

Member Organizations

ASPIRA Association, Inc.

Cuban American National Council

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

Hispanic Federation

Hispanic National Bar Association

Labor Council for Latin American Advancement

League of United Latin American Citizens

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund

MANA, A National Latina Organization

National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives

National Association of Hispanic Publications

National Association of Latino Elected Officials

National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc.

National Council of La Raza

National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators

National Hispana Leadership Institute

National Hispanic Council on Aging

National Hispanic Environmental Council

National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts

National Hispanic Medical Association

National Hispanic Media Coalition

National IMAGE, Inc.

National Institute for Latino Policy

National Puerto Rican Coalition

Self-Reliance Foundation

SER Jobs for Progress-National

Southwest Voter Registration Education Project

United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

United States Hispanic Leadership Institute

United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce



October 19, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), a coalition of the 30 leading Hispanic organizations in the country, urges you to act on Comprehensive Immigration Reform in the wake of the recent Alabama court decision which allows deplorable parts of that state's new immigration law to go into effect. As you know, this decision will have strong negative consequences, including requiring public schools to demand documentation from parents of school children in K-12 programs; voiding any contracts signed by an undocumented person; allowing police to demand "papers" from anyone they suspect may be undocumented; making it a felony if an undocumented immigrant does business with the state or applies for a driver's license or even a license plate.

We acknowledge and appreciate the work on immigration your Administration has carried out thus far, and also recognize the meetings you have had with members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus on the immigration issue. We especially thank you for setting forth a new policy through the Department of Homeland Security to give certain immigrants a low priority for deportation status. Also, we recognize that the Justice Department has done a lot to bring lawsuits to challenge state actions.

Nevertheless, we bring the Alabama Court decision to your attention as another example of the need for comprehensive federal immigration reform. If nothing is done at the federal level, other states will follow in the footsteps of Arizona, Indiana, and Alabama. We also urge you to take further action to oppose legislation such as Alabama's in any manner you are able and through further administrative action. We also urge you to recommend to Congress that it introduce appropriate legislative action.

Thank you for considering further action on immigration reform. We cannot stress enough the importance of this issue to our community. Please do not hesitate to call upon any of us at the NHLA for follow up or anything further you may need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lillian Rodriguez Lopez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lillian" being the most prominent.

Lillian Rodriguez Lopez
Chair
National Hispanic Leadership Agenda