September 6, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2080 (Arambula) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom,

The National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) writes to respectfully request your signature on Assembly Bill 2080 (Arambula), regarding data on medical school enrollees. Under AB 2080, the University of California will report their progress towards increasing the size and diversity of the physician workforce.

The NHMA is the leading nonprofit membership organization committed to advancing the health and well-being of Hispanic and Latino communities. We champion pressing health issues by collaborating with medical societies, resident and medical student groups, and influential partners from both the public and private sectors. Our dedicated advocacy efforts focus on promoting equitable healthcare access, improving health outcomes, and supporting underserved populations. To improve the health statuses of the Hispanic and Latino population, we also need to increase the representation of Latinos in the health workforce, and AB 2080 is a step in the right direction.

As one of the most racially and ethnically diverse states in the country, California's physician workforce does not reflect that diversity. Non-Latino whites make up over 60 percent of the physician workforce in California, while Latino physicians are critically underrepresented despite making up 39 percent of the population in California. This discrepancy leads to health disparities and a lack of adequate culturally competent and linguistically appropriate care. As a state where more than 40 percent of the population speaks a language other than English, California's medical schools have a responsibility to build a pipeline with students, residents, and faculty that can meet the needs of its growing diverse communities.

Every patient deserves the opportunity to receive care from someone they can trust. AB 2080 can help improve the diversity of physicians to ensure that patients receive the best quality of care, regardless of their background. For such reasons, the National Hispanic Medical Association requests a signature on AB 2080 (Arambula).

Sincerely,

Gilbert Burgos MD, MPH

Gilbert Burgos, MD, MPH
Interim President & Chair of NHMA Board
National Hispanic Medical Association