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National Hispanic Medical Association

March 27, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol Building, H-222  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
House Republican Leader  
U.S. Capitol Building, H-204  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy :

The National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) represents over 50,000 Hispanic physicians with the mission to improve the health of Hispanics and other underserved. NHMA urges Congress to include provisions to support physician practices to care for patients with COVID-19. Most NHMA physicians who care for urban and rural Hispanic communities are in practices in small businesses and require emergency policies to sustain them and to innovate their mode of practice.

Specifically, the stimulus bill should include support for medical practices such as tax credits, no interest loans, reimbursement for new pandemic-related codes, funding for new purchases for protective equipment and emergency staffing hours and protocols for increased testing, diagnoses and treatment and education to staff and patients. In addition, the stimulus bill should call for innovation such as health plans to reimburse telemedicine just like an in-person visit and support for services for our community - language services, grocery delivery, child care and transportation for medical care and related services.

We recognize the critical emergency we find ourselves in and also request support for training for physicians and others to engage in more critical care medicine, geriatric care and education with appropriate health literacy and cultural competence targeted to Hispanic patients and their caregivers and families.

Finally, NHMA strongly urges Congress to support vulnerable persons with direct support, SNAP program expansion, and affordable healthcare (no out of pocket costs for testing and treatment), especially those in our communities who are not insured, those who face chronic diseases, and those who are losing employment as businesses are forced to close to slow the transmission of the virus.

Sincerely,

Elena Rios, MD, MSPH, FACP  
President & CEO  
National Hispanic Medical Association