



League of United Latin American Citizens

**NATIONAL
PRESIDENT**
Domingo Garcia

April 22, 2020

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER** **Sindy
Benavides**

Dear Members of Congress:

NATIONAL OFFICERS
Roger C. Rocha, Jr.
Immediate Past President
Pablo A. Martinez
Treasurer
Richard Estrada, III
Youth President
Andres Rodriguez
VP for Young Adults
Elia R. Mendoza
VP for Elderly
Elsie Valdes Ramos
VP for Women
Joél-Léhi Organista
VP for Youth
Richard Estrada
VP for Farwest
Jose Javier Lopez
VP for Midwest
Ralina Cardona
VP for Northeast
Ivonne Quiñones Lanzo
VP for Southeast
Linda Chavez
VP for Southwest

Last week we sent you a [letter outlining our principles](#) which will be used as a guide to evaluate any COVID-19 relief legislation. We are following up on that letter in light of the Senate bill that passed yesterday and which the House is expected to vote on in the next few days.

We strongly oppose H.R. 266 the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act. This legislative package continues to leave significant sectors of our economy out and does not provide targeted help to communities of color.

Businesses owned by people of color have been the hardest hit by COVID-19. These businesses have less access to credit and less ability to withstand the loss of income. They are not only providers of critical services in underserved communities; they also serve as primary sources of jobs.

Moreover, we have pointed out the disproportionate harm our communities are experiencing due in part by the lack of free testing and treatment.

H.R. 266 fails to acknowledge and address these concerns. Instead, it provides additional funding to large banks that prioritized wealthier businesses over small businesses. And while there are some funds for community banks, these have had less success in serving borrowers of color. H.R. 266 also fails to provide separately funding for Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) and Minority Depository Institutions (MDIs) in spite of the fact that these institutions have the strongest track record of serving borrowers of color.

Equally troubling, the bill does not require data on borrower demographics and loan amounts to be collected or reported which are needed to ensure equity, transparency, and accountability. Further, the bill should include a clause to prohibit discrimination in its implementation of the program.

On the testing and treatment front, currently, the United States leads with the most number of confirmed cases in the world, yet the \$25 billion for COVID-19 tests in H.R. 266 continues to exclude undocumented immigrants. This on the heels of the CARE Act which also failed to provide vital health care and financial assistance to immigrants.

We refer you again to our last letter:

- In 2017 undocumented immigrants paid [\\$27.2 billion in taxes](#);
- In 2016 according to the New American Economy, they contributed [\\$13 billion](#) into the Social Security funds and [\\$3 billion](#) to Medicare.
- Almost [60 percent](#) have lived in the US for 10 years or longer and nationwide

STATE DIRECTORS
Brenda Estrada
Arizona
Rey Hernandez
Arkansas
Yvonne Gonzalez Duncan
California
Sonny Subia
Colorado
Jesse Garcia
District of Columbia
Mari Corugedo
Florida
Maggie Rivera
Illinois
Susan Larsen
Indiana
Nicolas Salazar
Iowa
Madaí Rivera
Kansas
Maria Rivera Brown
Massachusetts
James Fukuda
New Jersey
Dr. Juan Garcia
New Mexico
Aureo Cardona
New York
Alicia Pagan
Ohio
Cecilia Giron Mendoza
Oregon
Jennie Rivera
Puerto Rico
Rudy Rosales
Texas
Yesenia Timoteo
Utah
Bob Garcia
Virginia
Diana Perez
Washington
Lupe Martinez
Wisconsin



League of United Latin American Citizens

- And more than [8 million U.S. citizens](#) have at least one unauthorized family member living with them.
- Latinos make up [1.9 million farmworkers](#) and [35 percent of meat and poultry packers](#), and [23 percent](#) of grocery workers who are working in small and big chains and exposing themselves to COVID-19.
- More than [200,000 DACA recipients](#) are classified by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as "essential critical infrastructure workers"
- Latinos are also disproportionately feeling the impacts: [34 percent](#) of those who have passed away in NYC—ground zero of the pandemic—are Latinos even though they make up only 29 percent of the population.
- [83.8 percent](#) of Latino workers are unable to work from home.
- Front-facing customer services industries, "essential" industries, such as food production, construction, custodial service, and leisure sectors are [heavily dominated](#) by Latinos.
- The current economic crisis will further hurt Latinas since they are [overrepresented](#) in low wage work.

We have asked before that you use every tool at your disposal to ensure that we are leveraging every asset in the federal government to provide for the health and safety of our communities. And we mean, in particular, the most vulnerable which need the most help.

Thus we ask you to vote **NO on H.R. 266** and instead focus on legislation that will directly address the needs of those most affected by this pandemic.

In Solidarity,

Domingo Garcia
LULAC National President

Sindy M. Benavides
LULAC Chief Executive Officer



League of United Latin American Citizens

