



# Patient Protection and Affordability Act Signed Into Law: Opportunity to Address Latino Uninsured

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President Obama signed the historic Patient Protection and Affordability Act into law. The opportunity to achieve health and financial security for millions of uninsured Latinos is a tremendous victory. The legislation while it doesn't contain several components important to Latinos, will still provide an opportunity to eliminate some of the injustice in health care access which has been in existence for decades.

In the southwestern states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California, where 58% (8,490,993) of all U.S. uninsured Latinos live, health insurance coverage can now become a reality. Diligence and our involvement will be required to monitor, guide, and hold accountable the effective implementation of this historic health care reform legislation.

We must continue to **inform, educate and organize** our community to advocate for effective implementation to reach the millions of uninsured and under-insured Latinos. Some key elements of the legislation critical to increasing access to quality health care and significantly contribute in addressing the current inequalities impacting our communities includes:

- Health insurance exchange to ensure meaningful health benefits package and promote real competition
- Individual and family subsidies
- Small business subsidies/tax credits
- Medicaid expansion
- Increased funding for Community Health Centers,
- Elimination of pre-existing conditions
- Prescription support for seniors and closing the "donut hole"
- Strong regulatory reforms targeting health insurance premium increases, transparency, fraud, and consumer abuses
- Addressing health workforce disparities
- Cultural competency initiatives, and
- Effective racial/ethnic and gender data collection.

We have much more work to do:

