



Legislative Update - February 2024

NHMA Champions Obesity Bill of Rights

Hispanic adults (45.6%) had the second highest age-adjusted prevalence of obesity at 46.6, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). That's why the National Hispanic Medical Association joined the The National Consumers League and the National Council on Aging for a press conference Jan. 31 at the Washington Press Club to present the [Obesity Bill of Rights](#), which calls for personalized obesity care with culturally sensitive strategies and emphasizes crucial rights to achieve healthier communities.

Caring for Healthcare Workers

NHMA gave its unbridled support to a move to reauthorize the Dr. [Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act](#) (H.R. 7153/S. 3679), legislation aimed at protecting health care workers from burnout.

The reauthorization comes at a time when the healthcare industry has experienced an increase in healthcare emergencies as a result of burnout. The proposed bill is a renewal of the 2021 Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, which provided 44 health organizations with \$103 million to establish "mental health and well-being strategies.

In Support of Banning Menthol and Flavored Cigarettes

NHMA President/CEO and Fellows met with White House officials this month to discuss the banning of [menthol and flavored cigarettes](#). NHMA representatives shared statistics and evidence that points to the undeniable negative health impacts of tobacco and the specific impact of menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars on Hispanic youth and Black Americans.

Doctors for America and the Reproductive Health Coalition in Support of Providing Mifepristone for Medical Abortion

NHMA joined 240 amicus curiae organizations in the [case](#) of the U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Et al., (*Petitioners*), v. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine, Et al., (*Respondents*) to support continuing to provide Mifepristone for medical abortion, without the restrictions as called for by the 5th Circuit court case.

We Need Doctors Who Look Like Us

Dr. Rios participated in a day-long summit Jan. 26 in Los Angeles, Calif., to discuss how to increase Latino physicians in the state. NHMA has been a long-time supporter of efforts to increase Latino medical representations and enhance the quality and access to healthcare services that are central to achieving health equity. Physician organizations, hospitals, clinics, foundations were all brought together for this important meeting.

Supporting the White House's Initiative on Women's Health Research

On November 13, President Biden announced the first-ever White House [Initiative on Women's Health Research](#), an effort led by First Lady Jill Biden and the White House Gender Policy Council. Despite making up more than half the population, women have historically been understudied and underrepresented in health research. The new Initiative will fundamentally change how we approach and fund women's health research, and pioneer the next generation of discoveries in women's health. The Initiative is committed to galvanizing the Federal government and the private and philanthropic sectors to spur innovation, unleash transformative investment to close research gaps, and improve women's health.