



THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF THE SEQUESTER ON LATINO HEALTH

- ❖ Left un-repealed, the sequester will result in \$85 billion in spending cuts, as mandated by the Budget Control Act, and will leave millions of Americans without any recourse. Programs that serve the most vulnerable individuals in our society will suffer the largest cuts in funding.
- ❖ These cuts will have significant consequences to critical programs. Specifically, 600,000 children and mothers will see \$31.4 billion in cuts to WIC nutrition aid.
- ❖ Sequestration will also cause:
 - Removal of infrastructure investments for new community health centers, which are often the life-line for many Latinos in need of access to quality and affordable health care; and cuts of \$18 million to HIV prevention and testing programs, which means 450,000 fewer HIV screenings.

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 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), 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 is currently working with other organization to host “enrollment summits” to get Latinos to sign-up for health coverage. LULAC encourages Members of Congress to host similar enrollment events and/or support current enrollment efforts. Enrollment deadline for ACA is March 31, 2014.

SUPPORT FOR CRITICAL MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES AND MEDICINE

- ❖ LULAC strongly supports robust funding for critical mental health programs and legislation that ensures access to mental health prescriptions, including antidepressant and antipsychotic medications currently available through Medicare Part D classified in the protected status category. New regulations should not restrict access to critical prescription drugs currently available under the law.

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.

THE AGRICULTURE REFORM, FOOD, AND JOBS ACT OF 2013 (“FARM BILL”)

- ❖ According to some estimates, the recently passed version of the FARM bill would cut over \$40 billion dollars in the next ten years to SNAP and other anti-hunger programs. This translates into 22 million children being food insecure in 2014 alone. Compounded with the sequestration, cuts to SNAP will have detrimental effects on the working class families. As Congress works to address budgetary issues, LULAC urges Members to keep in mind that budget deliberations should not hurt hard-working Americans struggling to put food on the table, to heat their home, or to secure employment. Our organization believes that all future FARM bill legislation needs to include both agriculture and nutrition programs.