

Legislative Update

NHMA convened its Congressional Briefing with Congressman Raul Ruiz, Chair, Congressional Hispanic Caucus on key recommendations to improve Latino families in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Reconciliation Bills being debated in Congress this past month.

Policies include:

- Tax credits for children, health insurance subsidies, navigators for ACA enrollment and increased Medicaid insurance to cover all children and adults including essential workers and Puerto Rico and expansion in all states;
- Family and medical paid leave
- PreK and Community College (added free 4 years public education)

Note that Senator Durbin included an amendment in the Reconciliation Bill calling for (S747 Padilla bill) citizenship for essential workers.

NHMA organized Congressional meetings (Senate HELP, House Ways & Means) with the Health Committee of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda to discuss these priorities as well as climate justice for the Reconciliation Package.

Dr. Rios was invited to present NHMA Priorities for the White House COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force and was asked about priorities that could have bipartisan support – she responded with the focus on Essential Workers support for healthcare and of course #Vaccinate4All campaign to increase education through media and social media that NHMA is doing.

NHMA joined 60 other national medical and health organizations in a Joint Statement in Support of COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates for All Workers in Health and Long-Term Care that made the news.

NHMA joined organizations in a call to Congress for a bold economic recovery, one that advances justice for communities on the frontlines of climate change and pollution. In addition, NHMA advocated for Climate Justice with key organizations meetings with policymakers to increase support through the Reconciliation Bill being debated in the Senate.

The Food and Drug Administration is poised to authorize an extra dose of the Moderna or Pfizer coronavirus vaccines for some immunocompromised patients this month.

Sens. Michael F. Bennet (Colo.), **Catherine Cortez Masto** (Nev.), **Mark Kelly** (Ariz.), **Raphael G. Warnock** (Ga.) and **Maggie Hassan** (N.H.), all vulnerable lawmakers up for reelection next year, renewed a push to let Medicare negotiate lower prescription medication prices with an amendment as part of the budget reconciliation process that was not voted on.