

May 2, 2007

Martha Laureano, Director
Center for Latino Health
Institute for Community Health & Research
New York University School of Medicine
New York, NY

Dear Martha Laureano:

On behalf of myself and the Arizona State University Center for Community Development & Civil Rights I commend you on the fifth annual Latino Health Conference. Previous Latino Health Conferences have brought together professionals from local, national, and international arenas. These professionals represent clinicians, academicians, public health specialists and administrators as well as legislators and community leaders and advocates, these convenings ensure that the and exchange of information, data, and ideas represents the needs of the Latino community in regards to healthcare for the tri-state area.

This year's conference theme: Social Justice and Latino Health will explore the very important role social justice plays in the health of Latinos throughout the life cycle. The Latino community is a vital element in America's social fabric and it is important to continually work to better the health choices and outcomes for those within our Latino community.

Additionally I want to congratulate Latinos for National Health Insurance for being honored with the distinguished *Dr. Helen Rodriguez-Trias Service Award*. Latinos for National Health Insurance will benefit from this award and use it to further strengthen their work of educating the Latino community about the need to establish a comprehensive, universal, accessible, and just program of national health insurance. The selection of Latinos for National health Insurance was an easy one--Latinos for National Health Insurance provides a coalition of Latino leaders and supporters across a broad range of fields including: medicine, business, labor, and education to comprehensively work towards a single payer national health insurance program where each and every person is covered from the moment they are born regardless of immigration status. Their work ensures that all residents of the United States of America will one day receive a dignified level of service and treatment to ensure healthy communities for years to come.

A hearty felicidades to Drs. Jaime Torres and Olveen Carrasquillo for their commitment and leadership in this important work.

Congratulations once again to Latinos for National Health Insurance and I look forward to creative, culturally relevant ideas and solutions to dealing with the healthcare issues of our Latino community from the Fifth Annual Latino Conference and the many more in the future!

Sinceramente,



Raul Yzaguirre

Presidential Professor of Practice & Director,
ASU Center for Community Development and Civil Rights