



League of United Latin American Citizens

September 19, 2013

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

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the nation's preeminent defender of the civil rights of the Latino community, I write to urge you to oppose H.J.Res 59, the joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014 (FY14), and for other purposes. H.J.Res 59 does not only irresponsibly aim to defund the Affordable Care Act (ACA), but it also recklessly continues to impose dangerously low funding levels for FY14 by doing nothing to end the devastating cuts imposed by the ill-conceived Budget Control Act of 2010.

The Affordable Care Act was hailed by our organization as part of the solution to addressing the health care needs of our country. Currently, over 1/3 of Latinos, or 10.2 million, lack health care coverage and the ACA addresses this by making health care coverage available to low-income Latinos or Latinos who do not have access to health coverage from their employer through the newly established health insurance exchanges. As Latinos are disproportionately affected by a series of chronic preventable illnesses and diseases, creating access to preventative care and treatment through these new health care exchanges, is an integral and important step to reducing health disparities faced by Latino families. These are welcomed solutions to the health care crisis currently being experienced by the millions of Latinos. The House's irresponsible attempt to defund the Affordable Care Act for the over 40th time is not just a waste of scarce legislative time, but doing so by attaching defunding language to a continuing resolution threatens to place the government on the path to a shutdown, dealing our economy another self-inflicted wound. It is important that you understand that these and future attacks on the Affordable Care Act are seen by our organization, as attacks on the Latino community's ability to obtain reasonably priced, and good quality, health care coverage.

Also of concern to our organization is the fact that H.J.Res 59 continues to use the dangerously low funding levels set by the sequester for FY14. This approach 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 through H.J. Res 59, translates into less resources for education, workforce development training, and health programs that are crucial to the Latino community.

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. For these reasons, LULAC urges you to oppose H.J.Res 59, end the attacks on the Affordable Care Act, and repeal the sequestration process to 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,

Margaret Moran
LULAC National President