risk of falling into poverty. For this reason, H.R. 1 is fundamentally unfair and unduly harmful to millions of people who contribute to this nation's stability and prosperity. NHLA strongly urges you to oppose this bill and instead work together to create a tax reform plan that supports working families, ensures everyone pays their fair share, , and increases investments so that all have a brighter future.

If you have any questions regarding NHLA's position on H.R. 1, please do not hesitate to contact NHLA through Renato Rocha at rrocha@unidosus.org.

Sincerely,



Hector E. Sanchez Barba
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Chair, NHLA



Bruce Goldstein
President, Farmworker Justice
Co-Chair, NHLA Economic Empowerment and Labor Committee



Eric Rodriguez
Vice President, UnidosUS
Co-Chair, NHLA Economic Empowerment and Labor Committee