



National Hispanic Leadership Agenda

February 26, 2019

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), a coalition of 45 leading national Latino nonpartisan civil rights and advocacy organizations, **we write to urge each member of the House of Representatives to vote “yes” on H.J. Res. 46, the joint resolution to terminate President Donald Trump’s national emergency declaration, as stated in Proclamation 9844.** We face enormous challenges as a nation, and the President’s attacks are felt acutely in the Latino community – among others. **NHLA will closely monitor this matter to include in future NHLA scorecards evaluating Member support for the Latino community.**

When he declared a “national emergency,” Donald Trump evoked the dangerous nationalist rhetoric of an “invasion” in order to justify a sweeping overreach of his authority that threatens the basic core principles of our country. NHLA condemns this action in the strongest terms possible, and further condemns the invocation of racist, white supremacist language to manufacture a crisis as a pretext to deliver on a campaign promise at taxpayers’ expense.

Further construction of a wall at the southern border is a waste of taxpayer dollars at the expense of necessary government services and functions that Americans rely on every day. The wall symbolizes the President’s agenda to demonize the Latino and immigration communities in order to score political points, and at the cost of our country’s principles and the U.S. Constitution.

This dangerous move by the President requires Congress to carry out its constitutional duty as a check to executive excess. Congress must assert itself as a co-equal branch of the federal government, as stated in our Constitution. NHLA calls on each member of Congress to act immediately to terminate this fraudulent state of emergency and to vote in favor of the resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions please contact Andrea Senteno, at MALDEF, at asenteno@maldef.org or Laura Esquivel, at Hispanic Federation, at lesquivel@hispanicfederation.org.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Saenz
MALDEF, President and General Counsel
NHLA Chair and Immigration Committee
Co-Chair

Jose Calderón
Hispanic Federation, President
NHLA Immigration Committee
Co-Chair

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- Alianza Americas
- American G.I. Forum
- ASPIRA Association
- Avance Inc.
- Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network
- Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute
- Farmworker Justice
- Green Latinos
- Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities
- Hispanic Federation
- Hispanic National Bar Association
- Hispanics in Philanthropy
- Inter-University Program for Latino Research
- Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
- LatinoJustice PRLDEF
- League of United Latin American Citizens
- MANA, A National Latina Organization
- Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
- Mi Familia Vota
- NALEO Education Fund
- National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives
- National Association of Hispanic Publications
- National Association of Latino Arts and Culture
- National Association of Latino Independent Producers
- National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc.
- National Day Laborer Organizing Network
- National Hispana Leadership Institute
- National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators
- National Hispanic Council on Aging
- National Hispanic Environmental Council
- National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts
- National Hispanic Media Coalition
- National Hispanic Medical Association
- National Institute for Latino Policy
- National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
- National Latina/o Psychological Association
- Presente.org
- SER Jobs for Progress National
- Southwest Voter Registration Education Project
- U.S.- Mexico Foundation
- UnidosUS
- United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- United States Hispanic Leadership Institute
- United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce
- Voto Latino