



Health Care Reform: Will 14,577,505 U.S./Southwest Border State Latinos Get Coverage?

Fact Sheet

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Latinos, the most uninsured population (31%) in the country have an opportunity to achieve health and financial security under the recently passed House and Senate Health Care Reform Bills. Final health care reform legislation would hopefully eliminate the social injustice in Latino health care access in existence for decades.

Latino uninsured in the **southwestern border states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California represent 58% (8,490,993)** of all uninsured Latinos in the U.S. who can feasibly gain health insurance coverage. On-going diligence and involvement will be required to monitor, guide, and hold accountable the effective implementation of any health care reform legislation to realize a significant reduction in the millions of currently uninsured Latinos.

Elements in the bills that must be retained include 1) Health Insurance Exchange to Ensure Meaningful Health Benefits Package and Promotes Real Competition, 2) Significant Individual and Family Subsidizes, 3) Small Business Subsidizes/Tax Credits, 4) Medicaid Expansion, 5) Increased Funding for Community Health Centers, 5) Eliminating of Pre-existing Conditions, 6) Allow Immigrants to Purchase Health Insurance Coverage through the 'Exchange', and 7) Strong Regulatory Reforms Targeting Health Insurance Premium Increases, Transparency, and Consumer Abuses.

Health workforce disparities, cultural competency, and effective racial/ethnic and gender data are additional health care reform components that can also significantly contribute in addressing the current inequalities in health care access and quality.

