



Hispanic Nurses Leading Policy Change from the Border to the Bedside

WHO WE ARE

The National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1975 with a mission to ensure high-quality healthcare delivery to Hispanic communities and to foster professional excellence among bilingual and bicultural nurses. With over 40 chapters & 3,000 members, NAHN stands as the leading professional society for Latino nurses in the United States.

Our mission is to champion healthcare policies that enhance the health and well-being of the Hispanic community.

Based on the most recent available data, 5.2 million registered nurses in the United States

•Hispanic nurses account for 9%

Based on the most recent available data, Hispanic population in US estimated at 68 million

•Hispanics represent 21% of the total US population

Why Policy Matters

NAHN's commitment to policy is rooted in the Code of Ethics for Nurses, emphasizing the promotion of social justice, dignity, fairness, eliminating health inequities, and facilitating human flourishing. Provision 9 underscores the role of nurses and their organizations in enacting and resourcing practices, policies, and legislation to create a good and healthy society.

OUR CALL TO ACTION FOR WASHINGTON

Effective policy and strong implementation are essential to ensuring timely access to the full scope of nursing services and eliminating barriers to care. By prioritizing these issues, Congress can strengthen our nation's health and support the nursing workforce that serves every community.

Nurses are central to community health, innovation, and high-quality care. As the 119th Congress convenes, we reaffirm our commitment to patient-centered care and evidence-based reform, including our concern regarding the proposed elimination of the **National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)**, which plays a critical role in advancing nursing science and practice.

We urge Congress to reauthorize and fund the **Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs** from FY 2026 through FY 2030 (S.187/H.R. 3593). Last reauthorized in the 116th Congress, these programs strengthen the nursing pipeline through scholarships, loan repayment, and preparation of advanced practice nurses and future faculty.

Continued support for NINR remains essential. Its holistic, translational research addresses health within the context of individuals, families, and communities and generates practical solutions across the continuum of prevention.

Additionally, we support policies that improve maternal, veterans', and mental health; protect nurses from workplace violence; ensure responsible use of artificial intelligence in patient care; advance humane immigration policy; and promote environmental justice to reduce preventable health disparities.

Together, these priorities reflect a unified approach to strengthening the health of our nation and supporting the nursing workforce essential to every community.

NAHN urges the 119th Congress to support legislation such as:

Health Equity and Access to Care

Support S. 547	Support H.R. 1317	Support S. 131/H.R. 392	Support S. 1709	Support S. 750
Support S. 1482	Support H.R. 2234	Support S. 1534	Support H.R. 757	Support H.R. 3170
Support H.R. 4231				

Immigration Policy and Health

Support S. 2759/ H.R. 5283	Support S. 2212	Support H.R. 1589	Support H.R. 6305	
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Environmental Health

Support H.R. 903/S. 341	Support H.R. 1553	Support S. 1232/H.R. 2531	Support H.R. 3110	Support H.R. 2995
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Take action by advocating for legislation like the bills on page 1 – your support can drive meaningful change!

HEALTH EQUITY AND ACCESS TO CARE

Access to healthcare depends on insurance coverage, geographic availability, and a strong healthcare workforce. Ongoing inequities, nursing shortages, and social determinants of health continue to limit timely, quality care, particularly for Hispanic and rural communities.

Why This Matters to Nurses

- Uninsured: 27.2 million people (8.2%) lacked health insurance in 2024.
- Workforce Strain: Staffing shortages and burnout reduce access in underserved areas.
- Maternity Care: Over 35% of U.S. counties lack obstetric services.
- Mental Health: more than 60 million adults experienced mental illness in recent years; over half did not received care.
- Cultural Gaps: Nurses often lack institutional support for linguistically diverse patients.

Impact on the Hispanic Community

- Population: 68 million Hispanics comprise 21% of the U.S. population.
- Uninsured Rate: Hispanic adults have the highest uninsured rate at 24%.
- Access Barriers: Language barriers and provider shortages limit care access.
- Health Outcomes: Higher rates of chronic disease, obesity, and maternal health disparities.
- Representation: Only 9% of RNs identify as Hispanic, limiting culturally responsive care.

IMMIGRATION POLICY AND HEALTH

Immigration policy directly affects health equity and public health outcomes. Evidence-based, compassionate reform that upholds dignity and civil rights reduces disparities and supports the health of immigrant and Hispanic communities.

Why This Matters to Nurses

- Access to Care: Policies determine whether patients seek preventive and timely care without fear.
- Workforce Stability: Fair policies strengthen the healthcare workforce, including immigrant nurses.
- Public Health: Evidence-based policy improves community health and reduces system strain.
- Health Equity: Addressing social and political determinants helps reduce disparities.

Impact on the Hispanic Community

- Healthcare Access: Reduces barriers for immigrant and Hispanic populations.
- Culturally Competent Care: Supports linguistically and culturally responsive services.
- Workforce Contributions: Enables immigrant clinicians to fully contribute to care delivery.
- Community Well-Being: Promotes healthier communities through dignity and civil rights.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Climate change is a growing public health threat, increasing extreme heat, worsening health outcomes, and deepening inequities, particularly in underserved communities.

Why This Matters to Nurses

- Health Impact: Climate change affects physical, mental, and community health.
- Health Inequities: Underserved communities face greater climate-related risks.
- Extreme Heat: Heat-related illness and death are rising nationwide.
- System Strain: Flooding, pollution, and extreme weather stress healthcare systems.

Impact on the Hispanic Community

- Extreme Weather: 56% of U.S. Hispanics experienced an extreme weather event last year.
- Environmental Burden: Hispanic communities face higher exposure to heat and pollution.
- Health Risks: Latinos face higher risks from heat, flooding, and climate-related asthma.
- Occupational Risk: 80% of U.S. agricultural workers identify as Latino.
- Heat Mortality: Latino outdoor workers are three times more likely to die from heat exposure.

