



**The National Association of Latino Elected & Appointed Officials
Educational Fund**

presents

Latino Legislative Summit on Health

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Disney's BoardWalk Inn
Lake Buena Vista, Florida

Speaker Biographies

Opening Remarks

Hon. Sylvia R. Garcia

President, NALEO
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The Honorable Sylvia R. Garcia is serving her second term as President of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), which makes her the first Texan and only second woman to serve as president. Additionally, Garcia serves as the Chair of the newly created Independent Police Oversight Board. President Garcia represented Harris County Precinct 2 as Commissioner from January 2003 when she became the first Hispanic and the first woman to be elected to Harris County Commissioners Court until November 2010. As a County Commissioner, she was responsible for a combined precinct budget of approximately \$90 million and 400 employees. Precinct Two includes 416 square miles, a population of almost one million and 15 municipalities, including one quarter of the City of Houston. Prior to her election as Commissioner, President Garcia served as City Controller for the City of Houston for two terms. Before elected office, she distinguished herself as Chief Judge of Houston's Municipal Court System as the first Hispanic, the first woman and the youngest person ever to hold that post. President Garcia went on to become the longest sitting Chief Judge, serving five terms under two mayors. She worked as a social worker while earning her law degree from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University in 1978. She earned her undergraduate degree at Texas Women's University in 1972 which she attended on a full scholarship. President Garcia has been named "Humanitarian of the Year" by the National Conference of Communities and Justice, "Politician of the Year" by the Houston Press. She has served on more than 25 boards and commissions and has been instrumental in championing the rights of her constituents at all levels of public service.

Hearing I – The State Budget Crisis and Its Impact on Health

Hon. Nellie Pou

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The Honorable Nellie Pou represents the 35th Legislative District in the New Jersey General Assembly and is the New Jersey Director for the National Foundation of Women Legislators. Assemblymember Pou was elected to her first full two-year term in November 1997 and has been a member of the Assembly Appropriations Committee for over ten years, and has served as the committee chairwoman since 2006. She is also a member of the Assembly Budget and Higher Education Committees, as well as the Joint Budget Oversight committee. In 2010, Assemblymember Pou was appointed to the Joint Committee on Public Schools and the New Jersey Commission on Capital Budgeting. She has been the chairwoman of the Legislative Latino Caucus since 2006. Assemblywoman Pou is the first woman and the first Latina to represent the 35th District in the state Legislature. A member of the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect since 1997, Assemblywoman Pou is a consummate advocate for the needs of children, women, and families. Among the many bills she has sponsored that have become law, she was one of the primary sponsors of the bill that created the Office of the Child Advocate, which has been instrumental in improving the state's child welfare system. She is a veteran of the City of Paterson's municipal administration, having served in various capacities for over three decades. Assemblywoman Pou is a member of the Women's Democratic Caucus, the National Order of Women Legislators, Women in Government, and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials. Assemblymember Pou is also the New Jersey Director for the National Foundation of Women Legislators.

Ms. Sinsi Hernández-Cancio, JD

Health Equity Director

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Ms. Sinsi Hernández-Cancio is the Director of Health Equity at Families USA, where she focuses on expanding and strengthening the organization's ability to enable, enhance, and elevate health care advocacy and activism in communities of color across the nation. She is continuing the group's work to build a thriving and vocal health equity movement that will protect the gains of the health care law while ensuring maximum equity in its implementation. Ms. Hernández-Cancio has worked in the field of health policy for a decade and has a longstanding commitment to fighting for the rights of people of color, especially vulnerable women and children. Before joining Families USA, she worked as a women's human and civil rights lawyer. Ms. Hernández-Cancio first became deeply involved in issues of health care and health disparities when she served as Health and Human Services advisor for two Puerto Rico Governors at their Washington, D.C., offices. She later worked on health policy for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), focusing mostly on long-term care, Puerto Rico issues, health disparities, and health reform. During the effort to pass health reform, Ms. Hernández-Cancio was the National Campaign Coordinator for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU)'s Healthcare Equality Project, where she worked with many coalition partners to ensure that health equity was part of the national debate and that health disparities were addressed. She was born in Puerto Rico and grew up in both Puerto Rico and western Massachusetts. Ms. Hernández-Cancio earned a Bachelor of Arts from Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, and she earned her Juris Doctor from New York University School of Law, where she was a Hays Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Fellow and earned a Vanderbilt medal.

Mr. David Lara

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Mr. David Lara joined the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in November of 2009 as a Senior Legislative Associate. His work covers a range of domestic policy issues including health care, low-income housing, budget and tax policy, immigrant benefits, and the nexus of state and federal fiscal policy issues. Prior to joining the Center, Mr. Lara worked in the New York State Washington Office of the Governor where he served as Federal Budget Liaison and Associate Director for Federal Policy. Before this position, he was a Governor Hugh L. Carey Fellow at the New York State Division of Budget and focused on Medicaid long-term care finance. Mr. Lara holds a Bachelor of Science in Materials Science and Engineering from the University of Washington and a Master of Public Affairs from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin.

Breakfast Hearing – Federal Healthcare Reform: Where are we now?

Hon. Iris Y. Martinez

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The Honorable Iris Martinez was sworn into her first term in the Illinois General Assembly on January, 2003, representing the newly created 20th Legislative District. State Senator Martinez made history on the day she was sworn in by becoming the first Hispanic woman in Illinois to be elected to the State Senate. In January 2007, she made history again when she was named Assistant Majority Leader, a position never before held by a Latina. She serves as Vice-Chair of the Pensions and Investments Committee, which she chaired from 2005 to 2007. She is also a member of the Executive, Labor, Housing and Community Affairs, and Public Health Committees. Throughout her years in the General Assembly, State Senator Martinez has worked diligently to protect families, homes, and communities. She has consistently sponsored and passed legislation to improve the health and welfare of the neediest residents of her district and throughout the state, focusing mainly on women's health issues. She was recently honored with the "Las Primeras Award" by MANA, A National Latina Organization that recognizes individuals who have achieved "firsts" in their careers. In 2004, State Senator Martinez was awarded the Hillary Rodham Clinton Leadership Award--a recognition presented to an outstanding female elected official by the Illinois Democratic Women's organization.

Ms. Rachel Morgan

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Ms. Rachel Morgan is the Health Committee Director of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Standing Committee on Health. In her role she acts as a liaison between NCSL and health policy staff at the Department of Health and Human Services and its affiliated agencies as well as Congressional members and their staff to advocate on behalf of the States. A registered nurse by training, she has over 30 years of experience in the field. Ms. Morgan's career has given her hands on experience in the areas of Medicare and Medicaid, managed care, public health, home and community based services, hospice care, case management, and nursing clinical instruction. She is a graduate of the Fort Sanders Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing in Knoxville, Tennessee, and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Alabama. Ms. Morgan has been at NCSL since 2000.

Hon. Jeffrey Sánchez

Massachusetts State Representative
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The Honorable Jeffrey Sánchez serves in the Massachusetts House of Representative for the 15th Suffolk/Norfolk District. Representative Sánchez was appointed the House Chairman of the Joint Committee on Public Health in February 2009. His work is concentrated on improving quality in health through systematic reforms in the public health and health care systems. Representative Sánchez is committed to seeking the nexus of health care in the traditional setting, and the promotion of public health in the community setting, as well as in our daily lives. He serves as a legislative appointee to the Commonwealth's Health Disparities Council, and is a member of the National Conference of State Legislatures' Health Committee. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Legal Education from the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and is currently attending the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, where he is honored to be a Rappaport Urban Scholar.

Hearing II - Entitlement Programs and the Affordable Care Act

Hon. Rene Garcia

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The Honorable Rene Garcia was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in November of 2000 and re-elected consecutively in 2002, 2004 and 2006. State Senator Garcia was elected to Florida's State Senate District 40 on November 2010. He is currently the Chairman of the Healthcare Regulation Committee and serves on following committees: Agriculture, Budget Subcommittee on Health & Human Services Appropriations, Governmental Oversight & Accountability, Reapportionment and Transportation. He was elected to a two-year term on the Hialeah City Council at the age of 23 and was re-elected, to a four-year term in November 1999. While serving as a City Councilmember State Senator Garcia graduated with a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Florida International University. He holds a Masters in Business Administration, specializing in Health Administration and Policy from the University of Miami. State Senator Garcia was born and raised in the city of Hialeah, to working class Cuban American parents.

Mr. John Bouman

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Mr. John Bouman is President and Advocacy Director of the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law. He spearheaded the statewide efforts in Illinois to create both the *FamilyCare* program, which provides health care insurance for up to up to 400,000 working poor parents of minor children, and All Kids, the first state plan to extend health coverage to every child, regardless of status or income. Mr. Bouman has consulted and co-counseled with advocates in many states; helped draft numerous pieces of legislation; given hundreds of presentations; published extensively; and served as counsel in numerous federal and state cases, including *Memisovski v. Maram*, which established substantial reforms in children's health care in Illinois. He is currently working on state-based implementation of federal health care reform, serves on the steering committee of the National Transitional Jobs Network, and leads the Responsible Budget Coalition in Illinois, an effort bringing together more than 200 diverse organizations to advocate for state revenue and budget reform. Before joining the Shriver Center in 1996, Mr. Bouman worked for two decades at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago, where he supervised public benefits advocacy. Among his honors, Mr. Bouman has received the Kutak-Dodds Prize from the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, John Minor Wisdom Public Service and Professionalism Award from the American Bar Association's Litigation Section, Child Health Advocate Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics, and Excellence in Pro Bono and Public Interest Service Award from the United States District Court and Federal Bar Association. He serves on the boards of the Chicago Transit Authority, the Donors' Forum of Chicago, and the Center for Law and Social Policy in Washington DC. Mr. Bouman is a graduate of Valparaiso University School of Law.

Mr. Robert B. Foster

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Mr. Robert Foster is the Special Assistant to the Regional Administrator, for Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in Atlanta. He began his federal career in 1973 with Social Security in South Florida and after four years, he transferred to the Atlanta regional office to investigate Medicare fraud cases. In the intervening years, Mr. Foster spent six years as an Office of Inspector General (OIG) Special Agent in addition to assignments in CMS's policy, budget, anti-fraud and external affairs, before moving to his current position in 2010. He is admitted to the bar in Georgia and is a member of the Bar's Health Law Section. Mr. Foster holds a Bachelor of Arts and Master in Education from the University of Virginia and a Juris Doctor from Georgia State University.

Dr. JoAnn Lamphere
Director, Health & Family
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Dr. JoAnn Lamphere is Director of State Government Relations at AARP, where she leads a team of legislative experts and serves as a main advisor to AARP's 53 state and local offices. She provides strategy and political guidance to support national and state legislative policies and priorities in areas of health care reform; long-term services and supports; effective, quality health care; and prescription drug affordability. Dr. Lamphere rejoined AARP in 2006 after serving six years as a senior consultant with The Lewin Group. Her professional experience also includes positions with the Alpha Center; the Department of Health Policy and Management, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; the New England Medical Center, Boston; and the New York State Department of Health. Dr. Lamphere earned her doctorate in Health Policy and Management from Columbia University.

Special Luncheon Presentation: Federal Update

Ms. Mayra E. Alvarez
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Ms. Mayra E. Alvarez is the Director of Public Health Policy in the Office of Health Reform at the Department of Health and Human Services, where she has primary oversight responsibility for coordinated and timely implementation of the public health, prevention, and healthcare workforce policy provisions in the Affordable Care Act. Previously, Ms. Alvarez served as a Legislative Assistant for Senator Dick Durbin (IL), the Majority Whip of the U.S. Senate, where she advised the Senator and helped develop his legislative agenda on health issues. Prior to working in the office of Senator Durbin, she served as a Legislative Assistant for then-Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis, the chair of the Health Task Force for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Ms. Alvarez began her work in Washington D.C. as a David A. Winston Health Policy Fellow in the office of then-Senator Barack Obama. She completed her graduate education at the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her undergraduate education at the University of California at Berkeley.

Hearing III – Laying the Foundation: Structuring Insurance Exchanges

Hon. Luz Robles
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The Honorable Luz Robles was elected to the Utah State Senate in 2008, representing District 1. In 2005, she was appointed by Governor Jon Huntsman as the first Director for the State Office of Ethnic Affairs to focus on institutional change in regards to state agencies and the services they provide to the ethnic community of the state of Utah. In this position, Senator Robles oversaw the Directors of the Asian, Black, Hispanic/Latino and Pacific Islander Affairs. She currently works as Vice President for Zions Bank managing the Hispanic/Latino Market. Senator Robles is committed to finding equity and justice for all people and has served in many capacities in different boards of non-profit organizations and other agencies. She currently serves on the boards of Guadalupe Schools, Kingsbury Hall, Primary Children's Medical Center, Regence Caring Foundation, Utah Health Policy Project, and on the College of Social and Behavioral Science Advisory board for the University of Utah. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Marketing and a Masters degree in Public Administration from the University of Utah.

Ms. Jennifer Tolbert

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Ms. Jennifer Tolbert is an Associate Director with the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured and Director, State Health Reform at the Kaiser Family Foundation. She heads a new initiative at the Foundation to monitor state implementation of the health reform law. Ms. Tolbert also manages *statehealthfacts.org*, a source for state-level data on over 600 key health topics, and directs research analyzing the impact of health reform on key stakeholders, including states, safety net providers, and low-income populations. Prior to joining the Commission, she served as the Assistant Vice President for Policy at the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems; and before that she worked in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the Department of Health and Human Services, where she advised the Assistant Secretary on Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) policy issues. Ms. Tolbert holds Masters' degrees in Public Health and Social Work from the University of Michigan, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Virginia.

Ms. Carolyn Ingram

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Ms. Carolyn Ingram is Senior Vice President at the Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS). In this role, she leads the organization's efforts to help state agencies maximize opportunities to improve care and coverage presented under health reform. In particular, Ms. Ingram's work focuses on assisting states in meeting the needs of the expansion population and developing the interface between Medicaid and the health insurance exchanges. She also oversees CHCS' efforts to enhance the leadership capacity of Medicaid directors and other key Medicaid stakeholders to effectively manage and pursue innovations in publicly financed care delivery. Prior to joining CHCS, Ms. Ingram served as the director of New Mexico's Medicaid program from 2003 through 2010. During her tenure, she made multiple program improvements that resulted in increased utilization of services and greater quality of care, while at the same time containing program costs and ensuring fiscal accountability for the people of New Mexico. Prior to her appointment to head New Mexico Medicaid, Ms. Ingram served as a senior manager with the Lewin Group, where she worked with states on evaluating and redesigning health care practices, technologies, and regulations. From 1993-2001, she held several management positions within the New Mexico Human Services Department's Medicaid program, including heading the Medicaid Contract Administration Bureau, and managing *Salud!*, the state's Medicaid managed care program. In addition, Ms. Tolbert served as vice chair of the National Association for State Medicaid Directors and was in the inaugural class of Medicaid Leadership Institute, a unique leadership training program for Medicaid directors coordinated by CHCS and funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She has a Bachelor's degree from the University of Puget Sound and is currently pursuing a Master's degree.

Dr. Shelly B. Braun

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Dr. Shelly Braun brings over 20 years of experience as an educator of health and healthcare issues to the Utah Health Policy Project. In particular, she focuses her expertise and influence in areas characterized by vulnerable populations—as a practitioner working directly with people, a consultant on issues of public policy, and researcher of healthcare systems. For the past 15 years Dr. Braun has been teaching undergraduate Cultural & Medical Anthropology courses at the University of Utah, Utah State University, and Westminster College, while also conducting research about health care and serving as Academic Program Advisor and Internship Coordinator for the Behavioral Science and Health program at the University of Utah. She has observed and participated in health care in Peru, Bolivia, Mexico, Nepal, and Europe. Prior to her academic pursuits, Dr. Braun spent almost ten years as a Nutrition Educator for the Federal WIC Special Supplemental Food Program in New York, Ohio, and Utah. Dr. Braun holds a doctoral degree in Medical Anthropology from the University of Utah, and a Master of Science in both Health Services Administration and Medical Anthropology and a Bachelor of Science degree in Clinical Dietetics and Nutrition Sciences.

Breakout Groups: Effective Governance: The Role of Strategic Partnerships and Coalition Building

Ms. Jaime R. Huff, Esq.

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Ms. Jaime R. Huff is the Manager of Governmental and Political Affairs for Southern California Edison in Sacramento, California, where she works on legislative and political matters for the company. She lobbied for SCE's parent company, Edison International, in Washington, DC for almost two years. Ms. Huff is an attorney, licensed in California, and has been involved in legal and governmental relations since 1998. Her governmental experience began in 1998 on Capitol Hill where she worked as a staffer for two California Representatives. Ms. Huff served as a Legislative and Capitol Director for a California Assemblyman from 2005 to 2007. She practiced corporate real estate law in Orange County, criminal law in the McLennan County District Attorney's office in Texas, and public interest law with the Institute for Justice in Washington, DC. Ms. Huff has also worked for the British Parliament in London, England, developing campaign strategies for various Member of Parliament. In her spare time she serves on many political boards and associations, most notably for organizations that help train women to seek appointments and run for elected office. Ms. Huff has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a focus in Economics from American University in Washington, DC, and a Juris Doctorate from Baylor University School of Law in Texas.

Mr. Gaspar Laca

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Mr. Gaspar Laca is a Regional State Government Affairs Director for GlaxoSmithKline, a research-based pharmaceutical company. GlaxoSmithKline is one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world with over 99,000 employees worldwide and has operations in 100 countries. One of Mr. Laca's roles is tracking and dialoguing with policy makers on numerous issues dealing with the pharmaceutical industry. In addition, he is involved in building coalitions in the states with patient, Hispanic/Latino constituencies and interest groups to achieve mutual health care policy objectives. Mr. Laca graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso and has spent 25 years in the pharmaceutical industry in sales, marketing and government affairs.

Ms. Deborah Reyes

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Ms. Deborah Reyes is the founder and principal of Common Ground Consulting, LLC. Over the past two decades, she has worked with elected and appointed officials at all levels of government providing strategic advice and direction on a variety of legislative, policy and public affairs issues. Ms. Reyes is highly regarded by policymakers throughout the southwest United States, where she has successfully implemented lobbying and grassroots advocacy efforts on behalf of her clients. Prior to establishing Common Ground Consulting, she was the Vice President of Government Affairs for a publicly traded financial services company where she directed state legislative efforts in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and Puerto Rico. Ms. Reyes also served as the Corporate Outreach and Hispanic Relations operative building an extensive network of political contacts with Hispanic leaders all across the country. Her experience also includes directing state legislative and policy affairs on behalf of the Texas Water Development Board, the state agency charged with statewide water planning and administration of low-cost financial programs for the planning and construction of water supply, wastewater treatment, flood control and water conservation projects in Texas. Currently, Ms. Reyes serves on the Business Advisory Council of the Board of Hispanic Caucus Chairs. She also chairs the Legislative Committee of the Consumer Service Alliance of Texas and is the Immediate Past-President of the Arizona Community Financial Services Association. Ms. Reyes earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from The University of Texas at San Antonio and her Master of Science degree in Community and Regional Planning from The University of Texas at Austin.

Special Presentation: NALEO Educational Fund

Mr. Arturo Vargas

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Mr. Arturo Vargas is the Executive Director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials and the NALEO Educational Fund. Prior to joining NALEO, he was Vice President for Community Education and Public Policy of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund where he supervised and directed MALDEF's community education and leadership development programs. His prior positions at MALDEF included Director of Outreach and Policy where he coordinated the organization's 1991 redistricting efforts which led to an historic increase in the number of Latinos serving in the California legislature. Before joining MALDEF, he was the senior education policy analyst at the National Council of La Raza in Washington, D.C. He is a nationally recognized expert in Latino demographic trends, electoral participation, voting rights, the Census, and redistricting. Mr. Vargas presently serves on the boards of Zero Divide, the Independent Sector, and the Alliance for a Better Community. He has received numerous awards including Hispanic Magazine's Hispanic Achievement Award for Community Service, the National Federation of Hispanic Owned Newspapers' Leadership Award and the National Association for Bilingual Education President's Award. He has been included in Hispanic Business Magazine's List of 100 Hispanic Influentials twice, and has been named one of the 101 most influential Latinos five times by Latino Leaders Magazine. Mr. Vargas holds a Bachelor's degree in History and Spanish and a Master's degree in Education from Stanford University.

Hearing IV- State Health Legislative Overview: Opportunities and Challenges

Hon. Robert J. Rodriguez

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The Honorable Robert J. Rodriguez was elected to the New York State Assembly in November 2010. Throughout his work on the community board and in his professional life, he has worked tirelessly to ensure that East Harlem and its surrounding neighborhoods remain affordable for working families and senior citizens. Assemblymember Rodriguez worked to develop infrastructure in East Harlem that ensures all residents have access to the benefits of development and receive the variety of cultural and social services they deserve. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone where he helped guide the disbursement of over \$82 million in for-profit financing and \$13 million in grants for non-profit organizations in East Harlem. Assemblymember Rodriguez also served on the boards of the Terrence Cardinal Cooke Community Advisory Board, Catholic Charities Community Services of New York, and has served on the Board of SCANNY, a youth and family services organizations located in East Harlem and the South Bronx. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from Yale University and a Master of Business Administration from New York University. Before being elected, Assemblymember Rodriguez worked as a Vice President of a minority-owned public finance firm where he helped municipalities raise money for development and public works projects. He is also an emerging leader of the New America Alliance, and is a Council for Urban Professionals (CUP) Fellow.

Ms. Melissa Hansen

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Ms. Melissa Hansen serves as a Senior Policy Specialist for the Health Program at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), and has been with NCSL since 2007. Her portfolio includes policy issues related to primary care, health disparities and Medicaid. Prior to joining NCSL, Ms. Hansen worked as the Program Manager for the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL). She earned her Master in Public Health degree from the Colorado School of Public Health.

Ms. Stephanie Ramirez

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Ms. Stephanie Ramirez serves as a Director of Constituency Services for the NALEO Educational Fund. The NALEO Educational Fund is the leading nonprofit organization that facilitates full Latino participation in the American political process, from citizenship to public service. The goal of the Constituency Services department is to promote the governance and policymaking success of Latino elected and appointed officials. In her role, Ms. Ramirez is responsible for the development and implementation of NALEO's health policy programming including national and California-based health policy trainings and related programs. Prior to joining the NALEO Educational Fund, Ms. Ramirez served as a research intern at the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), where she contributed to SCAG's annual State of the Region Report and Report Card. She also served as a research assistant at the Institute for National Strategic Studies, in Washington D.C., where she analyzed global and regional security trends, focusing on Latin America. As part of the Southwest Voter Registration & Education Project, she executed a successful voter registration campaign as Youth Vote Project Coordinator at East Los Angeles College during the 2008 Presidential election. In 2010, she was selected as a fellow for the National Hispana Leadership Institute's (NHLI) inaugural Advancing Latina Leaders in Nonprofit Program. A native of Los Angeles, Stephanie received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of California at Riverside with a double major in Latin American Studies and Political Science-International Affairs