



League of United Latin American Citizens

March 19, 2020

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The bipartisan Families First Coronavirus Response Act is a good first step in addressing the COVID-19 crisis and we praise members in the House and Senate for their swift action. Yet, this legislation does not go far enough to help those who are extremely vulnerable in times of economic upheaval. As an organization with over 1,000 councils across the US we are hearing from our members about the urgent need to provide economic relief for communities and ensure that everyone has access to appropriate care.

This is an unprecedented moment and it must be met with an unprecedented response.

LULAC calls on Congress to engage in an immediate and aggressive effort to get direct economic relief through federal action such as:

- Paid sick and family leave for everyone who needs it.
- Free COVID-19 testing and treatment to anyone who needs it.
- Direct cash assistance to households.
- A moratorium on foreclosures and also on evictions for nonpayment of rent by tenants impacted for at least 90 days.
- Moratoriums on student loans and other consumer debt payments and collection, followed by eventual affordable repayment plans.
- Small business credit program to ensure they meet payroll and stay in business.

Moreover, we support lawmakers in the House and Senate, and [800 experts](#) with experience in previous pandemic responses and call on the Trump Administration to issue a formal statement assuring that health care facilities will be “immigration enforcement-free zones” for the duration of the outbreak.

We also ask for your support so that the Administration can guarantee safe conditions and provide healthcare, testing and support to protect those in federal detention and prisons.

There is much more that Congress and this Administration will have to do in the coming weeks and months to address this crisis. However the immediate focus should be on helping alleviate the economic uncertainty focused on low income and middle class workers and ensuring the health and safety of our communities. Any legislation on this crisis should NOT divert funds to immigration enforcement activities. Instead, we must remain focused on addressing the urgent public health needs and fully invest on our social safety net infrastructure to help the most vulnerable.



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LULAC National and its state councils stand ready to help. We call on all our Members of Congress to act in a swift, humane and fair manner.

Together We Rise,

Domingo Garcia
LULAC National President

Sindy M. Benavides
LULAC Chief Executive Officer