

Legislative Update – August 12, 2022

As we head into August 2022, the overturn of *Roe* has been a major change for physicians and our community in many states with large Hispanic populations. Of note, through Executive Order the Biden Administration has just announced the following action steps to help women who need abortion health care:

- Support Patients Traveling Out of State for Medical Care. The Executive Order directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to consider action to advance access to reproductive healthcare services, including through Medicaid for patients who travel out of state for reproductive healthcare services.
- Ensure Health Care Providers Comply with Federal Non-Discrimination Law. The Executive Order directs the Secretary of HHS to consider all appropriate actions to ensure health care providers comply with Federal non-discrimination laws so that women receive medically necessary care without delay.
- Promote Research and Data Collection on Maternal Health Outcomes. To accurately measure the impact that diminishing access to reproductive health care services has on women's health, the Executive Order directs the Secretary of HHS to evaluate and improve research, data collection, and data analysis efforts at the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on maternal health and other health outcomes.

INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE ACCESS:

The President will sign the Executive Order at the first meeting of the interagency Task Force on Reproductive Healthcare Access. After the President signs the Executive Order, Cabinet heads will report on the progress they have made in implementing the President's July 8, 2022 Executive Order on Protecting Access to Reproductive Healthcare Services, as well as related actions to defend reproductive rights.

Established by Executive Order, the Task Force on Reproductive Healthcare Access is co-chaired by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Xavier Becerra, and the Director of the White House Gender Policy Council, Jennifer Klein. The Task Force coordinates and drives efforts across the Federal government to protect access to reproductive healthcare services and defend reproductive rights.

NHMA's President was invited to the White House Future Vaccinations Summit with HHS and Industry and Scientific and Provider Organization leaders to be briefed on the COVID-19 next generation vaccines such as nasal sprays and patches with microneedles as well as new vaccine boosters to cover more variants of the virus. Of note, a monkeypox briefing was also provided.

NHMA convened its annual Congressional Briefing with Representative Raul Ruiz, Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and experts from asthma partner organizations to discuss the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact and the need for treatment of severe asthma patients to avoid death and morbidity. Thank you to our partner, Amgen.

NHMA has also met with CMS on the [Unwinding of Medicaid](#) that will be happening 60 days prior to the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency and [Back to School campaigns](#). Many people on Medicaid will have to reapply as they did prior to the emergency.

NHMA joined civil rights and advocacy organizations that work to empower the more than 62 million Latinos in the U.S. in commending the Senate's passing of the Inflation Reduction Act. If enacted, the proposal would ease the pressure of rising prices and provide significant investments that would benefit Latinos and their families and the future of our country, including more affordable health coverage and prescription drugs, meaningful action against climate change, and greater assurances that the wealthy will pay their fair share in taxes. We write to express our support for the bill

NHMA supported comments from the environmental advocacy organizations in support of the petition asking the EPA to protect children and workers from organophosphate (OP) pesticides by revoking all tolerances (residues on food) and cancelling the associated registrations for food uses of OPs that the EPA cannot find safe; and, cancelling registrations for uses that cause unreasonable adverse effects to workers, as documented in EPA risk assessments.

Lastly, NHMA has submitted comments and participated in policy meetings for climate change, tobacco reduction, obesity, and mental health — especially burnout of physicians. We have sent in comments about the reduction of physician reimbursement given the burden of our sicker patient population, and NHMA supports coalitions working to advocate for these causes.