



**National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials  
Educational Fund**

*presents*

**Latino Legislative Summit on Health**

**September 23-25, 2011**

**Disney's BoardWalk Inn  
Lake Buena Vista, Florida**

*Sponsored by*

AARP  
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W.K. Kellogg Foundation

**Friday, September 23, 2011**

**2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**      **Summit Registration**  
*St. James Lobby*

**4:00 – 4:15 p.m.**      **Opening Remarks**  
*St. James A & B*

- Hon. Sylvia R. Garcia, NALEO President

**4:15 – 6:00 p.m.**      **Hearing I – The State Budget Crisis and Its Impact on Health**  
*St. James A & B*

More than 16 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) is spent on providing health services in the United States. Over the past three years, the nation has faced an unprecedented economic downturn, leaving states with a tremendous loss of revenue. As state legislatures scrutinized state spending and were forced to balance budgets through a combination of reducing expenditures and increasing revenues, health services were not spared from cuts. As states look to yet another challenging fiscal year, they face constituency calls to ensure services for the most vulnerable. It is vital that legislators address the critical issue of healthcare cost in the context of the current economic situation, as states spend on average between 28 to 35 percent of their annual budgets on health-related costs. This session will provide an overview of the budgetary outlook for states, and highlight state health financing strategies to make fiscal improvements, while providing health access and coverage for their most vulnerable populations.

Chair: Hon. Nellie Pou, New Jersey State Assemblymember

- Ms. Sinsi Hernández-Cancio, Director for Health Equity, Families USA
- Mr. David Lara, Senior Legislative Associate, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

**6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**      **Opening Reception**  
*Marvin Gardens Hall*

Welcome remarks from NALEO leadership, as well as recognition of investors and convening partners.

**Saturday, September 24, 2011**

**8:00 – 8:30 a.m.**      **Registration**  
*St. James Lobby*

**8:15 – 9:45 a.m.**      **Breakfast Hearing – Federal Healthcare Reform: Where are we now?**  
*St. James A & B*

The Affordable Care Act was signed into law by President Barack Obama on March 23, 2010, marking an historic undertaking by the federal government to increase access to medical coverage for the U.S. population. Since its passage, key provisions have gone into effect. At the same time, in January 2011, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to repeal the law in a largely symbolic gesture. The Act has been challenged in court on the grounds that its requirement -- that individuals either have insurance or pay a fine -- is unconstitutional. This presentation will provide an overview on the status of the Act and the developments to which Latino policymakers should pay close attention as it is rolled out and implemented across the country.

Chair: Hon. Iris Y. Martinez, Illinois State Senator; President, National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators; NALEO Board Member

- Ms. Rachel Morgan, Health Committee Director, National Conference of State Legislatures
- Hon. Jeffrey Sánchez, Massachusetts State Representative

**10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**      **Hearing II - Entitlement Programs and the Affordable Care Act**  
*St. James A & B*

The federal government recently reported that insolvency looms for its entitlement programs, including Medicare, which now provides health insurance to some 47 million elderly and disabled Americans. At the same time, many argue that entitlement programs run by the states are not sustainable at their current rate of growth. This session will provide a current overview of entitlement programs at the state level and explore strategies for preserving these important safety nets for vulnerable populations in a fiscally responsible way.

Chair: Hon. Rene Garcia, Florida State Senator

- Mr. John Bouman, President and Advocacy Director, Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
- Mr. Robert Foster, Special Assistant, Office of the Regional Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Ms. JoAnn Lamphere, Director, Health & Family, AARP

**Noon – 1:00 p.m.**      **Special Luncheon Presentation: Federal Update**  
*St. James A & B*

- Ms. Mayra E. Alvarez, Office of Health Reform, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

1:15 – 2:45 p.m.

**Hearing III – Laying the Foundation: Structuring Insurance Exchanges**  
*St. James A & B*

By January 2013, states must inform the federal government if they will be prepared to operate an insurance exchange one year later in 2014 when this provision is to be implemented. The health insurance exchange is a centerpiece of the private insurance reforms in the Affordable Care Act. If the exchanges work as planned, they will expand coverage to more Americans, reduce insurance costs, and improve the quality of coverage and perhaps of health care itself; yet, previous attempts at creating health insurance exchanges have had mixed results. In implementing the exchanges, Latino policymakers have the opportunity to play a leadership role in trying to avoid the problems that have undermined previous exchanges. This session will provide an overview of how insurance exchanges work, and how to best structure an exchange in your state.

Chair: Hon. Luz Robles, Utah State Senator

- Ms. Jennifer Tolbert, Director, State Health Reform, Kaiser Family Foundation
- Ms. Carolyn Ingram, Senior Vice President, Center for Health Care Strategies, Inc.
- Dr. Shelly B. Braun, Reform Initiatives Director, Utah Health Policy Project

2:45 – 3:30 p.m.

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

*St. James A & B, and Park Place Boardroom*

The legislative process, though guided by strict rules and procedures, is one of the most complex and unpredictable decision-making structures. Legislators poised to make decisions that will affect critical aspects of everyday life cannot be knowledgeable about every issue that comes before the legislature; however partnerships with key players in the legislative process and the ability to build coalitions can ensure effective leadership. During this session, legislators will participate in small break-out learning and discussion groups and will be joined by experienced government affairs representatives who have been key allies with legislators as they tackle health and other policy issues.

- Ms. Jaime R. Huff, Esq., Manager of Governmental & Political Affairs, Southern California Edison
- Mr. Gaspar Laca, Director, Regional State Government Affairs, GlaxoSmithKline
- Ms. Deborah Reyes, Representing Advance America

**Sunday, September 25, 2011**

**9:00 – 10:00 a.m.      Networking Buffet Breakfast**  
*St. James Lobby*

**Special Presentation: Arturo Vargas, Executive Director, NALEO  
Educational Fund**  
*St. James A & B*

**10:00 – 11:30 a.m.      Hearing IV – State Health Legislative Overview:  
Opportunities and Challenges**  
*St. James A & B*

Latinos experience health disparities across a variety of issues including: access to health care and insurance, quality and culturally competent care, rates of communicable diseases and access to preventive services, among others. While many states are making progress to address these issues, other issues continue to give rise to concern for the Latino community. This session will highlight various legislative approaches states are taking to address health disparities given the economic and political context discussed throughout the Legislative Summit.

Chair: Hon. Robert J. Rodriguez, New York State Assemblymember

- Ms. Melissa Hansen, State Health Policy Specialist, National Conference of State Legislatures
- Ms. Stephanie Ramirez, Director-Health, Constituency Services, NALEO Educational Fund

**11:30 a.m. - Noon.      Closing Remarks and Adjournment**