From: NiLP Latino Census Network
To: angelofalcon@gmail.com
Subject: NiLP Latino Census Network: A Latino Census Agenda
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National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA)

2012 Latino Policy Agenda: U.S. Census Recommendations

The NiLP Network on Latino Issues (September 17, 2012)

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NHLA Census Logo

As part of its comprehensive 2012 Latino Policy Agenda, which was just released this last month by the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), a series of recommendations were presented to make the United States Census Bureau more responsive to the needs of the Latino community. The NHLA is a coalition of 31 of the leading Latino civil rights organizations in the United States and its Census Subcommittee is co-chaired by Arturo Vargas, Executive Director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), and Angelo Falcón, President of the National Institute for Latino Policy (NiLP).

The NHLA 2012 Latino Policy Agenda was developed to inform the Presidential candidates of policy issues of greatest concern to the Latino community. Delegations of the NHLA briefed delegates and others at both the Republican and Democratic Party Conventions as part of this ongoing educational process.

To receive updates on Census issues related to the Latino community, you can get on the mailing list of NiLP's Latino Census Network by writing to census@latinopolicy.org.

For further information of the Latino Policy Agenda, click here.

Here are the recommendations made concerning the U.S. Census Bureau:

The activities of the Census Bureau to collect data on all residents of the United States through the decennial census, American Community Survey (ACS), and other surveys are indispensable to the enforcement of civil rights, the fair allocation of federal funding, and documenting the economic and social status of the Latino population. Now that Latinos are the nation's largest racial-ethnic minority population, it is even more critical that the Census Bureau collects reliable data about our community and the nation as a whole.

Policy Recommendations

Oppose efforts to eliminate the American Community Survey (ACS) or to turn

it into a voluntary survey, which would seriously undermine its accuracy.

Support sufficient funding to the Census Bureau to adequately prepare for the 2020 census, expand the sample size of the American Community Survey and assure the continuation of the Economic Census.

Actively engage Latino stakeholders in timely decisions concerning proposed changes in methods and approaches in the collection of racial, ethnic, and immigration data for the 2020 Census and other Census surveys.

Support significant Latino representation on the newly-established Census Bureau National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic and Other Populations that reflects, at minimum, the number of Latinos represented (9) in the Census Bureau's former Advisory Committee on the Hispanic Population.

Support the inclusion of Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories in the Current Population Survey (CPS) to assure full inclusion of all U.S. citizens in the federal statistics on unemployment rates and related national measures of economic and other indicators.

Establish a special Latino Employment Task Force reporting directly to the Director in the Census Bureau to address the longstanding and persistent problem of the extreme under-representation of Latinos on the Bureau's work force.

Continue and expand the Census Bureau's Census Information Centers (CIC) Program that supports Latino and other community-based institutions in the dissemination of Census data and research to the nation's communities of color and other underserved population.

The Commerce Department should develop special outreach efforts to solicit outstanding Latino candidates for the currently open position of Census Bureau Director.

The Census Bureau should conduct a feasibility study on the inclusion of Puerto Rico as part of its regular national population counts and statistics reports, including all of its data sets and reports on the U.S. Hispanic population.

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