



2012 Federal Policy Agenda

Updated February 2012

The National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NLIRH) seeks to ensure the fundamental human right to reproductive health and justice for Latinas, their families and their communities through public education, community mobilization and policy advocacy. NLIRH works on three main program areas: abortion access, reproductive health disparities and immigration.

NLIRH respectfully urges the 112th Congress and the White House to ensure all Latinas and immigrant women have access to abortion care services, to address reproductive health disparities that disproportionately impact Latinas and immigrant women, and to prioritize the reproductive health needs of Latinas and immigrant women within immigration reform. The following is a brief overview of NLIRH's federal policy priorities for 2012:

Improving Access to Comprehensive Reproductive Health Care

- ✿ Remove funding restrictions that block Latinas' access to abortion care in private and public insurance through implementation of the Affordable Care Act;
- ✿ Repeal the Hyde Amendment and remove funding restrictions that prevent the use of state and local funds to support abortion care;
- ✿ Ensure that implementation of the Essential Health Benefits and Preventive Services provisions of the Affordable Care Act include services covering the needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Latinas -such as Pap smears for transgender men- and no-copay access to comprehensive contraceptive care, including emergency contraception (EC);
- ✿ Support scientifically-sound, evidence-based decision-making in health and science policy;
- ✿ Increase funding for Title X (of the Public Health Service Act) to \$700 million over the next five years;
- ✿ Protect the budgets of programs that impact Latina's cervical health including but not limited to Title X, Community Health Center grants, immunization programs and Medicaid.

Reducing Health Disparities and Protecting Families

- ✿ Pass the Health Equity and Accountability Act (H.R. 2954), which seeks to build upon the foundation set in the Affordable Care Act to dramatically reduce health disparities.
- ✿ Eliminate the 5-year bar on accessing public benefits for immigrant women and families;
- ✿ Create a pipeline of Latina health care workers through scholarship programs, tuition reimbursement, loan forgiveness and affirmative action programs;
- ✿ Ban family caps, also known as child exclusion policies, placed on TANF benefit recipients, and pass and fully fund the Rewriting to Improve and Secure an Exit Out of Poverty Act (RISE)(H.R. 3573);

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- ⊛ Increase funding for evidence-based, comprehensive sex education and eliminate funding for ineffective abstinence-only-until-marriage programs;
- ⊛ List the LGBTQ population as a formal health disparity population under the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities and include the LGBTQ population in efforts to track and address health disparities set forth in provisions of the Affordable Care Act;
- ⊛ Pass the Fair Pay to Medicaid Providers Act (H.R. 3587), which will ensure that Medicaid service providers at community health centers receive compensation in a timely manner;

Integrating Reproductive Justice in Immigration Policy

- ⊛ End the Secure Communities program (S-Comm) and separate federal immigration authorities from local law enforcement to keep families together and communities safe;
- ⊛ Implement prosecutorial discretion nationwide and halt the expansion of immigration detention and deportation, which has negative effects for immigrant women and their families;
- ⊛ Ensure that Department of Homeland Security (DHS) policies include timely and effective coverage of reproductive health procedures, from pap smears to abortion; access to medication, including contraception, hormone therapy for transgender detainees, and appropriate treatment for HIV+ detainees; and accommodations, including time/space for female detainees to nurse or use breast pumps and housing arrangements that demonstrate sensitivity to the needs and concerns of LGBTQ detainees;
- ⊛ Require DHS to apply the standards of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) to facilities housing immigration detainees because of women and LGBT detainees' documented vulnerability to sexual abuse in detention;
- ⊛ Pass the Uniting American Families Act (H.R. 1537, S.821), demonstrating respect for the partnerships of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender immigrants.

Additional documentation can be provided to support these priorities. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Barajas-Román, Director of Policy (202.621.1426; elizabeth@latinainstitute.org).

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