



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Judith Flores, MD, FAAP, CHQM
Chairwoman
Dept. of Ambulatory Care
Coney Island Hospital
Brooklyn, NY

Elena Rios, MD, MSPH, FACP
President & CEO
National Hispanic Medical Association,
Washington, DC

Nereida Correa, MD, MPH
Chairwoman Elect
Associate Clinical Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology
and Women's Health
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
CEO, Eastchester Medical Associates, PC
Bronx, NY

Minerva Campos, MD, MPH
Secretary
Washington, DC

Gilbert Burgos, MD, MPH, CPE
Treasurer
Chief Medical Director
Nassau Queens Provider Performing System (NQP),
East Meadows, NY

Samuel Arce, MD, FAAP
Immediate Past-Chairman
Family Physician and Attending Physician,
Jamaica Hospital Medical Center,
Jamaica, NY

Maria Carrasco, MD, MPH
Regional Physician Lead on Cultural Competence
Kaiser Permanente, Montebello, CA

Carlos Corral, MD, FACS
El Paso Cardiac, Vascular and
Thoracic Surgeons P.A.
El Paso, TX

Francisco Fernandez, MD
Director, Population Health and Community
Engagement, Institute of Neurosciences
Professor of Psychiatry, University of Texas Rio Grande
Valley, School of Medicine
Edinburg, TX

Jorge A. Girotti, PhD, MA
Associate Dean and Director,
Special Curricular Programs, Admissions,
Hispanic Center of Excellence
Assistant Professor, Medical Education
UIC College of Medicine,
Chicago, IL

Flavia E. Mercado, MD
Medical Director, Inovalon, Inc., Snellville, GA

Jorge G. Puento, MD
Managing Partner
Pleasanton Pharma Ventures, Northport, NY

Diana Ramos, MD, MPH, FACP
Assistant Clinical Professor
Keck School of Medicine of USC
Los Angeles, CA

Adalberto Renteria, MD
Chief Medical Officer
Central California of Adventist Health, Fresno, CA

Claudia H. Zamora, MPA
Founder & CEO/Zamora Consulting Group
Consultant, Washington, DC

Ricardo Correa MD, EsD, FACP, FACR, CMQ
Chairman, Council of Young Physicians
Phoenix, AZ

Jeffrey Uribe, MD
Chairman, NHMA Council of Residents
Emergency Medicine at Lincoln Hospital
Bronx, NY

Lucas Manuel L. Warton
President, Latino Medical Student Association
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
Philadelphia, PA

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Richard H. Carmona, MD, MPH, FACS
17th US Surgeon General (2002-2006)
Chief of Health Innovation, Canyon Ranch
Distinguished Professor,
Zuckerman College of Public Health,
University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

Henry Cisneros
Chairman, CityView, San Antonio, TX

Ronald Estrada
Vice President, National Community Empowerment,
Univision, Washington, DC

Linda Griego
President & CEO, Griego Enterprises, Inc.
Los Angeles, CA

Paloma Hernandez, MPH, MS
President & CEO, Urban Health Plan, Inc., Bronx, NY

Yasmine Winkler, MBA
Senior VP, Innovation and Productivity
United HealthCare, Chicago, IL

Richard Zapanta, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon, Monterey Park, CA

May 18, 2018

Office of Governor Christopher Sununu
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the National Hispanic Medical Association, we urge you to sign House Bill 1791 into law.

This bill authorizes a pharmacist to substitute an alternative biological product when filling a prescription for a prescribed biological product if the alternative biological product is designated as interchangeable with the reference product and if communication is provided to the patient and physician that a substitution was made. The bill would also require that the substitution of a biological product be communicated to the patient.

We recognize the rising use of biologics and biosimilars in our population now aging with increased chronic disease. Biosimilars go through an extensive review process and manufacturers are required to submit immense studies and data demonstrating a products' efficacy and ensuring it is safe for use by consumers. A pathway for biosimilar regulation in the U.S. was established as a provision of the 2008 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) and in 2012 the FDA issued draft guidelines for biosimilars and a list of biosimilars and interchangeable biological products.

In summary, the National Hispanic Medical Association recommends that you sign HB 1791 into law to clarify the procedures for biosimilar substitution for biologic treatments in a way that increases safety for the patient. We are especially supportive since this bill will provide increased access to quality treatment for Hispanics and all persons from New Hampshire with chronic diseases.

Sincerely,

Elena Rios, MD, MSPH, FACP
President & CEO