

## **Legislative Update – June 10, 2022**

This past month, Dr. Elena Rios was invited to meet with White House officials and other health leaders to plan the Hunger, Nutrition and Health Conference later in 2022, discuss strategies about women's reproductive health and the need to educate patients on pending abortion bans in states; hear the baby formula shortage strategies from the Biden Administration; and discuss ideas for the White House Hispanic Initiative to focus on building the educational pipeline in healthcare professional education.

The National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) urgently called for the Senate to quickly pass the \$550 billion in climate investments that the House passed at the close of 2021 as part of the Build Back Better bill. While the investments from the bipartisan infrastructure bill are a good start, the climate can't wait any longer. Congressional action is essential to meeting the U.S.'s goal of 50-52% greenhouse gas emissions reductions by 2030. We need to combat climate change and invest in climate justice so that our future healthcare isn't spent on combating preventable diseases and sickness caused by pollution and hazardous environments. Latinos and others face the greatest burden from climate change, and we urge you to support funding that will improve the health of all Americans.

Senator Tammy Duckworth, Representative Jan Schakowsky, and 22 members of Congress introduced resolutions to accelerate awareness and investment in women's health research. In a large show of support, NHMA joined 24 leading health organizations with WHAM (Women's Health Access Matters), calling on Congress to double funding for women's health research in the interests of a healthy economy. The resolution cites data from the WHAM report showing that doubling funding by adding \$300 million for research across three disease areas focused on women will generate over \$13 billion in economic returns. Despite these three diseases disproportionate affect on women, the WHAM report found that only 12% of Alzheimer's research, 7% of rheumatoid arthritis research and 4.5% of coronary artery disease research is allocated to projects focused specifically on women. WHAM commissioned the RAND Corporation to do the study.

NHMA joined the Alliance for Aging Research in submitting comments to FDA's Psychopharmacologic Drugs Advisory Committee on the significant unmet clinical need and barriers in addressing the neuropsychiatric symptoms of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (e.g. psychosis, agitation, anxiety, depression, etc.).

NHMA signed on to the letter to the leaders of the Agriculture-FDA appropriations subcommittees urging them not to include any provisions that would weaken FDA's oversight of tobacco products in the FY 2023 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations bills.