

National Hispanic Leadership Agenda

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alianza Americas
American G.I. Forum
ASPIRA Association
Avance Inc.
Casa de Esperanza; National
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Congressional Hispanic
Caucus Institute
Farmworker Justice
Green Latinos
Hispanic Association of
Colleges & Universities
Hispanic Federation
Hispanic National Bar
Association
Hispanics in Philanthropy
Inter-University Program for
Latino Research
Labor Council for Latin
American Advancement
LatinoJustice PRLDEF
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MANA, A National Latina
Organization
Mexican American Legal
Defense and Educational
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UnidosUS
United States Hispanic
Chamber of Commerce
United States Hispanic
Leadership Institute
United States-Mexico
Chamber of Commerce
Voto Latino

September 23, 2019

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), a coalition of 45 leading national Latino nonpartisan civil rights and advocacy organizations, **we write to urge each Senator to vote “yes” on S.J. Res. 54, the joint resolution to terminate President Donald Trump’s national emergency declaration, as stated in Proclamation 9844.** We face enormous challenges as a nation, and the President’s attacks are felt acutely in the Latino community – among others. **NHLA will closely monitor this matter to include in future NHLA scorecards evaluating Member support for the Latino community.**

When he declared a “national emergency,” Donald Trump evoked the dangerous nationalist rhetoric of an “invasion” in order to justify a sweeping overreach of his authority that threatens the basic core principles of our country. NHLA condemns this action in the strongest terms possible, and further condemns the invocation of racist, white supremacist language to manufacture a crisis as a pretext to deliver on a campaign promise at taxpayers’ expense.

Further construction of a wall at the southern border is a waste of taxpayer dollars at the expense of necessary government services and functions that Americans rely on every day. The wall symbolizes the President’s agenda to demonize the Latino and immigration communities in order to score political points, and at the cost of our country’s principles and the U.S. Constitution.

This dangerous move by the President requires Congress to carry out its constitutional duty as a check to executive excess. Congress must assert itself as a co-equal branch of the federal government, as stated in our Constitution. NHLA calls on each member of Congress to act immediately to terminate this fraudulent state of emergency and to vote in favor of the resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions please contact Andrea Senteno, at MALDEF, at asenteno@maldef.org or Laura Esquivel, at Hispanic Federation, at lesquivel@hispanicfederation.org.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Saenz
MALDEF, President and General Counsel
NHLA Chair
Immigration Committee, Co-Chair



Jose Calderón
Hispanic Federation, President
Immigration Committee NHLA, Co-Chair