



CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS

116TH CONGRESS AT-A-GLANCE



Chair: Congressman Joaquin Castro

First Vice-Chair: Congressman Ruben Gallego

Second Vice-Chair: Congresswoman Nanette Diaz Barragán

Whip: Congressman Adriano Espaillat

Freshman Representative: Congresswoman Veronica Escobar





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CHC TASK FORCES FOR THE 116TH CONGRESS

CHC Task Forces work to advance CHC's bold legislative agenda, allow CHC Members to work together on policy priorities, and address issues facing Hispanic and immigrant communities.



Arts and Technology

Ensuring Latinos are represented in the arts and have access to technology and are engaged in new technological systems.

- **Rep. Tony Cárdenas (CA-29), Chair**
- **Rep. Nanette Diaz Barragán (CA-44)**
- **Rep. Darren Soto (FL-9)**
- **Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-40)**
- **Rep. Ben Ray Luján (NM-3)**

Women's Task Force

Uplifting Latinas across the country, fight for women's education, healthcare, and civil rights, and lead the way for innovation and increased opportunities in the STEAM sectors.

- **Rep. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (FL-26), Chair**
- **Rep. Nanette Diaz Barragán (CA-44)**
- **Rep. Nydia Velázquez (NY-7)**
- **Rep. Grace F. Napolitano (CA-32)**
- **Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-40)**

Immigration and Border Issues

Providing a national voice and leadership on immigration and border issues and fighting on behalf of the American people, who overwhelmingly want our broken immigration system to be fixed.

- Rep. Linda T. Sánchez (CA-38), Chair
- Rep. Nydia Velázquez (NY-7)
- Rep. Raúl Grijalva (AZ-3)
- Rep. Juan Vargas (CA-51)
- Rep. Adriano Espaillat (NY-13)
- Rep. Veronica Escobar (TX-16)
- Rep. Xochitl Torres Small (NM-2)
- Rep. Sylvia Garcia (TX-29)
- Rep. Jesus “Chuy” Garcia (IL-4)
- Rep. Gregorio Sablan (MP)
- Sen. Bob Menendez (NJ)
- Rep. Lou Correa (CA-46)
- Rep. Tony Cárdenas (CA-29)

Education and Labor

Ensuring all Latinos have access to a quality education - from early childhood to adult education and protecting workers.

- Rep. Raúl Grijalva (AZ-3), Chair
- Rep. Gregorio Sablan (MP)
- Rep. Vicente Gonzalez (TX-15)
- Rep. Gil Cisneros (CA-39)
- Rep. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (FL-26)
- Rep. Lori Trahan (MA-3)

Health Care and Mental Health

Addressing unique health issues Latinos face like lack of access to high-quality, affordable health care, higher rates of chronic illnesses, and the acute impact the repeal of the ACA would have on the Hispanic community.

- Rep. Raul Ruiz (CA-36), Chair
- Rep. Grace F. Napolitano (CA-32)
- Rep. Tony Cárdenas (CA-29)
- Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-40)
- Rep. Jimmy Gomez (CA-34)
- Rep. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (FL-26)
- Rep. Lori Trahan (MA-3)



Environment, Public Lands and Water

Protecting the air our families breathe, the water we drink, and where we live.

- Rep. Mike Levin (CA-49), Chair
- Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY-14)
- Rep. Nanette Diaz Barragán (CA-44)
- Rep. Grace F. Napolitano (CA-32)
- Rep. Gregorio Sablan (MP)
- Rep. Veronica Escobar (TX-16)

Transportation, Infrastructure and Housing

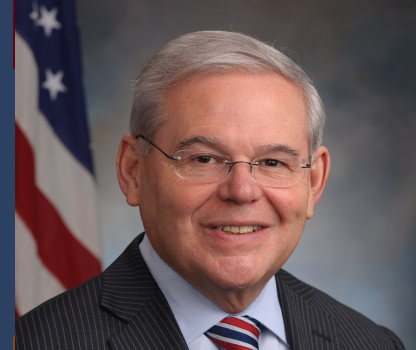
Safeguarding adequate funding and federal resources to preserve public housing, maintain our roads, and expand public transportation systems that are imperative to healthy communities and a robust economy.

- Rep. Adriano Espaillat (NY-13), Chair
- Rep. Salud Carbajal (CA-24)
- Rep. Juan Vargas (CA-51)
- Rep. Albio Sires (NJ-8)
- Rep. Mike Levin (CA-49)
- Rep. Jesus “Chuy” Garcia (IL-4)
- Rep. Grace F. Napolitano (CA-32)
- Rep. Xochitl Torres Small (NM-2)
- Rep. Jim Costa (CA-16)

Puerto Rico and Insular Areas

Holding the Administration accountable for its failed responses to the crises in Puerto Rico and working to ensure equal access of federal resources for all U.S. territories

- Rep. Nydia Velázquez (NY-7), Co-Chair
- Rep. José E. Serrano (NY-15), Co-Chair
- Rep. Darren Soto (FL-9), Co-Chair
- Rep. Adriano Espaillat (NY-13)
- Rep. Raúl Grijalva (AZ-3)
- Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY-14)
- Rep. Jesus “Chuy” Garcia (IL-4)
- Sen. Bob Menendez (NJ)
- Rep. Gregorio Sablan (MP)



TIMELINE OF THE 116TH CONGRESS

2018

CHC oversight trip to Antelope Wells
Port of Entry and Lordsburg Border
Patrol Station after Jakelin Caal's
Death in CBP Custody

DEC
18

CHC oversight trip to Alamogordo
Border Patrol Station to investigate
death of Felipe Gomez Alonzo in
CBP custody

JAN
8

CHC oversight trip to the for-
profit Homestead Shelter for
unaccompanied migrant children

FEB
19

The Senate passes Rep. Castro's
(H.J. Res 46) joint resolution to
terminate the national emergency
declared by President Trump to
redirect billions toward building
the wall

MAR
14

The American Dream and
Promise Act is passed in the
House of Representatives

JUNE
4

Reps. Castro and Escobar
lead an oversight trip to the
Clint and El Paso Border
Patrol stations

JULY
1

The House of Representatives
passes the Humanitarian Standards
for Detained Migrants Act

JULY
24

The House of Representatives
passes the Temporary Protected
Status for Venezuelans Act

JULY
25

2019

The House of Representatives passes the Homeland Security Improvement Act

SEP
3

CHC oversight trip to the tent courts in Laredo, TX

CHC Congressional Delegation to Hollywood to Discuss Latino Representation and Portrayal in the Entertainment Industry

OCT
8

NOV
7

The House of Representatives passes Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education (FUTURE) Act

The House of Representatives passes the Farm Workforce Modernization Act

DEC
10

DEC
11

CHC oversight trip to Matamoros, Mexico to investigate the impacts of President Trump's Remain in Mexico Policy

The Supreme Court upholds DACA and rejects the Trump Administration's efforts to terminate the program

JAN
17

JUNE
18

CHC oversight trip to ICE detention centers in Texas amid the COVID-19 pandemic

The House of Representatives passes the National Museum of the American Latino Act

JUNE
22

JULY
27

CHC oversight trip to ICE detention center in Nevada amid the coronavirus pandemic

SEP
3

2019

2020

BORDER AND IMMIGRATION POLICY



During the 116th Congress, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) has led bicameral efforts to preserve the rights of asylum seekers, uphold the rule of law, and advance protections for vulnerable communities, such as undocumented youth and farmworkers. The Trump Administration has repeatedly used immigration and border policy to erode U.S. legal obligations to refugees, manufacture crises at the border at the expense of human life and terrorize immigrants in their communities as well as in U.S. custody. In response, the Caucus released Immigration Principles in which the Caucus committed to engaging in robust oversight efforts into the actions of this Administration. The Caucus delivered by helping pass legislation to eliminate misconduct at the Department of Homeland Security and challenging the President's efforts to unconstitutionally usurp congressional authorities for political gain. The Congressional Hispanic Caucus continues to engage with both the Senate and House, as well as various advocacy groups to ensure that enacted border and immigration policy builds on our current U.S. legal framework and the values important to this country.

Reopening the Government and Blocking Construction of the Border Wall

The 116th Congress started in the midst of the longest government shutdown in history, which spanned 35 days over the President's request to include \$5.7 billion toward the construction of a new wall along the Mexican border. Republicans attempted to break the impasse by offering alternative border security funding measures and negotiations on DACA policy. The Congressional Hispanic Caucus, along with the rest of the Tri-Caucus and the Progressive Caucus, worked to ensure the end of the shutdown without providing wasteful wall funding or allowing Congress to make concessions that would hurt border communities and immigrants. **The CHC succeeded and the government reopened without an allocation to the border wall or the inclusion of harmful immigration poison pills.**

After the government reopened, President Trump followed through on his threat to declare a “national emergency” in a bid to usurp congressional authority and redirect \$3.6 billion in taxpayer dollars to a border wall. In response, **Chairman Castro introduced a privileged resolution on February 22, 2019 to terminate President Trump's emergency declaration**, which was introduced with 226 original cosponsors including all 36 members of the Hispanic Caucus in the House of Representatives. In a striking rebuke to President Trump, the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate passed the resolution to terminate the emergency the President declared at the U.S.-Mexico border in order to build a wall. Nearly a quarter of the Republican Conference in the Senate joined Democrats in support of the measure. President Trump subsequently vetoed the resolution with the House falling short of overriding the veto, 248-181. President Trump's controversial “national emergency” declaration and subsequent use of funding remains in litigation.



Breaking U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Invisible Wall

Over the course of the Trump Administration, USCIS started building a ‘Second Wall’ or ‘Invisible Wall’ designed to delay or block citizenship to eligible immigrants. Under Trump, processing delays for applications and immigration benefits have reached crisis-levels with USCIS adjudicating cases at an increasingly slow pace compared to previous years. Accordingly, the CHC led a request, with 81 Democrats, urging GAO to examine the backlog of immigration cases at USCIS. At the time of the CHC request, the backlog stood at over 2.3 million, with average case processing times rising to 33 months. **Following the CHC request, GAO agreed to open an investigation into the record-breaking immigration case backlog at USCIS, with the report expected to be completed in early 2021.**

Saving Migrant Lives & Stopping the Trump Administration's Culture of Death

On January 7, 2020, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus led a bicameral Congressional delegation to the Alamogordo Border Patrol Station in New Mexico to investigate the circumstances surrounding Felipe Gomez Alonzo's death, who tragically died the same month as Jakaelin Caal, in Border Patrol custody. **Within eight months, six children died in government custody between September 2018 and May 2019 – the first such deaths in a decade.** Over the course of months, the CHC worked to expose the systemic failures of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that contributed to the culture of death under this Administration. Subsequently, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) issued new directives on medical care as well as new notification procedures to inform Congress and the public in a timely manner about deaths in their custody.



Jakelin Caal
Maquín

Juan de León
Gutiérrez

Darlyn Cristabel
Cordova-Valle

Wilmer Josué
Ramírez Vásquez

Felipe
Alonzo-Gómez

Carlos Gregorio
Hernández Vásquez

The CHC's work continued with the Congressional committees of jurisdiction requesting a Department of Homeland Security Inspector General report into the deaths of Felipe Gomez Alonzo and Jakaelin Caal, which was initiated and completed in July of 2020. That same month, the GAO issued a report finding that CBP failed to follow its own guidelines for medical care for migrant children and ignored the recommendations from CDC to administer flu shots. In addition, the report found that CBP inconsistently reported deaths of detainees in custody, as well as serious illnesses and other injuries suffered in detention facilities. Building on the shared priority of delivering justice to these families, the CHC worked closely with House Democrats on a series of congressional hearings to hold Administration officials accountable for their negligence and cruelty, which came at the cost of life.

At the centerpiece of these critical efforts was Rep. Ruiz' legislation, **H.R 3239, the Humanitarian Standards for Individuals in Customs and Border Protection Custody Act**, which outlines standards for providing nutrition, sanitation and shelter that is consistent with international humanitarian norms. Rep. Ruiz, an emergency medicine physician, began drafting the bill following the death of Jakelin Caal. Rep. Ruiz identified the need for a values-based, basic public health approach to preventing the deaths of children in CBP custody. In July of 2019, the House passed the bill on a bipartisan basis in a 233-195 vote. The Fiscal Year 2020 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, which was ultimately signed into law, built on H.R. 3239 by including several provisions inspired from the legislation aimed at improving the medical care provided to migrants at the border and the interior. Since the CHCs work on this issue, migrant deaths in U.S. government custody have dramatically decreased.



Shutting Down Homestead and Limiting the Use of Influx Facilities

On February 19, 2019, Congresswoman Mucarsel-Powell led a congressional delegation to the Homestead Temporary Shelter for unaccompanied migrant children – the largest facility for unaccompanied children in the country run by a for-profit corporation. The trip underscored how Homestead is part of a broken and morally bankrupt U.S. immigration system and how the Administration treats children who seek asylum in this country. Due to the tireless work of Rep. Mucarsel-Powell and others in the CHC, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) **shut down the Homestead detention center in October of 2019** – a remarkable victory and significant step in ending one of the many corrupt practices this Administration spearheaded. The CHC, along with Chair DeLauro, continued to work on closing influx facilities all together because no one, especially children, should be held in such conditions. In July of 2020, the House passed the the FY21 Labor, Health and Human Services funding bill, which prohibits funds from being used to house unaccompanied children in the custody of Office of Refugee and Resettlement in influx facilities that are not state-licensed for the care of unaccompanied children

United States Commission on Civil Rights (USCCR) and Tri-Caucus Panel on Trump Administration's Inhumane Policies

On October 24, 2019, the United States Commission on Civil Rights (USCCR), a bipartisan, independent commission of the United States federal government, issued a 200-page report entitled, "Trauma at the Border: The Human Cost of Inhumane Immigration Policies" detailing how the current Administration's changes to asylum, the detention of children, and certain other immigration policies, practices, and procedures have created an unnecessary human and civil rights crisis at the southern border. The Commission's findings are a clear vindication of concerns voiced by the Hispanic Caucus and the American people. The CHC with the Tri-Caucus, and other Democratic Members of Congress, held a Member-level panel discussion with the USCCR to **shine a bright light on the full scope of atrocities committed by the Trump Administration against migrant families and contradict the repeated lies by the President, Administration officials, and Republicans who have tried to hide the truths from the American people.**



Delivering on the Promise to Protect Dreamers and TPS Holders

On June 6, 2019, House Democrats, under the leadership of CHC members Rep. Roybal-Allard and Rep. Velázquez, delivered their long-time promise to nearly a million Dreamers by passing **H.R. 6, the American Promise and Dream Act on a bipartisan basis and unanimously by House Democrats** in a 237-187 vote. The bill extended a pathway to citizenship to a record 2.5 million individuals in the U.S. Since House passage of the bill, the CHC has worked with the Democratic Caucus and advocates to pressure Leader McConnell into bringing the bill for a vote in the Senate. To mark the one-year anniversary of the introduction of H.R. 6, the CHC led a letter with over 100 House Democrats urging the Senate to vote on H.R. 6, highlighting that over 330,000 DACA recipients and TPS holders are working as essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Two months later, on June 18, 2020, the **Supreme Court ruled that the Trump Administration had illegally rescinded the DACA program** delivering a decisive blow to the Trump Administration's underhanded efforts to jeopardize the future of immigrant youth while brining justice to families across the country. Immediately following the SCOTUS ruling, the CHC led letters to Leader McConnell and President Trump, again supported by over 100 Democrats, asking them to swiftly pass the bill and sign it into law.

Although the Trump Administration was ordered to reinstate the DACA program to its 2012 status, the Administration continues to politicize the lives of these youths issuing a subsequent memorandum on July 28, 2020, seeking to limit the program. The CHC continues to work with advocates and congressional committees of jurisdiction to ensure that the Administration complies with Supreme Court of the United States and lawfully processes all DACA applications, both existing and new.

Crisis at the Border: Holding the White House and Department of Homeland Security Accountable

During the summer of 2019, the Trump Administration manufactured a crisis at the border and in detention facilities across the country escalating their war against migrants. The Administration abdicated their legal obligations to asylum seekers, failed to exercise agency protocols to process migration flows, and engineered horrific conditions at the border to deter immigration and instill a sense of panic in the country. In response, the **CHC led a delegation of nearly 20 congressional members - the largest CHC CODEL during the 116th Congress** - to investigate the conditions in El Paso and Clint, Texas. The delegation found ongoing human rights abuses at CBP, continued family separations, and extreme government negligence – all at the behest of the Trump Administration. CHC Members led efforts to curb the crisis and restore order and humane governance at the border while relentlessly underscoring the emergency in Washington, DC to incite congressional action. The CHC worked closely with Democratic colleagues and committees of jurisdiction to hold congressional hearings in a critical step to holding the Trump administration accountable. Less than a week after the CHC CODEL, the **CHC and the late-Chairman Elijah Cummings, with the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties hosted a press conference** on the treatment of immigrant children at the Southern border preceding a hearing examining how the Trump Administration's deterrence policies are creating a humanitarian crisis and jeopardizing the health and safety of the migrant children and families.



Three weeks after the CHC CODEL, the House passed Rep. Ruiz's legislation, **the Humanitarian Standards for Individuals in Customs and Border Protection Custody Act**. Subsequently, the House also passed Rep. Escobar's legislation **H.R. 2203, the Homeland Security Improvement Act**, which addresses the nation's immigration challenges at the southwest border in a responsible and humane manner by ensuring accountability, transparency, and oversight of the Department of Homeland Security.

The CHC continued to build on these legislative successes by securing key provisions in the Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations bills, including the **establishment of a new Office of Immigration Detention Ombudsman**, a key component of the Homeland Security Improvement Act and several directives for **CBP to improve the medical response strategy for migrants, and critical resources and protocols for the health, safety and wellbeing of migrants and families in its custody**. This includes directing ICE to ensure that each family residential center has at least one medical professional qualified to provide pediatric care on site and one mental health professional specializing in pediatric care.

Unfortunately, Congress also passed a border supplemental that provided billions to DHS, which was formally opposed by the Hispanic Caucus and nearly 100 Democratic members of the House. **The CHC opposed the bill largely due to its lack of guard rails around any money to ensure its use for humanitarian relief and not diverted toward Trump's deportation machine or skewed priorities.** Nearly a year later the GAO found that CBP misused millions of this supplemental funding meant for migrant families and children to pay for dirt bikes, canine supplies, and other enforcement related-expenditures, validating the CHC's opposition and concerns and reinforcing the principle that strict conditions for funding are needed to reel in this lawless Administration.



Source: United Farm Workers Foundation

House Passage of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act

CHC Members are committed to supporting our farmworkers and made great strides toward strengthening protections for these hard-working laborers by introducing **H.R. 4916, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act**, led by Subcommittee Chair Zoe Lofgren, Rep. Salud Carbajal and a group of bipartisan lawmakers. The Farm Workforce Modernization Act was drafted over several months with input from the agricultural industry and labor stakeholders with negotiations guided by members of the CHC. The legislation creates meaningful reforms to support farmworkers and the agricultural industry alike by stabilizing the farm workforce and providing a pathway to legal status for workers and families. **The CHC proudly endorsed the bill to support farmworkers and families** because part of the American Dream is ensuring that all families are able to succeed and create a better life for their children. Following the endorsement, the CHC worked to advance the bill succeeding with the Farm Workforce Modernization Act passing the U.S. House of Representatives in December of 2019.

Immigration and Border Priorities in the Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations Bills

The CHC worked with seven appropriations subcommittees to include various immigration and border priorities for the Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations bills, including to the subcommittees of State and Foreign Ops; Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education; Transportation, Housing Urban Development; Military Construction; Department of Defense; Commerce, Justice, Science; and Homeland Security. **Over 75 of CHC's immigration and border priorities were accepted in full or in part throughout seven appropriations bills helping shape key policy, spending priorities, and accountability measures in various government agencies.** Six of the seven subcommittee bills cleared passage of the House, with the exception of the Homeland Security bill, which did not come to the floor for a vote. Below, please find key provisions included in each subcommittee.

- **Homeland Security:** Defunds Remain in Mexico, all Asylum Cooperative Agreements or Safe Third Country Agreements, and the implementation of harmful proposed asylum rules; Eliminates transfer authority and most reprogramming authority; Phases out family detention by the end of 2020; Does not provide funding for Border Patrol agents, ICE deportation officers, and the wall; Significantly reduces detention beds and cuts ICE and CBP funding; Ends prolonged detention; Protects DACA and TPS eligible individuals from deportation and detention; Ensures Members of Congress can access detention facilities to conduct oversight.
- **State, Foreign Ops:** Provides robust funding for refugees and Central American assistance; Report language protecting migrant access to the U.S. asylum system; Upholds refugee reporting requirements; Recommits engagement from international organizations concerning deteriorating human rights conditions at the US-Mexico border.
- **Labor, HHS:** Defunds information-sharing between ORR and DHS and prohibits funds for influx facilities; Increases mental health services for children in custody and preserves the confidentiality of mental health services; Report language on ORR facility monitoring, ensuring children are not in prolonged detention, and continues reporting requirements on family separations.
- **T-HUD:** Prevents the implementation of the harmful HUD mixed-status regulation and supports DACA recipients' access to FHA loans.
- **Military Construction:** Restricts transfer authority for wall funding.
- **Department of Defense:** Restricts transfer authority for wall funding and prohibits the use of DoD funding to be used for active duty support of security or immigration enforcement operations at the southern border unless the requesting agency reimburses all costs to DoD.
- **CJS:** Secured robust funding for critical programs like the Immigration Court Help Desk, Legal Services Corporation; Defunds harmful Trump administration policies like the recent immigration judge hiring plan and immigration judge case quotas tied to performance metrics; Key oversight provisions related to tent courts, video teleconferencing in immigration courts, and improving interpretation issues; Establishes key pilot programs for pro-bono legal representation for non-citizens in removal proceedings and individuals released directly from CBP custody.



Congressional Delegations

The CHC led eight Congressional delegations to four states, 12 cities, and Mexico pertaining to immigration and border issues to investigate the following:

- **Circumstances surrounding the death of Jakelin Amei Rosemary Call Maquin** in CBP custody in Antelope Wells and Lordsburg, New Mexico
- **Circumstances Surrounding the death of Felipe Gomez Alonzo** in CBP custody in Alamogordo, New Mexico
- **Homestead Temporary Shelter**, the largest facility for unaccompanied migrant children run by a for-profit corporation in Homestead, Florida
- **ORR Facility and Border Patrol Stations in El Paso and Clint, Texas** during the height of the border crisis
- **Tent Courts used for Asylum Seekers subject to Remain in Mexico** in Laredo, Texas
- **Impacts of President Trump's Remain in Mexico Policy** in Brownsville, Texas and Matamoros, Mexico
- **South Texas ICE Processing Center in Pearsall and the South Texas Family Residential Center** in Dilley, Texas to Investigate Conditions During COVID-19
- **Nevada Southern Detention Center in Pahrump, Nevada** to investigate the growing number of COVID-19 cases at the location.





Meetings

- **CHC Meeting with Mexico's Ambassador Martha Bárcena and Undersecretary for North American in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Doctor Doctor Jesús Seade Kuri** to discuss Trans-border cooperation, immigration, and develop initiatives for Central America
- **CHC Meeting with USCIS Director Francis Cissna** to discuss record-breaking backlog, average processing times, and the agency diverting from its service-based mission.
- **CHC Meeting with Deputy Assistant Secretary for Central American Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs Hugo Rodriguez** to discuss the Department's decision to cut funding to the Northern Triangle.
- **CHC Meeting with Secretary Alex M. Azar, U.S. Department of Health and Health Services** to discuss the border supplemental, child deaths in ORR custody, and the expansion of the shelter system.
- **CHC Meeting with Acting Secretary Kevin K. McAleenan of the Department of Homeland Security** to discuss Remain in Mexico, botched family reunification efforts, and deaths in ICE custody.

Letters and Amicus Briefs

The CHC sent over 35 letters and prompted 6 independent investigations pertaining to border and immigration policy. Below, are key letters:

- CHC Letter calling on the FBI and DHS OIG to investigate the **Trump Organization's Systemic Practice of Hiring Undocumented Workers**
- CHC Letter calling on DHS and ORR demanding answers on the **cover up of Darlyn Valle's death**
- Tri-Caucus Members Letter opposing **HUD Secretary Carson's effort to evict immigrant and mixed-status families**
- CHC Letter to DHS and ICE calling for answers on **massive workplace ICE raid in Mississippi**

- Tri-Caucus Amicus Brief **opposing the Trump Administration's Public Charge Rule**
- CHC Letter with the support of Judiciary Committee, Homeland Security Committee, and Oversight and Government Reform Committee to DHS OIG and DOJ OIG to **launch investigation into the use of tent courts at the border**
- CHC Letter to DHS OIG to expand their investigation into the death of **Carlos Hernández Vásquez after new evidence revealed CBP lied to the American public**
- CHC Letter to GAO calling for **emergency review of legality of DHS leadership appointees**
- CHC Letter, supported by 110 House Democrats, calling for the **immediate end of Remain in Mexico policy**
- CHC Letter, under the leadership of Senator Bob Menendez, with the support of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Judiciary Committee, **urging the State Department's Inspector General to investigate Trump Administration's decision to terminate TPS**
- CHC Letter with the support of the Judiciary Committee, Homeland Security Committee, and Oversight and Reform Committee calling for an **immediate halt of the Prompt Asylum Claim Review and the Humanitarian Asylum Review Process**
- CHC Letter to DHS seeking answers for the **death of an American citizen, James Paul Markowitz, while in CBP custody**



Legislation

- **FY2020 DHS Appropriations Conference bill:** No funding for additional immigration enforcement personnel; prohibits ICE for using information collected by HHS from sponsors of migrant children for removal purposes; no funding for additional immigration enforcement personnel or border patrol agents; \$319 million for Alternatives to Detention; 8 provisions dedicated improving the medical care of migrants in DHS custody, including providing increase child welfare professionals and establishing medical response strategies; \$10 million to establish a new Office of Immigration Detention Ombudsman; notification requirements for excessive CBP detention; allow Members of Congress access to all DHS facilities where migrants are detained without prior notice.
- **FY2020 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Conference bill:** Provided \$160 million for legal services, child advocates, and post-release services; required public reporting of children recently separated from their parents or legal guardians; allowed HHS to accept donations for care of UACs; limited the Memorandum of Agreement on Information Sharing with DHS; and, restricted use of influx facilities;
- **H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act** provides a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, TPS holders, and DED beneficiaries to a record 2.5 million immigrants.
- **H.R. 3238, the Humanitarian Standards for Individuals in Customs and Border Protection Custody Act** requires CBP to conduct medical screenings, meet basic humanitarian standards to address the needs of children and families at the border.
- **H.R. 2203, the Homeland Security Improvement Act** address the country's immigration challenges at the southwest border in a responsible and human manner, ensuring accountability, transparency, and oversight.
- **H.R. 549, the Venezuela TPS Act of 2019** extends Temporary Protected Status to Venezuelan nationals in light of the 2019 Venezuelan presidential crisis.



IMPROVING LATINO HEALTH



In the 116th Congress, the CHC strengthened its work on improving the health and wellbeing of Latinos. Latinos face various health and social inequities that are tied to health outcomes, including high uninsured rates, higher risk for developing diabetes, and employment in industries that have high occupational hazards. This Congress, the CHC, under the leadership of Rep. “Chuy” García, led efforts to introduce the Health Equity and Accountability of 2020 (HEAA), a bicameral bill that promotes health equity for Latinos and other minority communities and addresses various social determinants of health. The CHC also focused on addressing one of the leading causes of death of among Latinos – diabetes – by working to reduce the rising costs of insulin and increasing patient access to and affordability of this life-saving medication. Furthermore, in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and its disproportionate impacts on Latinos, the CHC led several efforts to help eliminate the inequities experienced by Latinos and other communities of color including the introduction of several Tri-Caucus bills focused on addressing not only the current crisis but looking towards long-term solutions that promote equity and the elimination of structural inequities.



Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2020 (HEAA)

In the 116th Congress, Congressman Jesús "Chuy" García introduced **H.R. 6637, the Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA) of 2020** in collaboration with the CHC and UnidosUS, the largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization. To date, over 100 co-sponsors support the legislation and 238 community and advocacy organizations across the country have endorsed the bill.

This Congress, HEAA included several new provisions to strengthen the legislation's bold vision of health equity. Rep. García and the CHC worked to incorporate **21 standalone bills in HEAA** that would establish an interagency council across federal agencies on the social determinants of health and improve how social determinants of health are defined by adding "citizenship status" to the definition of health disparity. The bill also seeks to improve health outcomes for women, children, and their families by expanding the eligibility of Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to all women, including lawfully present individuals, for 12 months following the last day of their pregnancy. HEAA would also improve the reach and impact of culturally and linguistically appropriate services by broadening the definition of a "medically underserved population" to ensure that our constituents can always access quality care.

To ensure that HEAA provided a comprehensive and bold framework, a multipronged approach was taken to shape the language of the bill over nine months. UnidosUS led a Community Working Group made up of over 30 national, state, and local advocacy groups who recommended changes to the bill based on their expertise. At the Congressional level, Rep. García and the CHC hosted briefings with UnidosUS to educate Congressional staff on the history of this comprehensive legislation as well as the substantive decision points and overall direction and goals of the bill. We hosted four listening sessions with Tri-Caucus offices to incorporate feedback to ensure that the bill was representative of the Tri-Caucus priorities and of the communities we represent. This is especially important given that HEAA is the product of cooperation between the Congressional Tri-caucus – which represents over half of the Democratic Caucus and includes the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), and Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC).

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for health equity to be considered in all policies. The coronavirus has exacerbated long-standing systemic health and social inequities with many racial and ethnic minority groups bearing the brunt of this health care crisis. Now more than ever, health equity is at the forefront of Congressional action and several provisions of HEAA have been included in critical legislation designed to promote health equity during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

New bills have also been introduced, which include HEAA provisions and mirror HEAA's collaborative approach among Tri-Caucus offices to ensure a bold and inclusive vision for health equity and COVID-19. HEAA is comprehensive legislation designed to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities. HEAA is the only legislation that holistically addresses health inequalities, their intersections with immigration status, age, disability, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, language, and socio-economic status, along with obstacles associated with historical and contemporary injustices.

Additions and changes to HEAA this Congress include:

- Improve race and ethnicity data collection;
- Require Medicare to track disparities;
- Broaden the definition of medically underserved populations to address barriers to health care services for non-geographically defined populations;
- Amend the definition of sensitive locations to include organization and agencies that provide food assistance;
- Add a new section to ensure that the Advancing American Kidney Health Initiative which aims to prevent kidney disease, expand home dialysis, and increase transplants is inclusive of communities of color;
- Make eligible of all women, including lawfully present individuals, for CHIP for the immediate 12 months following the last day of their pregnancy;
- Addition of a new section about the mental health needs at the U.S.-Mexico border;
- Addition of citizenship status under the definition of health disparity;
- Prohibition of an executive agency from using the term “alien” or “illegal alien” in any proposed or final rule, regulation, interpretation, publication, other document, display, or sign issued by the agency and the
- Establish an interagency council on social determinants of health across federal agencies.

Meetings

- In collaboration with UnidosUS, we hosted a briefing and four listening sessions to introduce Tri-Caucus staff to HEAA and gather input for changes and additions to the bill's language.

Letters

- Tri-Caucus Letter to Congressional Leadership asking for the inclusion of HEAA provisions in the next coronavirus relief packages.

Legislation

- **H.R. 6637, the Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2020** was introduced by Congressman Jesús "Chuy" García in collaboration with the Congressional Tri-Caucus and UnidosUS to build and strengthen legislation to eliminate health inequities amongst communities of color.
- HEAA's Senate counterpart will be introduced in the Fall by Senator Hirono to strengthen bicameral support for health equity.

- Inclusions of report language from HEAA in the Fiscal Year 2021 House passed Labor Health and Human Services appropriations bill establishing a health disparities education program and a study on health disparities in National Academy of Sciences (NAS).
- **H.R. 8200, Ending the Health Disparities During COVID-19 Act of 2020** led by Rep. Robin Kelly in collaboration with the Tri-Caucus incorporated pertinent HEAA sections to have a comprehensive response to COVID-19 during and after the pandemic.
- **H.R. 5432, the Medical Education for a Diverse America Act** was introduced by Rep. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell to count time spent in trainings for culturally and linguistically appropriate care towards approved medical residency programs.

Insulin and Prescription Drug Affordability

During the 116th Congress, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus worked to reduce the rising cost of insulin in an effort to increase patient access and affordability. Unfortunately, diabetes is a major public health emergency within the Hispanic community. Nearly 17 percent of Hispanics have diabetes and it is a leading cause of mortality for Hispanics. Therefore, the CHC met with the CEOs and Presidents of Eli Lilly, Sanofi, and Novo Nordisk – the three companies who control 90 percent of the global insulin market – to learn what steps manufacturers are taking to drive costs down. After the series of meetings with the insulin manufacturers, the CHC met with the three leading Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) -- CVS Health, UnitedHealth Group, and Express Scripts Holding Company – who manage the prescription drug benefits for 180 million Americans. We continue to build on these key stakeholder meetings by working with the Congressional Diabetes Caucus Chair Diana DeGette, the Energy & Commerce Committee, the Appropriations Committee, and Rep. "Chuy" García on oversight efforts and legislation to help combat the insulin crisis.



Meetings

- **CHC Member Meetings with Sanofi, Eli Lilly, and Novo Nordisk** – the three insulin manufacturers who control 90 percent of the Global Insulin Market – to discuss the sky-rocketing price of insulin.
- **CHC Member Meetings with CVS Health, United Health Group, and Express Scripts Holding Company** – the largest Pharmacy Benefit Managers in the country who manage prescription drugs for 180 million Americans – to discuss their fundamental role in delivering insulin to patients across the United States.

Legislation

- **H.R. 6637, the Health Equity and Accountability Act** comprehensive legislation aimed at eliminating health disparities, including key provisions to address diabetes.
- **Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Funding Bill:**
 - Included report language directing the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to report on the FDA's transition of regulating insulin as a drug, to regulating insulin as a biological product to better understand the effects of this transition on the insulin manufacturing market.
- **H.R. 3, the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act**, gives the United States Health and Human Services the ability to negotiate up to 250 drugs per year to address the sky rocketing prices of prescription drugs.

Letters

- **Letters to Sanofi, Eli Lilly, and Novo Nordisk** following up after the series of meetings on various issues, including patient assistance programs, list prices, and anti-competitive practices.
- **Letters to Sanofi, Eli Lilly, and Novo Nordisk** underscoring the risk to those living with diabetes if they contract COVID-19 and seeking additional information on the steps they are taking to ensure that this life-saving drug is accessible during the COVID-19 crisis.



DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



During the 116th Congress the CHC has expanded its efforts on diversity across industries, with a focus on Latino representation in the media. Increasing and improving Latino representation in the media across film, television, journalism, publishing, magazines, and other forms of media are top priorities because of the role that these industries have in shaping American culture and influencing how the public views Latinos. According to the latest Census Bureau estimates, there are currently over 60 million Latinos living in the United States, but underrepresentation in the media continues. The Caucus believes that underrepresentation and erasure leads to a fundamental misunderstanding of who Latinos are and of their long history of contributions to America since its founding. Through the CHC's engagement across these industries, the CHC has worked closely with stakeholder groups and advocated for increased Latino representation, improved Latino portrayals, and increased number of Latinos in executive leadership positions across these various media verticals.



Diversity in Film and Television

Major reports on Latino underrepresentation and near erasure in the entertainment industry were catalysts for CHC's work on this issue. In 2017 and again in 2020, the UCLA College of Social Sciences published industry wide reports on the severe lack of representation of women and minorities both in front of and behind the camera. In 2019 and 2020, USC's Annenberg Inclusion Initiative also published reports on these issues. USC's 2019 report focused specifically on "Latinos in Film: Erasure On Screen & Behind the Camera Across 1,200 Popular Movies." This is despite the fact that Latinos make up 18% of the U.S. population, and nearly 50% of the population in Los Angeles—the heart of the entertainment industry. **The report highlighted the following notable facts:**

- Only 3% of the 100 top grossing films from 2007 to 2018 featured Latino leads or co-leads.
- Only 4.5% of all speaking characters were Latino.
- Just under 25% of Latino characters with speaking roles were depicted as law breakers, and 13% of all Latino speaking characters were depicted as poor or impoverished.
- Latinos accounted for wonly 4% of directors, 3% of producers, and 3% of casting directors.

Meetings

- CHC Congressional Delegation to Hollywood where the Caucus met with major industry stakeholders to discuss the issue of Latino underrepresentation and inaccurate portrayal in the entertainment industries. During the trip, CHC Members had meetings with:
 - Studios/Streamers: Paramount Pictures, NBCUniversal, Netflix, Walt Disney, Sony Pictures, Warner Bros. Entertainment Company
 - Unions/Guild: The Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) and the Directors' Guild of America (DGA)
 - Talent Agencies: Creative Artists Agency and Endeavor Talent Agency
- CHC Member Meetings with Executives from Amazon Studios, the Walt Disney Company, and Starz to discuss Latino representation in their respective companies.
- CHC Engagement with State Governors, State Legislators, and State Film Commissions on improving diversity in these industries and calling for greater transparency on data, and utilizing state tax credits to incentivize diversity.
- CHC Engagement with Advocates and Stakeholders throughout the year to elevate their work, to hear from their experiences in this industry, and to advocate for their priorities.



Legislation

- **Appropriations:** The CHC worked hard to identify every avenue possible where the government intersects with this industry and leverage the appropriations process to help increase diversity and representation for Latinos, and other underrepresented communities. The CHC was successful in including report language in the following Appropriations bills:
 - **Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies:**
 - Report language directing the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to analyze pay information collected in 2017 and 2018, make the 2017 and 2018 data publicly available, and disaggregating this data by race, ethnicity, and gender. The language directs the EEOC to submit a report with a timeline and process for doing so within 90 days of the enactment of this bill.
 - **Department of Defense:**
 - Report language directing the DoD to provide a report on the diversity of the projects that it provides consultation services for in film, television, and publishing. This data must be disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and gender.
 - **Financial Services:**
 - Requires the Commission on Federal Naming and Displays to provide recommendations on federal assets for removal requiring that the Commission also consider federal assets that do not reflect the demographic diversity and the history of the communities where they are located.
 - **Interior, Environment and Related Agencies:**
 - Report Language supporting greater transparency on diversity and inclusion efforts at the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for diverse artists, writers, and filmmakers;
 - Report language directing the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the National Park Service (NPS) to each explore the feasibility of adding diversity reporting requirements to their applications for filming on their respective lands.

○ **Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies:**

- Report language directing the Department to work with Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) to provide technical assistance to support comprehensive pipeline programs in the arts, in partnership with school districts that enroll a majority-minority student population. Requests periodic updates on any progress in developing such programs;
 - Report language directing the Department of Labor to explore the feasibility of expanding the Registered Apprenticeship model to careers in the arts, specifically in film, televisions, and theater;
 - Report language supporting the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's National Multicultural Alliance, including for Latino Public Broadcasting;
 - Report language directing the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to include in its fiscal years 2022/2024 Congressional Budget Justification information on its diversity and inclusion efforts, including programming supported by funding from the Corporation, as well as professional development opportunities and services for individuals from underrepresented communities;
 - Report Language supporting increased attention to diversity and representation at film schools at Institutions of Higher Education. The language directs the Department to produce a one-time report in a disaggregated manner that examines recruitment efforts, and the results of these recruitment efforts in helping to ensure a diverse class of accepted film school students;
 - Report Language directing the Department to work with states and school districts that serve diverse youth to explore using SSAE funding to create and support youth pipeline programs in the arts and entertainment industries. The language recognizes the value of these types of programs in creating a holistic education, especially for Title I school students;
 - Report Language supporting efforts by school districts to use American History and Civic Academies funding in their work to ensure that in communities with large populations of Latino students, that schools and school names reflect this demographic diversity, and highlight the achievements of Latinos;
- **FY2021 National Defense Authorization Act:** Encouraging the Department of Defense to prioritize the accurate depiction of marginalized communities in the films and projects that they work on with the industry and to report to Congress on their progress.

Letters

As a six-month follow up to the CHC's Congressional Delegation to Hollywood, the CHC sent letters to all five traditional studios, Netflix, SAG-AFTRA, and DGA asking what steps they have taken or are considering taking to improve Latino representation since meeting with our Members during the Congressional Delegation.

- **Letter to Amazon Studios** requesting additional information following a virtual meeting with our Members on the specific standards and goals in place to increase Latino representation and promote positive Latino portrayals through Amazon studios projects.

- **Letter to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences** requesting additional information following a virtual follow up meeting with our Members to learn more on the specifics on how the new Aperture2025 initiative will increase Latino representation.
- **Letter to the California Film Commission** to learn more about their Film & Television Tax Credit Program 3.0 and identify opportunities to move the needle forward on issues of representation.
- **Letter to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)** on provided an updated Media diversity report, including in film and television.



Diversity in Publishing

Severe underrepresentation of diverse communities and Latino authors in publishing became clearer than ever before in January 2020 with the publication of *American Dirt*. *American Dirt* provided a real-world example of what happens when Latinos are not the ones in charge of telling stories about their communities. *American Dirt* was heavily criticized for inaccurately portraying migrant experiences through stereotypes. Underrepresentation in this industry is important for the CHC to address due to the publishing industry's influence on American culture, including films and television. The publishing industry is also influential in America's classrooms. Our Members believe more must be done to appropriately address Latino history or Latino contributions to American history through textbooks. Lee and Low Book's Diversity Baseline Study 2.0 showed that four years after their first study, the publishing industry had not done enough to address the underrepresentation of diverse communities, including Latinos. In fact, from 2015 to 2019, Latino representation across the industry overall did not improve at all and remained at 6%, despite Latinos making up 18% of the population.

Meetings

- **CHC Member Meeting with the Association of American Publishers:** CHC Members called for greater representation of Latinos in the publishing industry and at the major publishing houses. The CHC also pushed for greater transparency on workforce demographics across the industry. The CHC met with the board of the AAP and the top-level executives of the five major publishing houses in the United States. Following the meeting, the AAP provided a 20-page response on the industry's work thus far as well as plans to increase Latino representation. Since this meeting, Macmillan Books has set up a new Executive Level Management Committee. Penguin Random House, another one of the big five publishing companies, has also issued its Workforce Report on Diversity in early September, where Hispanics make up 11% of the workforce.
- **CHC Engagement with Advocates and Stakeholders:** Throughout the CHC's work in this industry, the CHC has engaged with the advocate and stakeholder community on this issue very closely to uplift the challenges and barriers they have experienced in the industry for years.

Work in Congress

- **Tri-Caucus Toolkit on School Names and School Books:** The CHC led a Tri-Caucus toolkit on these issues to share with all Dem Caucus offices. The purpose of the toolkit was to share guidance with Members on how to engage on issues related to public school names and the books in our children's classrooms. Given the fact that Congress considers federal legislation every year to fund public schools, the CHC believes the names of our public schools, as well as our school textbooks must better recount our country's diverse history in a way that recognizes our communities' contributions.

Legislation

- **Labor, Health and Human Services Funding Bill:**
 - Report Language that recognizes that all students should see themselves reflected in the textbooks available to them in the classroom. This language supports classroom and school libraries using Title I grant funding in their work to include textbooks and content that reflects the history and diversity of their student populations.

Letters

- **CHC Letter to the Association of American Publishers** to get more granular data on workforce demographics, new diversity goals and metrics by which to measure increased Latino representation, and more.
- **Letter to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)** on providing an updated Media diversity report, including in publishing.



Source: LA Times Latino Caucus

Diversity in America's Newsrooms

Underrepresentation in America's newsrooms can lead to the underreporting of the stories that affect our communities the most, as well as a lack of direct reporting to our communities on these issues. A clear example of this is how on the date of the 1-year anniversary of the El Paso Shooting, the deadliest attack against Latinos in modern American history, the mainstream media failed to feature the anniversary and its impact on the El Paso community as a main story. This omission from mainstream outlets' headlines was indicative to our Members of the dire need to continue pushing this industry to address Latino underrepresentation in newsrooms. The COVID-19 pandemic makes the case of this important issue clearer than ever before. As the COVID-19 pandemic's health and economic impacts continue to affect the Latino community at disproportionate rates, it is important that the mainstream media report on this and that the mainstream media report directly to Latino communities and households.

Meetings

- **CHC Member Meeting with CBS News President and Senior Executive Producer, Ms. Susan Zirinsky** to discuss CBS' initial failure to appoint a Hispanic anchor to CBS This Morning and CBS Evening News -- prior to the meeting Maria Elena Salinas joined as a contributor.
- **CHC Member Meeting with incoming Univision CEO, Mr. Wade Davis** to discuss the impact of the sale of Univision on programming and reporting to the Latino community in the U.S., issues of Latino representation in executive roles at Univision, as well as Univision's work on COVID-19, the 2020 Census and the 2020 Elections.
- **CHC Member Meeting with Telemundo's Leadership Team** to discuss how leadership changes will affect the company's priorities as well as the representation of Latinos both in front of and behind the camera as well as in executive level positions at the company. The CHC also discussed the company's work on COVID-19, the 2020 Census, and the 2020 Elections.

- **CHC Engagement with Advocates and Stakeholders** ahead of these meetings to understand from first-hand experience what needs to change to increase Latino representation. The CHC met with stakeholder groups including journalists and writers from the National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ).

Letters

- **CHC Letter to CBS News** urging them to consider elevating their coverage of Latinos during the COVID-19 pandemic to their primetime broadcasting programming. As a result, CBS News President and Senior Executive Producer, Ms. Susan Zirinsky, recognized the importance of the CHC's concern and expressed that moving forward primetime broadcasting will showcase coverage on Latino communities.
- **CHC Letter to NBCUniversal** urging them to consider diverse candidates, including Latinos, for the replacement of Joy Reid on MSNBC. As a result, the NBCUniversal confirmed with CHC staff that diversity of candidates considered for this position is a top priority and that they are actively considering Latino journalists for this role.

Diversity in Magazines and Media Companies

In the weeks following the murder of George Floyd and massive protests across the country against police brutality and against systemic racism, there were several reports of incidents involving racism, inappropriate behavior in the workplace, and systemic underrepresentation of communities of color at the leading media companies in the country. The leading media companies including Hearst, Condé Nast, and Meredith, are all major companies that produce media and content across several divisions in magazines, newspapers, television channels, television stations, and more. Due to the far-reaching influences of these companies, it is important for the CHC to raise these issues of systemic underrepresentation of Latinos.

Meetings

- **CHC Members Meeting with Hearst Magazines, Meredith, and Conde Nast** to discuss current Latino representation within these companies and learn more about how these companies plan to address these issues.
- **CHC Engagement with Advocates and Stakeholder Groups** to discuss challenges faced by Latino journalists in this industry in preparation for meetings with major media companies.

Work in Congress

- **House Committee on Energy and Commerce Hearing on Lifting Voices:** Legislation to Promote Media Marketplace Diversity with stakeholders in media and in academia to consider relevant legislation to expand and increase opportunities for diverse broadcasters in media.

Letters

- **Letter to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)** on provided an updated Media diversity report, including in the magazine and newspaper industries.



Tri-Caucus Staff,

Source: Congressional Hispanic Staff Association

Diversity on Capitol Hill

While the 116th Congress is the most diverse Congress in American history, the CHC believes we must continue building upon this progress to ensure that the “People’s House” better reflects the rich demographic diversity of our country. **This Congress the CHC is the biggest it has ever been at 39 Members strong advocating for the needs of the over 60 million Latinos in the United States.** The CHC has also worked closely with the newly established Office of Diversity and Inclusion to advocate for policies that support Latino staffers’ success on Capitol Hill.

Work in Congress

- **The Office of Diversity and Inclusion:** This new office was established under the House Rules for the 116th Congress. The Director is required to submit to Congress to guide Congressional offices on how to recruit, develop, and support diverse staff on Capitol Hill. The CHC worked closely with this new office to collect and share CHC office feedback on how to best ensure that this office’s plan and structure is inclusive of the needs of Latino staffers.
- **Launched the Tri-Caucus Witness Diversity Initiative:** The CHC led a pilot initiative to track the diversity of the expert witnesses who testify on Capitol Hill. As part of this launch the CHC consulted with their counterparts in the United Kingdom who have led on this data collection for years now. The CHC also worked closely with the Tri-Caucus, House Leadership, the House Committee on Administration, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the Select Committee on Modernizing Congress, the House Appropriations Committee, and other relevant Caucuses to garner support to institutionalize this initiative as a core process in the House of Representatives. The CHC also liaised with Committee staff to ensure staff had the information necessary to participate in this initiative. The CHC also made itself available to Committee staff in need of contacts at Latino organizations to ensure the Latino perspective is part of hearing panels. The CHC is currently working with relevant stakeholders to identify how to best formalize the initiative in the next Congress.
- **The Democratic Caucus Successfully Adopted the Rooney Rule:** The Dem Caucus formally approved of this important rule to encourage diverse recruitment and hiring practices in Congressional Offices on Capitol Hill.
- **CHC Resume Bank:** In the months leading up to the 117th Congress, the CHC has launched a resume bank to support diverse hiring of Latinos in the next Congress. To date, the CHC Resume Bank has received over 100 resumes. The CHC continues to facilitate informational interviews with experienced Hill staff to best prepare them for opportunities in the next Congress.

Legislation

- **Legislative Branch:**

- Included appropriations requests for report language that is supportive of increased funding for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion to meet its mission of increasing staff diversity and guaranteeing an inclusive working environment on Capitol Hill;
- Included appropriations requests for report language that is supportive of this pilot initiative and its institutionalization as part of the core functions of the United States House of Representatives.



Diversity at the Smithsonian

In addition to the CHC's work to increase Latino representation in the halls of Congress, the CHC has also worked on this important issue in the following critical areas.

Meetings

- **CHC Member Meeting with the Secretary of the Smithsonian, Lonnie G. Bunch III:** During this meeting CHC Members discussed the need for a Smithsonian museum on American Latino History and Culture and the importance of this museum being located on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Work in Congress

- **Supported Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard's Appointment to the Smithsonian Institution's Board of Regents:** Rep. Roybal-Allard went on to be appointed by Speaker Nancy Pelosi in January 2019 as the first Latina to serve on the Board of Regents. Rep. Roybal-Allard has been a fierce advocate for the creation of the Museum of the American Latino.
- **House Committee on Administration Hearing on the Latino Museum:** CHC supported staff with hearing materials and questions to raise during this important hearing.
- **Supported the launch of the Smithsonian Latino Center's Molina Family Latino Gallery:** This new gallery will open at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in 2021 and will recognize and celebrate Latino experiences in the United States.

Legislation

- **H.R. 2420, the National Museum of the American Latino Act:** This landmark bill for the Latino community passed in the United States House of Representatives on Monday July 27, 2020. Under the leadership of Rep. José E. Serrano, the sponsor of the bill, and cosponsoring CHC Members, elevated the historic significance of H.R. 2420's passage—26 years after the report titled "Willful Neglect" of Latinos as part of the Smithsonian Institution. This bill's passage is a major step forward in ensuring that the history of Latinos in America is recognized, highlighted, and accessible to all visiting the Nation's Capital.



THE 2020 CENSUS AND VOTING RIGHTS



Throughout the 116th Congress, the CHC has kept CHC Members and their staff informed of the latest when it comes to the 2020 Census. Even though the decennial census is mandated by the Constitution, Latinos have been undercounted and have missed out on crucial federal funds, and on fair representation in government for decades. Over the course of the 116th Congress, the CHC has worked alongside stakeholder groups, such as the NALEO Educational Fund, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), to ensure a complete count of Latinos. The CHC has also worked closely with colleagues in the Tri-Caucus, on the House Committee of Oversight and Reform, as well as with House Leadership to fight against the Trump Administration's incessant attempts to prevent a complete count of immigrant and Latino communities. The COVID-19 pandemic has only further complicated a complete count. Thus, the CHC continues to stand as a watchdog over the 2020 Census, and will continue to ring the alarm on the Trump Administration's efforts to undermine the count.

Meetings with Census Bureau Director, Dr. Steven Dillingham

- **July 2019:** CHC Members discussed the recent SCOTUS opinion striking the citizenship question from the Census and the Trump Administration's efforts to include the question post-SCOTUS.
- **December 2019:** CHC Members discussed final preparations ahead of the Bureau's official launch in remote areas in January, as well as reported backlogs in recruiting and hiring, especially in hard-to-count communities.
- **March 2020:** CHC Members discussed the Census Bureau's final efforts to reach hard-to-count communities ahead of Census Day on April 1st. CHC Members also discussed important updates on community partnerships, updates on the door knocking phase, updates on Spanish-speaking enumerators, and more. The CHC met with the Director right before the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic.
- **June 2020:** CHC Members and Tri-Caucus Members were updated on the Bureau's new COVID-19 operational schedule and planned outreach to hard-to-count communities that were falling behind in national response rates largely due to the pandemic.

Work in Congress

- **Supported Congressional Oversight of the Census:** The CHC provided feedback and questions for hearings held by the House Committee on Oversight and Reform through the 116th Congress by providing feedback and questions important to our Caucus and to ensure a full count of Latino communities.
- **Hosted Regular Briefings for CHC offices on the 2020 Census:** Over the course of the 116th Congress, CHC staff has worked with stakeholder groups, committee staff, and with Congressional Research Service (CRS) experts to keep CHC staff informed on the Trump Administration's constant changes and actions to undermine the Census. Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic alone, the CHC has coordinated at least a dozen staff-level briefings and calls to keep offices informed on changes to the Census and what they mean for a fair count of Latino communities. CHC staff have also participated on Assistant to the Speaker Lujan's District Director calls to keep all offices informed.
- **Provided Toolkits and Guidance for Offices to Engage at the District Level:** The CHC prepared a Congressional Census Guide specifically for Hispanic Caucus Members, as well as guides with messaging (in English and in Spanish), talking points, social media templates, and more. The CHC has also worked in collaboration with the Tri-Caucus and with the House Committee on Oversight and Reform. The CHC's guide was also made available to help all Democratic Caucus offices to help them engage Latinos in their communities.
- **Expressed Support for the Extension of the 2020 Census Operations and Deadline Extensions for Data Delivery Dates:** In light of the necessary pause of in-person operations and the additional time needed to ensure sufficient outreach is conducted and that there is enough time to accurately tabulate this important data, the CHC has been vocal in support of extending these statutory deadlines. The CHC has expressed the importance of these extensions to leadership during COVID-19 relief negotiations.

Legislation

- **Worked closely with the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Committee to**
 - Guarantee the necessary funding levels to conduct the 2020 Census and to appropriate additional funds as the Bureau made changes to its operational plan during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Included several important provisions to our Caucus including language preventing the Bureau from transmitting any data product or tabulation that is not based on information collected by the census form, thereby nullifying Executive Order 13880 (EO 13880).
 - Included language preventing the Bureau from having more than five political appointees, thereby nullifying the most recent political appointments.
- **Supported H.R. 6800, the HEROES Act**, which extends the deadlines for the delivery of apportionment and redistricting data to the dates originally requested by the Administration, requires the Bureau to provide monthly updates to congressional oversight and appropriations committees, and prohibits the Bureau from using funds to comply with EO 13880.

Letters

- **Letter Co-Requesting the House Committee on Oversight's Request to the Government Accountability Office's** monitoring and reporting on the Census Bureau's preparation for the 2020 Census, the official launch, and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Letter Requesting Additional Information on Executive Order 13880** and how the Census Bureau is working to execute on the EO 13880 while still effectively conducting the 2020 Census.
- **Letter with Detailed Questions Ahead of the March 2020 In-Person Meeting** to focus the discussion on issues related to EO 13880, reports of issues with recruiting, hiring, onboarding, and training, outreach to Latino communities, the Bureau's work to counter disinformation, the Bureau's plans for its Mobile Questionnaire Assistance Centers, and more.
- **Letter to the Census Bureau Director at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic** asking for more information on how the Census Bureau was making changes to its original plan amid the public health crisis.
- **Letter from the Tri-Caucus Urging Greater Transparency and Communications with Congress** following weeks of the Bureau's failure to respond to our respective Caucuses' concerns and requests for Member and Staff-Level Briefings on changes to the 2020 Census.
- **Letter from the CHC Requesting a Virtual Meeting with Dr. Steven Dillingham** following the Census Bureau's recent political appointments, policy memorandum laying out its plan to exclude undocumented immigrants, and the Bureau's plans to cut the field operation and data collection period by one month, all while response rates in Latino communities continue to fall behind.
- **Letters with CHC's Priorities for COVID-19 Relief Packages** have each included provisions highlighting the importance of securing enough funding for the Bureau to conduct outreach and operations for the 2020 Census.

- **Letter from the Tri-Caucus to Leadership in the House and Senate** urging them to include the deadline extensions for the Census Bureau to deliver the apportionment count to the President and to the States. This letter also included language supporting the 2020 Census operations and data collection through the extended time frame up to October 31, 2020.



Strengthening Voting Rights Legislation

- **H.R. 1, the For the People Act**, to expand access to the ballot box, increase transparency in our campaign finance system, create reform in our national redistricting processes, and increasing accountability from public officials including Members of Congress and Supreme Court Justices.
- **H.R. 4, the Voting Rights Advancement Act**, to strengthen voting rights laws in the U.S. by restoring them to their full protections under the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and to combat voter suppression tactics. The bill updates the preclearance process by which states and political subdivisions must pre-clear changes to their voting procedures, increases transparency with respect to voting changes and allows the Attorney General to send federal observers to polling locations suspected of racial discriminatory practices.
- **Under COVID-19 legislation, the CHC requested additional funding to state and local governments to make the necessary adjustments to ensure safe and fair elections in November** including \$3.6 billion in grants to states to expand online voter registration and other remote registration tools, allow same-day voter registration, guarantee that every American can vote by a mail ballot (postage prepaid) if they would like to, expand early voting, and ensure sufficient safe and sanitary options for in-person voting, a feature that is critically important to communities of color and others. The CHC advocated for the elimination of the 20 percent matching fund requirement from the funds provided in the CARES Act in order for states to obtain federal funding for election assistance and require that at least 50 percent of funding for states be passed along to units of local government that are responsible for the administration of elections for federal office.

EDUCATION AND LABOR



Source: Anna Ocegueda, via Twitter

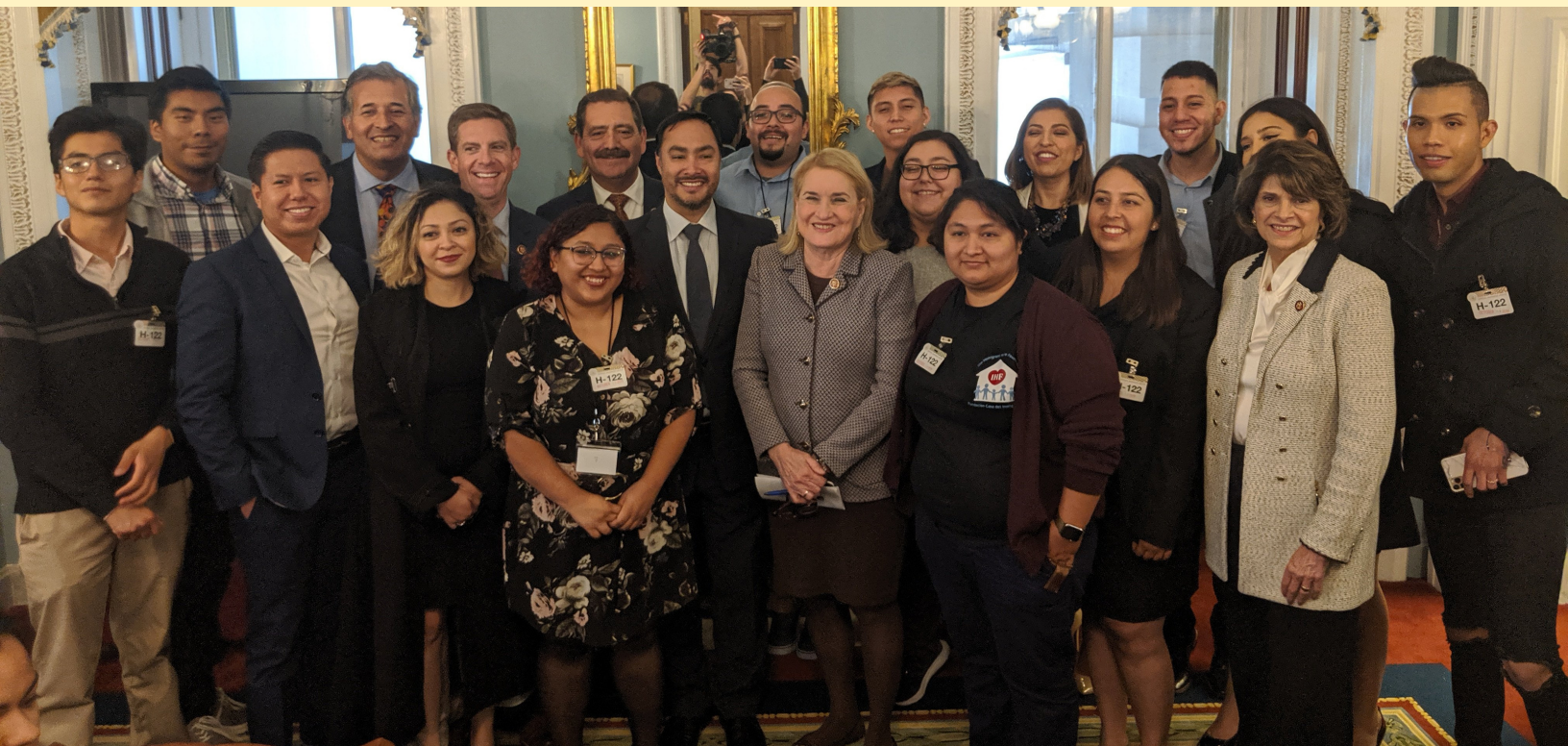
The Congressional Hispanic Caucus is committed to ensuring that every child in our country has access to a quality education – from early childhood to adult education – as well as to ensuring the protection of all workers. Since its founding in 1976, the CHC has advocated for the Latino community and for America’s middle class families in Congress. The CHC believes that a quality education lays the critical foundation for success in America. However, many Hispanics still lack equal access to a quality education, especially in Higher Education. That is why the CHC adopted Higher Education principles, which the Caucus believes are necessary to ensuring the advancement of all Latino students in Higher Education. Similarly, access to Higher Education and workforce training is critical to establishing America as a competitor in this global economy. This Congress, the Caucus met with unions and guilds across industries to work to identify innovative apprenticeships, to guarantee strong worker protections, and to help reduce the pay gap among Latino workers, in particular among Latinas. A well-trained, well-compensated, and educated workforce will benefit all American families.

Legislation

This Congress, the CHC released the **CHC Higher Education priorities** & also worked with the Tri-Caucus to release joint Higher Education priorities. These priorities identify policy solutions to addressing the inequities and educational needs of Hispanic and Latino students, including college access and affordability, support for educators, and holding the higher education system accountable to the students they serve. The priorities also include necessary support for Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) and other Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) so that they are best equipped to ensuring their students graduate and are competitive in the workforce. Many of these **priorities were adopted by the House Education and Labor Committee in the College Affordability Act**. For example the College Affordability Act permanently reauthorized mandatory funding for MSIs, increased Pell Grants, provided access to financial aid for Dreamers and TPS recipients, and reduced the student loan debt burden. This bill was reported out to the Committee but is still pending consideration by the full House.

The CHC also played an instrumental role in ensuring passage of **the Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education (FUTURE) Act**, which extended mandatory funding for all MSIs through fiscal year 2021. Without this bill, MSIs would have a budget shortfall, which would profoundly challenge their ability to serve college students of color. This legislation has been passed into law, ensuring that MSIs are provided with the critical funding they need to serve students of color.

When Education Secretary Betsy DeVos announced that DACA students would not be able to receive student loan relief amid the coronavirus pandemic, CHC worked with the House Education and Labor Committee and Democratic Leadership to include language in the coronavirus package legislation, **the Heroes Act to allow undocumented students to use CARES Act funds**. Coronavirus legislation negotiations have been stalled but the CHC will continue working to ensure these provisions are included in the next coronavirus bill that the Congress passes.



Appropriations

The CHC was successful in securing appropriations funding for education and labor priorities and worked with the Committee to include the following priorities in the Labor, Health and Human Services bills:

- **U.S. Department of Education Funding Requests for HSI Programs**
 - Funded the Developing HSI program at \$155 million
 - Increased funding for HSI's by 8 percent and funding for Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans by 6 percent
- **K-12 and Hispanic-Serving Institutions Diversity Pipeline Programs in the Arts**
 - The Committee directs the Department to work with HSIs and provide technical assistance to support comprehensive pipeline programs in the arts in partnership with school districts that enroll a majority, minority student population and requests periodic updates on any progress in developing such programs
- **Film Programs at Institutions of Higher Education**
 - Institutions of higher learning with existing film schools and programs that receive federal funds and grants, report on the metrics and the diversity of their film school applicants, and accepted film students, and the diversity of students enrolled in the programs.
- **Youth Pipeline Program in the Arts/Media/Education**
 - Encourage state and school districts that serve diverse youth to explore using federal funds to create programs in the arts and entertainment industries under Title IV's Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) Program.
- **School Renaming Initiative**
 - School districts and counties home to large populations of Latino students to explore opportunities to use available funding through the American History and Civics National Activities Grants to ensure public schools reflect the diversity of their districts.
- **Diverse Library Content**
 - Funded at \$48 million for this program and encourages K-12 public schools to utilize Title I funding for the purpose of developing libraries with content and history and diversity of their student populations.
- **U.S. Department of Labor**
 - Hollywood Registered Apprenticeship Programs, supporting efforts to expand registered apprenticeships to traditionally underrepresented communities and encourages DOL to explore the feasibility and expansion of registered apprenticeship programs within the arts, theater, film, and television industries.

Letters

- **Equity in Education letter** – requested that leadership included equity guardrails for any future education funding provided to schools.
- **Child Care letter** – requested that the Senate support the two child care bills (Child Care is Essential and Child Care for Economic Recovery) that the House introduced and passed.
- **English Language Learner letter** – requesting that leadership support the inclusion of focused funding for English Language Learners

THE U.S. TERRITORIES AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

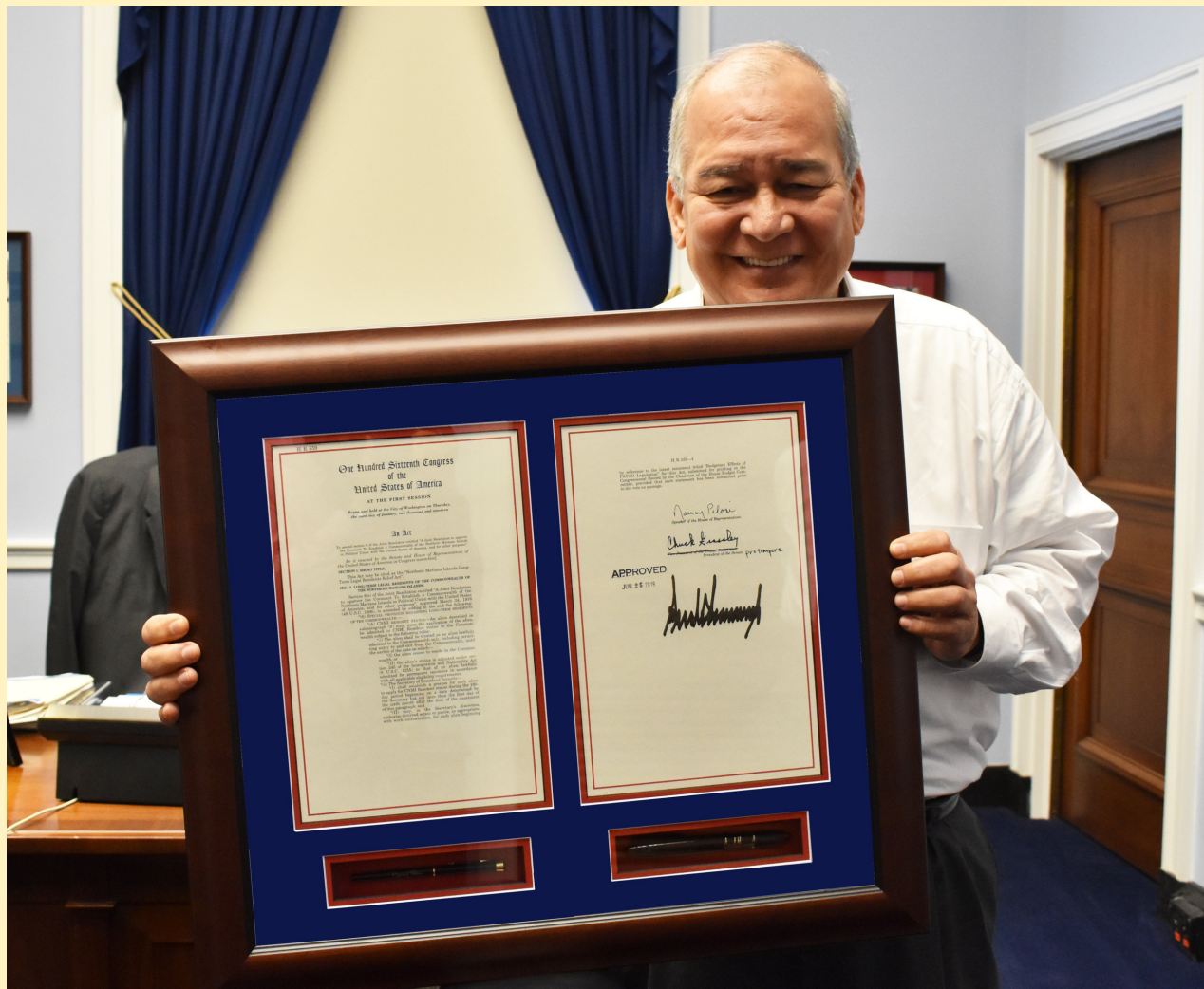


Under the leadership of Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, Rep. Michael San Nicolas, Puerto Rico Task Force Co-Chairs – Rep. Nydia Velázquez, Rep. José E. Serrano, Rep. Darren Soto – and the Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee Raúl M. Grijalva, the CHC has led efforts to advance key issues important to the U.S. territories. **Underscoring their efforts is the principle of equality.** The CHC’s work is designed to ensure that the residents in their districts and the U.S. territories have equal access to critical federal programs, especially health care.



To kickstart that effort at the start of the 116th Congress, Rep. Sablan called the Medicaid Directors from all five insular areas to a hearing focused on expiring Affordable Care Act funding. **Congress responded with \$6.1 billion in new funding for FY20 and FY21 in Public Law 116-94.** The same law lowered the local matching amount for Puerto Rico from 45 to 24 percent and for the smaller insular areas to 17 percent. Public Law 116-127 further lowered their local match to 10.8 percent. These significant improvements are only temporary, however; so, Rep. Sablan has also introduced **H.R. 6495, the Insular Area Medicaid Parity Act**, which permanently repeals the Medicaid cap placed on the U.S. territories. He was also able to add the insular areas as U.S. states for purposes of **Medicaid in the Health Equity and Affordability Act, H.R. 6637, which is now supported by 98 Members of Congress.**

Also advancing equity, early in the 116th Congress, Rep. San Nicolas introduced **H.R. 208, the Guam Supplemental Security Income Equality Act**, legislation that extends the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program to Guam. In support, the CHC endorsed the bill and wrote a letter to House and Senate leadership urging expeditious passage of the bill.



On the immigration front, Rep. Sablan's **H.R. 559, the Northern Mariana Islands Long-Term Legal Residents Relief Act**, became law, providing permanent status in the Mariana for over a thousand people, who have been living in the islands under humanitarian parole granted by the Obama administration. Rep. Sablan introduced the legislation shortly after the Trump Administration announced it was ending humanitarian parole for five groups of people in the Marianas. A few months later, both the House and the Senate passed the bill and the legislation was **signed by the President of the United States becoming Public Law on June 25, 2019**. Rep. Sablan's monumental efforts allowed 1,039 individuals to live and work lawfully in the Marianas. Otherwise, the parolees, including the parents and spouses of U.S. citizens, would have been forced to leave by June 29, 2019.



Unfortunately, under the Trump administration, the executive branch has continuously failed to provide adequate support to the over 3 million U.S. citizens who reside in Puerto Rico. However, the **CHC's Puerto Rico Task Force Co-Chairs – Rep. Nydia Velázquez, Rep. José E. Serrano, and Rep. Darren Soto – and Chair Raúl M. Grijalva** have worked tirelessly to secure the federal support Puerto Rico needs. Two years after Hurricane María devastated the island, HUD knowingly broke the law and illegally withheld hurricane aid congressionally allocated to Puerto Rico. Members of the CHC joined Rep. David Price, Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Rep. Nita Lowey, Chair of the Appropriations Committee for a press conference to urge the administration to fulfill its responsibility and release the federal aid. The CHC also met with Democratic leadership from both the House and the Senate to coordinate action and compel the administration to comply with the law. **HUD released \$8.2 billion in aid shortly after the sustained and concerted efforts led by CHC Members and the Democratic Caucus.**

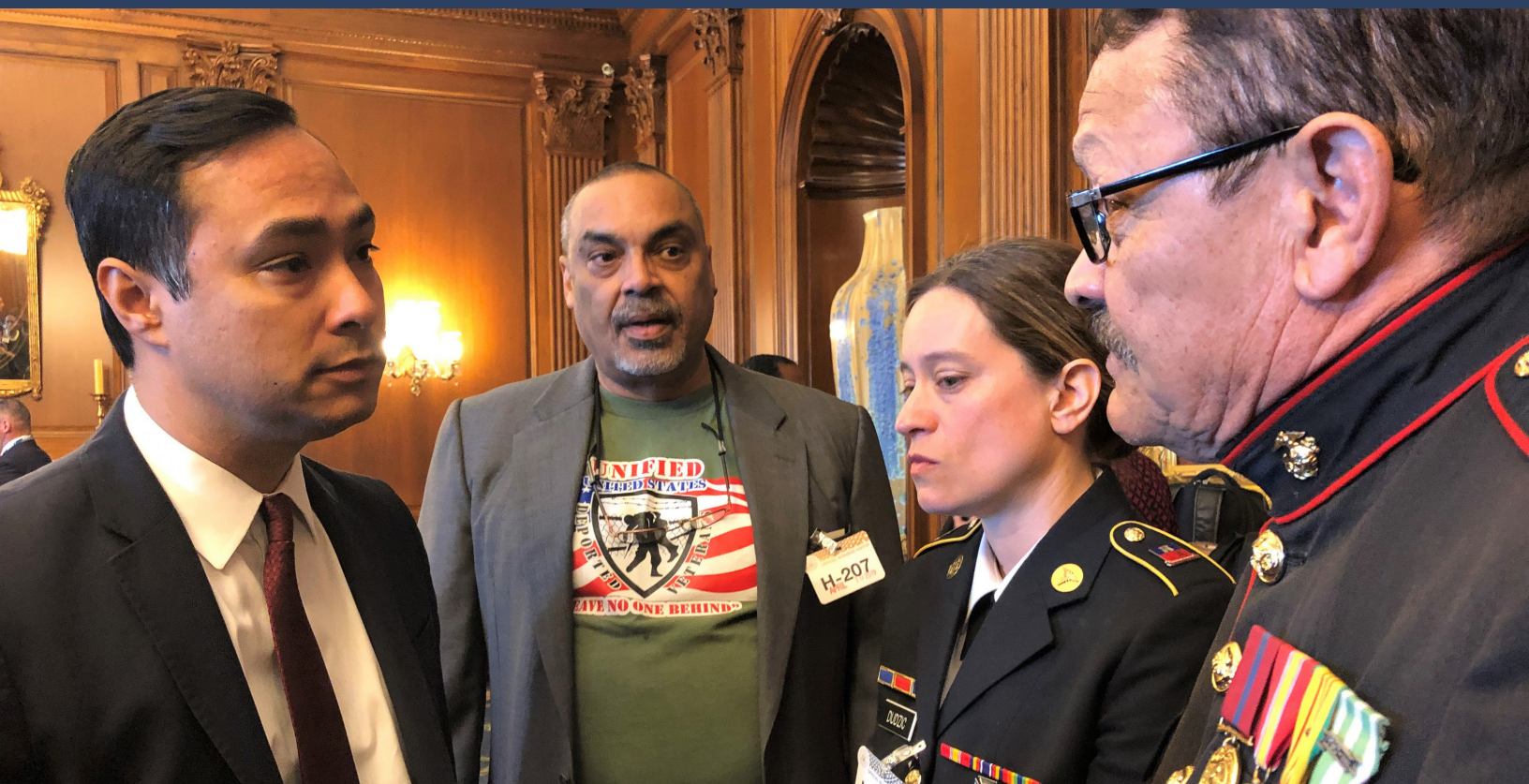


While still recovering from Hurricane María, on January 7, 2020, Puerto Rico was struck by an earthquake swarm, including 11 that were of magnitude 5 or greater killing at least one person and injuring several others. Power was lost island-wide immediately after the quake and was progressively restored over a period of a week. Following the earthquake, the CHC confirmed a Member-level meeting with FEMA leadership to discuss earthquake recovery efforts. Chair Grijalva published a report that provides lessons learned during a Committee research trip to Puerto Rico to assess earthquake damage and suggests a series of actions to speed up recovery. Chair Lowey with the support of the Puerto Rico Task Force Co-Chairs introduced **H.R. 5687, the Earthquake Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief and Puerto Rico Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2020**, legislation that funds a broad range of disaster recovery activities, including educational needs, repairs to transportation infrastructure, community development, energy needs, and nutrition assistance. Exactly one month later, the House passed the \$4 billion supplemental on February 7, 2020.

Lastly, the CHC has worked to include key provisions to help advance Puerto Rico relief efforts in the Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations bills. Some of the important accountability measures included in the **FY21 T-HUD bill** was language that withholds funding from HUD until it issues a public notice to enhance Puerto Rico's electrical grid, the removal of OMB from Puerto Rico relief efforts, and language mandating HUD improve administration of aid for Puerto Rico relief efforts.



SUPPORTING HISPANIC SERVICEMEMBERS



Throughout the 116th Congress, CHC Members have supported Hispanic servicemembers and worked to advance key issues important to improving the life of servicemembers during and after their dedicated service to this country. This Congress, several Members of the CHC have led efforts to increase Latino representation in the senior ranks of the Armed Forces, help ensure justice in the wake of the murders of Spc. Vanessa Guillén and Spc. Enrique Roman-Martinez, and support deported veterans and immigrant servicemembers. CHC Members held a productive meeting with the Secretary of the Army and Chief of Staff of the Army to advance these pressing issues.



The CHC has worked closely with the House Armed Services Committee to ensure that priorities critical to the Caucus are included in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for both Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) and Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21). Although the CHC aggressively worked to include language that would prohibit the Trump Administration from using transfer authority to pay for a border wall, we were prevented from securing this provision by a side-agreement accompanying the 2019-2020 Budget Agreement. However, the CHC was able to help ensure that the FY20 NDAA did not authorize any backfill of military construction funds taken for the President's border wall while increasing transparency between the requests transmitted to the Department of Defense from the Department of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services. Moreover, the FY20 NDAA included key provisions to help immigrant servicemembers, like protecting DACA recipients and TPS holders from involuntary separation from the military and mandating naturalization counseling to noncitizen servicemembers.

In the wake of a national reckoning on racial injustice, diversity and white extremism took a leading role in the House-passed FY21 NDAA, thanks to the leadership of various CHC Members. The House-passed bill includes key diversity provisions to provide transparency and increase minority servicemember promotions as well as critical initiatives to ensure that the Services' leadership looks like the country it serves and defends. The bill also includes provisions to confront and root out white supremacy in the Armed Forces while requiring the DOD to rename military bases and infrastructure honoring Confederate leaders, a process that is long overdue. Furthermore, under the leadership of CHC Members, the House-passed FY21 NDAA bill includes critical provisions for suicide prevention, that foster University-Military partnerships, and enhance the DODs ability to combat a viral pandemic.

The CHC will continue to **seek justice for the deaths of Latino soldiers, including of Spc. Vanessa Guillén and Spc. Enrique Roman-Martinez,** and press the Armed Forces about their commitment and ability to protect Hispanic servicemembers and the efficacy, transparency, and timeliness of the investigations into these murders.



CHC RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



On January 31, 2020 a national public health emergency was declared around the new coronavirus (COVID-19) prompting an unprecedented twin crisis: a public health crisis and an economic crisis. Since then, Congress has authorized trillions of dollars in coronavirus relief measures. The CHC has prioritized shaping congressional and Administrative response efforts to meet the dire needs of Latinos across the country, who are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Latinos are twice as likely to die from COVID-19, three times as likely to contract COVID-19, and four times as likely to be hospitalized due to coronavirus. Latinos have suffered from record unemployment, peaking at 18.9 percent. Nearly 60 percent of Latinos live in households that have experienced job losses or pay cuts due to the coronavirus outbreak. The CHC is committed to working with Congress, stakeholders, and the community to ensure that Latinos are not left behind and have the tools necessary to equitably overcome the COVID-19 crisis.

A key priority of the CHC is to ensure that COVID-19 relief measures are inclusive and equally support the U.S. territories as it does the 50 states. It is imperative that the laws passed in the spirit of recovery afford the U.S. territories equal access to health care and economic relief. The CHC continues to work with Congress and the executive branch to deliver maximum and efficient federal support in all areas, including nutrition and health care. Over the last several months, CHC Members have been working with the committees of jurisdiction, Democratic leadership, and the administration to ensure that families, communities, hospitals, and schools have the resources they need to respond to this crisis and defeat the pandemic.

IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19, THE CHC HAS:



SENT 70
LETTERS



HELD 8 MEMBER
MEETINGS



HOSTED 42
BRIEFINGS





Immigrant Recovery is American Recovery

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus is at the forefront of leading congressional efforts to ensure that COVID-19 relief measures apply equally to immigrants. Immigrants are both disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and play a key role in helping the United States recover from the pandemic. Approximately 69 percent of immigrants work in occupations designated by the government as “essential.” The Joint Economic Committee, in conjunction with the CHC, **issued a report entitled "Immigrants, the Economy and the COVID-19 Outbreak"** that examines the important economic role immigrants have played during the COVID-19 pandemic and the hardships they have experienced.

Early on, the CHC urged for the suspension of public charge during the pandemic and subsequently the Trump Administration announced that COVID-19 treatment or preventive services would not count towards Public Charge. In addition to pressuring the Administration to take Executive action to help immigrants, the CHC focused on securing key legislative provisions to help immigrants and their families. In the CARES Act, the Caucus worked to provide **additional money to help undocumented immigrants access free health care services** through the Provider Relief Fund and for Federally Qualified Health Care Centers. The CHC also secured restrictions to stop the Administration from diverting homeland security and defense funds to President Trump’s anti-immigrant agenda and border wall. Moreover, the CHC worked closely with the Congressional Progressive Caucus to pass the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act in the House **to expand the health care coverage of DACA recipients.**

Under the Heroes Act, the CHC helped obtain **cash payments for mixed status families and ITIN users, hazard pay for essential workers, protection from deportation and employment authorization for agricultural workers and meat-packing workers, and work permits for DACA and TPS holders.** We continue to advocate for these provisions to become public law.

Furthermore, the CHC has worked to protect the health and safety of immigrants in detention. The CHC has repeatedly called on ICE to release medically vulnerable and non-priority detainees. Under the Heroes Act, the bill requires that detention centers prioritize the release of as many incarcerated individuals as possible. **CHC Chairman Castro led a congressional delegation visit to conduct oversight of the South Texas ICE Processing Center in Pearsall and South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley.** Under the Heroes Act, basic health protections are provided, including free soap and hand sanitizer. Furthermore, public health is prioritized by placing restrictions on immigration detention and enforcement. The CHC is also engaging the legislative process and to push the Trump Administration to reverse the use of Title 42 at the border, stop rapid expulsions pursuant to Title 42, and protect asylum seekers who have been turned away throughout the pandemic.

Transparency and a Data-Driven Approach

At the beginning of the pandemic, the Trump Administration failed to provide nationwide demographic data disaggregated by race and ethnicity obfuscating the virus's impact on minorities and hampering the country's ability to effectively respond. In response, the Tri-Caucus urged the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to update its COVID-19 surveillance system and take the steps necessary to report this critical information. The Tri-Caucus also worked with the committees of jurisdiction to **include demographic reporting requirements into the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act,** mandating HHS to issue continuous reports on COVID-19 testing, number of positive diagnoses, hospitalizations and deaths broken down by racial and ethnic demographics. The first report issued by this Administration pursuant to this mandate was unacceptable and failed to provide new and substantive information. Subsequently, the Tri-Caucus met with HHS leadership to convey the immediate importance of drastically improving the reports. Due to the Tri-Caucus' consistent engagement with HHS and CDC, the data reports have continued to improve, and the Caucus is now working with these agencies to ensure that this data is informing interventions for Latino communities.

The CHC is very supportive of a data-driven approach but remains concerned about the use of health data for purposes beyond the preservation of public health. The CHC continues to work with the Senate, congressional committees, and leading stakeholders to help provide oversight over **HHS Protect,** a platform that aggregates data from various sources, including the federal government, state and local governments, hospitals, and the private sector. In response, HHS and Palantir, technology partner for HHS Protect, have engaged the CHC to address various concerns resulting in HHS Chief Information Officer, Jose Arietta, **committing to notifying Congress if the platform begins using personally identifiable information.**



Testing and COVID-19 Vaccine

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, the CHC has been working to ensure that COVID-19 testing is accessible and affordable to the most vulnerable in our communities. As companies and major retailers rapidly deployed their resources and expanded testing sites across the country, **the CHC urged these retailers to prioritize the location of these testing sites in cities and communities with large populations of vulnerable communities**, including Latinos. Through this advocacy the CHC has also raised the importance of considering and removing any and all potential barriers for Latinos to access testing including transportation challenges, burdensome identification requirements, and cost. The CHC has also compiled this important information and made it publicly available to all both in English and in Spanish to ensure access to all information necessary when it comes to getting tested at one of these major sites.

The CHC is focused on supporting efforts for safe vaccine development and equitable vaccine distribution. **The Tri-Caucus is meeting regularly with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in an effort to enroll Latinos and other minority communities in the COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials.** Unless clinical trial participants represent the people who will use the vaccine, then we can't know how it will work for those who need it the most. Moreover, the CHC submitted a comment to the **Committee on Equitable Allocation of Vaccine** for the Novel Coronavirus for the Discussion Draft of the Preliminary Framework for Equitable Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccine. The CHC underscored the need to prioritize essential workers and those at substantially higher risk of COVID-19 exposure, including those in detention centers. In addition, the CHC emphasized that vaccines be provided at no cost and that culturally and linguistically appropriate messaging around the COVID-19 vaccine to be used to ensure Latinos and other communities of color not only receive the vaccine but understand its impacts.

Defending Essential Workers

In response to the concerning working conditions at food processing plants and the scale of infections among employees at meatpacking facilities, on April 22, the CHC requested that the House Education & Labor Committee hold a hearing and open a congressional investigation into the work conditions for meat processing workers amid COVID-19. **Following the CHC letter, the Committee held a worker protection hearing.** On April 29, the CHC requested that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Department of Labor (DOL), and U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) open an investigation into the work conditions of meat processing workers and for the DOL to issue emergency temporary standards to protect essential workers. On August 27, the **Government Accountability Office accepted the CHCs request to issue a study on the correlation between the spread of COVID-19 infections in meatpacking facilities and the standards set by the DOL, CDC, and the USDA for the industry.**

The continued spread of infections in meatpacking facilities, which became epicenters of COVID-19 outbreaks for states and communities across the country; industry warnings of the food supply breaking; and the subsequent issuance of an Executive Order by President Trump instructing meat processing plants to stay open, **prompted the CHC to meet with UCFW International President, Marc Perrone and the Presidents and CEOs of three top U.S. meat processors – Tyson Foods, Smithfield Foods, and JBS.** The CHC internally circulated findings from the Caucus' oversight efforts into the food processing industry amid COVID-19.





Now more than ever, the CHC is committed to supporting farmworker communities during and after the coronavirus pandemic. Farmworkers are among the most vulnerable to COVID-19 complications due to a variety of compounding factors including work conditions and the higher probability of ineligibility for federal public programs due to documentation status. Since March, the CHC has engaged with farmworkers, unions, the Administration, and Congress to ensure the well-being of farmworkers and their families. The CHC urged 7 federal agencies, including HHS, USDA, and the DOL to issue guidance to agricultural employers on various issues, including housing, transportation, health, and education. The CHC then **wrote letters to 127 of America's agricultural employers inquiring on the exact steps they've taken to protect farmworkers**, use federal assistance, and prevent future coronavirus outbreaks.

The CHC has urged Democratic leadership, with the support of 120 Members, to include key policy recommendations that protect farmworkers in future coronavirus legislation. The CHC has repeatedly prioritized the wellbeing of food processing workers and other essential employees. **The Heroes Act includes long overdue health and safety protections for essential workers across the food chain, including farmworkers and meat processing workers.** The bill requires that OSHA issue an Emergency Temporary Standard creating enforceable health and safety standards for workers at greater risk of exposure to COVID-19. The Heroes Act also provides premium pay to essential workers, regardless of immigration status, and provides farmworkers and meatpacking workers protections from deportation and employment authorization.



Supporting Latino Small Businesses and Entrepreneurs

Under the leadership of Chairwoman Velázquez, the CHC has worked to ensure that COVID-19 relief measures and Administration efforts fundamentally support Latino small businesses and entrepreneurs. Before COVID-19, Latino small business owners were the fastest-growing group of entrepreneurs in the U.S. and contributed about \$500 billion to the economy in annual sales. However, **COVID-19 is disproportionately harming minority businesses**. A staggering 700,000 Latino business owners disappeared from February to April and 86 percent of Latino-owned businesses reported immediate negative effects such as loss of revenue and closure from the pandemic.

The Center for Responsible Lending estimated that 91 percent of Latino-owned businesses had slim chances of receiving a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan in the initial round. Therefore, the CHC supported Chairwoman Velázquez' efforts to make essential changes to PPP and provide a supplemental appropriation for the Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) program. These remedial measures were designed to improve the program's reach and impact on minority-owned business and underserved communities. The CHC advocated for \$130 billion in small business relief intended to specifically help minority small businesses and nonprofits, as well as, mandatory reporting requirements of reimbursements to close the gaps of inequity and provide transparency on how taxpayer dollars are used. **Under the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act**, which was signed into law, Chairwoman Velázquez, with the support of the CHC, obtained a \$60 billion set-aside for community-based financial institutions and \$50 billion for the Disaster Loans Program and \$10 billion for the Emergency EIDL Grants. These significant set-asides and billions in funding helped strengthen the position of Latino small businesses and entrepreneurs while providing the tools necessary to help our community equitably overcome this economic crisis.

The CHC and Chairwoman Velázquez continue their efforts to improve the Paycheck Protection Program and EIDL. Under the **Heroes Act**, **House Democrats made immediate fixes to strengthen PPP and provide much-needed clarity for small businesses**. For example, the Heroes Act creates a carve out for funds to be used exclusively for small businesses with 10 or fewer employees and appropriates an additional \$10 billion for Emergency EIDL Grants, while helping small business who cannot access credit elsewhere. Furthermore, the CHC has requested a meeting with Small Business Administration (SBA) Secretary Carranza to discuss how the SBA can better support Latino small businesses and how the agency is working with the Treasury Department to prioritize minority-owned businesses.



Nutrition Assistance

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused an unprecedented increase in food insecurity. A recent report from the Urban Institute shows that 40.6 percent of Hispanic adults reported a range of financial hardships due to the pandemic, including food insecurity. The CHC is committed to ensuring that everyone has access to food during this historic crisis, especially when health and economic instability is at an all-time high. For months, the CHC has **prioritized food assistance by supporting efforts to stand up and strengthen the Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) program and make key changes to SNAP to maximize access to resources.** P-EBT is a critical program that helps families buy groceries because schools are closed. To help address food insecurity among Latinos, the CHC held a series of briefings with Feeding America, the nation's largest network of food banks, to highlight policy recommendations aimed at decreasing food insecurity and helped to educate CHC offices on how their constituents can access these critical resources.

Health Equity

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted long standing health and social inequities that disproportionately impact Latinos and other racial and ethnic minorities. Some of the many inequities that have put Latinos at increased risk of COVID-19 complications include discrimination, health care access and utilization, occupation, education, and wealth gaps. As the CHC responds to the coronavirus pandemic and as we look towards the future, we have worked with **CHC Members and the Tri-Caucus to put forth legislation that addressed not only the COVID-19 inequities we are seeing but most importantly promote health equity.** Congresswoman Nanette Barragán introduced the Improving Social Determinants of Health Act of 2020 (HR. 6561) requiring the CDC to establish a program to improve health outcomes and reduce health inequities as well as to collect and analyze data related to the social determinants of health. Working alongside the Tri-Caucus the CHC worked to introduce the COVID Community Care Act (H.R. 8192) led by Rep. Barbara Lee to provide grants to community-based organizations and non-profits to conduct testing, tracing, and outreach activities in medically underserved communities. To help ensure a comprehensive response during and after the COVID-19 pandemic the CHC also collaborated with the Tri-Caucus and Rep. Halaand and Rep. Davids to introduce the Ending the Health Disparities During COVID-19 Act of 2020 (H.R. 8200) led by Rep. Robin Kelly to have a comprehensive response that makes health equity a cornerstone of our nation's response to pandemics.

SPECIAL MOMENTS AND REFLECTIONS



A Special Honor from Ecuador

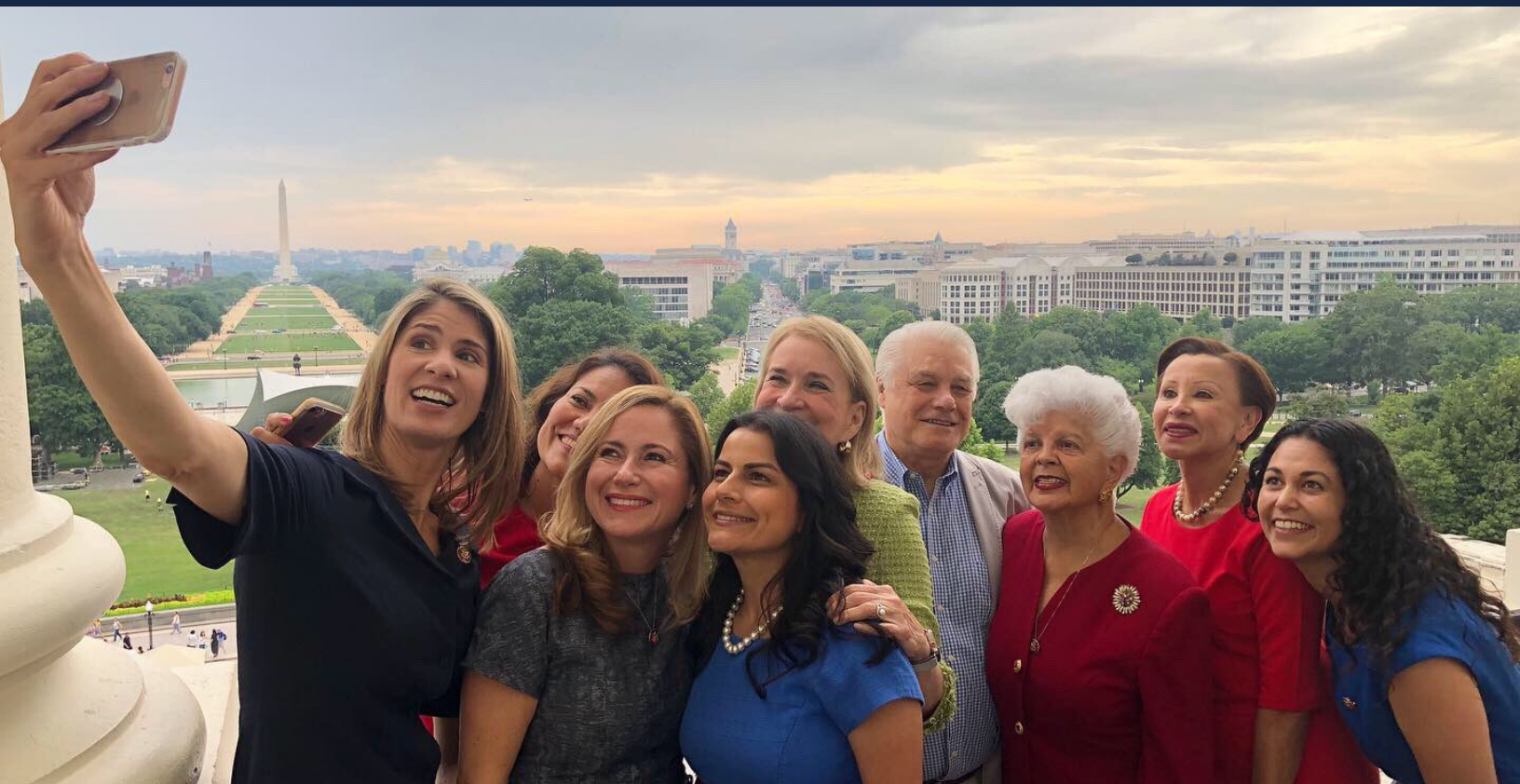
This Congress, Congresswoman Debbie Murcasel-Powell (FL-26), an Ecuadorian immigrant and the first South American-born woman to serve in Congress, was presented with the National Order of Merit by the president of Ecuador, Lenín Moreno. Congresswoman Murcasel-Powell dedicated her award "to the thousands of Ecuadorians and Hispanic Americans who have come to the United States intending to serve their communities." The Hispanic Caucus is honored that such a distinction was awarded to a member and is proud of the role our immigrant members play in fostering closer U.S. ties with Latin America.

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, the CHC, Speaker Pelosi, and the House Democratic Caucus hosted a reception in the U.S. Capitol inviting several distinguished Latinos in the media industry to celebrate the contributions that Latino communities make in the U.S. everyday. Guests spoke about their experiences in the entertainment industry and the importance of Latino representation, which the CHC has made a priority throughout the 116th Congress.



YEAR OF THE LATINA



The 116th Congress marked the largest Hispanic Caucus in the history of the U.S. Congress standing 39 members strong. The CHC gained 11 new members, doubled the number of Latinas in the Caucus, and welcomed some of the youngest members of Congress. Each member of the CHC – both new and returning – offered a unique perspective adding to the diversity in our democracy. Throughout the 116th Congress, the CHC has worked to increase diversity in Congress to reflect the increasingly diverse U.S. population and help ensure a truly representative government.





Remembering Lost Migrant Lives

Capitol Hill saw its first *Día de los Muertos Altar* this Congress when the CHC prepared a traditional altar in the U.S. Capitol dedicated to migrants who have lost their lives while in U.S. custody or trying to enter the country. *Día de los Muertos*, or Day of the Dead, is a traditional holiday to celebrate the memory of the deceased in several Latin American countries. In the 116th Congress, we used this ancient ritual as a way of reminding all of our colleagues in Congress of what the human cost of our cruel and broken immigration system and the moral urgency of reform.

Butterflies on the Hill

The Tri-Caucus and Speaker Pelosi marked Universal Day of the Child with the Butterfly Effect Project from Oakland, California in a call to support immigrant children. Throughout the 116th Congress, the CHC led the fight for immigrant children against the abuses of the Trump administration including implementing stronger medical and humanitarian standards for children at the border.



Defending the Right of Asylum

The CHC commemorated the deaths of two migrant children in U.S. custody by holding a press conference with doctors, lawyers, and affected families to discuss the impacts of anti-asylum policies. The personal testimonies of families impacted by anti-immigrant sentiments served as a call to action for an urgent investigation into the medical care and conditions of migrant detainees, including those in U.S. custody. The CHC is committed to improving immigrant health and ending unnecessary deaths at the U.S.-Mexico border.



Standing Against Anti-Asian Racism

Standing in solidarity with the Asian American community, the CHC denounced anti-Asian discrimination related to COVID-19. House Democratic Leaders and Tri-Caucus Chairs held a video press conference to discuss violence and xenophobia targeted at the Asian American community and introduced a resolution to combat misinformation and discrimination that put Asian Americans at risk.

REMEMBERING EL PASO



Source: John Locher/AP

On August 3rd, 2019, the border city of El Paso, Texas was attacked by a white supremacist terrorist. 23 people were killed and 22 others were wounded in what became the worst incident of racist violence targeting Latinos in recent American history. The attack made clear just how vulnerable Latinos' place in America has become - but it also revealed the grace, courage, and resilience the people of El Paso and the entire Latino community. In the aftermath of the attack, Rep. Veronica Escobar played a crucial role in helping her district heal and spoke up for her community in Congress by demanding gun reform and an end to xenophobic fearmongering. The CHC followed her lead and brought attention to the specifically anti-Latino nature of the attack. The CHC is committed to doing what it must to ensure an attack like El Paso never happens again.



HONORING CONGRESSMAN SERRANO



Over his career, Congressman José E. Serrano (NY-15) has fought for fairness and equity for his constituents and beyond. He steered billions of federal dollars to the Bronx and New York City, including to revitalize the Bronx River, authored the last major expansion of the language minority provisions of the Voting Rights Act, established record levels of funding for legal services for the poor, and increased STEM programs and resources for Latino students and Hispanic Serving Institutions. He also championed equality for the island of his birth, Puerto Rico, and helped end the bombing of Vieques. Congressman Serrano is the Dean of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, which has benefited greatly from his decades of wisdom and experience. The CHC will greatly miss Rep. Serrano upon his retirement and thanks him for his service to America's Hispanic and Latino community.

