



NATIONAL LATINA INSTITUTE FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

2010 Federal Policy Agenda Lame Duck Priorities

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The National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NLIRH) seeks to ensure the fundamental human right to reproductive health and justice for Latinas, their families and their communities through public education, community mobilization and policy advocacy. NLIRH works on three main program areas: abortion access, reproductive health disparities, and immigration.

NLIRH respectfully urges the 111th Congress and the White House to ensure all Latinas and immigrant women have access to abortion care services, to address reproductive health disparities that disproportionately impact Latinas and immigrant women, and prioritize the reproductive health needs of Latinas and immigrant women within comprehensive immigration reform. The following is a brief overview of NLIRH's federal policy priorities in the Lame Duck session:

Abortion Access

- ❖ Remove restrictions on access to abortions in domestic and overseas military facilities, and remove prohibition of Department of Defense medical personnel from performing abortions.

Reproductive Health Disparities

- ❖ Repeal Don't Ask, Don't tell. The Army and the Air Force discharged more women than men under the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which prohibits gay and lesbian people from serving in the military if they are open about their sexuality. Latinas make up about 11 percent of military personnel. And while women make up 14% of Army personnel, about 46% of those discharged under the policy last year were women. And while 20% of Air Force personnel are women, about 49% of its discharges under the policy last year were women. The "don't ask, don't tell" policy is one that promotes discrimination and hate towards LGBT communities. Not only do the numbers show an overwhelming disparity between men and women, but it also opens the door for harassment to go unpunished in the military.
- ❖ Ratify CEDAW, an international agreement that affirms principles of fundamental human rights and equality for women around the world.

Immigration Reform

- ❖ Pass the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act
- ❖ Pass the Uniting American Families Act that respects the partnerships of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender immigrants.

Additional documentation can be provided to support these priorities. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Barajas-Román, Director of Policy: (202.621.1426) elizabeth@latinainstitute.org).