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August 31, 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California

The Honorable Fabian Nuñez
Speaker of the Assembly

Re: Health Care Reform Principles

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger and Speaker Nuñez:

The Latino Coalition for a Healthy California believes that the time to act is now and supports your efforts to fix our broken health care system this year by making health care more affordable and accessible for everyone.

Children’s Coverage: We believe that all low income children – regardless of citizenship status – need to have health coverage.

Guaranteed Issue: We support the individual mandate and employer required participation and believe a successful individual mandate can be accomplished when all Californians – regardless of citizenship status – have access to affordable health coverage and quality health care. This can be accomplished via robust prevention efforts, affordable rates, a comprehensive benefits package that is beyond “catastrophic coverage”, community ratings and other cost-containment efforts.

Financing: We support maximizing participation in public programs to maximize the draw down of Federal funds whenever possible and urge that the public and private safety net receive adequate funding. We also recognize the need for sustainable funding resources to support coverage expansions and public program rate increases for providers and believe funds should come from a broad variety of sources including: employers, government, individuals and health care entities.

Finally, to make quality, affordable and accessible health care a reality, we urge you to consider efforts to increase and diversify our health professions so as to create a culturally and linguistically competent health care system.

Latino Coalition for a healthy California looks forward to making health care reform a reality this year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 448-3234.

Sincerely,

Lupe Alonzo-Diaz
Executive Director

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