



LATINOS, THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT, AND OPEN ENROLLEMENT

- ❖ One-third of all Latinos are uninsured, making this the population with the highest rate of uninsured individuals compared to any other racial or ethnic group. Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), 10.2 million uninsured Latinos will be eligible for health coverage. With proper preventative care, health problems that disproportionately affect Latinos will be identified earlier and managed more efficiently and effectively. 23 states are refusing to expand Medicaid and this is negatively impacting Latino families who are being left without coverage. LULAC is pushing these 24 states to expand Medicaid.
- ❖ LULAC will work with other organizations to host “enrollment summits” to get Latinos to sign-up for health coverage during the next open enrollment. LULAC encourages Members of Congress to host similar enrollment events and/or support current enrollment efforts. The next enrollment period begins November 1, 2015. For more information on LULAC’s health efforts, please go to www.lulac.org/health.

LULAC OPPOSES EFFORTS TO REPEAL OR CHIP AWAY AT THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

- ❖ LULAC opposes legislation like H.R. 2575, the Save American Workers Act, which seeks to redefine “full time employee” in the Affordable Care Act. According to some sources, making this alteration would have the effect of depriving 1 million Americans of their current health plans and increase the deficit by \$74 billion over 10 years.

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE FOR IMMIGRANTS

- ❖ Immigrants face a number of barriers to accessing health services; some of these include language and cultural barriers. It is critical for information to be available in English and Spanish.
- ❖ Individuals currently authorized to work in the country, including DREAMERS, should have access to health care options either through Medicaid, the health exchange, or other arrangements.
- ❖ The immigrant population must have access to the health care access and quality of life support.
- ❖ LULAC supports legislation being spearheaded by Rep. Lujan Grisham that would provide immigrants the ability to purchase their own coverage, at full price, on the health insurance market.

USE OF ANTIBIOTICS IN INDUSTRIAL FARMING

- ❖ More Latinos work in agriculture and farming than any other group and, according to the Pew Hispanic Center, 83% of U.S. farm workers identify as Hispanic/Latino, with 97% of foreign-born farm workers born in Mexico.
- ❖ LULAC urges the FDA to strengthen regulations to increase public reporting of antibiotic use in meat and poultry production in order to protect the health of farm workers and to prevent the dangerous overuse of antibiotics.
- ❖ LULAC also urges Congress to vote affirmatively on The Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (HR 1150), the Delivering Antimicrobial Transparency in Animals Act (HR 820), and The Animal Drug User Fee Act.

ASTHMA AND ITS AFFECT ON LATINO CHILDREN

- ❖ Latinos are disproportionately affected by asthma. 14% of Latino children having been diagnosed with asthma and there are currently 3.6 million Latinos in the United States with asthma. Furthermore, Latinos are 30% more likely to visit the hospital for an asthma related incident and 40% more likely to die from asthma.
- ❖ LULAC urges congress to support the EPA in their newest Clean Power Plan Proposed Rule as pollution from existing and planned power plants disproportionately affects Latino communities as 40% of Latinos live within 10 miles of a Power Plant and 15% live within ten miles.

INTEGRATION OF MENTAL HEALTH INTO PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM SYSTEMS

- ❖ Latinos are more likely to receive mental health care in primary care settings as that is their first and usually only contact with a health care provider, but most primary care facilities are inadequately equipped to address mental health disorders. This inadequacy is compounded further by potential language barriers.
- ❖ LULAC supports the incorporation of mental health into criminal justice procedures to ensure that the mentally ill receive the care they need as opposed to solely being processed through the judicial system.