

Become a Cosponsor of H.R. 4884, the Mental Health for Latinos Act

Join Me in Supporting Increased Mental Health Services for the Latino and Hispanic Community

118th Congress cosponsors (19): Velázquez, Vargas, Chu, Ruiz, Sánchez, Grijalva, Sylvia Garcia, Soto, Carbajal, Crockett, Salinas, Cárdenas, Gallego, Costa, Watson Coleman, Fletcher, Gonzalez, Robert Garcia, Caraveo

118th Congress supporting organizations (10): National Latino Behavioral Health Association, Pacific Clinics, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, International OCD Foundation, Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance, American Counseling Association, American Psychiatric Association, Children's Hospital Association, County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

117th Congress cosponsors (20): Carbajal, Cárdenas, Velazquez, Soto, Grijalva, Vela, Sylvia Garcia, Vargas, Gallego, Correa, Chuy Garcia, Sánchez, Roybal-Allard, Chu, Ruiz, Leger Fernandez, Aguilar, Sires, Escobar, Fletcher

117th Congress supporting organizations (4): American Association of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, American Psychological Association, National Latino Behavioral Health Association, Pacific Clinics

Dear Colleague:

I respectfully request your original cosponsorship of H.R. 4884, the Mental Health for Latinos Act, which requires the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to develop and implement an outreach and education strategy to promote behavioral and mental health among Latino and Hispanic populations. H.R. 4884 would also require SAMHSA to report annually to Congress on the extent to which the strategy developed and implemented improved behavioral and mental health outcomes among these populations. *The bill text is identical to the version I introduced in the 117th Congress.*

Cultural tendencies, like machismo, and disparities within our healthcare system are still preventing members of the Latino and Hispanic community from receiving life-saving mental health services. For example, [according to the National Mental Health Services Survey](#), between 2014 and 2019, there was a total loss of over 1,000 Spanish-speaking health facilities that offered mental health treatment, while over this time, the Hispanic population increased by 5.2 million individuals. Furthermore, [according to 2021 National Survey of Drug Use and Health](#), the percentage of Hispanic or Latino adults with a mental illness who received mental health services in the past year was only 36.1 percent. These barriers to care, which existed long before the COVID pandemic, are causing too many to suffer in silence, and this must change.

H.R. 4884 boosts our continued efforts to reduce stigma and promote mental wellness, while meeting the diverse needs of Latino and Hispanic populations across the country. As our nation continues to confront an unfolding mental health crisis exacerbated by COVID-19, this critical legislation reinforces the timeless message that there is zero shame in asking for help and that seeking support is a sign of strength.

Please join me in continuing to fight to remove the stigma of mental health treatment and to provide our Latino and Hispanic community with the support and services they need to thrive.

For any questions or to cosponsor H.R. 4884, please contact Joseph Ciccone (Rep. Napolitano) at Joseph.Ciccone@mail.house.gov.

Warm regards,

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress