



July 16, 2009

The Honorable Henry Waxman  
Chair, Energy and Commerce Committee

The Honorable Charles Rangel  
Chair, Ways and Means Committee

The Honorable George Miller  
Chair, Education and Labor Committee

Dear Chairmen:

On behalf of the National Hispanic Medical Association, a nonprofit association representing 47,000 Hispanic physicians, we strongly support your efforts to reform health care this year. The NHMA mission is to improve the health of Hispanics and other underserved. We work with our NHMA Council of Medical Societies and the National Hispanic Health Professional Leadership Network and other partners as well with national Hispanic organizations & minority health coalitions in supporting your leadership to increase access to health to our communities and to all Americans.

We strongly support health care reform with affordable universal insurance with the public option that is paid for with a shared responsibility approach;

We strongly support the transformation of a health system that centers on community prevention, public health and integrative care with a national strategy that includes the US DHHS Office of Minority Health;

We strongly support the focus on the outreach and education to underserved and uninsured communities, especially Hispanics, the largest ethnic group in the nation and by the year 2042 will be one out of four Americans, with culturally and linguistically appropriate services;

We strongly support the development of a more robust primary care and public health workforce with diversity programs to recruit Hispanic students and faculty, Hispanic health professional leadership programs, and cultural competence and health care workforce training programs ---to all students and health providers;

We strongly support the health team approach, patient centered care, to improve quality care for racial/ethnic populations in our urban and rural communities and along the U.S.-Mexico border and in the territories; and that includes more equitable support to Puerto Rico and the territories;

We strongly support a more efficient system, including data collection, comparative effectiveness research, health IT, quality measures, guidelines that include racial/ethnic and primary language and a Hispanic population focus;

We strongly support appointing Hispanics to the leadership of the Federal government agencies impacting health care, including US Department of Health and Human Services and other health related agencies.

We strongly urge you to include the "Health Equity and Accountability Act" of the Congress Tricaucus.

In summary, the National Hispanic Medical Association supports the U.S. Congress TriCommittee Bill with the recommendations as noted in this letter and attached recommendations from our "Hispanic Health Leadership Summit Series." I look forward to working with you to strengthen the bill and garner support for health reform.

Sincerely,

Elena Rios, MD, MSPH  
President and CEO

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