

February 11, 2009

Senate conferees:

Inouye (D-HI)
Baucus (D-MT)
Reid (D-NV)
Cochran (R-MS)
Grassley (R-IA)

House conferees:

Dave Obey (D-WI)
Charlie Rangel (D-NY)
Henry Waxman (D-CA)
Jerry Lewis (R-CA)
Dave Camp (R-MI)

Dear Conferees:

On behalf of the National Hispanic Medical Association Board of Directors, this is to express our support for the Economic Recovery Act legislation being debated today. We especially urge you to consider targeting the following measures to improve the health of Hispanic communities and other medically underserved in our nation. This would increase the health of our most vulnerable and hence, enhance our economic productivity.

We urge your support for increasing: access to health care coverage reflected in the Medicaid to the States and Cobra benefits; HRSA workforce recruitment and training (\$600 million from the House), prevention and wellness initiative (\$3 billion from the House); Comparative Effectiveness Research to AHRQ (\$1 million - both House and Senate), Community Health Centers infrastructure (\$1 mHouse and \$1.8m Senate), CHC services - (\$500K – House) Health IT (\$2m House, \$3m Senate), and VA medical services (\$950K House, \$1.4m senate).

Sincerely

Elena Rios, MD, MSPH
President and CEO