



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

presents

Latino Legislative Summit on Health Disparities

October 23-25, 2009

**The Biltmore Hotel
1200 Anastasia Avenue
Coral Gables, Florida**

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National Conference of State Legislatures
Florida Hispanic Legislative Caucus

NALEO Latino Legislative Summit on Health Disparities

Preliminary Draft Agenda

Friday, October 23, 2009

2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Summit Registration

4:00 – 4:15 p.m. Opening Remarks

- Ms. Stephanie Ramirez, Deputy Director of Constituency Services, NALEO Educational Fund

4:15 – 6:00 p.m.

Session I – The State of States: Health and Health Care Economics

As the nation faces an unprecedented economic crisis, state finances during fiscal year 2009 were derailed by a tremendous loss of state revenue. In efforts to close cumulative budget gaps reaching nearly \$50 billion, state legislatures scrutinized state spending and were forced to balance budgets through a combination of reducing expenditures and increasing revenues. 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 economic forecast for states, and an overview of state health financing strategies to make fiscal improvements, while providing health access and coverage for state's most vulnerable populations.

Session Chair: Hon. Carol Alvarado, Texas State Representative, NALEO Board of Directors

- Mr. Todd Haggerty, Research Analyst, Fiscal Affairs Program, National Conference of State Legislatures
- Ms. Laura Tobler, Director, Access Project, National Conference of State Legislatures

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Opening Reception

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

- Mr. Arturo Vargas, Executive Director, NALEO Educational Fund
- Hon. Rafael Anchía, Texas State Representative; Chair, NALEO Educational Fund
- Hon. Juan Zapata, Florida State Representative, Incoming Chair, NALEO Educational Fund

Saturday, October 24, 2009

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Session II – The Healthcare Debate: A Discussion of Federal Dialogue and the Implication to States

The national discussion of healthcare and health insurance reform continues to raise questions on the projected costs during such a delicate economic period. However, as the highly political federal health insurance reform debate proceeds, the discussion has

failed to adequately address the long term fiscal impact to states. Current reform bills under consideration increase the benefits of Medicaid, a federal and state funded program. Facing an economic reality in which states expect additional budget gaps for the next 2-3 years, federal health reform efforts may place states in a position to meet higher Medicaid obligations. As state budgets are tightened, legislators will take a closer look at their own state's current efforts to meet the healthcare needs of their constituents and address health disparities, becoming ever more challenging in light of the current and potential fiscal obligations. During this session, legislators will be provided with an overview of where federal health insurance reform stands, the issues being debated and what this means for state governments. Additionally, this session will include an in-depth discussion and analysis of states' health insurance expansion efforts and strategies to address health disparities.

Keynote Speaker: Former Surgeon General Antonia Novello

Session Chair: Hon. Juan Zapata, Florida State Representative, Incoming Chair, NALEO Educational Fund

- Mr. Charles Milligan, Executive Director, The Hilltop Institute, University of Maryland, Baltimore County
- Hon. Jeffrey Sánchez, Massachusetts State Representative; Chair, Public Health Committee
- Ms. Mirtha Beadle, Deputy Director, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health

10:30 a.m. – Noon

Breakout Group Dialogue

Influential Partnerships: The Role of Legislative Staff and Lobbyists

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 can ensure effective leadership. During this session, legislators will participate in small break-out discussion groups and will be joined by experienced legislative staff and seasoned health lobbyists who have been key allies with legislators as they tackle health policy issues.

- Hon. Peggy Kerns, Former Colorado State Representative; Director, Center for Ethics in Government, National Conference of State Legislatures
- Mr. Jason Rodriguez, Director, Government Affairs, Hewlett-Packard Company
- Ms. Melissa Bishop-Murphy, Esq., Senior Director, National Government Relations & Multicultural Affairs, Pfizer Inc.

Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Special Presentation Luncheon: Washington Update on Comprehensive Immigration Reform

- Ms. Rosalind Gold, Senior Director of Policy, Research and Advocacy, NALEO Educational Fund

1:15 – 3:00 p.m.

Session III – Capitalizing on a “New” Labor Market: Ensuring Diversity in the Healthcare Workforce

The status of the labor force in the United States continues to be plagued by historic levels of unemployment. As states and communities struggle to maintain their current labor infrastructure, they are beginning to prepare their communities and education

infrastructure to entice “new” industries and capture a share of the emerging labor markets. Spurred by an increasingly aging population, changing demographics and federal legislation that could augment the landscape of the current healthcare delivery system, the healthcare workforce provides key economic opportunities for states. A chronic shortage of healthcare professionals has led to medically underserved populations and areas; however states can work collaboratively with economic development and education partners to build an adequate and diverse healthcare workforce. This session will provide legislators with collaborative models to address shortages in the healthcare workforce and strategies to promote the success of diverse healthcare professionals.

Session Chair: Hon. Iris Martinez, Illinois State Senator (invited)

- Dr. Elena Rios, President and CEO, National Hispanic Medical Association
- Mr. Raúl Burciaga, JD, Assistant Director for Drafting Services, Legislative Council Service, New Mexico Legislature

Sunday, October 25, 2009

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Networking Breakfast Buffet

9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Session IV – Emerging Issues: Health Leadership for our Communities’ Future
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. 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 three issues of increasing importance for Latino families, and provide small group discussions with leading experts and Latino legislators who have championed these issues.

Session Chair: Hon. Kevin de León, California State Assembly Member

- **Healthy Community Design**
As the rates of chronic disease such as obesity and diabetes have reached epidemic levels, state governments have joined their education, municipal and county government colleagues in efforts to build healthy communities. Beginning with state proposals for healthy food and beverages in schools, and increased physical activity, states have gone on to expand their legislative leadership on issues such as fast food menu labeling, fresh food financing, and restaurant use of trans-fats. Moving beyond access to healthy foods, legislative proposals have begun to tackle disparities in community design that would promote healthy lifestyles by proposing bills that address park equity, transportation infrastructure to promote walking and bicycle trails, and the expansion of environmental impact assessments to include health indicators.
 - Ms. Lea Schuster, Field Director, Transportation for America Campaign
- **HIV/AIDS Trends for Latinas**
While the rates of new cases of HIV/AIDS have been decreasing since the early 1990’s, the rates of new infection continue to rise for Latinas. In 2004, AIDS was the fourth leading cause of death for Latinas ages 35-44 and was the fifth leading cause of death for Latinas, ages 25-34. Among women, Latinas accounted for 15% of AIDS cases in 2005, with HIV transmission in Latinas attributed mostly to heterosexual contact. Despite these trends, according to a CDC study, women were less likely than men to receive prescriptions for the most effective treatments for HIV infection.

- Ms. Ledia I. Martinez, M.D., M.P.H, Regional Women’s Health Liaison, Office of Women’s Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

- **Children’s Oral Health**

A Department of Health and Human Services report on oral health showed that “oral diseases and disorders in and of themselves affect health and well being throughout life.” More than 108 million children and adults lack dental insurance, which is over 2.5 times the number of people who lack medical insurance. Oral health disparities across all ages and populations are further aggravated by various barriers to attaining optimal oral health. Though the February 2009 reauthorization of the State Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) addressed children’s oral and dental health for the first time, it is feared that states facing budget gaps may follow past trends to cut Medicaid spending and SCHIP funding, endangering progress made to promote oral health efforts.

- Dr. Raúl Garcia, DMD, CAGS, MMSc, Professor and Chair, Boston University, Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine

10:30 a.m. – Noon

Breakout Group Dialogue

Committee Governance: Effective Strategies to Incorporate Health Disparities

The legislative committee structure is the core of the legislative process. Before a proposed bill goes to the legislative floor, effective legislators must participate in a delicate balance of politics and message to move their bill from mere idea through the committee structure. From garnering political support from House and Senate leadership for committee assignment, to working with committee chairs, communicating with committee members and the general public during hearings, state legislators must employ effective communication and political strategies to move their agenda forward. Leadership on issues of health disparities also goes beyond the walls of legislative health committees. Decisions within every committee directly and indirectly affect the health of communities, and legislators have the opportunity to ensure these discussions are productive. During this strategy session, state legislators will be joined by legislative leaders and advocates with legislative process expertise to participate in frank group dialogue about the committee structure and lessons learned when introducing health disparities to the agenda.

- Former Speaker Raymond Sanchez, New Mexico House of Representatives
- Hon. Felix Ortiz, New York State Assembly Member (invited)
- Ms. Deborah A. Reyes, AICP, Vice President, Government Affairs, Advance America

Noon

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

- Ms. Erica Bernal-Martinez, Senior Director of Programs and Communications, NALEO Educational Fund