

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – September 2020**

### **VOTE – for Latino Health!**

This week, some Americans are starting to Vote in the Presidential Election (in person voting is Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>) by mail ballots. 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](mailto:bmelano@nhmamd.org).

NHMA sent a letter to House and Senate leadership urging to increase the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP). Read the letter [here](#).

### **NHMA signed on to the following letters in August 2020:**

- NHMA joined other national Hispanic organizations on a letter to House and Senate leadership urging Congress to include a temporary, \$50-a-month benefit for residential broadband service as a part of your economic recovery strategy in forthcoming COVID-19 stimulus package. Read the letter [here](#).
- NHMA joined national organizations in a letter to HHS Secretary Azar expressing concerns about the Administration's previously withdrawn rule to eliminate the current prescription drug rates under Medicare Part D. Read the letter [here](#).