

2015 Latino Legislative Day

CELEBRATING

Years

Civic Engagement & Advocacy

70



LATINO CIVIC ALLIANCE

Washington State Capitol

Olympia, WA

March 16, 2015



2015 WASHINGTON STATE LATINO LEGISLATIVE DAY

LOCATION: Washington State Capitol
DSHS Auditorium, Office BLDG 2, 14th Ave. S.E., Olympia, WA

DATE: Monday, March 16, 2015

TIME: 8:00AM to 5:00PM

TIME	AGENDA	LOCATION
8:00 to 9:00	Registration /Continental Breakfast	
8:30 to 9:00	Training: Talking with your Legislators (Presented by: SEA MAR)	
9:00 to 9:05	Registration /Continental Breakfast Welcome by Nina Martinez, Chair LCA "Latinos and Public Office in Washington State"	
9:05 to 9:20	<p>Health Care Nina Martinez, LCA Chair, Claudia D'Allegrì, LCA Vice Chair</p> <p>Mental Health: HB 1258 "Joel's Law" process allows family members to petition court for assistance with loved one in need HB1424 Concerning suicide prevention and training working with Veterans</p> <p>MEDICAL: HB 1669 SB 5625 – Continuity of Coverage – Many individuals are still unable to afford health coverage or it's unaffordable; this creates a study and taskforce to tackle churn and un-insurance. HB 1321/ SB 5305 – Cover All by 2020 – While the Affordable Care Act made steps toward covering more residents, it won't cover all. This bill puts in statute the intent to cover <i>all</i> Washington residents HB 1931 / SB 5895 – Shared Responsibility for Medicaid – This bill assesses large employers with more than 500 employees who ought to be paying toward the cost of Medicaid when they cut worker hours, pay and benefits and push workers onto the safety net program. - Tell Legislators The Legislature should create a Continuity of Coverage Task Force and Washington should evaluate the affordability of health coverage for Washington residents.</p> <p>Panel Discussion: "Integration of Mental and General Health Care" – Claudia D'Allegrì, VP Behavioral Health Services.</p>	DSHS Auditorium
9:20 to 9:40	<p>Civic Engagement Nina Martinez, LCA Chair HB1745 SB5668 Voting Rights Act <u>Panel:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judge Veronica Galvan, King County Superior Court • Carmelo González, Sea Mar Youth Citizenship Program • Norma Gallegos – "The importance of Latinos becoming a US citizens" • Martha Jimenez Yakima County Election - Voter Registration Practices • Valerie Walston, Thurston County Election 	



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<p>9:40 to 9:55</p>	<p>Education Anahi Machiavelli, LCA Board Member</p> <p>HB 1541 K-12 Education "Closing the Achievement Gap for Students of Color" HB 1408 Concerning the development of a definition and model for "family engagement coordinator" and other terms used interchangeably with it. HB1783 Expanding dual language and bilingual instruction for early learners through secondary students.</p> <p>HB1560 SB5565 Recognizing Cesar Chavez Day – Gloria Burton, Catholic Community Services, Western WA</p> <p>College Bound Scholarship Program – Legislation needed to include undocumented students – NO BILL SPONSOR AT THIS TIME – on going advocacy needed– please discuss with legislators to support legislation that will reward our hard working students achieve their dreams.</p> <p>Special Presentation "How our children will achieve greatness" by John Cerna Toppenish School Superintendent</p>	<p>DSHS Auditorium</p>
<p>9:55 to 10:05</p>	<p>Economic Development Nina Martinez, LCA Chair Small Business successes & practices</p> <p>Panel: Andres Mantilla, Ceis Bayne East Strategic, Nick Marquez Yakima Real Estate Services – how to ensure local economies thrive</p>	<p>DSHS Auditorium</p>
<p>10:05 to 10:20</p>	<p>Public Safety Claudia D'Allegri, Vice Chair</p> <p>Law Enforcement House Bill 1348 Senate Bill 5311: Requiring crisis intervention training for full-time law enforcement officers employed by a general authority Washington law enforcement agency. HB 1448 An act relating to procedures for responding to reports of threatened or attempted suicide. Providing police officers procedures for responding to reports of threatened or attempted suicide</p> <p>Human Trafficking SB5342 Concerning definitions related to human trafficking with foreign workers. SB5883 Requiring that human trafficking information be posted in public restrooms SB 5884 Concerning the trafficking of persons</p> <p>Juvenile HB1481 / SB 5564 Concerning the sealing of Juvenile Records HB 1898 Remote testimony for child victims of sexual abuse</p> <p>Panel: Fe Lopez, Executive Director, Seattle Community Police Commission " Emergent issues regarding police body cameras and current legislation"</p>	<p>DSHS Auditorium</p>



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<p>10:20 to 10:30</p>	<p>Labor Nina Martinez, LCA Chair</p> <p><u>Panel:</u> Teresa Mosqueda, Washington State Labor Council HB1354 SB5569 Anti Retaliation, HB1355 SB5285 Minimum Wage \$12 HB1356 SB5306 Paid Sick & Safe Leave HB1646 SB5630 Equal Pay Opportunity Act SB 5987 Concerning transportation revenue SB 5988 Concerning additive transportation funding and appropriations. SB 5989 Authorizing bonds for transportation funding.</p>	
<p>10:30 to 10:45</p>	<p>Veterans Nick Marquez, LCA Board Member HB1241 SB 5042 Hiring veterans Business credit HB1424 Concerning health providers receive training suicide assessment for veterans</p> <p><u>Panel:</u> Raymond Navarro, Jesse Farias, Mayor Wapato WA " The challenges Latino Veterans face and how the Community can Support"</p>	
<p>10:45 to 10:55</p>	<p>Farm workers Enrique Lopez, LCA Board Member</p> <p><u>Panel:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rosalinda Guillen, Executive Director Community to Community "Farm workers families and policy" 	
<p>10:55 to 11:10am</p>	<p>Immigration Anahi Macchiavelli, LCA Board Member, Chris Paredes, LCA Board Member Family Unity Act HB1716</p> <p><u>Panel:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jorge Baron, Executive Director, Northwest Immigrant Rights – Family Unity Act, HB 1716, REAL ID Christine Pool, Community Relations, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, Community Relations Officer. "How to protect yourself from immigration frauds and scams" 	<p>DSHS Auditorium</p>
<p>11:00 to 12:00pm</p>	<p>March to Capital – North Steps (Lead by NW Carpenters Union) Lunch provided Performance by Wenatchee High School Mariachi</p>	<p>LUNCH ROTUNDA</p>



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<p>12:00 to 1p.m</p>	<p align="center">Veteran Color Guard Presentation</p> <p align="center">Governor Jay Inslee, Key Note Speaker</p> <p align="center">Latino Civic Alliance Community Recipient Awards:</p> <p> Visionary Award: Uriel Iñiguez Civic Engagement Award: Sea Mar Community Health Center Human Rights Award: Rosalinda Guillen Education Award: Representative Lillian Ortiz-Self Advocacy Western WA Award: Jose Ortiz Advocacy Eastern WA Award: Norma Gallegos Latino Media Award: Latino NW Communications (Martha Sanchez & Mario Zavaleta).</p> <p>Attorney General Bob Ferguson State Representative Lillian Ortiz-Self State Representative Luis Moscoso Senator John McCoy State Representative Brady Walkinshaw Senator Curtis King State Representative Tomiko Santos State Representative Zak Hudgins Senator Pamela Roach Senator Mark Schoelser Senator Mike Padden Additional dignitaries expected National Anthem performed by Jose Iñiguez</p>	<p align="center">Capitol Rotunda</p>
<p>1:00- 4:30p.m</p>	<p>Policy Work Sessions begin in DSHS Building – Participants encouraged that have completed legislative appointments to return and attend these sessions: Civic Engagement Presentations</p>	
<p>1:30 – 4:00 p.m</p>	<p>Civic Responsibility, Creating the Future Together Facilitated by Vickie Ybarra & Luis Ortega "Why should we be involved in civic engagement? "How do we get involved? (Legislative process, role of court system, local legislative bodies, etc.) "What are the next steps in your community?" (local involvement, voter registration)</p> <p>Special Guest Judge Veronica Galvan King County Superior Court</p>	<p align="center">Please return to DSHS Auditorium</p>
<p>4:30p.m.</p>	<p align="center">Close of the event at DSHS Auditorium LCA Board Members</p>	



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WE WANT TO THANK OUR SPONSORS FOR BRINGING OUR COMMUNITIES TOGETHER!



FOR MORE INFORMATION: INFO@LATINOCIVICALLIANCE.ORG <http://www.latinocivicalliance.org>



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Driving Directions

to the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services Headquarters

Office Building Two (OB-2) • 14th and Jefferson Street • Olympia, Washington 98504

From the North:

Take I-5 Exit 105A. Follow "State Capitol" lane, which parallels the freeway for 1/4 mile. Turn right at the round-a-bout (Jefferson St.). Turn left on 11th Ave., then left on Washington St. Park in the visitor parking lot, on the left side of the street. Follow the signs to OB-2.

From the South:

Take I-5 Exit 105. Keep to the left, following "State Capitol" lane. Turn right at the round-a-bout (Jefferson St.). Turn left on 11th Ave., then left on Washington St. Park in the visitor parking lot, on the left side of the street. Follow the signs to OB-2.

* Information about parking in the NRB Metered Visitor Lot:

Parking costs \$1.50 per hour on weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., but is free on evenings and weekends. Parking fees can be paid by credit and debit cards, \$1 bills or by coin.



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Health Care Legislative Priorities

Latino Civic Alliance supports HB 1669/SB 5625, HB 1321/SB 5305 and HB 1931 / SB 5895, we need to protect existing health care safety net programs that ensure access to care for hundreds of thousands of Washingtonians by examining every available revenue option. The Legislature should ensure enrollees have a choice of Medicaid plans and fund Medicaid outreach to effectively reach Medicaid-eligible individuals and achieve enrollment goals.



Position Paper: Protect Existing Health Care Safety Net Programs

The Legislature should continue to support the health care safety net to ensure that vulnerable Washington residents can get healthy and stay healthy.

State budget deficits continue to put pressure on critical health care safety net programs. Cuts to some of these programs within the past five years have taken a toll on people across the state. The success of coverage expansions, including the Medicaid expansion, has highlighted the benefits of a comprehensive health care safety net across the state. Health care savings from the adoption of Medicaid expansion have helped Washington State preserve other essential services and restore the adult dental benefit for Medicaid adults. Community health centers (CHCs) serve as the primary care safety net for the most vulnerable in our communities and protecting other safety net programs is critical to allowing our state to maintain a healthy safety net – including Medicaid, and other wraparound programs, such as maternity support services and interpreter services.

Medicaid

In Washington State, Medicaid expansion has been the most successful aspect of the Affordable Care Act, successfully enrolling over 450,000 newly eligible adults in addition to adding more than 40,000 children to Apple Health for Kids. The decision to expand Medicaid was a key factor in reducing the number of uninsured in Washington from 16.8 percent to 10.6 percent. This expansion has increased access to more than 400,000 previously uninsured to the right care in the right setting, while decreasing inappropriate utilization of high cost services for preventive care. This has resulted in healthier communities while reducing uncompensated care.

While Washington has expanded Medicaid, our state has maintained comprehensive health benefits for all Apple Health enrollees. The state must continue to fund a health care safety net that includes important Medicaid benefits, like pharmacy and dental for adults. Medicaid adult dental was only restored in early 2014

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and has increased access to services for more than 850,000 adults in our state. Plans and providers also must be paid adequately to ensure access to care.

Maternity Support Services

Improving birth outcomes for mothers and babies is a priority for CHCs – with 15 CHCs throughout the state providing Maternity Support Services (MSS) and more than 20,000 women eligible for these services any point in time. MSS is essential to ensuring mothers and babies have a healthy start – providing enhanced health services to pregnant women as early as possible by increasing early access to prenatal and newborn care, and decreasing maternal morbidity and mortality, low birth-weight babies, and premature births.

Pregnant women with Apple Health coverage can receive MSS during pregnancy and through the postpartum period. Although services can begin any time during the prenatal, delivery or postpartum period, the goal of the program is to get pregnant women into the program as early as possible. It is essential that this program continues to be funded so that low income mothers continue to have access to early interventions that lead to healthy babies.

Interpreter Services

Interpreter services are essential for patients not fluent in English or hearing impaired and their providers. Access to interpreter services removes a significant barrier for providers caring for diverse populations—ensuring that their Medicaid clients who are limited English proficient (LEP) or deaf and hard of hearing have access to needed services. While many CHCs hire multi-lingual staff, they cannot cover the needs of all of their patients without the help of the state's interpreter services program.

Beginning 2012, the state directed cuts of \$6.2 million to the system, developing guidelines for appropriate use of telephonic, video and in-person interpreting, and directing providers to use web-based tools to schedule appointments for services. It is important that there are no further cuts. Without these services many of these individuals would face significant barriers in accessing services and care.

Essential Services

Beyond specific safety net health care programs, the state must continue to adequately fund essential services in our communities, allowing the most vulnerable in our communities to live safe and healthy lives. Health is only fully supported when individuals have access to nutritional food, permanent and stable housing, employment or other educational assistance and other necessary services. An added benefit is that these supportive services are often the entry point for other programs, including health care.

Washington State has made great strides in funding coverage and care for the most vulnerable individuals in our state. Despite tough budget times, it is essential that the legislature continue to recognize the importance of these programs and protect Washington's existing health care safety net.



Position Paper: Evaluate Affordability and Continuity of Coverage

The Legislature should create a Continuity of Coverage Task Force and Washington should evaluate the affordability of health coverage for Washington residents.

The Affordable Care Act has allowed over half a million Washingtonians to enroll in newly available health coverage through Apple Health (Medicaid) and Qualified Health Plans (QHPs). Community health centers (CHCs) have enrolled thousands of Washingtonians in this new coverage over the past year.

However, many people continue to fall through the cracks. Some are not able to afford health coverage while others lose access to their trusted doctors because of minor changes in their circumstances.

Washington should better understand the financial barriers to enrolling in coverage and explore possible solutions to bridge these gaps.

Evaluate Opportunities to Reduce Gaps in Health Coverage

Minor fluctuations in income force many low-income Washingtonians to lose enrollment and shift to alternate forms of public and private health coverage. Even small gaps in coverage due to these transitions can lead to poorer health outcomes since individuals may delay needed care during gaps in coverage. Subsequently, new coverage may require a change in providers that can delay diagnoses and treatments. Such transitions also increase administrative expenses for health carriers, state agencies and the Health Benefit Exchange (HBE).

Evaluating the gaps and transitions in coverage is critical to ensuring that all Washingtonians have the health coverage they need. The state should establish a task force on continuity of coverage to:

- Include input from all interested stakeholders, including patients, consumer advocates, providers, purchasers, Medicaid managed care and commercial health plans, tribal representatives, hospitals, the HBE, the Health Care Authority, the Department of Social and Health Services and the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.
- Collect and analyze data to identify what support is needed to make changes in coverage and to ease consumers' transitions between types of coverage and plans.

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- Evaluate options to reduce gaps in coverage, including successful models in other states.
- Submit a report to the Legislature by December 31, 2015 identifying strategies to reduce gaps in coverage and ease transitions in coverage, including any new regulations and requirements recommended for adoption by state agencies and the HBE Board.

Evaluate Barriers to Affordable Coverage

Despite the availability of subsidized coverage through the Washington Healthplanfinder, many Washingtonians continue to fall through the cracks and remain uninsured. A survey of in-person assisters (IPAs) found that over 80% of IPAs indicated people they assisted had issues related to the

affordability of QHPs offered in the Exchange, including monthly premium amounts, deductibles, and cost-sharing. This resulted in a significant number of people opting out of enrolling in coverage and other people dropping coverage due to their inability to pay. At some community health centers, only 25% of eligible enrollees were able to afford subsidized QHP

coverage. While we know many are unable to purchase coverage, we need more information and analysis to fully understand the barriers that prevent enrollment which may include technology limitations; the costs of premiums, co-pays and deductibles; health care literacy; or others.

Washington needs to better understand the reasons many residents cannot afford coverage and explore potential solutions. The Legislature should appropriate funds that would allow the Office of Financial Management to procure a study that evaluates barriers and solutions to affordability, including churn rates, coverage gaps and a micro-simulation model that considers all eligibility factors, offers of employer-sponsored insurance and state budget offsets. This study should be delivered to the legislature by December 31st, 2015.

A family of 4 earning less than \$47,700 a year will pay up to \$3,000 of their annual income on premiums, with co-pays and deductibles on top of that, which is likely unaffordable for a family trying to keep a roof overhead and food on the table.

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HEALTH CARE/MENTAL HEALTH LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Latino Civic Alliance encourages the Legislature to support Mental Wellness as a core of public health. We support HB1258/SB 5269 and HB1424.

HB 1258 Establishes Joel's law. Concerning court review of detention decisions under the involuntary treatment act. Allows an immediate family member, guardian, or conservator of a person to petition the superior court for review of a designated mental health professional's decision, if the designated mental health professional decides not to detain a person for evaluation and treatment or forty-eight hours have elapsed since the designated mental health professional received notice of the person and has not taken action to have the person detained. Requires the department of social and health services and each regional support network or agency employing designated mental health professionals to publish information in an easily accessible format describing the process for an immediate family member, guardian, or conservator to petition for court review of a detention decision . **SB 5269 Concerning court review of detention decisions under the involuntary treatment act.**

Allows an immediate family member, guardian, or conservator of a person to petition the superior court for review of a designated mental health professional's decision, if the designated mental health professional decides not to: (1) Detain a person for evaluation and treatment; or (2) Take action within forty-eight hours of a request for investigation being submitted to the designated mental health professional. Requires the department of social and health services and each regional support network or agency employing designated mental health professionals to publish information in an easily accessible format describing the process for an immediate family member, guardian, or conservator to petition for court review of a detention decision. Provides that this act is null and void if appropriations are not approved.

HB 1424 Concerning suicide prevention. Requires the department of health to adopt rules establishing minimum standards for the suicide assessment, treatment, and management training programs, including content specific to veterans and the assessment of issues related to imminent harm via lethal means or self-injurious behaviors. Exempts certified registered nurse anesthetists from the training programs.

Mental and substance abuse conditions are among the most common health disorders in the United States, affecting nearly 50% of adults at some time during their lifetime. Nearly 15% of adults will experience a substance use disorder, while approximately 25% of the adult population will experience both a mental and substance use condition. The figures for children are comparable.

Additionally, there is growing evidence of the interaction between mental health conditions and other health conditions such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, HIV/AIDS, and diabetes. When they co-occur and are not effectively treated in an integrated way, the course of illness is negatively affected, costs of treatment are increased and outcomes are typically worse. Additionally, many of the chronic illnesses that account for approximately 75% of health care expenditures in the United States have important behavioral health components such as inactivity, smoking, poor management of chronic stress, etc. It is imperative that we adopt an integrated approach to addressing the health and well-being of the population. Wellness strategies respond to this need

One solution is to support behavioral health integration Community Health Centers (CHCs) which provide their patients with cost-effective care in the right setting and at the right time. They have years of experience providing integrated mental health and chemical dependency services, including brief interventions for patients with low and moderate mental health or chemical dependency conditions, collaborative care for the Medical Care Services (formerly Disability Lifeline) population, and co-location with specialty mental health.

Based on these experiences, the following are principles of integrated care, representing the ideal delivery system. **Collaborative providers** working together at the top of their license (or scope of practice) and across systems of care. Incentivize providers to operate at the **highest level of licensure. Co-located** Services located under the same roof, with no wrong door to access care. **Integrated** Information is integrated in the form of electronic health records, care is integrated in the form of warm hand offs and providing care on-site. **Preventive** allowing for early interventions will catch conditions before they worsen, saving lives and reducing costs.

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Therefore, integrated care should be simultaneously **collaborative, co-located, preventive, and integrated** in primary care setting. This model is the most efficient and provides optimal patient care. Integrated care should also be **person-centered, population-focused and accountable**.

Integrated care will be facilitated by: **Ensuring adequate resources in the primary care setting to integrate behavioral health services**. Primary care needs to be supported in delivery system transformation to appropriately integrate behavioral health services. This includes adequate funding for care coordination, direct behavioral health services and regular follow-up with patients.

Enhance collaboration between primary care and behavioral health providers. Ensure the full implementation of the Affordable Care Act's provisions that address mental health parity, including the removal of visit and provider limitations. Care transitions should happen as needed between primary care and traditional behavioral health settings, thereby encouraging collaboration among all providers.

Directing outpatient behavioral health funding to Medicaid managed care plans will facilitate behavioral health integration in outpatient settings. Adequate funding needs to be allocated to the Medicaid managed care plans to support providers with delivery system transformation, including care management, case consultation, and tele-consultation services. Contract with chemical dependency providers, community mental health centers, and Regional Support Networks, as appropriate.

Washington State Mental Health Services/Hotlines

Sea Mar Community Health Center (206) 786-6976

Seattle – call for locations <http://seamar.org> Alternative languages available: Spanish

Columbia River Mental Health Services (360) 993-3000 Vancouver www.crmhs.org/

Benton/Franklin Counties Crisis Response Unit (509) 783-0500, Kennewick. Language available: Spanish

Catholic Family and Child Services (509) 965-7100 Yakima. Language available: Spanish

Catholic Family and Child Services (509) 946-4645. 2139 VanGiesen, Richland, WA 99353

Central WA Comprehensive Mental Health - Yakima, Yakima County (509) 575-4084. Language: Spanish

Central WA Comprehensive Mental Health - Ellensburg, Kittitas County (509) 925-9861

Central WA Comprehensive Mental Health - Sunnyside, Yakima County (509) 837-2089

Lutheran Community Services Northwest (509) 735-6446. Kennewick

Nueva Esperanza Community Counseling Center - La Clinica (509) 545-6506 Pasco. Language available: Spanish

Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic Behavioral Health Services - Yakima, (509) 453-1344 Spanish available

Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic Behavioral Health Services - Toppenish, (509) 865-5600

Greater Columbia Behavioral Health Regional Support Network (509) 735-8681

Serving Asotin, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Kittitas, Klickitat, Skamania, Walla Walla, Whitman and Yakima Counties. Kennewick. Toll Free: (800) 795-9296. Ombuds Services: (800) 257-0660

24-Hour Crisis Lines:

Washington State Mental Health Crisis Lines: If there is a life-threatening emergency, please call **911**.

Suicide Prevention (800) 273-8255 TTY Users (800) 799-4TTY (4889)

Asotin: (888) 475-5665. Benton-Franklin: (800) 783-0544. Columbia: (866) 382-1164. Garfield: (888) 475-5665

Kittitas: (509) 925-9861. Klickitat: (509) 733-5801/(800) 572-8122. Skamania: (509) 427-3850.

Walla Walla: (509) 527-3278. Whitman: (866) 871-6385. Yakima: (509) 575-4200/(800) 572-8122

Everett : 800-584-3578 CHELAN-DOUGLAS RSN Crisis Line: (509) 662-7105 or (800) 852-2923

Benton/Franklin Counties Crisis Response Unit (509) 783-0500 Kennewick. Language available: Spanish

Blue Mountain Counseling- Dayton. (509) 382-1164.

Catholic Family and Child Services (509) 965-7100

5301 Tieton Drive, Suite C, Yakima, WA 98908-3478. Alternative languages available: Spanish

Catholic Family and Child Services (509) 946-4645. Richland.

Central WA Comprehensive Mental Health - Yakima, (509) 575-4084 Alternative languages available: Spanish

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[Central WA Comprehensive Mental Health](#) - Ellensburg, (509) 925-9861 – Sunnyside (509) 837-2089
Goldendale (509) 773-5801

[Lutheran Community Services Northwest](#) (509) 735-6446. Kennewick, WA

[Nueva Esperanza Community Counseling Center - La Clinica](#) (509) 545-6506 Pasco. Language available: Spanish

[Palouse River Counseling Center](#) (509) 334-1133. Pullman.

[Quality Behavioral Health](#) (509) 758-3341. Clarkston.

Skamania County Community Health (509) 427-3850

[Walla Walla County Department of Human Services](#) (509) 524-2920 Walla Walla. Language available: Spanish

[Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic Behavioral Health Services](#) – Yakima. (509) 453-1344 Available: Spanish

Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic Behavioral Health Services - Toppenish, Yakima County (509) 865-5600

PTSD Information <http://www.ptsdinfo.org/>

NAMI Yakima <http://www.namiyakima.org/>

NAMI Tri-Cities <http://www.owt.com/namitc/>

Hispanic-Latino Mental Health

The Hispanic/ Latino community is made up of people from many different nationalities and races, and educational and socioeconomic levels. The common threads for most are the Spanish language and cultural values.

Culture and ethnicity can influence the way we think about mental illness and mental health services. For example, among some Latinos, depression may be mistaken for nervousness, tiredness or a physical ailment, and may be viewed as something temporary. Some research indicates that older Hispanic adults and Hispanic youth are especially vulnerable to the stresses of immigration and acculturation. Mental illness is common and many individuals, including many Latinos, do not get the help they need often because of the stigma associated with mental illness.

Cultural Issues

Many Hispanics/ Latinos rely on their extended family, community, traditional healers, and/ or churches for help during a health crisis. As a result, thousands of Hispanics/Latinos with mental illness often go without professional mental health treatment.

At-Risk Groups

Studies have shown that older Hispanic adults and youth are especially vulnerable to the stresses of immigration and acculturation. Many older Hispanic Americans find the strain of acculturation overwhelming. Their traditional values and beliefs are often at odds with the new culture, they may lack family support and may face language barriers. Hispanic/ Latino youth also have been found to be at risk for higher levels of emotional distress because of the pressures to rapidly adopt the values of their new culture as well as inequality, poverty, and discrimination. Studies have found that Hispanic/ Latino youth suffer from many of the same emotional problems created by marginalization and discrimination, but without the secure identity and traditional values held by their parents.

Access to Care

Lack of access to mental health services continues to be the most serious problem in the Hispanic/ Latino community. Hispanic Americans use mental-health services far less than other ethnic and racial groups. They also constitute the largest group of uninsured in the U.S.—further limiting access to care. While insurance plays a large role in accessing healthcare, culture and language are also significant barriers. The lack of interpreters and bilingual professionals can interfere with appropriate evaluation, treatment, and emergency response.

Hispanics/ Latinos often have different attitudes about accessing mental health services, and may feel highly stigmatized for doing so. For example, Hispanics/ Latinos often mistake depression for nervousness, tiredness, or even a physical ailment, and may see it as something that is temporary. Affected individuals may not recognize their symptoms as those that require the attention of mental health specialists. Access to culturally appropriate and effective care is critical given that Hispanics/ Latinos have been shown to suffer from mental illnesses or emotional disturbances at a higher rate than other groups.

Mental health services for Hispanics/ Latinos need to be responsive to cultural needs, and also provide appropriate linguistic support. With proper treatment, most symptoms of mental illnesses can be treated or controlled. If the possibility of mental illness is a concern for you or someone you care about consult your family doctor, psychiatrist or other mental health professional.

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CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES - FAIR VOTING ACCESS BILLS

Latino Civic Alliance supports Washington Voting Rights Act, HB 1745 and SH 5668, because it will ensure our communities have a fair chance to elect candidates that represent our communities. We lack fair representation of Latinos and people of color in city council, county and state government positions. WVRA will ensure our government be accountable. We agree that no voter should ever be denied an equal opportunity to influence elections because of the color of their skin or sound of their last name. These protections should be state law - Vote yes to Washington Voting Rights Act.

Support the Washington Voting Rights Act



The WVRA Strengthens Democracy

In a healthy democracy, all voices need to be heard. But in some jurisdictions, outdated election systems prevent all neighborhoods and communities from being represented. The Washington Voting Rights Act (WVRA) empowers local governments to take the lead in fixing this problem with tailored solutions to fit that jurisdiction, as well as a roadmap, data, and timetables to avoid litigation. This helps ensure fairness in local elections.

The WVRA Promotes Local Control

The WVRA recognizes that every local community is different. It does not mandate any particular voting system. Instead, it provides a roadmap for local governments to tailor their own solutions to meet local needs. It keeps control in the hands of local officials, rather than federal judges. And it allows local governments to hold elections according to existing timetables, avoiding additional cost.

A State Voting Rights Act Helps Avoid Costly Federal Litigation

The federal Voting Rights Act has been an important tool for defending voting rights. But its focus is on litigation in federal court, which can be highly complex and very costly. Washington needs its own, more flexible voting rights law. The WVRA will not only protect our state's communities, but will provide cities a pathway to avoid expensive federal litigation. The city of Yakima recently was successfully sued under the federal law, and its costs for the suit exceed \$800,000 – and are still mounting.

The WVRA Makes Government Accountable

The WVRA makes local government more accountable to the people it serves. Currently, nearly all local elections in Washington use at-large voting systems. Where bloc voting occurs, some communities are excluded from a fair chance at electing candidates of their choice. The WVRA will give all communities an equal opportunity to elect officials who represent their needs and interests.

The WVRA is a Sensible Solution

The WVRA specifically focuses on local elections—state races are not included. Nor does it change results of past elections. Rather, it helps local governments fix the exclusion problem by allowing them to voluntarily change their voting systems. The provisions of the WVRA allow ample time to act before going to court. And the bill includes strong protections against frivolous lawsuits, as well as safe harbor for jurisdictions that make changes.

This Model Has Worked Elsewhere

In 2002, California passed the California Voting Rights Act. Since then, its VRA has worked to improve the fairness of local governments there where local elections systems have excluded minority communities. Far more jurisdictions have changed their systems voluntarily than have gone to litigation. The WVRA is modeled on that successful legislation.

Protect Local Democracy – Pass the WVRA

THE WVRA helps local government ensure fairness and accountability in their elections. No voter or community should be denied an equal opportunity to influence government because of an outdated voting system. The protections of the WVRA improve election processes, empower local governments, and promote fair representation, ensuring that our democracy works for everyone.

2015 WASHINGTON STATE LATINO LEGISLATIVE DAY

Derechos civiles prioridades legislativas - leyes equitativas de acceso al voto.

La Alianza Cívica Latina apoya la Ley de Derechos Electorales de Washington, HB 1745 y SH 5668, porque están asegurando que nuestras comunidades tengan la oportunidad de elegir a los candidatos que representaran a sus comunidades. Los Latinos y personas de color carecemos de una Representación justa en el gobierno de la ciudad, del condado y del gobierno estatal. WVRA se asegurará de que nuestro gobierno sea responsable. Creemos que a ningún votante se le debe negar la misma oportunidad de influir en las elecciones debido al color de su piel o su apellido. Estas protecciones deben ser ley estatal - Vote sí a la Ley de Derechos Electorales de Washington.

Apoye la ley de derechos electorales de Washington



WVRA fortalece la democracia

En una democracia saludable, todas las voces deben ser escuchadas. Sin embargo, en algunas jurisdicciones, los sistemas electorales obsoletos impiden que todos los barrios y comunidades sean representados. La Ley de Derecho al Voto de Washington (WVRA) faculta a los gobiernos locales a tomar las iniciativas para liderar las soluciones adecuadas a esa jurisdicción, y así evitar litigios. Esto ayuda a asegurar la equidad en las elecciones locales.

WVRA Promueve Control Local

El WVRA reconoce que cada comunidad es diferente. No ordena un sistema de votación en particular. En su lugar, proporciona una hoja de ruta para que los gobiernos locales creen sus propias soluciones y así satisfacer sus necesidades locales. Mantiene el control en manos de las autoridades locales, en lugar de los jueces federales. Y permite que los gobiernos locales tengan elecciones de acuerdo a las fechas programadas, evitando costos adicionales.

Una Ley de Derechos Electorales Estatales Ayuda a evitar litigios Federal Costosos

La Ley Federal de Derechos Electorales ha sido una herramienta importante para la defensa del derecho al voto. Esta se centra en litigios de los tribunales federales, que pueden ser muy complejos y muy costosos. Washington necesita la suya propia, una ley del derecho al voto más flexible. El WVRA no sólo proteger a las comunidades de nuestro estado, si no que proporcionará a las ciudades una vía para evitar litigios federales caros. Recientemente, la ciudad de Yakima fue exitosamente demandada bajo la ley federal, y sus costos de juicio excedieron los \$ 800.000 - y estos siguen aumentando.

El WVRA vuelve al Gobierno Responsable

El WVRA hace al gobierno local más responsables ante las personas que sirve. Actualmente, casi todas las elecciones locales de Washington utilizan sistemas de votación general. Cuando se produce la votación en bloque, algunas comunidades quedan excluidas de la posibilidad de elegir a los candidatos que desean. El WVRA dará a todas las comunidades una oportunidad equitativa y justa para elegir a los funcionarios que representan a sus necesidades e intereses.

El WVRA es una solución sensata. El WVRA se centra específicamente en elecciones locales—elecciones estatales no están incluidas. Tampoco cambia los resultados de las elecciones anteriores. Más bien, ayuda a los gobiernos locales solucionar el problema de la exclusión permitiéndoles cambiar voluntariamente sus sistemas de votación. Las disposiciones de la WVRA permiten suficiente tiempo para actuar antes de ir a la corte. Y el proyecto de ley incluye importantes disposiciones contra demandas frívolas, así como protecciones para las jurisdicciones que realizan cambios.

Este modelo ha funcionado en otros lugares

En 2002, California aprobó la Ley de Derechos Electorales de California. Desde entonces, su VRA ha ayudado a mejorar la equidad de los gobiernos locales cuyos sistemas electorales locales habían excluido a las comunidades minoritarias. Muchas jurisdicciones han cambiado sus sistemas voluntariamente sin que hayan sido demandadas judicialmente. El WVRA se base en esta legislación exitosa.

Proteja la Democracia Local – Apoye la WVRA

LA WVRA ayuda a los gobiernos locales a garantizar la equidad y responsabilidad en sus elecciones. A ningún votante o comunidad se le debe negar la misma oportunidad de influir en el gobierno a causa de un sistema de votación anticuado. Las protecciones de la WVRA mejoran los procesos electorales, la autonomía de los gobiernos locales, y promueve la representación justa, asegurando que nuestra democracia funcione para todos.

2015 WASHINGTON STATE LATINO LEGISLATIVE DAY

EDUCATION LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

FOR FINANCIAL AID & HIGHER EDUCATION FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

Latino Civic alliance supports College Bound Scholarship. Our children should pursue the American dream and get a higher education. Our students and families have contributed to our economy paying taxes, and have a strong purchasing power. Investing in our children will increase our local work force when they graduate. Moreover we believe that all students of color have the civil right to pursue higher education. We support the minimum 2.0 GPA requirement. The house and senate should pass legislation to guarantee this right.

2015 LEAP Policy Brief

Help undocumented student's access postsecondary education in Washington

Washington is fortunate to have a progressive-minded state Legislature that, beginning in 2003, has approved laws to help undocumented students to access postsecondary education—colleges, technical schools and universities. Indeed, most new jobs created today require at least two years of education beyond high school, according to national experts.

Important actions taken by Washington's Legislature include:

- In 2003, the Legislature approved HB 1079, which allows undocumented students to pay in-state tuition rates at Washington colleges and universities.
- In 2014, the Legislature approved SB 6523, the REAL Hope Act (DREAM Act), enabling undocumented students to be eligible to apply for State Need Grant funds, provided they meet the same low-income requirements all other students must meet. As a result, nearly 800 undocumented students who are enrolled in Washington colleges in 2014-15 are receiving financial aid. The estimated value of the scholarship awards this year benefiting undocumented students is slightly more than \$3 million. When it approved the REAL Hope Act, the Legislature added \$5 million to the State Need Grant fund to accommodate the additional students.

2015 Legislative Session Priority

LEAP's priority for this session of the Legislature is to enable undocumented students to be eligible for the College Bound Scholarship, a state program that guarantees full-tuition, four-year scholarships to students who qualify.

To qualify for the College Bound Scholarship, 7th and 8th grade students must sign a pledge to graduate from high school with a minimum 2.0 GPA and stay out of trouble (no felonies). Nearly 90% of eligible middle-school students are currently signing the college-bound pledge.

As it is, thousands of undocumented students are among those who are recruited and encouraged to sign up for the College Bound Scholarship. In many cases, no one tells the students that they are not eligible, due to their legal status.

Often times undocumented students learn they are not eligible during their junior or senior years of high school. This is disappointing and devastating news to them. As a result many lose hope, and losing hope is rarely helpful to them.

Request to the Washington State Legislature: Introduce and approve a bill that allows undocumented students to qualify for the College Bound Scholarship. This can be accomplished through a change of one letter in law, as drafted by Rep. Zack Hudgins (but it has not yet been introduced).

Rationale:

- Approving a bill such as the Hudgins' bill would align eligibility criteria for College Bound Scholarship with the State Need Grant program. This alignment would help the institutions in administering the funds. It's confusing to financial aid offices when they must determine who qualifies for each program based on legal status. Approximately 90% of funds for college-bound eligible students come from SNG funds.

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- Approving the Hudgins' bill would help many deserving, hard-working students who came to the U.S. at early ages. These students did not willfully cross the border or violate our laws. And, many are graduating from high school with honors, even as class valedictorians, fully prepared to succeed in colleges and universities.
- It's the right thing to do. Our elected representatives should do all they can to ensure that undocumented students who are educated in our K-12 schools have the same opportunities as other students and whose families cannot afford the cost of postsecondary education.

For Information: barbaraguzman@seamarchc.org , 206.430.2317

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EDUCATION LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Latino Civic Alliance supports HB1541, HB1408, HB1783, and HB1560/SB5565. Supporting these bills is an investment worthwhile for our children of color to have a fair education opportunity and will increase the likelihood to pursue higher education and have a positive contribution to our society. It will assure teachers working with all students are certified, a task force be established to determine best practice and accountability measures for all students, that students who are expelled or suspended get educational services, that data be collected on the students being disciplined based on ethnicity, further breaks down data collection based on ethnicity and race, expands scholarships for teachers who not only want to go into math or science field but also bilingual education and expands new teacher evaluation to include cultural competency. Our children deserve better and need our support. This legislation will create a fair opportunity for children. The House and Senate should pass these bills.

HB 1541 Implementing strategies to close the educational opportunity gap, based on the recommendations of the educational opportunity gap oversight and accountability committee. Adopts policies and procedures to implement the following recommendations of the educational opportunity gap oversight and accountability committee: (1) Reduce the length of time students of color are excluded from school due to suspension and expulsion and provide students support for reengagement plans; (2) Enhance the cultural competence of current and future educators and classified staff; (3) Endorse all educators in English language learner and second language acquisition; (4) Account for the transitional bilingual instruction program instructional services provided to English language learner students; (5) Analyze the opportunity gap through deeper disaggregation of student demographic data; (6) Invest in the recruitment, hiring, and retention of educators of color; (7) Incorporate integrated student services and family engagement; and (8) Strengthen student transitions at each stage of the education development pathway.

HB 1408 Concerning the development of a definition and model for "family engagement coordinator" and other terms used interchangeably with it. Requires the office of the education ombuds to: (1) Together with the educational opportunity gap oversight and accountability committee, develop and recommend to the education committees of the legislature a definition for the term that is variously referred to as "family engagement coordinator," "parent and family engagement coordinator," and "parent involvement coordinator"; and a model or framework for such a staff position; and (2) In developing the model or framework for the staff position, collaborate with the office of the superintendent of public instruction, the Washington education association, the public school employees of Washington, the Washington school counselors' association, the association of Washington school principals, and the state school directors' association. Expires July 1, 2016.

HB 1783 Expanding dual language and bilingual instruction for early learners through secondary students. Creates the K-12 dual language expansion grant program to build and expand dual language programs and to create state level infrastructure dedicated to dual language instruction. Creates the dual language teacher pipeline scholarship program to build capacity for bilingual and dual language programming by developing a pipeline for dual language teachers, from early childhood to K-12 education. Creates the early learning bilingual and dual language grant program to provide technical and financial support to increase bilingual and dual language instruction in early learning settings where there are a high number of English language learners and to create a statewide strategy for increasing bilingual education among providers enrolled in the early achievers quality rating and improvement system.

HB 1560 Recognizing the thirty-first of March as Cesar Chavez Day. SB 5565 Recognizing César Chávez day. Recognizes the thirty-first day of March as Cesar Chavez Day.

It is a goal of the state to provide for a public school system that gives all students the opportunity to achieve personal and academic success. This goal contains within it a promise of excellence and opportunity for all students, not just some students. In establishing the educational opportunity gap oversight and accountability committee in 2009, the legislature recognized that additional work was needed to fulfill the promise of excellence and opportunity for students of certain demographic groups, including English language learners.

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HB 1541 will decrease the disproportionate representation of students of color in disciplinary actions in schools; Enhance the cultural competence of current and future educators; Provide English language learner and second language acquisition endorsements for all educators; Create new English language learner accountability benchmarks; Provide tools for deeper data analysis and disaggregation, student demographic data to inform instructional strategies to close the opportunity gap; Invest in the recruitment and retention of educators of color these recommendations represent a holistic approach to making progress toward closing the opportunity. Closing the opportunity gap requires highly skilled, culturally competent, and diverse educators who understand the communities and cultures that students come from; it requires careful monitoring of not only the academic performance but also the educational environment for all students, at a fine grain of detail to assure adequate accountability; and it requires a robust program of instruction, including appropriately trained educators, to help English language learners gain language proficiency as well as academic proficiency. Closing the educational achievement gap will increase the graduation rate for our Latino children.

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LABOR LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Latino Civic Alliance supports HB 1354 / SB 5562 Anti Retaliation, HB 1355 / SB 5285 Minimum Wage, HB 1356 / SB 5306 Paid Sick and Safe Leave, HB 1646 . SB 5630 Equal Pay Opportunity Act, SB 5987 Concerning transportation revenue, SB 5988 Concerning additive transportation funding and appropriations and SB 5989 Authorizing bonds for transportation funding.

HB 1354 / SB 5562 Concerning the employee anti-retaliation act. Addresses retaliation and discrimination against employees and providing protection for employees.

HB 1355 / SB 5285 Increasing the minimum hourly wage to twelve dollars over four years. Increases the minimum wage to twelve dollars an hour over a four-year time period.

HB 1356 / SB 5306 Establishing minimum standards for sick and safe leave from employment. Provides employees with sick and safe leave from employment.

HB 1646 / SB 5630 Enacting the equal pay opportunity act by amending and enhancing enforcement of the equal pay act and protecting worker communications about wages and employment opportunities.

Establishes the equal pay opportunity act. Updates the existing state equal pay act to: (1) Address income disparities, employer discrimination, and retaliation practices; and (2) Reflect the equal status of workers in the state.

SB 5987 Concerning transportation revenue. Addresses transportation revenue with regard to: (1) Motor vehicle and special fuel taxes, nonhighway refunds, and handling loss deductions; (2) License fees by weight and freight project fees, electric vehicle fees, commercial driver's license fees, enhanced driver's license and identocard fees, studded tire fees, report of sale and transitional ownership fees, and intermittent-use trailer fees; and (3) Local revenue options related to transportation benefit districts, community transit sales tax, passenger-only ferry service districts, and Sound Transit funding. Includes retrofit projects on county roads as an eligible project for purposes of the complete streets grant program. Creates the Washington electric vehicle infrastructure bank to provide financial assistance for the installation of publicly accessible electric vehicle charging stations within the state. Creates the connecting Washington account. Provides contingent effective dates.

SB 5988 Concerning additive transportation funding and appropriations. Adopts the additive transportation budget.

HB 5989 Authorizing bonds for transportation funding. Requires the state finance committee, upon the request of the department of transportation, to issue general obligation bonds to provide funds for the location, design, right-of-way, and construction of selected projects or improvements that are identified as connecting Washington projects or improvements in an omnibus transportation appropriations act.



2015 WASHINGTON STATE LATINO LEGISLATIVE DAY

PUBLIC SAFETY PRIORITY-HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN WASHINGTON STATE

Latino Civic alliance supports SB 5883, SB 5884, SB 5342 and HB 1139 to address human trafficking and protect our communities. Perpetrators target many ethnicities and vulnerable communities in our state. We are learning a large percentage of victims are Latinos including women, men and children. Many victims including undocumented immigrants are ashamed to ask for help and continue being held hostage by their perpetrators. Resources to protect victims are very limited in our state to provide intensive mental health treatment for victims to recover. Many victims including children are missing today leaving parents families devastated. The most important thing we can do to help and improve this situation is to admit there is a problem in our state and communities. This will ensure victims and families know they have our respect and support to help them. LCA is committed to work with other organizations statewide to help create more awareness of this unfortunate epidemic. LCA is committed to work with legislators to create legislation and fund intervention mental health services to support victims.

SB 5883 - Requiring that human trafficking information be posted in public restrooms. SB 5883 requires establishments that maintain restrooms for use by the public to post, in all restrooms of the establishment, a notice which may be in a variety of languages and include toll-free telephone numbers a person may call for assistance, including numbers for the national human trafficking resource center and the state office of crime victims' advocacy. Authorizes the office of crime victims' advocacy to work with businesses, other establishments, and human trafficking victim advocates to adopt policies for the placement of the notices.

SB 5884 - Concerning the trafficking of persons. SB 5884 designates the office of crime victims advocacy as the single point of contact in state government regarding the trafficking of persons. Creates the Washington state clearinghouse on human trafficking as an information portal to share and coordinate statewide efforts to combat the trafficking of persons. Reestablishes the state task force against the trafficking of persons which will be chaired by the director of the office of crime victims' advocacy. Delays, until June 30, 2017, the expiration of the commercially sexually exploited children statewide coordinating committee. Requires establishments that maintain restrooms for use by the public to post, in all restrooms of the establishment, a notice which may be in a variety of languages and include toll-free telephone numbers a person may call for assistance, including numbers for the national human trafficking resource center and the office of crime victims advocacy.

HB 1139 - Establishing a work group to study human trafficking of youth issues. HB 1139 creates a work group, administered by the department of commerce, to study the implementation of chapter 289, Laws of 2010 (ESSB 6476, relating to sex crimes involving minors) throughout the state and report its findings and recommendations.

SB 5342 Concerning definitions related to human trafficking. Adds the following definitions for the purposes of chapter 19.320 RCW (human trafficking): Any person; forced labor; human trafficking; menace of any penalty; and work or service.

There Are More Slaves Today Than At Any Time in Human History!

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation declaring that slaves living in the southern states were free. The proclamation led to the 13th Amendment to the Constitution which ended slavery in all of the United States.

Slavery is illegal in almost every nation on earth but slavery still exists everywhere! Human trafficking is a modern day form of slavery. There are 27 million slaves in the world today, more than in 400 years of the trans-

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Atlantic slave trade. 70 per cent of the victims are female. 50 per cent of the victims are children. Two million children are trapped in the sex trade. After drug dealing, human trafficking is the second largest and the fastest growing criminal industry in the world.

The United States is a destination country for thousands of men, women, and children trafficked largely from Mexico and East and South Asia, Central America, Africa, and Europe, for the purposes of sexual and labor exploitation. Around 50,000 people are trafficked into the U.S. each year. On average, in the past half-hour, one more person will have been trafficked to the United States into slavery.

Trafficking often – but not always – involves transporting people from city to city, state to state, or country to country increasing the victims' vulnerability and isolation.

The key element of human trafficking is the use of force, fraud, coercion, or the threat of, creating a climate of fear to compel a person into any form of work against her or his will, for no pay beyond subsistence. Some common coercive measures are threats of harm to the trafficked person or their loved ones, taking travel documents, debt bondage, withholding wages, or physical or sexual assault. Some trafficking victims, responding to fraudulent offers of employment in the United States, migrate willingly—legally and illegally—and are subsequently subjected to conditions of involuntary servitude or debt bondage at work sites or in commercial sex.

Human Trafficking victims are found working in construction, landscaping, food processing, hotels, sweatshops, domestic labor, restaurants, nail salon, agriculture, drug smuggling, sex trade, begging, as nannies and in forced and/or arrange marriage.

Sexual Trafficking, for adult victims is a commercial sex act induced by force, fraud, or coercion however for minor victims, sex trafficking does not required to be induced by force, any person under 18 years of age engaged in prostitution, voluntarily or involuntarily, is a victim of human trafficking, regardless of citizenship or whether or not movement has taken place. Be alert, recruitment is happening everywhere where kids/teens hangout, included the mall!

Our federal and State laws protect trafficking victims providing services to survivors and allowing them to remain in the U.S. through application for T-1 Visa.

Because Human Trafficking has increased in Washington State, more awareness and transparency is needed to combat the problem. Washington State's international seaports and proximity to Canada and Mexico make us a favorable location for entry. Washington's highway system, specifically the I-5 corridor, remains the most commonly used drug smuggling route into and through the region and it is of high risk for trafficking. Any form of trafficking in people is a gross violation of human rights and must be fought.

You can make a difference. Be alert, be the eyes and the voice of your community. Inform yourself. Learn the signs. Alert your kids. Tell a friend.

Victim Assistance National hotline, available 24/7 1-888-373-7888



[WARN | Washington Anti-Trafficking Response Network](http://warn-traffic.org)

WARN is a coalition of organizations that victims of human and sex trafficking and increase victim identification.

<http://warn-traffic.org>

Victim Assistance Line 206.245.0782

2015 WASHINGTON STATE LATINO LEGISLATIVE DAY

Prioridad de Seguridad Pública - Trata de Personas en el Estado de Washington

Alianza Cívica Latina apoya SB 5883, SB 5884, SB 5342 y HB 1139 para hacer frente a la trata de personas y proteger a nuestras comunidades. Los traficantes de personas victimizan a personas de muchas etnias y a otras comunidades vulnerables en nuestro estado. Estamos aprendiendo que un gran porcentaje de las víctimas son latinos, incluyendo hombres, mujeres y niños. Muchas de las víctimas, incluyendo inmigrantes indocumentados tienen vergüenza de pedir ayuda y siguen siendo rehenes de los traficantes. Los recursos para proteger a las víctimas y proporcionarles tratamiento de salud mental intensivos para que se recuperen son muy limitados en nuestro estado. Hoy, muchas personas, incluidos niños están desaparecidos dejando sus familias devastadas. La cosa más importante que podemos hacer para ayudar y mejorar esta situación es admitir que hay un problema en las comunidades de nuestro estado. Esto garantizará a las víctimas y las familias saber que tienen nuestro respeto y apoyo. LCA se ha comprometido a trabajar con organizaciones en todo el estado para ayudar a crear más conciencia sobre esta lamentable epidemia. LCA se ha comprometido a trabajar con los legisladores para crear legislación y soportar los servicios de salud mental para ayudar a las víctimas

SB 5883 - Exige que información sobre la trata de personas se publique en los baños públicos. SB 5883 exige a las entidades que mantienen los baños públicos a publicar, en todos los baños del establecimiento, un aviso en varios idiomas, que incluya los números de teléfono gratuitos a los que se pueda llamar para asistencia, incluyendo los números del centro de recursos nacional de la trata de personas y la oficina estatal de defensa de las víctimas de delitos. Autoriza a la oficina de defensa de las víctimas a trabajar con las empresas, otros establecimientos, y defensores de las víctimas la trata de personas para que adopten políticas para la colocación de los avisos.

SB 5884 - En cuanto a la trata de personas. SB 5884 designa a la oficina de defensa de las víctimas de delitos como el único punto de contacto del gobierno estatal con respecto a la trata de personas. Crea el centro de información de la trata de personas del estado de Washington como un portal de información para compartir y coordinar los esfuerzos de todo el estado para combatir la trata de personas.

Restablece el grupo de trabajo estatal contra la trata de personas que será presidido por el director de la oficina de defensa de las víctimas de delitos. Retrasa hasta el 30 de junio de 2017, la expiración del comité coordinador de los niños víctimas de explotación sexual comercial en todo el estado.

Requiere a las entidades que mantienen los baños públicos a publicar, en todos los baños del establecimiento, un aviso en varios idiomas, que incluya los números de teléfono gratuitos a los que se pueda llamar para asistencia, incluyendo los números del centro nacional de recursos de la trata de personas y la oficina estatal de defensa de las víctimas de delitos.

HB 1139 - El establecimiento de un grupo de trabajo para estudiar la trata de personas de jóvenes. HB 1139 crea un grupo de trabajo, administrado por el Departamento de Comercio, para estudiar la aplicación del capítulo 289, Leyes de 2010 (ESSB 6476, relativa a los delitos sexuales con menores de edad) en todo el estado y notificar sus conclusiones y recomendaciones.

Hoy hay más esclavos que en cualquier otro momento de la historia humana!

El Presidente Abraham Lincoln emitió la Proclamación de Emancipación en 1863 la cual declaró la libertad a todos los esclavos que vivían en los estados del Sur. Esta proclamación llevó a la Decimotercera Enmienda de la Constitución, que puso fin a la esclavitud en todos los Estados Unidos.

La esclavitud es ilegal en casi todas las naciones de la tierra pero la esclavitud sigue existiendo en todas partes! La trata de personas es una forma de esclavitud moderna. Hoy en el mundo hay 27 millones de esclavos, hay más esclavos ahora que en los 400 años del comercio de esclavos transatlántico. El 70 % de las víctimas son mujeres. El 50 % de las víctimas son niños. Hay 2 millones de niños atrapados en el comercio

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sexual. Después del tráfico de drogas, la trata de personas es la segunda industria criminal más grande del mundo y la de más rápido crecimiento.

Los Estados Unidos es un país de destino para miles de hombres, mujeres y niños víctimas de la trata principalmente procedentes de México, Este y Sur de Asia, América Central, África y Europa para fines de explotación sexual y laboral. Alrededor de 50.000 personas son víctimas de trata cada año en los EE.UU. En promedio, en la última media hora, una persona más ha sido traficada a los Estados Unidos para ser esclavizada.

La Trata de personas a menudo - pero no siempre - implica el transporte de personas desde una ciudad a otra, de un estado a otro, o de un país a otro aumentando así la vulnerabilidad y aislamiento de las víctimas.

El elemento clave en la trata de personas es el uso de la fuerza, el fraude, la coacción o la amenaza, creando así un clima de miedo para obligar a las víctimas a realizar cualquier tipo de trabajo, sin pago alguno más allá de la subsistencia. Las medidas coercitivas comunes son las amenazas de daño a la víctima de trata o a sus seres queridos, la retención de pasaportes, visas y tarjetas de identificación, la servidumbre por deudas, la retención de salarios o agresión física y/o sexual.

Algunas de las víctimas de trata, han respondido a ofertas fraudulentas de empleo en los Estados Unidos, emigrando voluntariamente -legal o ilegal- y una vez llegados a los Estados Unidos son sometidos a condiciones de servidumbre involuntaria o servidumbre por deudas en sus lugares de trabajo o en el comercio sexual.

A las víctimas de la trata de personas las podemos encontrar trabajando en la construcción, jardinería, industria de alimentos, hoteles, talleres, trabajo doméstico, restaurantes, salones de belleza, agricultura, tráfico ilícito de drogas, comercio sexual, mendigando, como niñeras, en matrimonios arreglados y/o forzados.

La explotación sexual para las víctimas adultas, es un acto sexual comercial inducido por la fuerza, fraude o coerción, sin embargo para las víctimas menores de 18 años el acto sexual comercial no necesita haber sido inducido por la fuerza, cualquier persona menor de 18 años de edad que ejerza la prostitución, voluntaria o involuntariamente, es víctima de la trata de personas, independientemente de su nacionalidad o si ha sido o no transportada de un lugar a otro. ¡Este alerta, el reclutamiento de niños/jóvenes ocurre en todos los lugares donde los niños/jóvenes se juntan, incluso en el mall!

Nuestras leyes Estatales y la ley federal protegen a las víctimas de la trata de personas proveyéndoles servicios y permitiéndoles permanecer en los EE.UU. solicitando la Visa T-1

Porque la trata de personas se ha incrementado en el Estado de Washington, una mayor conciencia y transparencia es necesaria en nuestras comunidades para así trabajar juntos y combatir el problema. Los puertos marítimos internacionales de nuestro estado y la proximidad a Canadá y a México, nos hacen un lugar favorable para el tráfico de personas. El sistema de carreteras de Washington, especialmente el corredor de la I-5 que va desde Canadá a México, es el más usado para el tráfico de droga y de alto riesgo para el tráfico de personas. La highway 5 corredor Canadá -México es una ruta bien conocida por el tráfico de personas.

Cualquier forma de trata de personas es una violación grave a los derechos humanos que debe ser combatida.

Usted puede hacer la diferencia. Este alerta, sea los ojos y la voz de su comunidad.

Infórmese. Aprenda los signos. Alerte a sus hijos. Cuénteles a un amigo. Línea Nacional de Asistencia a las víctimas, disponible 24/7 1-888-3737-888



[WARN | Washington Anti-Trafficking Response Network](http://warn-traffic.org)

<http://warn-traffic.org> Línea de asistencia a las víctimas 206.245.0782

2015 WASHINGTON STATE LATINO LEGISLATIVE DAY

JUVENILE JUSTICE PRIORITY 1

CONTINUE TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY BASED INTENSIVE INTERVENTION AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO INCARCERATION

The Latino Civic Alliance supports Community Based Intensive Intervention as an alternative to incarceration. It is imperative we restructure the current path to treatment and services for youth who are guilty of committing a crime under the current law by carrying a firearm. It is important that the judicial system creates a different path of intervention for a youth with conduct disorder versus youth who are suffering the consequences of living under a dysfunctional family system in need of guidance and rehabilitation.

In the current system a youth committing a crime is treated based on the number of offenses not on the specific clinical characteristics of the youth. In order to accomplish this, the Latino Civic Alliance supports the need to have a youth offender:

- Receive an integrated multidisciplinary assessment that evaluates the youth holistically;
- The multidisciplinary evaluation should assess the need for Mental Health, Chemical Dependency and Physical Health services.
- The evaluation should determine the need for a culturally relevant and appropriate community-based intervention characterized by wrap-around services. These services will coordinate drug and alcohol treatment, individual and family counseling, academic and vocational training and employment, providing the appropriate services not only to the youth but to the youth's family.
- The evaluation also should determine if the youth suffers from a clinical diagnosis of a conduct disorder that in some cases could be benefited from Inpatient treatment and confinement.

We believe evidence based practices will improve the lives of Latino youth. We believe providing options to our youth who are in need of treatment is critically needed and is possible if we unify our efforts.

The Latino Civic Alliance (LCA) is committed to advocate for intervention that will end the violence between our youth and the negative impact to their families. The LCA is committed to partner with other organizations serving our communities and advocate for legislation that will include sufficient funding for community based treatment as alternative to incarceration. We believe it will provide a healthier outcome for our communities.

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JUVENILE JUSTICE PRIORITY 2 SEALING JUVENILE RECORDS

Latino Civic Alliance support HB 1481 and SB 5664.

HB 1481 Concerning the sealing of juvenile records and fines imposed in juvenile cases addresses the sealing of juvenile records and fines imposed in juvenile cases.

SB 5564 Concerning the sealing of juvenile records and fines imposed in juvenile cases eliminates most non-restitution legal financial obligations for juvenile offenders.

Latino Civic Alliance believes that juveniles should be held accountable if they commit crimes, especially serious crimes that cause harm to others. However, good public policy requires that we consider how a juvenile conviction record will impede their search for employment or housing, especially when the crime committed was non-violent. We believe rehabilitation services should be provided to help them achieve a successful future. Once a juvenile has served their time, barriers to fulfilling basic needs such as housing and work must be removed in order that they can lead productive and fulfilling lives.

An inability to get a job or find housing because a landlord or employer rejects them based on their past leads to hopelessness. Often, juveniles who have been incarcerated have personal experiences that lead them down the path they are on. These circumstances leave them most vulnerable. This is a constitutional and human rights issue.

We believe that it is necessary to protect juvenile records. Washington State emphasizes rehabilitation and, in fact, has one of the most effective rehabilitation programs in the country. The current sealing process is difficult and costly, especially for those who use private attorneys. Applicants must gather their histories (many counties charge for providing them); notify authorities in every local jurisdiction where they have a record; apply for each record they want to seal; pay any restitution owed; undergo a court hearing; and deliver motions, notices and certified copies of any final order to seal their records to at least four different state agencies. It is reported that fewer than one-tenth of eligible juvenile records actually get sealed — far fewer in the case of minority offenders who are already arrested and convicted in disproportionate numbers. The record-sealing process compounds wider patterns of discrimination in the criminal justice system. Furthermore, it may distort the subsequent choices made by landlords, employers and schools in a way that disfavors those young people who have demonstrated comprehension that their poor choices and actions as a juvenile were wrong and who have put forth effort to attend college, receiving degrees, and become productive members of the community. We believe our youth should get a second chance if they have proven to be respectful and abiding citizens.

Latino Civic Alliance supports HB 1898. We believe children should be protected from being further traumatized through the legal process.

HB 1898 Concerning awareness of the possibility of children testifying remotely in certain cases. Requires the criminal justice training commission to: (1) Include in its training session on investigating and prosecuting sexual assault cases a reference to the possibility that a court may allow children under the age of fourteen to testify in a room outside the presence of the defendant and the jury; and (2) Annually survey law enforcement and prosecuting agencies regarding, with respect to the preceding year: (a) The frequency of cases where children under the age of fourteen have elected not to testify, including the reasons for the election not to testify; (b) the number of cases where remote testimony was used and whether those cases resulted in conviction; and (c) the total number of child sexual abuse cases referred for prosecution and the number of those cases that were prosecuted.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Latino Civic Alliance supports HB 1348 / SB 5311 and HB 1448. We support CIT (**Crisis Intervention Team**) programs which are local initiatives designed to improve the way law enforcement and the community respond to people experiencing mental health crises. They are built on strong partnerships between law enforcement, mental health provider agencies and individuals and families affected by mental illness

HB 1348 / SB 5311 Requiring crisis intervention training for peace officers. Establishes the Douglas M. Ostling act. Requires the criminal justice training commission to provide crisis intervention training to new full-time law enforcement officers employed after July 1, 2017, by a state, county, or municipal law enforcement agency. Provides that this act is null and void if appropriations are not approved.

HB 1448 Providing procedures for responding to reports of threatened or attempted suicide. Establishes Sheena and Chris Henderson's law. Provides procedures for responding to reports of threatened or attempted suicide.

Latino Civic Alliance supports our law enforcement officer and understands the challenges they face. We believe they have the training and resources to properly manage challenges situations with stakeholders having mental health issues. We believe they should have **in-depth mental health knowledge and crisis resolution skills**. The goal is for police officers responding in a situation in a way that will reduce risk of violence and injury to anyone involved. The goal should be to prevent incarceration, and instead link people with the treatment they need.

Communities large and small are seeking answers to managing crisis issues and crisis services. When changes are mandated, community collaborations and partnerships are the key. Advocates have long asserted that law enforcement personnel do not receive adequate mental health training, resulting in ineffective and sometimes fatal encounters or outcomes.

CIT partnerships have led to changes in existing systems and stimulated the development of new infrastructures for services. Suicide attempts and mental health crisis concerns are recognized as a priority. Crises are about people, about our community, our families, our friends, and our loved ones. CIT is founded on principles of dignity, understanding, kindness, hope and dedication.

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IMMIGRATION LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Latino Civic Alliance supports HB1716 Family Unity Act and HB We ask that legislators allow a hearing work session to address this bill and move forward with its passage. HB1716 is legislation that will allow our respective law enforcement in local government to continue their duties and protect our communities by not acting as immigration officers. This has created distrust in our communities with law enforcement that have worked very hard to build. We understand that law enforcement does not want to act as immigration officers. HB1716 will ensure the unfair responsibility be removed from them and placed upon Homeland Security Immigration Office as it should be.

Latino Civic Alliance supports Immigration principles and a path to citizenship for all individuals. Washington State and our country have contributed greatly by the contributions of immigrants and refugees to our economy. We support US congress to commit to fair immigration policies and promote reform. Immigration reform must preserve fairness, due process and equal protection in our immigration system. We want to welcome immigrants with open arms it is the American Dream and founding principle of our country.

HB 1716 Addressing state and local enforcement of federal immigration detainers and administrative warrants. Establishes the Washington family unity act. Addresses state and local enforcement of federal immigration detainers and administrative warrants.

REAL ID Enforcement in Brief

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced on December 20, 2013 a phased enforcement plan for the REAL ID Act (the Act), as passed by Congress, that will implement the Act in a measured, fair, and responsible way.

Secure driver's licenses and identification documents are a vital component of our national security framework. The REAL ID Act, passed by Congress in 2005, enacted the 9/11 Commission's recommendation that the Federal Government "set standards for the issuance of sources of identification, such as driver's licenses." The Act established minimum security standards for license issuance and production and prohibits Federal agencies from accepting for certain purposes driver's licenses and identification cards from states not meeting the Act's minimum standards. The purposes covered by the Act are: accessing Federal facilities, entering nuclear power plants, and, no sooner than 2016, boarding federally regulated commercial aircraft.

States and other jurisdictions have made significant progress in enhancing the security of their licenses over the last number of years. As a result, approximately 70-80% of all U.S. drivers hold licenses from jurisdictions: (1) determined to meet the Act's standards; or (2) that have received extensions. Individuals holding driver's licenses or identification cards from these jurisdiction may continue to use them as before. (See Section B of the sidebar)

Individuals holding licenses from noncompliant jurisdictions will need to follow alternative access control procedures for purposes covered by the Act. (See Section A of the sidebar). As described below, enforcement for boarding aircraft will occur no sooner than 2016.

Description and Schedule of Enforcement Phases

The following enforcement measures are cumulative, with measures in each phase remaining in effect through successive phases. Each phase will begin with a 3-month period where agencies will provide notice to individuals attempting to use driver's licenses or identification cards from noncompliant states but still allow access. After this period is over, agencies will no longer accept such identification for entry to Federal facilities, and individuals will need to follow the agency's alternate procedures (to be made available by the agency).

Phase 1: Restricted areas (i.e., areas accessible by agency personnel, contractors, and their guests) for DHS's Nebraska Avenue Complex (NAC) headquarters.

Phase 2: Restricted areas for all Federal facilities and nuclear power plants.

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Phase 3: Semi-restricted areas (i.e., areas available to the general public but subject to ID-based access control) for most Federal facilities (subject to limitations described in the next section). Access to Federal facilities will continue to be allowed for purposes of applying for or receiving Federal benefits.

Phase 4: Boarding federally regulated commercial aircraft. A driver's license or identification card from a noncompliant state may only be used in conjunction with an acceptable second form of ID for boarding federally regulated commercial aircraft.

DHS will conduct an evaluation following the implementation of the first three phases to assess the effects of enforcement and the progress of states in meeting the standards of the act. Before a date for **Phase 4** is set, DHS will conduct an evaluation to inform a fair and achievable timeline. The date for implementing Phase 4 will be set after the evaluation has been complete; this phase will occur no sooner than 2016. The evaluation will also be used to inform the nature and timing of subsequent phases and to inform the pathway to full enforcement. DHS will ensure the public has ample advanced notice before identification requirements for boarding aircraft or entering additional types of Federal facilities change.

Phase Enforcement Notification

Full Enforcement

1	Restricted areas for DHS/NAC	1/20/14	04/21/14
2	Restricted areas for all Federal facilities & for nuclear power plants	04/21/14	07/21/14
3	Semi-restricted for all Federal facilities	10/20/14	01/19/15
3a	Facility Security Levels 1 and 2	10/20/14	01/19/15
3b	Facility Security Levels 3, 4, and 5	07/13/15	10/10/15
	2015 Review and Evaluation		
4	Aircraft (Acceptable with 2nd form of ID) No sooner than 2016		

Limitations

Access for activities directly relating to safety and health or life preserving services, to law enforcement, and to constitutionally protected activities, including legal and investigative proceedings will not be affected. Existing agency policies will still apply.

The Act does not require individuals to present identification where it is not currently required to access a Federal facility (such as to enter the public areas of the Smithsonian) nor does it prohibit an agency from accepting other forms of identity documents other than documents from non-compliant states (such as a U.S. passport or passport card).

The Act's prohibitions do not affect other uses of driver's licenses or identification cards – including licenses and cards from noncompliant states – unrelated to official purposes as defined in the Act. For example, the Act does not apply to voting, registering to vote, or for applying for or receiving Federal benefits.

For more information, please contact the DHS Office of State-Issued Identification Support at osiis@hq.dhs.gov.

Last Published Date: January 30, 2015

A) Noncompliant States/Territories

Am.Samoa. Arizona . Idaho** . Louisiana . Maine. Minnesota+. New Hampshire**. New York+

+ Federal officials may continue to accept Enhanced Driver's Licenses from these states.

** Has an expired extension and will be subject to enforcement beginning January 19, 2015

B) Compliant/Extension States/Territories

Alabama. Alaska*. Arkansas*. California*. Colorado. Connecticut. Delaware. DC. Florida. Georgia. Guam*
Hawaii. Illinois*. Indiana. Iowa. Kansas. Kentucky*. Maryland. Mass.*. Michigan*. Mississippi. Missouri*.
Montana*. Nebraska. Nevada. New Jersey*. New Mexico*. N. Carolina*. N. Dakota*. N. Marianas*. Ohio.
Oklahoma*. Oregon*. Pennsylvania*. Puerto Rico*. Rhode Island*. S. Carolina*. S. Dakota. Tennessee. Texas*.
Utah. Vermont. Virginia*. Virgin Islands*. **Washington***. West Virginia. Wisconsin
Wyoming.

* Has an extension, allowing Federal agencies to accept driver's licenses from these states.

WASHINGTON FAMILY UNITY ACT 2015

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Family Unity Act affirms the practices of local law enforcement in 19 Washington counties by prohibiting unconstitutional extensions of someone's detention based solely on ICE detainer requests* without a judicial warrant.

- 19** counties that changed policy & no longer honor ICE detainer requests
- 5k** (5,000) undocumented children placed in foster care across the country
- \$1.8** million in cost savings to King County, alone, by not honoring requests

BACKGROUND

In early 2014, numerous federal courts issued rulings finding that local jurisdictions could be held liable when detaining community members solely on an ICE detainer request without a finding of probable cause.

As a result of the court decisions, most Washington state counties revised their policies and no longer engage in post-release detention based on an ICE detainer request. These changes, additionally informed by a prior Washington court ruling finding that local law enforcement do not have authority to enforce federal immigration laws, declare a commitment to fair, legal procedures that are afforded to all.

*ICE DETAINER REQUEST

ICE DETAINER REQUEST (a.k.a. Immigration Hold) – ICE requests to local authorities to hold a person after release based solely on their immigration status without a separate finding of probable cause. Federal courts have deemed that this practice violates individual civil rights. Local jurisdictions can be held liable for this violation.

THE FAMILY UNITY ACT OVERVIEW

 <p>Codifies local law enforcement practices across WA and assures compliance with Federal court rulings.</p>	 <p>Upholds a central promise that our government operates within the law and provides due process.</p>	 <p>Money spent on detainers can be reallocated to services provided by local police agencies.</p>
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MARIA'S STORY

Maria, a domestic violence survivor, suffered five years of her partner's abusive alcoholism. Maria informed him that she intended to leave him which caused him to erupt in a rage, choking her nearly to death and kicking her out of their home. However, Maria refused to leave, her partner called police, and Maria was arrested. Even though Maria was eligible for U Visa as a domestic violence survivor, local law enforcement alerted ICE of her arrest and she was put into ICE Custody.

FAMILY UNITY ACT KEEPS FAMILIES TOGETHER

-  Currently, more than 5,000 undocumented children are separated from their parents and placed in foster care across the country, causing trauma for children and parents
-  Relieves U.S. born children and DACA recipients of doubts and fears that their parents can be taken from them
-  Requires local law enforcement to focus on carrying out U Visa requests for victims of crime, especially victims of domestic abuse
-  Rebuilds trust between immigrant communities and local law enforcement by separating the roles of local police and ICE
-  Could result in budgetary savings for local and county police

COALITION PARTNERS:

Northwest Immigrant Rights Project • Faith Action Network • ACLU • OneAmerica • Latino Civic Alliance • SEIU 775 • Casa Latina • Washington Dream Act Coalition • Progreso • CAIR WA • Washington Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice

CONTACT:

Jorge Baron | jorge@nwirp.org | 206-957-8609
Paul Benz | benz@fanwa.org | 206-390-4133

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LANGUAGE ACCESS PRIORITIES

Latino Civic Alliance supports HB 1780, SB 5787 and SB 5664. Pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Executive Order 13166, people who are Limited English Proficient (LEP) are entitled to interpreter services free of charge to access federally conducted and federally funded programs and activities. Please ask your legislator to support the following bills that would ensure language access through services rendered by qualified and professional interpreters.

HB 1780 Regulating interpreter services. It streamlines the procurement of interpreter services by state agencies, and Labor and Industries medical providers, to create efficiencies based on proven procurement models. This bill also gives interpreters the choice to vote for a union if they so wish.

SB 5787 Concerning a model policy and procedures for language access by limited-English proficient parents of students. The Washington State School Directors Association, together with the Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction, must develop a model policy and procedures for language access by LEP parents based on materials created by the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Education. Minimum requirements to be addressed in the policy and procedures include the following:

- guidance for the timely and accurate identification of limited-English proficient parents and their language access needs;
- when and how to access an interpreter;
- a prohibition on using students or children as interpreters for school-related communications;
- methods to ensure appropriate staff are aware of parents' need for language assistance; and
- how to provide information about parental rights under federal and state law.

SB 5664 Promoting efficiency in the procurement of interpreter services. Authorizes the department of social and health services and the state health care authority to purchase interpreter services on behalf of limited-English speaking applicants and recipients of public assistance. Authorizes the department of labor and industries to purchase interpreter services for medical and vocational providers authorized to provide services to limited-English speaking injured workers or crime victims.

Requires the department of enterprise services to develop and implement a model that all state agencies must use to procure spoken language interpreter services by purchasing directly from language access providers or through contracts with scheduling and coordinating entities, or both.

Governor's 2015-17 Proposed Operating Budget: Trial Court Language Access Funding. The Governor is in agreement to expand the Administrative Office of the Courts' Interpreter Reimbursement Program to cover all WA state trial courts. Trial Court Language Access Funding is requested to extend a grant program to improve the quality and availability of interpreting services and to reduce interpreter costs at the local level. In addition, funding is requested to offset costs associated with on-demand telephonic interpretation to ensure that limited English proficiency is not a barrier to full participation in court services. The total increase reflects state resources to fund interpreter services in all criminal and civil cases at all levels of trial courts. This funding increase would achieve 100% funding over three biennia.

The right to an interpreter is a Civil Right!



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LANGUAGE ACCESS PRIORITY

PRIORIDAD PARA EL ACCESO A LOS SERVICIOS EN SU IDIOMA

La Alianza Cívica Latina apoya HB 1780, SB 5787 y SB 5664. De acuerdo con el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964 y el Decreto Ejecutivo 13166, las personas con un dominio limitado del inglés (LEP, por sus siglas en inglés) tienen derecho a recibir servicios de interpretación gratis para acceder a programas y actividades administrados y subvencionados por el gobierno federal. Haga el favor de pedirle a su legislador que apoye a los siguientes proyectos de ley que asegurarían el acceso a los servicios en su idioma por medio de intérpretes calificados y profesionales.

HB 1780 Reglamentando los servicios de intérpretes. Racionaliza el abastecimiento de los servicios de intérpretes por parte de las agencias estatales, y de los proveedores de salud del Departamento de Labores e Industrias, para crear eficiencias basadas en modelos de abastecimiento comprobados.

SB 5787 Concerniente a una política modelo y procedimientos para el acceso en su idioma por parte de los padres con un dominio limitado del inglés. La Asociación de Directores Escolares del Estado de Washington, junto con la Oficina del Superintendente para la Instrucción Pública, debe desarrollar una política modelo y procedimientos para el acceso a los servicios en su idioma por parte de padres con un dominio limitado del inglés (LEP, por sus siglas en inglés) basados en materiales creados por el Departamento de Justicia de EE.UU. y del Departamento de Educación de EE.UU. Los requisitos de mínima a ser tratados en la política y los procedimientos incluyen lo que sigue:

- guía para la identificación oportuna y precisa de los padres con dominio limitado del idioma inglés y sus necesidades de acceso al idioma;
- cuándo y cómo tener acceso a un intérprete;
- prohibición sobre el uso de los estudiantes o los niños como intérpretes para asuntos relacionadas con la escuela;
- métodos para asegurar el personal adecuado consciente de las necesidades de los padres con el idioma; y
- cómo proporcionar información sobre los derechos de los padres bajo la ley federal y estatal.

El proyecto de presupuesto del Gobernador de 2015-17: fondos para acceso a intérpretes en los juicios. El gobernador está de acuerdo en ampliar el Programa de Reembolso de Intérprete de los tribunales para cubrir todos los juicios del Estado de Washington. Se solicita Fondos para extender un programa de subsidios para mejorar la calidad y disponibilidad de los servicios de interpretación y de reducir los costos de interpretación en el ámbito local. Además, se solicita financiación para compensar los costos asociados con la interpretación telefónica bajo demanda para garantizar que el dominio del inglés limitado no es un obstáculo para la plena participación en los servicios judiciales. El aumento total refleja los recursos del Estado para financiar los servicios de interpretación en todos los casos penales y civiles en todos los niveles de tribunales de primera instancia. Este aumento de la financiación lograra una financiación del 100% en seis años.

El derecho a un intérprete es un Derecho Civil!



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VETERANS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

LATINO CIVIC ALLIANCE SUPPORTS HB 1241 / SB 5042 AND HB 1424. US Veterans have defended our nation and preserved our civil rights. Latinos represent a large percentage of veterans. Many of us know someone in our immediate families that have served our country. We understand and witness the after effects of loved ones going to war to defend our country and the hardship many face when they return and integrate back into society. Washington State has a large population of Latino veterans and they continue to face challenging times with mental health and medical conditions that need to be addressed. With the national attention and lack of services afforded to our veterans we need to advocate for them and ensure they are well taken care of when they need support. Latino Civic Alliance believes that veterans should be at the table when state or national policies directly impact them. Please contact your legislator and ask them to ensure that they represent the best interests of our veterans.

HB 1241 / SB 5042 Providing a business and occupation tax credit for businesses that hire veterans.

Provides employment for unemployed veterans by providing employers with a credit against the business and occupation tax or public utility tax for hiring unemployed veterans. Expires July 1, 2023.

HB 1424 Concerning suicide prevention. Requires the department of health to adopt rules establishing minimum standards for the suicide assessment, treatment, and management training programs, including content specific to veterans and the assessment of issues related to imminent harm via lethal means or self-injurious behaviors. Exempts certified registered nurse anesthetist from the training programs.

Latinos are the fastest growing and the largest ethnic minority group in the United States, comprising 16.3 percent of the total population. In 2010, there were 1.3 million Latino veterans in the United States, and a 23% increase is expected by 2030. Latinos represent 18% of the 2.1 million U.S. troops deployed to the Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation New Dawn (OND) wars and, consequently, have been exposed to traumas that can result in conditions, like posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). In this context, the primary goal of this systematic review was to identify and analyze the existing literature on Latino veterans with PTSD focusing on the importance of culture.

Cultural Competency Key to Meeting the Health Needs of Latino Veterans Treating Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Requires Culturally Sensitive Care



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With more Latinos serving in the military it is important that we understand the circumstances confronting this population so we can better support every veteran, particularly when it comes to post-traumatic stress disorder.

Unlike other U.S. wars, the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have relied on a relatively small number of volunteers deployed multiple times. This combination puts an extreme mental toll on the women and men who serve and has put a spotlight on the increase in post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, cases among service members. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs recently reported that 15 percent of veterans from Afghanistan and Iraq currently suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

The situation is even more severe for Latino veterans. There are more than 1.2 million Hispanic veterans and the Department of Veterans Affairs reports that 39 percent of Hispanic veterans suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder—a condition they will have to cope with for the rest of their lives. Despite this prevalence, however, the needs of Latino veterans are often overlooked. With more and more Latinos serving in the military, it is important that we understand the circumstances confronting this population so we can better support every veteran. In this column we will look at the reasons behind the recent rise of Latinos serving in the military and at the unique social and cultural barriers they face in receiving post-traumatic stress disorder treatment that is often a result of their service.

Rise in Latinos in the military

As the nation's Latino population has increased at unprecedented rates, so has the percent of Latinos in the U.S. Armed Forces. Between 1994 and 2008 the percentage of Latinos in the military grew from 6 percent to 13 percent. In 2004 Hispanics made up 12.1 percent of the U.S. Army. This increase holds true for Latinas as well who now make up a larger share of military women than Latino men make up of military men. Latina veterans account for 7 percent of female veterans compared to 6 percent for Latino men. And in the coming years, Latinos are projected to make up even more of the veteran population: By 2020 Latina women will make up 9 percent of military veterans and Latino men will make up 7 percent.

This rise in military enrollment is due to more than just the growing number of Latinos in the U.S. population. First and foremost, Latinos continue to join the military out of a deep commitment to serve their country—40 percent of Latinos who joined the U.S. Marine Corps stated that patriotism was a major factor. Likewise, 24 percent of Latinos serving in the Army put "desire to serve my country" as their top reason for enlisting. Another factor related to Latinos' growing presence in the military is the fact that the Army has been actively recruiting Latino youth with Spanish advertisements in magazines, television, and radio in addition to placing Latino recruiters with potential Latino recruits. More importantly, over the last decade there has been an increase in incentives (not just monetary bonuses) to joining the military, which, according to RAND Corporation research, further drives Latino enrollment.

Not surprisingly, obtaining a higher education is cited by many Latinos as a reason for enlisting in the military. About 12 percent of Hispanics identified educational benefits as the major reason for enlisting and 88 percent of all Hispanics agree that a college degree is important to advancing in life. The Post-9/11 G.I. Bill signed by President Barack Obama in 2009 is the largest investment in veterans' education since World War II, providing financial support for education to veterans who have served at least 90 days on active duty after September 10, 2001. With the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, military veterans can receive full tuition at state universities, housing allowances, and book allowances. For low-income Latinos who have limited postsecondary education options, joining the military can be the key to social and financial mobility.

Post-traumatic stress disorder among Latino veterans

Given the increase in the numbers of Latinos serving, it is important that we understand the unique circumstances they face. Even when we control for factors like hazardous combat experience, Hispanic veterans have higher rates and severity of post-traumatic stress disorder than their white or African American counterparts. "Citizenship & Service: A 2004 Survey of Army Personnel" found that one-fifth of all Hispanics enlisted reported being discriminated against in their current unit due to their race or ethnicity. According to the report this discrimination was found to come from various levels: "27% of Hispanics said they had been discriminated against in current unit by an officer and 19% of Hispanics said by enlisted and warrants." Overall, Hispanics and their black counterparts were less likely than their white fellow soldiers to feel that the Army was doing better than civilian society in terms of racial discrimination.

Studies say that prejudice and racial discrimination experienced during deployment is likely to worsen post-traumatic stress disorder. In addition to discrimination worsening post-traumatic stress disorder, Latinos have

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been found to disproportionately suffer more severe symptoms. Flashbacks, intense cognitive perceptions, and back or stomach problems are more likely to be experienced by Latinos than by the average veteran. Considering the severity of their post-traumatic stress disorder experiences, it is important that Latino veterans are able to seek and access treatment. Unfortunately, many cultural barriers within the Latino community can impact a veteran's willingness to seek treatment.

First, the stigma associated with needing mental health services can make it difficult for many Latinos to come forward with their post-traumatic stress disorder. Secondly, Latino-family norms of solving problems internally (familismo) may influence how Latinos fare in treatment. Trusting an outside therapist is a step Latino veterans might not take, especially since many Latinos have reported that they perceived Veterans Affairs staff as not able to relate to their personal matters. Thus, individual therapy, which is a common form of treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder, may not be as effective for a Latino veteran who has a strong sense of collective identity. Therefore, family therapy is one approach that could be explored as an option to address the mental health needs of Latino veterans. In order for Latino veterans to have equal and comparable post-traumatic stress disorder treatment, cultural norms must be understood by those providing treatment.

Cultural competency is important to ensuring all communities of color have equal care but it is especially important for Latinos who are one of the fastest-growing populations in our country. Like all veterans, when a Latino veteran returns home with post-traumatic stress disorder, their entire family is impacted. We must be able to adequately care for our veterans and this will demand understanding the unique circumstances veterans face due to their racial and ethnic identities. Failure to consider cultural norms will prevent Latino veterans from having adequate care when they return home, and that is a situation that is unacceptable.

Data provided by Progress 2050 at the Center for American Progress.

VETERAN RESOURCES

Washington State Department of Veteran's Affairs

1-800-562-2308. 1102 Quince St SE | PO Box 41150, Olympia, WA 98504-1150

US Veterans Affairs Department www.va.gov (509) 457-2736

Disabled American Veterans www.dav.org (509) 575-4748

Vfw Post www.vfw.org WA (509) 457-5400

American Legion www.legion.org Yakima, WA (509) 457-4510

VA Yakima Clinic www.va.gov (509) 966-0199

American Legion www.legion.org (509) 877-3982

King County Veterans Program, Renton, 206-477-7022

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FARM WORKERS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Latino Civic Alliance believes farm workers deserve stronger protection laws and wages.

Washington's Agriculture Department reported that the value of Washington's 2012 agricultural production has reached \$9.89 billion, 6 percent above the 2011 revised figure of \$9.31 billion.

Washington also set record employment and sales figures in the food-processing industry. Farm workers despite the success of the agriculture industry continue to live below poverty level, experience wage theft, retaliation at the work and suffer human rights exploitation. Many still work in unsafe working conditions and unstable seasonal employment four to five months a year. Adding to the dilemma is the H-2A guest worker program that impacts the jobs available for domestic workers. It is a federal program that contracts foreign workers when a labor shortage is deemed to exist. The debate of whether there is a labor shortage has been contentious: The growers claiming there is and farm workers claiming there isn't. However, the program is complex by state and federal guidelines, and not all growers will use this program.

Farm workers are earning inconsistent wages, with families eating from food banks, housing conditions deplorable, workers experiencing verbal and physical abuse and everyone surviving day to day. Farm workers labor in dangerous situations with dangerous chemical sprays that cause vomiting or fainting in the fields. They have no sick paid leave to get treatment and most lack health insurance. Farm workers, like everyone else, want to be treated with respect and be paid fair wages for the hard physical work they do.

Many growers want to help, but they have their own challenges. Some small growers have not been exempt from the economic crunch and lost their farms. Managing farms can be a financial drain. However, there are farmers that look the other way and take advantage of this labor force. Farm workers genuinely care about their employers and celebrate successful harvests. There are consumers who insist that what they buy is picked by farm workers earning a fair wage. However, there also are consumers that assume that paying a fair wage will increase food prices. Middle players like the grocers, agriculture contractors and food processing companies get their share of the market without understanding farm worker circumstances. State agencies want to provide better services but need to be more responsive. Advocates serving farm workers are struggling with the lack of resources.

There is resistance to establish fair labor laws for farm workers. There is blaming and no accountability. It won't be easy to fix a historic problem, but it is the moral thing to do. It can't only involve farm workers, growers and advocates; it needs to include all stakeholders. Most importantly, farm workers must be at the table in leadership roles. They have the answers if we will listen.

Recommendations for Stakeholders

Federal Agencies

Federal agencies have a critical role to play in protecting workers, but many have failed to live up to their mission. Every agency with a role in protecting farm workers should create a protocol for U visa certification to ensure that victims of crime can come forward to report abuse without repercussions. Agencies also should ensure that they have culturally competent staff members and use best practices for interpretation.

The following actions are particular urgent.

The Department of Homeland Security must do a better job helping to protect crime victims. It must:

- Issue guidance to make clear that prosecutors and other law enforcement agencies may not engage in enforcement actions against immigrant crime victims when they come forward to report crimes.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration must do a better job keeping workers safe on the job. It must:

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- End discrimination against farmworkers by ensuring that all relevant standards applicable to other workers (such as whistleblower protection, fall protection and protection against unguarded machinery) also apply to farmworkers.
- Increase fines against abusive employers so that they are deterred from further violations.
- Create strict rules related to the speed at which poultry- and meat-processing lines operate. Line speed is the single greatest cause of injuries in these plants, and there are currently no regulations that address it.
- Pesticide poisoning – chemical companies are not regulated enough more is needed – their lobbying groups have too much power in policies

The U.S. Department of Labor must do a better job ensuring workers are paid their lawful wages. It must:

- Implement more strategic initiatives to investigate wage theft against low-wage immigrant workers, prioritizing investigations into industries that employ large numbers of women.
- Seek full recovery and steeper penalties against employers who exploit low-wage immigrant workers.
- Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Immigration Control and Enforcement (ICE) to protect workers who speak out about employer abuses.
- Piece rates used for agriculture is not favorable - \$15 an hour minimum wage necessary
- H2A Guest Worker Program in our Washington state is growing very fast. There still remains the question is there valid proof a labor shortage exists or is it that farm workers aren't paid well enough, and or black listed for advocating for better conditions? Ag contractors bringing guest workers need to be strongly regulated – they are making huge profit with the service of bringing workers to US to work – strict oversight needed. Washington State is ranking TOP 3 in nation.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission must do a better job protecting women workers from discrimination on the job. It must:

- Reissue guidance memoranda stating that undocumented workers are protected by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- Prioritize enforcement of cases involving discrimination against women.

States, too, play a critical role in protecting vulnerable workers. All states must:

- Ensure that all farmworkers are covered by state workers' compensation laws. Currently, workers' compensation is not available to many injured farmworkers due to state laws that exclude or discriminate against farm work, even though farmworkers cannot afford health care or health insurance and suffer injuries at higher rates than almost all other workers. Encourage state agencies like Washington Labor & Industries, Washington Employment Security, Washington Department of Agriculture, Department of Health create more programs to support ag workers. That state agencies appoint farm workers in advisory roles to help create policies that protect them.
- Repeal state laws that discriminate against farmworkers. Currently, farmworkers are exempt from many state minimum wage and other laws protecting workers. \$15 minimum an hour recommended.

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ABOUT LATINO CIVIC ALLIANCE

Latino Civic Alliance is non-partisan, state wide organization and promotes community and civic engagement participation for all Latino/a's in Washington State. We believe that in order to become part of the whole we must become engaged not only in our own cultural/ethnic community but embrace the diverse communities we live in. Latinos should be a part of the fabric of society promoting the common goals of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all. By participating and becoming a thread in our communities we become a part of the whole and have a greater interest in seeking to make the American experiment a success.

Latino Civic Alliance first started in 2005 as an event held in Olympia, Washington named "Latino Legislative Day". It was promoted as a day at the State Capital to discuss and learn about the issues affecting Washington State Latinos. Through this event participants increased their awareness of the struggles and achievements endured and/or accomplished by their fellow Latino brothers and sisters in Washington State. Subsequently, Latino Legislative Day has become an annual event coordinated through the efforts of the elected volunteer Board members who reside throughout Washington State. Latino Legislative Day is perhaps the strongest platform that unites all organizations that serve the Latino communities in our state to work together and address legislation that will have a negative or positive effect to our communities.

In our efforts we foster and encourage Latinos to participate and discuss the issues that affect their daily lives with those that are so duly elected to represent their interests either in local, state or a national political arena. Latino Civic Alliance is yet another opportunity to demystify access to government and uphold and further the idea that government is for the people and by the people.

The diversity in the backgrounds of our Board Members is what makes this organization unique. People with different backgrounds and different experiences bring fresh ideas and different perspectives. This helps the organization keep up with an ever-changing society. The Latino Civic Alliance includes leaders, advocates, and community based organizations from all over the State of Washington.

If you are interested in volunteering or getting involved please email for information at events@latinocivicalliance.org.

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Casa HOGAR

La Casa Hogar is a thriving “second home” for Yakima's immigrant women and children. We offer a variety of education opportunities, the base of which is English as a Second Language.



Directions

Language School

Address: 106 South 6th Street, Yakima, WA 98901

Phone: (509) 457-5058

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The Latino Civic Alliance would like to offer special thanks to our talented community sponsor and contributor.

**Mariachi Huenachi
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Contact:
Ramon Rivera, Wenatchee High School Mariachi Director
Pioneer Middle School
Music Dept. Chair
www.whsmariachi.com
Cell: 509-393-8871
Facebook: whsmariachi