

December 2022 NHMA Legislative Update

The National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) recently supported two major bills in Congress and worked to advance a variety of advocacy priorities enumerated below.

- NHMA supported the **CARE for LONG COVID Act**, sponsored by Senator Kaine, which would provide funding to improve research on long COVID diagnosis and treatment, as well as access to care services for those with symptoms.
- NHMA supported the [AHEAD Act of 2022](#) (Assessing Health Evaluations to Advance Decision-making Act of 2022), sponsored by Senator Cardin and introduced on Dec. 1, 2022. This bill will provide for a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on the potential benefits on population health outcomes of incorporating into the Federal legislative process tools that measure the impacts of proposed legislation (including in areas outside of health care) on health and health disparities. The AHEAD Act of 2022 is an important tool for evaluating the effectiveness of public health interventions/programs and gaining insights into the social determinants of health that impact Latinos and other underserved communities in the U.S.
- On Tuesday, December 13th, surrounded by a group of bipartisan lawmakers, as well as advocates, LGBTQI+ families, faith leaders, and plaintiffs in marriage equality cases across the country, President Biden signed the **Respect for Marriage Act** to protect marriage for same-sex and interracial couples. NHMA celebrates this historic moment and legislative victory.
- Lastly, NHMA signed letters to Congress to support **Medicaid coverage and expansion**, a critical resource facilitating access to vital healthcare coverage for Hispanic and other underserved communities in the U.S.