



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **The Latino Coalition Calls on Senator Clinton to Allow Passage of Ryan White CARE Act**

**Washington** – The Board of Directors of The Latino Coalition (TLC) today called on New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton to allow passage of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act. Senator Clinton’s efforts to block modernization and reauthorization of the CARE Act have been the subject of several recent news stories, including a front page story in the August 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of *Washington Post* titled “Sen. Clinton Blocking AIDS Law’s Renewal, Citing Cut in N.Y. Funds”.

According to the General Accountability Office (GAO) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), funding provisions of the CARE Act should be adjusted to provide money for regions in the Southern United States where HIV infections are on the rise.

“As the reauthorization of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act comes to a critical stage, it is important to remind Congressional leaders of the growing disparities in HIV/AIDS care and treatment faced by Hispanics, disparities that can be corrected only by CARE Act reform,” said TLC President Robert Deposada.

“HIV/AIDS is a particularly acute problem because it increasingly affects Hispanics living and working along the U.S.-Mexico border and in the rural heartland,” said Dr. Rene Rodriguez, member of the TLC Board of Directors. “The CARE Act in its current form is failing Hispanics because its bureaucratically rigid funding formula discriminates against many parts of the country that do not receive any Title I dollars.”

“Senator Clinton should allow adoption of the bi-partisan and modernized Ryan White CARE Act to ensure that all Americans have the care and treatment they need regardless of geography or race,” Deposada concluded.

The Latino Coalition is a non-profit, non-partisan organization based in Washington, D.C. TLC was established in 1995 to address policy issues that directly affect the well-being of Hispanics in the United States. We represent a coalition of local and national organizations and their membership throughout the country. TLC’s agenda is to develop and promote policies that will foster economic equivalency and enhance overall business, economic, and social development of Hispanics. For more information please visit our website at [www.TheLatinoCoalition.com](http://www.TheLatinoCoalition.com).

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## **Ryan White CARE Act Hispanic Statistics on Introduced Legislation**

### **Ryan White Overview**

- The bill should have been reauthorized a year and a half ago. Too much time has past and too many patients are being penalized by Congressional inaction.
- CARE Act formulas have never been updated to follow this shift in the disease. Now is the time to update the CARE ACT to allow equal access and care to all Americans regardless of their race or geographic region.
- The CARE Act is failing Hispanics because its bureaucratically rigid funding formula discriminates against states, most rural, that do not receive any Title I dollars.
- HIV/AIDS is increasingly affecting minority populations in America. The facts about the impact of HIV/AIDS on Hispanics alone are both staggering and troubling:
  - Hispanics now make up one-fifth of all people living with HIV/AIDS
  - Hispanics accounted for 20 percent of new HIV/AIDS cases 2004
  - Hispanic women account for 21 percent of all AIDS deaths among women
  - The Latino HIV/AIDS case rate in 2004 was 3.5 times higher than that of whites
- Hundreds of HIV positive people have been forced onto waiting lists for life-saving medication and thousands of patients are going without needed treatment and services due to lack of funding.
- People's lives are at stake. The fact that one Senator, Hillary Clinton, can hold up legislation that will provide access to life saving treatment and medications is unacceptable.
- The status quo is unacceptable when people's lives are at stake
- This bi-partisan bill (Sen. Clinton was the only one to vote against it) will chiefly benefit people of color who currently have nowhere to turn but the federal government.

### **Changes Needed in Ryan White**

- Make HIV testing a routine part of medical care as promoted by the CDC
- Include HIV case counts in state funding as advocated by the GAO
- Full funding of ADAP and de-link ADAP from the hold harmless provision
- Treat the neediest first, regardless of location

- The majority of CARE Act dollars should be spent on core medical services: doctors visits and prescription medications.

### **Hispanic Statistics**

1. Hispanics now make up one-fifth of all people living with HIV/AIDS in America, and that number is rising.
2. In 2004, Hispanics accounted for 20 percent of new AIDS cases in the United States according the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
3. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Hispanics represented 20 percent of people living with AIDS in the United States at the end of 2004.
4. The AIDS case rate per 100,000 population among Latino adults/adolescents was the second highest of any racial/ethnic group in the U.S. in 2004. Nationally, Hispanics are 3.5 times as likely to be living with AIDS as whites.
5. Although Hispanics comprise just 14 percent of the U.S. population in 2003, they accounted for 20 percent of new AIDS cases reported for that year.
6. In 2003, 21 percent of all deaths attributed to AIDS were among Hispanics, compared with 18 percent in 2001 and 18 percent in 1999.
7. For Hispanics ages 35 to 44, HIV/AIDS was the third leading cause of death in the United States in 2001.
8. Among women, Latinas accounted for 15 percent of new AIDS cases in 2004. Among all Latinos, women represented 21 percent of AIDS cases diagnosed in 2004.

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