

Recently, a leaked draft Supreme Court decision showed the Supreme Court will overturn *Roe v. Wade* and push the decision of restricting abortions to the states. If this draft becomes the final decision, half the states in the country will have laws on the books that would severely or outright ban on abortions. NHMA unequivocally opposes this draft decision and the overturn of *Roe*. Abortion is health care and NHMA supports access to health care for all women. NHMA called on the Senate to pass the Women's Health Protection Act that would codify protection for abortion and reproductive services into law. Women should have the right to make decisions about their reproductive health.

NHMA celebrates the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) announcement of a proposed rule to ban menthol flavoring in cigarettes and non-tobacco flavors in cigars. NHMA has long fought to educate and combat the harms of smoking in the Hispanic community. We strongly support the move by the FDA. As a member of the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, we signed a letter to the FDA Commissioner Dr. Robert Califf calling for swift implementation of the proposed rule to ban menthol flavoring. We also signed letters to the Senate and House health appropriators to increase funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Office on Smoking and Health (OSH) by \$68.5 million, for a total of \$310 million.

As the nation starts emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic, emergency measures providing needed health care support for the underserved are coming to an end. NHMA supports Medicaid program continuation to help our communities. While Congress is still working on another COVID-19 assistance bill, NHMA is concerned about what will happen if nothing is done and programs come to end. To that end, we have come together with our partners at Partnership 4 Medicaid to write to both congressional leaders and the CMS Administrator. We called for them to create a predictable, transparent and evidence-informed wind down of the enhanced federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) and continuous coverage provisions included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) that provide sufficient guardrails to protect beneficiaries while also reflecting the trajectory of the COVID-19 pandemic. We need to ensure that those who are benefitting from these provisions are not left without health care when the programs expires.

Climate change continues to be a major factor in the health of many Hispanics. That is why NHMA has been working with the Climate Action Campaign (CAC) to support and pass commonsense solutions to help combat climate change and bring climate justice to those affected in the Hispanic community. As NHMA continues fighting alongside its partners, we signed on to comments in support of EPA's proposed rule to eliminate the emergency affirmative defense provisions in EPA's regulations governing Clean Air Act Title V operating permits. Protecting fence line communities by closing all startup, shutdown, and malfunction loopholes will improve health conditions in many Hispanic communities and neighborhoods. In addition to the comments, we signed on to a letter asking congressional leaders to fund EPA at President Biden's budget request of \$11.9 billion in FY2023. Finally, NHMA President & CEO, Dr. Elena Rios, signed onto a letter with the CAC CEOs to President Biden calling for him to close the deal passing the \$550 billion in climate investments that were a part of the Build Back Better Act.

Working with our NHMA New York chapter, we sent a letter to the leaders of the New York State Assembly calling for the passage of legislation to strengthen New York's primary care infrastructure. The legislation would establish a primary care reform commission to review, examine, and present findings on primary care spending. They will also publish an annual report on the findings and make recommendations to increase and strengthen spending on primary care in the state and improve primary care infrastructure.

Finally, May is Older Americans month, and a recent nutrition policy development can benefit the preventive care of this population. In April, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a FY 2023 proposed rule that includes the Global Malnutrition Composite Score (GMCS) as an optional measure for the Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS).

The GMCS is a comprehensive tool for assessing quality hospital care for older patients (aged 65+) at risk of malnutrition and can help advance health equity and better quantify and improve nutrition care. CMS recognized in its proposed rule that “one factor contributing to the burden of malnutrition is health disparity across racial and ethnic groups.” CMS also explained, “we believe adoption of the Global Malnutrition Composite Score eCQM [electronic clinical quality measure] in the Hospital IQR [Inpatient Quality Reporting] Program has the potential to improve care delivery in the inpatient setting and is likely to ameliorate food insecurity and malnutrition and lead to better health outcomes.”

Stakeholders can comment until June 17, 2022, on the need for and importance of the Global Malnutrition Composite Score quality measure in supporting vulnerable populations.