

 **National Hispanic Leadership Agenda**

On behalf of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), the coalition of the nation's 45 preeminent Latino advocacy organizations, we are writing to express our deep concerns with the FY 2019 appropriations agreement, expected to be voted on later today. The 2019 Consolidated Appropriations Act for the Department of Homeland Security woefully fails to rein in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) for their out of control agency enforcement practices and their continual mismanagement of taxpayer dollars. When the executive overreaches and agencies cease to recognize the oversight and appropriation authority of the legislature, Congress must hold the Executive Branch accountable. **This bill falls far short of accountability, and NHLA urges each legislator to vote no. NHLA will consider any votes on this funding bill for inclusion in future NHLA scorecards evaluating the support of Members of Congress for the Latino community.**

The bill includes funding appropriations contrary to NHLA's public policy agenda, specifically it provides:

- Increased funding for immigrant detention that would allow for an annual average daily population of 45,000 individuals in FY 2019, and fails to provide any meaningful mechanisms to hold ICE accountable for the increase in the number of immigrants in detention;
- Free rein to ICE and CBP to transfer and reprogram significant federal dollars to support their increased enforcement and detention activities, even after ICE's long track record of fiscal mismanagement and overspending; and
- This Administration with \$1.37 billion for 55 miles of new border wall, which has proven to be wildly unpopular and would create lasting damage to many communities.

NHLA is disappointed in the outcome of these negotiations, which were the result of a President who has decided to govern by crisis. It is up to Congress to be an appropriate check on the Executive Branch. NHLA urges each member to vote no on the proposed funding bill.

Please find a copy of NHLA's public policy agenda here: [https://nationalhispanicleadership.org/images/Agenda/NHLA\\_2016\\_Hispanic\\_Policy\\_Agenda.pdf](https://nationalhispanicleadership.org/images/Agenda/NHLA_2016_Hispanic_Policy_Agenda.pdf). If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Senteno, of MALDEF, at [asenteno@maldef.org](mailto:asenteno@maldef.org) or Laura Esquivel, of Hispanic Federation, at [lesquivel@hispanicfederation.org](mailto:lesquivel@hispanicfederation.org).