

**The National Hispanic Health Foundation** participated in the launch of the The National Consumers League and the National Council on Aging’s **Obesity Bill of Rights** at the Washington, DC Press Club – that calls for personalized obesity care with culturally sensitive strategies and emphasizes the following crucial rights:

NHHF supports the effort to reauthorize the **Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act** (H.R. 7153/S. 3679) and ensure that calls for physicians and the health care workforce to mental healthcare services and support for their mental health needs, thank you for your critical

NHHF supported the bill opposing the use of the Prevention and Public Health Fund as an offset in H.R. 485, the **Protecting Health Care for All Patients Act**. Earlier today, February 7, 2024, the House passed the bill by a 211 to 208 party line vote. A manager's amendment to H.R. 485 would use the Prevention and Public Health Fund as a pay-for, totaling \$1.19 billion in cuts over FY25-29, roughly a 13 percent cut over that period

### Women’s Health Advocacy

NHHF President and Fellows met with White House this month on the support for the Administration to ban menthol and flavored cigarettes since so many young people with their brains still developing get more addicted with menthol compared to nicotine by itself. Of note, the Administration is currently reviewing comments on the rule to do this.

NHHF supported the effort to maintain emergency care for abortion care in Texas and Idaho cases:

Texas sued the federal Department of Health and Human Services in July 2022, arguing that the agency’s memorandum about EMTALA would “force abortions” in hospitals in the state, violating the state’s ban. A federal district court ruled for Texas. The Biden administration appealed. In January 2024, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit upheld the district court ruling, making it impossible, for now, for the federal government to enforce EMTALA in Texas when doctors deem that women need emergency abortions. Texas: HHS has until April 1 to ask the Supreme Court to take the case.

On Jan. 5th, the Supreme Court order allows Idaho’s extreme abortion ban to go back into effect and denies women critical emergency abortion care required by federal law.

NHHF joined 240 amicus curie organizations in the case of U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION, ET AL., PETITIONERS, v. ALLIANCE FOR HIPPOCRATIC MEDICINE, ET AL., RESPONDENTS to support continuing to provide Mifepistone for medical abortio, not with restrictions as the 5th Circuit court case calls for.

**On November 13, President Biden announced the first-ever White House Initiative on Women’s Health Research, an effort led by First Lady Jill Biden and the White House Gender Policy Council.**

#### Mission

- Despite making up more than half the population, women have historically been understudied and underrepresented in health research. The new Initiative will fundamentally change how we approach and fund women’s health research, and pioneer the next generation of discoveries in women’s health.
- The Initiative is committed to galvanizing the Federal government and the private and philanthropic sectors to spur innovation, unleash transformative investment to close research gaps, and improve women’s health.

#### What to Expect

- The Initiative—led by the Office of the First Lady and the White House Gender Policy Council—consists of executive departments and agencies across the Federal government, such as the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Defense, and Veterans Affairs, and White House offices, such as the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Science and Technology Policy.
- In the coming weeks and months, the Initiative will:
  - Deliver concrete recommendations to advance women’s health research. Within 45 days, Initiative members will recommend concrete actions that the Biden-Harris Administration can take to improve how research on women’s health is conducted and maximize the Administration’s investments in women’s health research, including to address health disparities and inequities.
  - Take a targeted, high-impact approach. To deliver results quickly, Initiative members will set priority areas of focus where additional investments could be transformative—in areas of research ranging from heart attacks in women to menopause.
  - Engage the scientific, private sector, and philanthropic communities. The Initiative will explore new public-private partnerships and engage private and philanthropic leaders to drive innovation and ensure the combined power of public, private, and philanthropic sectors advances research on women’s health.
  - How to Engage
  - The Initiative will engage a wide range of external stakeholders, including researchers and academics; women’s health organizations; philanthropic leaders; and industry stakeholders.
  - The Initiative invites interested stakeholders to complete this interest form, which will also ensure you are added to the Initiative’s communications and updates.
  - In addition, the Initiative welcomes written comments and input, which can be directed to WomensHealthResearch@who.eop.gov (PDF or Word attachments only).

**Dr. Rios participated in a day-long Latino Physician Policy Summit** to discuss with 30 leaders of California how to increase Latino physicians January 26th and will continue to support the effort. Despite California having 40% Latino population, there is a shortage of Latino physicians. It is crucial to address this disparity because culturally congruent care is vital to enhancing the quality and access of healthcare services, and ultimately, achieving health equity. Physician organizations, hospitals, clinics, foundations were all brought together for this important meeting.

NHHF staff attended the **Hart Research Associates Workers’ Survey** announcement on Jan. 23rd. The survey was done for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities to examine audiences’ views on Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, low-income housing assistance, and income assistance programs and proposals to take this support away from people who do not meet strict work requirements.

#### Key Findings

- Programs that assist low-income people are popular across the political spectrum, and voters recognize that they provide vital assistance for many people.
- Majorities of voters oppose proposals to take away Medicaid health coverage and SNAP food assistance from people who do not meet work requirements

**NHHF joined the Friends of ARHQ to support the continued Congress funding of the agency.** The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) supports research to improve health care quality, reduce costs, advance patient safety, decrease medical errors, and broaden access to essential services.

NHHF joined organizations that strongly oppose the **Air Quality Standards Implementation Act of 2024 – better named the Smoggy Skies Act.** This bill would permanently weaken the Clean Air Act by gutting one of its most important programs: the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.