

CHE Mtg - 10/13

Rep. Lujan-
Allard

Hispanic Children & Youth Convening by FLORES

4 Issues

Rep. Menendez → Title I + II - Bilingual Education

Rep. Hinojosa → Funding in FY 2000 - Full funding in FY 2000
\$784 million

- Hispanic Education Agenda
- POTUS - very concerned about Raul's letter claims
- Fight to gear up - support leaders.

Rep.

- Health Disparities
 - HIV
 - Diabetes
 - Research
- Appointment to NIH
- Access to health care - children ^{uninsured}
- Dividing in legislative proposal - address working poor
- Medicare costs ^{no more} cut - BSA

POTUS

- CDC Health Disparities initiative
- Medicare - trying to do stuff administratively
- CHIP outreach - some states have not had not have plan in place
- Each state their officer - someone assign to do outreach to kids in their district.
- Medicare ^{public coverage} age 50 - 64. ~~state~~ or incentive to state to set up a Medicare buy in proposal - TN Example. Allow to buy into Medicare ↓ rate ~~down~~ of uninsured.

Rep. Reyes - Border Health Commission
+ Rep. Ortiz - Pilsner called Bingham & he will hold up.

POTUS

Rep. Reyes - Public Charge - help us get the word out.
Southwest
Border Initiative - have seen very little on this initiative
- have someone focus on this.

Rep. Ortiz - Take ~~the~~ our compromise on the border table business

Rep. Gutierrez -

- FLAD

- Central Americans

• NACACH kind Latin early

• Central Am Party - what can we do to push that
legislation - omnibus, etc. - 250K people.

- Podesta - ~~put~~ put at the list

POTUS this is ^{very} important, no bribe. But,

- Guestworker Leg. - POTUS ^{by region + foreign relations} ~~decision~~

- Labor Amnesty -

• want their day in court - 400K

• CA won this case, ~~appeal~~ DOS appealing the decision

• Registry Date - change - wants to ~~execute~~ adv.

Rep.
Velazquez

New Mexico

Hispanic Business - fight going

Carlos
Kumar-
Bancro

• Vieques

- Could get violent
- ↑ crime rates - need investigation + mental health for children - HHS study
- MOA in 1983 but Navy has not abided by it
- Dangerous
- Need some resolution

POTUS - personally interested, now, etc.

Rep. Duncan • Nominations

• POTUS have concerns to get judges confirmed

Rep. Napolitano

14.9 10.3
Latina youth - depression, pregnancy, etc.
- Looking for assistance to ~~the~~ ~~the~~

Can we
Do PSAs

Pos. ask ~~the~~ CHRP which people to get in hand.

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
Subject: VP/Cong. Hisp. Caucus Follow-up

As you know, the Vice President met with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus on Tuesday, covering a variety of different issues that they raised and promising to follow up on matters on which they sought assistance or a commitment. Some of you attended the meeting and most provided background on these issues for the briefing -- thank you very much for your help in getting those materials together, it was a great help. For those who were not there, this info will give you a briefer on the necessary follow-up, where applicable, but also should provide a sense for the Caucus' issue priorities and positions, especially as they pertain to the appropriations and budget process Congress is sifting through.

The format of the meeting was broken down by four primary issues: education; health; economic development; and Census 2000. Other issues covered were: Puerto Rico/Guam matters; and immigration. The VP gave the Members some clear directives as to who they can expect to take the lead from WH/OVP on the matters discussed. Below is a rundown of the staff contacts for the various pieces discussed. I've noted the general comment by the Member or the request, followed by the VP's comment, commitment, or specific statement where it was notable. For those who attended, please let me know if I missed something or have the wrong person for the task. Also, so I can stay in contact with the Caucus staff and be sure they know of our follow through, it would be helpful to know of your timing on these fronts. For the few tasks that merit meetings with the Members, I will contact you about moving forward with those. Thanks.

I. Education

A. School Modernization (Rep. Loretta Sanchez) -- need WH support for school construction in approps; must be included in final budget/approps agreement. **VP -- will work to support.**

B. E-rate (Rep. Matthew Martinez) -- need continued support for the e-rate; wants WH to veto House passed Teacher Empowerment bill. **VP -- will get that message to POTUS.**

C. Hispanic Education Plan (Rep. Ruben Hinojosa) -- wants WH to support increased funding in budget process for the programs to support the Hispanic drop-out rate. Additionally, Hinojosa indicated that the Caucus would offer its own alternative to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act that specifically includes increased funding for the Hispanic Education Action Plan. Wanted the VP to commit to support funding increase for HEAP in this year's budget. **VP -- promise to fight internally for that funding request.**

II. Health

A. High uninsured rates for Latinos (Rep. Ed Pastor) -- Latinos have significantly high rates of uninsured individuals, esp. children. What is WH doing to address this?? **VP - working on interagency strategy; DoJ announcement re: immigrants and healthcare; CHIP outreach. Personally, I want to work to ensure that all children have access to affordable healthcare.** ✓

B. Health disparities -- HIV/AIDS and Diabetes (Rep. Ciro Rodriguez) -- Significant disparity in Latino community on the incidence of AIDS and diabetes. During Hispanic awareness week in September, there will be an event early in the week focusing on this topic. Will you designate someone from your staff to attend/participate in the session?? **VP - Janet Murguia will follow up with you.** ✓

III. Economic Development

A. Soutwest Border Initiative (Rep. Silvestre Reyes) -- Since the May announcement, there has been very little engagement by OVP to get the initiative going. Want to work with office to build on and develop the goals of the announcement. **VP- Alvin Brown will follow up with you. (VP also mentioned he wanted a memo from Alvin.)** I would recommend that we put together a staff level meeting with Rep. Reyes as part of follow up. Alvin, let me know if you're fine with that and I will work with you and Jonathan Weiss to set that up.

B. New Markets Initiative (Rep. Nydia Velazquez) -- Would have like New Markets tour to highlight more Latino communities. She has been asked by WH to introduce legislation for the New Markets package. She has major concerns with the bill because, according to her, over 40% of the benefits are going to areas that are not low-income communities. It needs to reflect more of a focus on communities that need assistance. Want a commitment from WH that the legislation will not move forward unless there is more of a focus on these communities. **VP - will relay that message to POTUS. Can't imagine that we would not satisfy your concerns, because of your expertise as lead Democrat on the Small Business Committee.**

C. Financial Restructuring Assistance Program and Runaway Film issue. (Rep. Xavier Becerra) Want the Admin to shift funds over to the Title IX revolving loan program. Mentioned letters from Sen. Feinstein and Boxer to Jack Lew. Please consider the runaway film issue that is affecting film production companies -- important for parity. **VP - will follow up on runaway film production matter. I think parity in film making is important, but I'll need to take a look at it.**

IV. Census 2000

A. Fairness (Rep. Charlie Gonzalez) Want to see you have active participation in Census fight. **VP - my father fought hard for voting rights, you can count on me for anything. I'm eager to participate in Census events.**

B. Fairness, cont'd (Rep. Bob Menendez) Had a great visit to my district to push issue. Arizona lawsuit on redistricting is before the Dept. of Justice. DoJ has 60 days to review case, until August 6. Wants VP to weigh in with DoJ. Also, wants VP to participate in conference call on August 6 on Arizona case (34th anniversary of the passage of the Voting Rights Act). **VP - not sure what I can do with respect to DoJ, not subject to political considerations -- but will check on status. Mrs. Gore will be in Arizona on Aug. 6. Donna Brazile will follow up with Rep. Pastor on Mrs. Gore trip/possible participation.** (No firm commitment to participate in conf. call, but very favorably received).

C. Funding/Approps. (Rep. Jose Serrano) The Senate bill has about \$3 billion provided for Census 2000, House Commerce-Justice-State approps bill has \$4.5 billion coming out of subcommittee. Need WH to push for the House level of funding for Census. **VP - I will do everything on this matter possible. I can't imagine any request of yours on this issue would be inappropriate.**

V. Other issues

A. Puerto Rico/SSI payments (Rep. Carlos Romero-Barcelo) Need safety net for people in territories with Medicaid/SSI/veterans payments. There is legislation to expand coverage and bring equity to territories. Would like support for this legislation. **VP - I will examine the legislation and get back to you. I want to review the other issues and dynamics of situation.**

B. Immigration (Rep. Luis Guttierrez) Gutierrez raised issues focusing on the naturalization backlog, NACARA, and Cuban nationals. (I did my best to follow his points, but wasn't very successful. Janet is up on his Rep. Gutierrez's focus on this front, so I'll defer to her on a more intelligent rundown of the points he offered. Rep. Underwood (Guam) talked about SSI payments for citizens of territories and mentioned that the Northern Mariana Islands are the only territory that receive SSI benefits. **VP pretty much read talking points that were prepared by Irene Bueno.**

C. Colorado River/Uranium pollution (Rep. Grace Napolitano) Would like VP staff to meet with her and others on the situation with the Colorado river and uranium content. **VP - my staff will work with you on this.** (I check in with CEQ and set up a meeting with Rep. Napolitano)

D. Rep. Jose Serrano questions for VP Rep. Serrano gave the VP a letter with some questions on different issues (environmental justice, Vieques, Cuba policy, and Puerto Rico status). I will route the letter for review.

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CAC-2/18/99

Purpose - ~~welcome~~ Congratulate, ~~welcome~~ introduce ourselves
Overview of ASL
CLD
Legislation

Information about HHS

Budget Priorities - get copy, double check

Letter requesting meeting - today

- Health

Present

Incorporating staffing = CDC, NIH

Data Collection

Access to Health more fully

Drug Prescription

cultural outreach -

- Hispanic Action -

- Research is a major concern - source of funds

• HIV

• ~~Latino~~ Latinos banded together

• Diabetes

• tobacco

- Staffing

- need to know about position

- Cancer ces - position only open to current ces

Goals

Question on it's props - accountable measure implemented in my plans.

Child Care

- Head Start

- Double check Budget #s

Latino Issues - impact Latino community of the profession
- Patient bill of rights / HMO - Why important?
- Care givers / tax credit - Get specific information
- Prescription drug benefits

Briefings - end of March.

Rep. Rodriguez - St. Jude Force - finalizing the provision

^{now}
Presidential Leadership Program - Markus
- welfare to work



Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

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4 (EXCLUDING COVER)

COMMENTS:

FYI.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 1st, 1999

Dear Opinion Editor:

House Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt and California Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, would like to submit for your consideration an op-ed piece titled, A Democratic Agenda for Hispanic Americans.

The piece highlights Democrats in Congress' commitment to Hispanic and working families all across this nation in the areas of education, retirement security, health care and economic reform.

The Democratic Families First Agenda will be unveiled by President Bill Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle and Leader Gephardt at an event in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday March 3, 1999.

Should you have any questions about this op-ed, please call Laura Nichols with Leader Gephardt at 202-225-0100 or Loretta Gutierrez-Nestor with Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard at 202-225-1766.

Sincerely,



Laura Nichols
Director of Communications,
House Democratic Leader's Office

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 1st, 1999

A Democratic Agenda For Hispanic Americans

President Clinton and Democrats in Congress are united behind an aggressive agenda to meet the needs of Hispanic American families. That agenda focuses on guaranteeing the future of Social Security and Medicare, expanding educational opportunity for our children, and fighting for quality health care.

Last year, President Clinton presented the American people with the first balanced budget in 30 years. However, we are not content to rest on the accomplishments of the last five years. We must continue to work to make the economy meet the needs of Latino families.

Despite the strong economy, too many families still struggle to make ends meet. And, they are continually challenged in balancing the need to make a living with raising and caring for their kids. Democrats want to build on our progress toward a better America with limitless opportunities for all.

In 1999, we will work with House and Senate Democrats and the Clinton Administration to carry forth an agenda that addresses the critical issues that face all Americans.

First, we must take action to strengthen Social Security and Medicare for the next century. Currently, forty percent of retired Latinos and 23 percent of retired Latino couples rely on the program for their entire income. Democrats are proposing to use budget surpluses over the next 15 years to make sure Social Security and Medicare are there for all Americans when they need it. This will be a challenging issue for Congress and the country. But the President's proposal is a good start to ensure that the foundation of retirement security is preserved and strengthened for the 21st century.

Second, we have to recommit our efforts to improve our public schools. In 1998, President Clinton and Democrats in Congress won a major victory in obtaining the first installment of funding for our initiative to add 100,000 new teachers to our nation's classrooms.

But, our work is not yet done. By 2030 the U.S. Census Bureau projections suggest that Latino students ages 5-18 will number 16 million or 25% of the total school population. We must provide the funding to enable local schools to modernize and rebuild their classrooms to

provide the best learning environment for our children. In addition, we must do more to hold teachers and schools accountable to high standards and ensure that school districts and states obtain results in their efforts to provide a high-quality education. Indeed, the challenges of the next century are great; we will have to double our efforts to make sure our kids get the education they need to compete in the global marketplace.

Another priority is the reform of our nation's health care system. Last year, we came within five votes of passing a real and effective reform proposal that would have given the power over treatment options back to patients and doctors. Currently, insurance company bureaucrats decide whether care will be provided. It's wrong, and the Democratic Patients' Bill of Rights is the way to make it right.

We hope Republicans will join us to get this bill passed early this year. Our families have been denied their health care rights for too long.

The Republican leadership in Congress has the obligation to pass this bill and send it to the President early this year. This will be the first real test of whether or not there truly is a new Republican openness to putting the people's business first or whether partisan business as usual still rules the day.

There are also several other key areas where Congress must get to work:

- Congress must increase the minimum wage. Despite a national economy that continues to grow, workers at the bottom rungs of the economic ladder see wages that continue to stagnate. A minimum wage increase will be the best way to make sure the ladder of opportunity exists for all workers in our economy.

- Second, we must expand economic opportunities for small businesses in our community through tax relief and investment opportunities. Our small businesses are our strength and we should encourage their growth through empowerment zones and targeted tax credits. Tax cuts must be targeted to middle-class families who really need it.

We will fight for a fair and accurate census. In the last census, Hispanics were seven times more likely to be omitted in the official census results than non-Hispanic whites. We must make sure that everyone of us is counted so that communities receive the federal, state and local funds they need and deserve.

We must also reach a legislative or administrative solution for the thousands of immigrants who have been in the United States since before January 1, 1982, also known as Late Amnesty individuals. Many have put down roots and have been contributing to the economy as taxpayers for over 15 years. Virtually none of these individuals will be able to secure relief from deportation unless we act now. In addition, we must reform the naturalization process to end the backlog and to ensure that those eligible individuals can become citizens.

And we need to address the problems of crime and drugs on our streets. Too many of our

children are dying and the future of an entire generation depends on our action now.

House Republicans must put aside their confrontational and hostile tactics and put progress over partisanship this year. Democrats are ready to work on a bipartisan basis to build the needed foundation for the success of the Latino community that will help us achieve our common goal of prosperity for all Americans.

Rep. Richard Gephardt is the House Democratic Leader and Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard is the chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

Congressional Hispanic Caucus

Members of the 106th Congress

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CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS
106th CONGRESS

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CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS

I. BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR FY 2000

	FY99	FY00 CHC Recom.	President's FY00 Proposed Budget
EDUCATION	(figures in millions)		
The education crisis of Latinos is a national problem. Over the past ten years, Latino educational attainment rates have stagnated or worsened. To tackle the crisis, new and existing education programs must address the Latino education gap as well as improve the quality of instruction and condition of schools overall. This must also be considered in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA).			
• Hispanic Serving Institutions, (Title V of HEA) Need to increase resource to accomplish expanded authority activities.	\$28	authorized level \$62.5	\$42.3
• Bilingual Education, (Title VII of ESEA) More funds are critical to providing high quality instruction to the nation's 3.2 million Limited English Proficient children, over 75% of whom are Latino.	\$224	\$336	\$259
instructional services	160	240	170
teacher training	50	75	75
support services	14	21	14
• HEP/CAMP, (Title IV of HEA) These programs have proven success records, yet serve only ten percent and four percent of eligible populations.	\$13	\$22	\$22
HEP	9	15	15
CAMP	4	7	7
• Migrant Education Programs, (Title I of ESEA) These specialized services help keep migrant students in the classroom rather than the field and provide needed school-based health care.	\$355	\$400	\$380
• Adult Education, Provide resources to ensure that all who desire to learn English have access to programs which serve them (\$500M increase over 2 years).	\$385	\$635	\$575
[PLEASE NOTE : THE CHC WILL WORK TO INCREASE THE AUTHORIZATION LEVELS FOR ALL OF THESE CRUCIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS]			
TRIO , Facilitate collaborations between higher education institutions and community groups to provide apprenticeships, mentoring relationships and summer training opportunities. Ensure that program enrollment reflects the greatest need among eligible subpopulations.			
• Adequately fund existing six-grant programs, including Upward Bound.	\$600	* * *	\$630
GEAR UP should be appropriately funded and targeted to subpopulations with the greatest need.	\$120	* * *	\$240

*** These items will induce a budgetary cost

	FY99	FY00 CHC Recom.	President's FY00 Proposed Budget
	(figures in millions)		
21st Century Learning Center Program , supports school-community partnerships that expand or establish programs providing after-school care.	\$200	* * *	\$600
School Construction and Modernization			
Fund President's school construction and modernization proposal: Provide tax credits on 0-interest 15-year school construction bonds issued by states and local school districts.		* * *	\$22.1(billion) in Bonds
Expansion of Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (part of Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997). This would increase qualified zone academy bond authority to cover school construction (presently, it only covers modernization), increase the cap and extend it beyond its expiration date of 1999.		* * *	\$2.1(billion) in Bonds
Teacher Training and Recruitment			
Eisenhower Professional Development Program (Title II of ESEA) Formula grants to states to support intensive, high-quality professional development in the core academic subject areas.	\$335	* * *	\$335
Class Size Reduction A portion of class size reduction funds can be used for recruiting and training certified teachers, testing academic content knowledge of new teachers and professional development	\$1.2 (Billion)	* * *	\$1.4 (billion)
HEALTH			
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)			
Increase budget for research pilot program entitled "Minority Health Grants Program". This increase will allow the CDC to cover all minority subgroups.	\$1	\$5	TBD
The Office of Smoking and Health's (OSH) ASSIST project, which promotes tobacco control at the state level, needs mechanisms to ensure better targeting of subpopulations. For instance, monitoring state projects and technical assistance will help reach all populations.	\$51	\$53	\$66
OSH appropriations should be increased and earmarked for minority health for national and community based organizations to conduct outreach.	\$1.5	\$2.5	TBD
Increase funds for demonstration projects within the "Race/Ethnicity and Health Disparities Initiative" so that more partnerships are established in cities with high minority populations.	\$10	\$20	\$35

*** These items will induce a budgetary cost

	FY99	FY00 CHC Recom.	President's FY00 Proposed Budget
	(figures in millions)		
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)			
Allocate \$200,000 for a study to determine what percentage of state block grants are being used to treat Latinos for alcohol and substance abuse.	---	\$.2	HHS will be completing the analysis
Conduct a media campaign on alcohol abuse aimed at minority children with appropriate amounts targeted to subpopulation group media outlets.	---	\$3	TBD
Health Professions Bill (S 1754)			
<i>Health Resources and Services Administration</i>			
Increase funding of the Health Careers Opportunity Program, the largest minority health professions student recruitment and retention program at HHS, in order to ensure a more diverse health workforce for future generations.	\$27.8	\$37	\$35.3
Increase funding to the Centers of Excellence Program in order to expand the cultural competence curriculum and minority faculty development to train the health workforce.	\$25.6	\$35	\$33.1
- Increase funding for the National Health Service Corps to expand to new underserved partner providers and improve participation of underrepresented minorities in the Health Services Corps. - Field Services (support activities) - Recruitment / Scholarships / Loan repayment assistance	\$37.2 \$78	\$40 \$85.8	\$37.2 \$78
National Center of Health Statistics, Center for Disease Control and Prevention			
Increase funds for the data collection of underserved subpopulations including, Hispanics, Asians, and Native Americans to bolster the HHS Race/Ethnicity and Health Disparities Initiative.	\$1	\$2	TBD
Office of Minority Health, Office of Public Health and Science			
Establish funding for a new OMH Cultural Competence Center (referred to in past legislation as the Linguistic Center). More funds and targeted research is needed to better understand and address the health status of Latinos.	0	\$2	0
National Institutes of Health (NIH)			
Establish a new Hispanic Research Fellowship Program to be run by the Hispanic-Serving Health Professional Schools, an organization started by HHS, to develop research and training in the health professions targeted at Hispanic students and faculty.	---	\$5	0

	FY99	FY00 CHC Recom.	President's FY00 Proposed Budget
	(figures in millions)		
Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA)			
Ensure that national and state programs (Medicaid/Medicare/CHIP) conduct culturally competent, language sensitive outreach to minority communities.	0	***	\$40
Authorize states to cover smoking cessation programs with Medicaid/CHIP dollars.	0	***	0
Establish a Cultural Competence Grant Program to non-profits in partnership with Medicare/Medicaid/CHIP contractors to create programs that improve the quality of health care for Latinos.	0	***	0
US-Mexico Border Health Commission			
Increase funding for data collection and program implementation for the new border health promotion programs.	\$0.8	\$1.5	\$1.5
IMMIGRATION			
<u>Naturalization/citizenship</u>			
The INS has stated that by the end of FY 99 they will process 1.5 million naturalization applications and reduce the application wait time to 12 months. By the end of FY 2000, the INS expects to process 1.5 million applications and reduce the application wait time to 6 months.	\$812 (this includes additional \$176)	***	\$813
If it is discovered that the INS will not be able to meet these goals in either fiscal year, additional resources should be identified and committed to accomplish these goals.		***	TBD
A study must be conducted to evaluate what is a reasonable amount of time that an individual should wait for the INS to process a naturalization application.			
<u>Services to Legal Immigrants</u>			
Supplemental Security Income (SSI) & Medicaid			
Provide SSI to low-income legal immigrants who were in the U.S. prior to August 22, 1996, and who subsequently become elderly or poor. The 1997 restoration limits SSI benefits to those elderly legal immigrants who were both 65 or older <i>and</i> on the SSI rolls on August of 1996.		\$300-400 per year	0
At a minimum, SSI should be restored to those elderly immigrants who were in the United States, were 65 or older on August of 1996, but were <i>not</i> on the SSI rolls on this date.		\$160 per year	0
Restore eligibility for SSI and Medicaid to legal immigrants who enter the U.S. after August 22, 1996 if they have been in the U.S. for five years and become disabled after entering the U.S.		***	\$960 over 5 yrs

*** These items will induce a budgetary cost

	FY99	FY00 CHC Recom.	President's FY00 Proposed Budget
	(figures in millions)		
Nutritional Assistance Allow legal immigrants who were in the U.S. on August 22, 1996 who <u>subsequently</u> reach age 65 to be eligible for Food Stamps.	---	***	\$60 over 5 yrs
Health Care - Give states the option to provide coverage to legal immigrant children who entered the US after to August 22, 1996 under Medicaid and the Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP). - Give states the option to provide prenatal care to legal immigrant pregnant women who arrived after August 22, 1996.	---	\$50 per year	\$220 over 5yrs
	---	* * *	\$105 over 5yrs
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS			
Development Assistance for Latin America	\$291	\$350	\$309
Minority Recruitment at State Department	\$1	\$3	\$3
Emergency Supplemental for Central America and debt relief/restructure for the region			
- Emergency supplemental for medium and long-term infrastructure needs (The five countries estimate that they will need \$4 billion to rebuild) - Debt relief (estimated -- Honduras \$151, Nicaragua \$94) - Debt restructure (estimated -- El Salvador \$386, Guatemala \$321)		* * * \$245 est. * * *	\$866
North American Development Bank (NAD)	\$10	\$17	\$17
WORKFORCE ISSUES			
Worker's Rights The recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Labor (DOL) and INS should have funds to conduct a comprehensive outreach/education campaign. This MOU will ensure that workers can file labor violations with the DOL without fear of repercussions, regardless of their immigration status.		* * *	TBD
Wage and Hour Enforcement Increase budget to hire more enforcement officers. Currently, there are only 1,000 officers to monitor the 6.5 million businesses, 1.5 million farmworkers, and 800,000 garment workers in the United States. Stronger enforcement provides more protections for low-wage workers.	\$3	* * *	\$4.25

*** These items will induce a budgetary cost

	FY99	FY00 CHC Recom.	President's FY00 Proposed Budget
HOUSING	(figures in millions)		
Farm Labor Housing - A survey conducted by the Housing Assistance Council (HAC) in 1997 revealed a demand for \$130M in outstanding farm labor housing loan and grant applications. This \$130M would allow for the construction of 2355 new farm labor housing units. - Farm Labor Housing Loan Program (Section 514) - Farm Labor Housing Grant Program (Section 516) - Farm Labor Housing Assistance Program (An estimated 67% of the 2355 new housing units will require rental housing assistance)			
	\$20	\$48.5	\$25
	\$10	\$48.5	\$15
	\$10.3	\$12.2	\$11
TELECOMMUNICATIONS			
Restore E-Rate to original funding levels	\$1.28 (billion)	\$2.25 (billion)	\$1.3 (billion)
PUERTO RICO			
Research and Experimentation Tax Credit Expand the Research & Experimentation tax credit to include the Territories and Puerto Rico.	---	\$4	\$4
Section 30A Expand Section 30A of the IRS code to include businesses that are unable to take advantage of Section 936.	---	\$121	\$50(estimated)
Rum Tax Reintroduce the failed Rum tax proposal the Administration supported last year. The tax levied against every gallon of Puerto Rican rum was reduced from \$13.50 to \$10.50 in the FY 98 fiscal budget. The \$13.50 tax had been divided between the US treasury (\$3.00) and Puerto Rican treasury (\$10.50). A failed attempt to maintain the tax at \$13.50 during last year's budget negotiations had the Administration agreeing to forgo their \$3.00 and return the entire \$13.50 to the Puerto Rican treasury with the understanding that .50 cents of every gallon would go to the Puerto Rico Conservation Trust Fund for the next five years. This effort failed and the Administration should try again.	---	\$70	\$70

II. LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR FY 2000

IMMIGRATION

1) Relief for Central Americans -- Parity for Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Hondurans

The CHC is opposed to singling out one group of immigrants for favorable treatment. The Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) left approximately 250,000 Salvadorans and Guatemalans with an unpredictable immigration status. In order to achieve parity, HR 3553 was introduced to ensure equal treatment for immigrants who have endured similar economic and political hardships. With 111 co-sponsors, the Administration should make the passage of HR 3553 a legislative priority in the 106th Congress.

A. **Remittances from Central Americans living in the US are vital.** As the Administration looks for ways to help the region rebuild after Hurricane Mitch, it should not overlook the fiscal effect our immigration policy has on the region. Statistics provided by the World Bank show that in 1997 Salvadorans sent home \$1.1 *billion* and Guatemalans sent home \$350 million. The Administration has an opportunity to make a group-based determination of hardship for these deserving immigrants, allowing them to stay and continue contributing to the battered economies of their home countries.

B. **Temporary Protection Status (TPS)** The Administration should grant TPS for 18 months to individuals from Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala until these countries have fully recovered from Hurricane Mitch.

2) Late Amnesty - Section 377

A legislative or administrative solution should be found for the thousands of immigrants who have been in the United States since before January 1, 1982. Many have put down roots and have been contributing to the economy as taxpayers for over 15 years. Virtually none of these individuals will be able to secure relief from deportation unless we act now.

3) H-2A guestworker/bracero program

The Administration should not support any proposal that would expand this program. Since the GAO reported in December of 1997 that no farmworker labor shortages exist, there would be no justification for the Administration to support such an initiative. To bring in more agricultural workers would threaten American jobs and undermine the protection of agricultural workers' basic needs.

HEALTH

1) Tobacco Control Legislation

Any tobacco legislation should include language stating that tax dollars raised in minority communities should be reinvested in these communities for health and education activities and programs. Frequent smoking is on the rise within minority communities, particularly among youth.

2) "Public Charge"

Ensure that any policy guidance makes clear that past or current health services accessed by immigrants or their family members will not render them "public charges." This should include programs such as Medicaid, CHIP, and other health related services.

- Recently, the INS issued guidelines concerning the "public charge" ground of deportability which improperly expanded the definition to immigrants whose sponsor does not repay the cost of any Health services used. There is no statutory basis for this change to the definition. The INS' unwarranted expansion of the public charge definition should be deleted.
- In addition, the INS and HHS should conduct outreach to educate eligible applicants and service providers about immigrants' rights to enroll in these programs without negative repercussions.

SOCIAL SECURITY

- 1) **Any Social Security reform proposal must include the extensive consultation with members of the CHC at all stages of the policy process.** Social Security plays a key role in lifting elderly Latinos out of poverty. Specifically, 85.9% of income in Latino households age 65 and over comes from Social Security and only 35% of Latino families age 30-50 are covered by private pensions. Latinos also have a higher life expectancy than the rest of the population and thus receive on average an extra three years of benefits.
- 2) **Any proposal to strengthen Social Security should provide individuals with a solid, guaranteed benefit that lasts for life and keeps pace with the rising cost of living.** Reform should not come at the expense of the "social insurance" nature of Social Security, in that the current system protects workers and their families from loss of earnings due to retirement, death, or disability.

EMPOWERMENT ZONES

- 1) **Expansion**
Empowerment Zones should be allocated to regions that did not get sufficient consideration in FY99. One of the most important aspects of the Empowerment Zone program is its ability to draw attention to a distressed area thereby acting as a catalyst for economic development. Specifically, Empowerment Zones provide incentives to entrepreneurs, established firms, and employees to invest and work in areas that they would otherwise find unattractive.

WORKFORCE ISSUES

- 1) **Study Latino participation in Welfare-to-Work**
The FY 2000 budget should fund a project in an area of high Latino concentration to examine the rates at which Latinos are moving from welfare to work. This study should document the obstacles facing Latinos in this effort and based on these findings, make recommendations for improving Latinos' movement from welfare into jobs.
 - One example of an obstacle faced by Latinos is the lack of child care. Providing subsidized child care to women on public assistance is the key to allowing mothers to move from dependency to work. However, child care options are limited for Latinos due to cost, language, and cultural barriers.

PUERTO RICO

- 1) **Empowerment Zone Expansion**
Amend Empowerment Zone rules to enable Puerto Rico to compete for designation as an Empowerment Zone area. Currently, Puerto Rico is excluded from participating in HUD's Empowerment Zone program hampering Puerto Rico's ability to attract business. This program is crucial to Puerto Rico since it would promote economic development opportunities and offer tax incentives to companies.

2) **Cap in Medicaid funds**

Remove the cap excluding Puerto Rico from the funding formula allocation. As a result, Puerto Rico receives a capped sum that is one tenth of what the island would receive if treated equitably with the other states.

- This was the underlying problem with the State Children's Health Initiative - when Puerto Rico and the other territories were excluded from the program's funding allocation and was assigned an arbitrary and inadequate sum.
- The current cap will be a particularly important issue this coming session for Puerto Rico, when Congressional efforts are intensifying to ensure coverage under Medicaid for critical medical conditions such as breast cancer and AIDS. If the cap is not removed, the citizens in Puerto Rico would be excluded from those initiatives.