



NHLA National Hispanic Leadership Agenda

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
- Hispanics in Philanthropy
- 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
- NALEO Education Fund
- National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives
- National Association of Latino Arts and Culture
- National Association of Latino Independent Producers
- National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc.
- National Day Laborer Organizing Network
- National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators
- National Hispanic Council on Aging
- National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts
- National Hispanic Media Coalition
- National Hispanic Medical Association
- National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
- National Latinx Psychological Association
- Presente.org
- SER Jobs for Progress National
- Southwest Voter Registration Education Project
- U.S.- Mexico Foundation
- UnidosUS
- United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- United States Hispanic Leadership Institute
- United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce
- Voto Latino

December 14, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
 Speaker of the House
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Room H-305, The Capitol
 Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
 Majority Leader
 United States Senate
 Room S-230, The Capitol
 Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
 Minority Leader
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Room H-204, The Capitol
 Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
 Minority Leader
 United States Senate
 Room S-221, The Capitol
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader McConnell, and Leader Schumer:

We write today on behalf of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), a coalition of over 40 leading national Latino nonpartisan civil rights and advocacy organizations, to urge Congress to provide equitable federal support to Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), as defined under Title V of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA). HSIs remain the most under-resourced and federally underfunded cohort of institutions, yet they educate the largest number of students from all minority populations in the nation and the largest proportion of low-income students. HSIs are also the fastest-growing collective of colleges and universities serving the populations most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. HSIs merit and sorely need your help.

Historically, HSIs have been severely underfunded, including in the distribution of CARES Act funds among Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs). HSIs account for 94.5% of all students enrolled at the four cohorts but received only 24.9% of the MSIs set-aside, even though they educate more than double the number of African Americans at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), nearly twice the number of Native Americans at Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and over 40% of all Asian Americans in college. The 42 undersigned organizations request that you please correct this inequity in all subsequent higher education appropriations, beginning with the COVID-19 relief package under consideration.

The CARES Act funding allocated to MSIs per student for each cohort are as follows: HSIs \$44; HBCUs \$2,241; and TCUs \$3,090. It is evident that these disparities are unacceptable

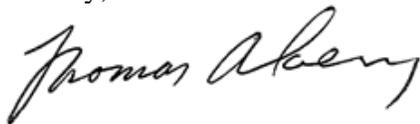
and counterproductive for our nation. We do not believe the U.S. Congress should pick “winners and losers” among students and the institutions that serve them.

HSIs, like other minority serving institutions, play a critical role in the education of historically underserved and financially needy students, and we ask that you hold all institutions harmless in funding, but that you address the inequity in funding levels for HSIs. This may require a greater set-aside than initially considered, so that HSIs may be fairly funded in accordance with the facts.

We strongly urge you to work with your colleagues, in a bipartisan effort, to move forward equitable federal funding support for Hispanic-Serving Institutions under the COVID Relief Package.

We thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Erica Romero of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities at Erica.Romero@hacu.net or (916) 442-0392, or Alysa Williams of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund at AWilliams@MALDEF.org or (202) 572-0601. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Saenz
Chair, National Hispanic Leadership Agenda
NHLA Education Committee Co-Chair
President & General Counsel,
Mexican American Legal Defense and
Educational Fund (MALDEF)



Antonio Flores
NHLA Education Committee Co-Chair
President & CEO
Hispanic Association of Colleges and
Universities (HACU)

cc: The Honorable Joaquin Castro, U.S. House of Representatives and
Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus
The Honorable Raul Ruiz, U.S. House of Representatives and
Chair-elect of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (117th U.S. Congress)