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September 10, 2013

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20075

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens, the nation's preeminent defender of the civil rights of the Latino community, I write to urge you to repeal the sequestration process imposed by the Budget Control Act of 2010. As the House of Representatives continues to move forward in the coming months to pass appropriation legislation to fund the government, you will not only have a legislative vehicle to make this happen, but you will also have an opportunity to ensure that the budget is not balanced on the backs of working class people, children, the elderly, and other under-served populations.

Sequestration is not just poor economic policy, as it slashes budgets across agencies without regard to the impact on critical health, nutrition, and education services provided to underserved communities, but it is also a jobs killer. In fact, recent studies conducted by the Congressional Budget Office have shown that the sequestration process will cost the U.S. over 750,000 jobs. For a nation still recovering from years of economic recession, these jobs are too valuable to lose for the sake of petty politics. Not repealing sequestration, translates into less resources for education, workforce development training, and health programs that are crucial to the Latino community.

The human impact is particularly of concern to our organization. If sequestration is not repealed, according to some estimates:

- 1,181,600 fewer students nationwide would be served by Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended, and 9,910 educators and school personnel would lose their jobs. Given that Hispanic students make up 36 percent of the students served by Title I today, any cut to Title I would disproportionately harm Latino students
- Some 209,785 fewer English language learners (ELLs) would be served by Title III of ESEA and 450 educators working with ELLs would be out of work. Given that almost 80 percent of ELLs speak Spanish as their primary home language, any cut to Title III would mostly be felt by the Hispanic community.
- Roughly 70,000 fewer young children would have access to early education through Head Start and 18,965 related jobs would be eliminated. Given that a third of children served by Head Start come from a Hispanic home, the cuts to Head Start would have a disparate impact on our community.
- 185,000 households would lose rental assistance in 2013 under the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program (economic assistance for low-income families). This voucher program currently helps over 5 million people in 2.1 million low income households.
- 250,000 elderly and disabled people would lose housing support leaving many of them homeless.
- 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, would come to a halt.
- Cuts of \$18 million from HIV prevention and testing programs would lead to 450,000 fewer HIV screenings
- Cuts of \$43 million to senior nutrition programs would reduce the number of meals delivered to seniors through the Meals on Wheels program by 4 million.

- Employment Services will be cut by over \$37 million, no longer serving 830,000 employees; Job Corps will lose \$83 million

These are just a few of the many pernicious effects of sequestration. While our organization supports getting our fiscal house in order, doing so on the backs of the elderly, children, and under-served populations is unacceptable. Furthermore, targeting these programs, despite that fact that the main cause of our deficit has stemmed from advancing reckless tax breaks for the super wealthy, our involvement in two wars, and other policies that brought down our economy in 2007, is irresponsible, unfair, and ill-conceived. LULAC urges you to repeal the sequestration process and ensure that critical services and programs for Latinos are not on the chopping block.

Please do not hesitate to contact Luis Torres, LULAC's Director of Education Policy, at 202-833-6130 or latorres@lulac.org should you have any questions or would like more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Moran".

Margaret Moran
LULAC National President