

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – October 2020

VOTE – for Latino Health!

We encourage you to VOTE for those who will support our communities by increasing access to healthcare that is affordable and accessible and builds on the ACA (which provides benefits such as the preventive services, mental health, vision and dental care, coverage for children up to age 26 on parent's health plan, and insurance for those with preexisting conditions.)

ACTION ALERT – Contact Your Senators

The House Appropriations Committee passed their FY 2021 Appropriations Budget. The Labor-Health Human Services-Education (L-HHS-Ed) Appropriations bill included a report language for both of NHMA's requests, a Minority Leadership Fellowship Program and a Junior Faculty Research Accelerator Program. The Senate has yet to release their FY2021 L-HHS-Ed bill.

NHMA submitted the request to the Senate Appropriations Committee to include a report language for FY2021 L-HHS-Ed Appropriations bill for the following priorities:

1. Establish a Hispanic Leadership Fellowship Program that will increase the participation of Hispanic health and medical professionals in the areas of national need.
2. Establish a Hispanic Junior Faculty Research Accelerator Program to increase the participation of mid-level career physicians to be trained for posts at the federal, state, and local public health levels.

NHMA needs your help in contacting your Senators to urge them to support NHMA's initiatives. Please visit [here](#) for more information. If you have any questions, please contact Ben Melano at bmelano@nhmamd.org.

HEROES Act

The House of Representatives passed its revised coronavirus relief bill on October 1, 2020. The bill includes a \$1,200 per adult stimulus checks to middle- and low-income families. The bill would also restore \$600 in weekly jobless benefits and includes spending on other programs designed to help families. The bill also maintains priorities from the legislation passed in May, including \$436 billion assistance to state, local, territorial, and tribal governments to pay vital workers like first responders and health workers and \$75 billion support for coronavirus testing, contact tracing and isolation measures, and access to free coronavirus treatment. Read more about the bill [here](#).

NHMA signed on to the following letters in September 2020:

- NHMA is a part of the Modern Medicaid Alliance and joined the alliance in releasing a statement to increase funding for Medicaid during the COVID-19 pandemic. Read the statement [here](#).
- NHMA joined the Better Medical Alliance and other national organizations in sending a letter to HHS Secretary Azar on the Trump Administration's propose rule to eliminate current prescription rebased under Medicare Part D. Read the letter [here](#).
- NHMA and other national organizations sent a letter to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce urging for the Committee to oppose S. 4613, The Contact Lens Rule Modernization Act. Read the letter [here](#).
- NHMA joined national organizations in a statement calling for the U.S. to adopt a national, measurable, time-bound impact prevention goal to reduce the number of people with Alzheimer's and related dementias. Read the statement [here](#).