



National Hispanic Leadership Agenda

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

American G.I. Forum
ASPIRA Association
Avance Inc.

Casa de Esperanza
Cuban American National Council

Farmworker Justice

Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities

Hispanic Federation

Hispanic National Bar Association

Inter-University Program for Latino Research

Labor Council for Latin American Advancement

LatinoJustice PRLDEF

League of United Latin American Citizens

MANA, A National Latina Organization

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund

National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities

National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives

National Association of Hispanic Publications

NALEO Educational Fund

National Association of Latino Independent Producers

National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc.

National Council of La Raza

National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators

National Hispana Leadership Institute

National Hispanic Council on Aging

National Hispanic Environmental Council

National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts

National Hispanic Medical Association

National Hispanic Media Coalition

National Institute for Latino Policy

National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health

National Puerto Rican Coalition

Presente.org

SER Jobs for Progress – National

Southwest Voter Registration Education Project

United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

United States Hispanic Leadership Institute

United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce

U.S.- Mexico Foundation

March 13, 2015

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda, a coalition of the nation's 39 pre-eminent Latino advocacy organizations, we respectfully urge you to take our priorities for a fairer federal budget into consideration as you approach the drafting of a congressional budget resolution.

Ending Sequestration for Domestic Priorities

The current course of the federal budget, in which sequestration is set to resume in fiscal year 2016, provides insufficient resources to make the necessary investments in key domestic programs that expand economic opportunity across the nation's population and lay the foundation for sustained, long-term economic growth. As the Latino community and the nation's population continue to grow, it makes no sense to decrease investment in our shared future. The budget caps on non-defense discretionary spending need to be lifted in order to provide sufficient funding for the following priorities:

- Our youth. Funding education from preschool to graduate school, and ensuring there are supports to keep kids on track, are among the most important investments we can make in our future. This includes expanding universal preschool as many states have begun, implementing dropout prevention programs, enhancing community programs that support youth through challenging years, and making college more affordable.
- Job training. The bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act passed by Congress last year will help train workers to compete and thrive in the 21st century economy through reforms that realign training programs so that workers gain the skills that employers seek.
- Infrastructure. Reliable roads and bridges, flood protection, and other major public works projects not only create good jobs, but provide a lasting benefit for the entire economy that businesses and families can rely on.
- Childcare. Expanding affordable childcare options will unleash the greater economic potential of women, especially Latinas, whose labor force participation rate grew 14 percent between 1970 and 2007.
- Enforcement of labor, employment, and civil rights laws. Enforcement of labor, employment, and civil rights laws to deter and remedy illegal practices ensures a fair playing field for employers who follow the law.

- The Census. Adequately funding the U.S. Census is of special concern to the Latino community as an accurate count of our population helps provide for a proper distribution of federal funding, fair political reapportionment and redistricting, and the protection of civil and voting rights.

No Further Cuts to Domestic Priorities

Considering the insufficient resources under sequestration for the important investments above, NHLA strongly opposes any effort to make further cuts to non-defense discretionary spending. Efforts to reduce the federal budget deficit have already relied disproportionately on cuts as compared to new revenues, by a ratio of three-to-one. By 2016, the federal investment in non-defense domestic discretionary programs will be at its lowest share of GDP since 1962.

NHLA also opposes cuts to safety net and income support programs such as Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security, which provide critical income and health care for the elderly, disabled, and children; as well as the Prevention and Public Health Fund, which will help prevent many of today's youth from developing chronic diseases in the future.

Tax Reform

As Congress determines what action to take on reforming taxes, NHLA urges you to support proposals to help working families through tax credits that reward work and keep millions of adults and children out of poverty.

In particular, we strongly support making permanent the 2009 expansions of the refundable portions of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC). If the EITC and CTC are scaled back as scheduled in 2017, over 16 million people, including eight million children, would be pushed into poverty or fall deeper into poverty than they already are. Specifically, the EITC rollback would affect two million Latino working families, and the CTC rollback would impact three million Latino working families with six million children.

NHLA also supports the proposal in the President's budget to triple the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit to up to \$3,000 per year, and we are encouraged by the bipartisan support this proposal has received.

We appreciate your consideration of these priorities and stand ready to work with you toward achieving a fair budget that invests in our future. For additional information, please do not hesitate to contact NHLA through Albert Jacquez at (202) 785-1670 or ajacquez@nclr.org.

Sincerely,



Hector E. Sanchez
Chair, NHLA
Executive Director, Labor Council for
Latin American Advancement



Eric Rodriguez
Chair, NHLA Economic Empowerment Committee
Vice President, Office of Research, Advocacy, and
Legislation, NCLR

March 13, 2015

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

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