



For Immediate Release

The National Association of Hispanic Nurses Calls for More Federal Action to Keep Nurses and Hispanic Communities Safe in the Face of the Coronavirus Pandemic

Raleigh, NC (March 20, 2020)— In response to the Coronavirus Pandemic the National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) is calling on the federal government to protect nurses by increasing the production and distribution of personal protective gear, to develop a more robust Spanish-language public awareness campaign on the virus, and immediately approve an increase in funding to ensure that ICE detention facilities, already lagging in providing basic care, can improve and carry out necessary healthcare measures.

NAHN represents more than 2,000 members, the approximate 180,000 Hispanic nurses in the US, and is the voice of health for the nation's Hispanic communities. Bilingual and bicultural nurses will be more critical than ever to responding to the need to prevent the spread of the virus and to provide the critical care necessary to care for Hispanic and Spanish-speaking patients through testing, diagnosis, and treatment.

NAHN urges greater federal intervention to assist state and local governments in their efforts to supply health care systems with personal protective equipment, ventilators, hospital beds and other critical necessities. Every available corner of the federal executive department from the Department of Defense to the Department of Homeland Security should make respirator masks and other personal protective gear available to support nurses and other healthcare workers. In addition to deploying government resources, more urgent action is required on behalf of the administration to alleviate manufacturer supply chain challenges. There needs to be urgent relief on the face-to-face visits with a faster path to telehealth options. In what is rapidly becoming a fragile health care ecosystem, if nurses and other healthcare workers are not protected the entire public health system is jeopardized.

Nurses are not only on the frontlines of battling the pandemic, but as the most trusted profession in the country they are also uniquely positioned to help inform the public about the need to practice social distancing and to assume individual responsibility for stopping the spread of the virus. In order to assist on a meaningful scale more communication resources from the CDC and other agencies are required. Vulnerable communities trying to navigate the pandemic in the face of language barriers and fear of reprisal over immigration status need information in order to properly follow federal guidelines and receive reassurance that they can visit health care facilities when necessary. It is also vitally important that there will be a

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more prolific campaign to communicate that USCIS will not consider testing, treatment or preventative care as part of a public charge inadmissibility determination. If this is not robustly communicated many individuals may avoid seeking care potentially putting more people at risk for exposure.

NAHN applauds the work of our members and commitment to the individuals they diligently serve especially in this incredibly volatile time. We stand by our nurses at all levels and especially at the frontlines. We are incredibly proud of our nurses who are working tirelessly to ensure their patients are cared for with the utmost respect and highest levels of exceptional care.

For more information and resources please visit nahnnet.org.

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About NAHN:

The National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) is a nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) IRS Status whose mission is to advance the health in Hispanic communities and to lead, promote and advocate the educational, professional, and leadership opportunities for Hispanic nurses. NAHN, founded in 1975, represents the 180,000 Hispanic nurses (RNs/LPNs) in the US and is the only nursing organization for Hispanic nurses. NAHN currently has over 2000 members with 47 chapters in 24 states. The organization focuses on community-based interventions working at the grass roots level to impact health care of Hispanics.