



NHMA Legislative Update – July 2023

The national office continues to work diligently to monitor federal, state, and local policy developments, including legislative and regulatory changes, to advocate initiatives representing the interests of our 50,000 licensed Hispanic physicians in the United States.

We maintain weekly communication with strategic national partners to empower Hispanic physicians to be leaders who will help eliminate health disparities and improve the health of Hispanics in the United States, including Washington DC and Puerto Rico.

Announcements

The Hill hosted “The Future of Health Care Summit 2023” which brought together policymakers and health experts for a comprehensive discussion on advancing access, the pursuit of health equity, and resetting the care paradigm across the United States. Dr. Elena Rios participated in a panel titled, “Dismantling Disparities: Health Equity & Access”. sharing policy recommendations aimed at increasing pre-medical school programs, holistic admissions, increasing residency slots and support for leadership development so that more Hispanic physicians can be on medical school boards and in decision-making positions in medicine. You can watch the recording [here](#).

NHMA Staff attended the American Psychiatric Association’s mental health roundtable conversation titled “The Mental Health Impact of Severe Maternal Morbidity and Mortality on Families” with NHMA Board Secretary, California Surgeon General Diana E. Ramos, MD, MPH, MBA, FACOG. Conversation focused on strategies to address maternal mental health care access disparities and discuss ways front-line reproductive health providers can facilitate mental health services referrals to better support families ([Photo](#)).

Advocacy Letters, Comments & Statements

NHMA released a [policy statement](#) condemning the Supreme Court of the United States’ decision based on the cases against Harvard College and the University of North Carolina striking down race-based admissions in all colleges and universities across the country.

NHMA joined 27 other medical associations in filing an amicus brief in *Braidwood v. Becerra*, Case No. 23-10326 (5th Cir.), in support of ACA preventive services requirements.

NHMA joined 20+ national Hispanic organizations to support the Senate confirmations of Rosemarie “Rosie” Hidalgo to serve as Director of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence

Against Women (OVW) and Xochitl Torres Small to serve as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

NHMA joined a coalition led by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids in sending a letter to House Committee on Appropriations urging the approval of the full authorized level of tobacco user fees and to oppose any efforts to weaken or alter Food and Drug Administration's authority over tobacco products through the appropriations process.

NHMA , as a member of HTTP (the Hispanic Technology and Telecommunications Partnership), and other national Latino organizations in sending a letter to Senate and House Leadership urging permanent funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) to ensure that households can access broadband they need for work, school, healthcare, and more.

NHMA joined the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved in sending a letter to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pension in support of S. 862, the *Restoring America's Health Care Workforce and Readiness Act*, which would reauthorize and increase funding for the National Health Service Corps through fiscal year 2023 to expand America's supply of health care workers. NHMA Staff met with HELP Committee staff in support of HRSA Title VII workforce diversity programs.

NHMA supports H.R. 2631, the *Amputation Reduction and Compassion (ARC) Act*, introduced by Congressman Donald Payne, Jr. (D-NJ), which seeks to reduce the number of avoidable amputations suffered by peripheral artery disease (PAD) patients. The bill would provide coverage of PAD screening for at-risk beneficiaries under the Medicare and Medicaid programs without the imposition of cost-sharing requirements.

White House/Administration Activity

NHMA staff attended the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) 2023 Pride Summit which highlighted the work of the Biden-Harris Administration, HHS, members of the community, and allies who are working to improve access to health care services, health equity, support for identity affirmation, and civil rights. Speakers included HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, Assistant Secretary for Health ADM Rachel Levine, MD, Carole Johnson, Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration, Melanie Fontes-Rainer, Director of the HHS Office for Civil Rights and more.

Congressional/State Activity

NHMA met with Florida State Representative Susan Valdés to discuss Challenges & Opportunities to improve the health of Hispanics in Florida, latest legislation signed into law in Florida, and the need for better access to and quality of health care and diversity in the health care workforce. NHMA will work with State Rep. Valdés' office on an appropriations budget request to implements a mentorship program focusing on pre-med and pre-public health students to be the next generation of leaders to change health care.