



NATIONAL LATINA INSTITUTE FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

2010 Federal Policy Agenda

Updated April 2010

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 111th 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 prioritize the reproductive health needs of Latinas and immigrant women within comprehensive immigration reform. The following is a brief overview of NLIRH's federal policy priorities:

Abortion Access

- ☼ Remove funding restrictions that block Latina's access to abortion care within the President's Budget* and fiscal year 2011 Appropriations bill
- ☼ Reverse the Health and Human Services (HHS) Federal Refusal Rule*

Reproductive Health Disparities

- ☼ Eliminate the 5-year bar on accessing public benefits for immigrant women and families*
- ☼ Suspend the Citizen Documentation Provision of the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) *
- ☼ Increase funding for Title X (of the Public Health Service Act) clinics* and Community Health Centers
- ☼ Ensure that healthcare reform includes access to abortion and contraception, including emergency contraception (EC)
- ☼ 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

Immigration Reform

- ☼ Ensure that immigration reform includes a path to permanent residency and citizenship
- ☼ Pass the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, without the military service provision
- ☼ Require the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to implement procedures that are timely and effective for the delivery of reproductive health services for pregnant women, ensure access to medical devices, such as breast pumps, for nursing women, and require access to necessary medications upon detention and during transfers of women in immigration detention centers
- ☼ Pass the Uniting American Families Act that respects 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 (202.393.8580; elizabeth@latinainstitute.org).

* This request is consistent with the document submitted to the President-elect transition team, entitled "Advancing Reproductive Rights and Health in a New Administration," in which NLIRH participated in its development. This document can be accessed online at: http://change.gov/open_government/entry/advancing_reproductive_rights_and_health_in_a_new_administration/