

Legislative Update – November 10, 2022

This month, all eyes are on the midterm elections and the future leadership of the Senate and the House of Representatives, as well as the Committees that have jurisdiction over health care policies and programs that impact our communities at the local level.

NHMA President and CEO Dr. Elena Rios has been in various federal government meetings this month:

- At CMS to discuss Medicaid expansion as well as Part D coverage for medications for obesity, as OPM did through private insurance for federal employees' insurance benefits. Obesity is a core disease that is a factor in so many other diseases, and we feel it is key to update treatment reimbursement. This meeting was organized by the Health Equity Coalition on Chronic Disease (NHMA member).
- At the U.S. Health and Human Services in our Physician Appreciation Meeting with the Office of Minority Health as well as Dr. Jose Romero from CDC and other leaders from across the department. One of our physicians, Dr. Ilan Shapiro, nominated by NHMA, was able to summarize the healthcare provided by Latino physicians. Dr. Rios was asked to comment on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic as were the presidents of the minority medical associations invited. We focused on the need for partnership with HHS and our Community affiliated groups – chapters, medical schools, hospitals and clinics and CBOs.
- At the White House meeting on the South Lawn to celebrate the Inflation Reduction Act – which increased insurance subsidies, insulin cap, the jobs related to climate justice wins and more – that will transform our economy, lower climate change emissions, and create more affordable healthcare for our communities.
- NHMA submitted comments to Government Rules from the Office of Civil Rights on the importance of language services for quality care and for continued racial/ethnic variables, as well as sexual orientation, to be used in healthcare programs as part of anti-discriminatory policies of the Affordable Care Act.

OPEN ENROLLMENT Nov. 1, 2022 – Jan 15, 2023: the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) is now set for an individual at \$13,590 and family of 4 at \$27,750. Subsidies are available for people at 100%-400% FPL.

FUTURE NHMA Advocacy Meetings – join us at the Advocacy Meetings with state policymaker leaders planned for January in CA, TX, NY, and FL on cardiovascular disease, asthma and diversity in medicine. We welcome physicians, residents, and medical students from these states who are interested in zoom meetings to contact nhma@nhmamd.org this month.