

October 20, 2020

Members of the United States Senate:

As the nation's official COVID-19 death toll surpasses 216,000 and more than 13 million Americans remain unemployed, we challenge members of the United States Senate to insist on enactment of comprehensive pandemic relief legislation prior to any floor vote to confirm a nominee for associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. As organizations representing frontline health care providers, community-based organizations and advocates for families hit hardest by the pandemic, we urge you commit to coming together in response to this immense and immediate threat, before contemplating a divisive eleventh-hour Supreme Court confirmation.

Legislation responding to the health and economic consequences of COVID-19 must be Congress' top priority. The pandemic has taken the heaviest toll on those already bearing the burdens of health disparity and economic marginalization resulting from centuries of institutional racism. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the COVID-19 case rate, hospitalization rate, and death rate are all significantly higher for persons of color — in the case of some communities of color, four or five times higher than for white people. And as both clinicians and researchers have documented, immigrants and their families face additional obstacles, including language barriers and abusive immigration policies that discourage needed testing and care.

An effective policy response that sharply increases access to testing and treatment could make a real difference. To be effective, such a response would not only direct resources toward families of color, including immigrant families, but would also lower barriers to care by eliminating policies that deter families from seeking care during the pandemic. And an effective response would address the pandemic's urgent economic consequences for families of color, including immigrant families.

Many of us have already urged the Senate to adopt specific policies, including reversal of the Trump administration's public charge policy and inclusive provisions of the HEROES Act legislation passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in May. Since then, while the Senate has failed to act, the COVID-19 death count has doubled, and millions of working families have lost the enhanced unemployment and other financial lifelines then in place.

There is no excuse for further delay in Senate consideration of serious pandemic response legislation. Taking on a divisive partisan debate over a Supreme Court nomination will only serve to reduce the likelihood of a bipartisan compromise on pandemic response. This must be the top priority for Congress.

We urge that the Supreme Court nominee's confirmation hearings be canceled and not to move forward with the nomination process. Instead, Congress must take immediate action to address the pandemic and to provide support to all individuals and families, including immigrants.

Sincerely,

ACCESS
Access Language Solutions Inc.
ACCESS Women's Health Justice

ACT for Women and Girls
African Services Committee
AHRI Center
Alabama Arise
Americans for Immigrant Justice
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)
Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence
Asian Resources, Inc.
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)
Berkshire Immigrant Center
BPSOS Center for Community Advancement
Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC
California Food Policy Advocates
California Immigrant Policy Center
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN)
California Partnership to End Domestic Violence
Carolina Jews for Justice
Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities
Casa San Jose
CCHI – California Coverage and Health Initiatives
Center for Health Progress
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño
Centro Hispano de East Tennessee
Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Defense Fund - California
Children's Defense Fund - New York
Children's Defense Fund of Texas
Children's HealthWatch
Chinatown Service Center
Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC)
Church World Service
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Coalition for Latinxs with Disabilities (CNLD)
Coalition on Human Needs
Colorado Association for School-Based Health Care
Colorado Children's Campaign
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
Colorado Fiscal Institute
Colorado Latino Leadership, Advocacy, & Research Organization (CLLARO)
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights
Community Catalyst
Comunidades Unidas
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S Provinces
Connecticut Shoreline Indivisible
CPCA
CT Shoreline Indivisible
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund

East Bay Sanctuary Covenant
El Pueblo, Inc.
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)
Entre Hermanos
Equality California
Erikson Institute
Faith in the Valley
Families USA
Farmworker Justice
Filipino American Community of Los Angeles (FACLA)
Filipino American Service Group, Inc. (FASGI)
Florida Health Justice Project
Food Research & Action Center
Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service
Hispanic Federation
Hispanic Liaison / El Vínculo Hispano
Historic Filipinotown Tennis Association
Housing Action Illinois
Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative
Hunger Free Colorado
Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Immigrant Alliance for Justice and Equity
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project
International Community Health Services
Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles
Justice for Migrant Women
Justice in Aging
Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Kentucky Equal Justice Center
Korean Community Center of the East Bay
LA Best Babies Network
Latino Coalition for a Healthy CA
Latino Policy Forum
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County
Legal Council for Health Justice
Lexington Public Library - Village Branch
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank
Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
Michigan Immigrant Rights Center
Michigan League for Public Policy
Mississippi Center for Justice
Mixteco/Indígena Community Organizing Project
MomsRising
MOTHER Movement
Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Alliance for Safe Housing
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)

National Association of Social Workers
National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence
National Coalition for Latinxs with Disabilities (CNLD)
National Council of Jewish Women
National Health Law Program
National Homelessness Law Center
National Immigration Law Center (NILC)
National Justice for Our Neighbors
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty
New Mexico Immigrant Law Center
New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC)
NoHLA
North Carolina Justice Center
North County Health Project, Inc.
North County Health Services
Oasis Legal Services
OneAmerica
OneJustice
Padres & Jovenes Unidos
Partnership for America's Children
Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition
PICO California
Prevention Institute
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
Public Health Justice Collective
Rape Recovery Center
RESULTS DC
Sacramento Area Congregations Together
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
San Francisco-Marin Food Bank
Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work
Second City Counseling Services
Services, Immigrant Rights & Education Network (SIREN)
Shriver Center on Poverty Law
Silver State Equality-Nevada
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team
South Asian Network (SAN)
South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
Spokane Immigrant Rights Coalition
SSG/PALS for Health
Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice
Tender Loving Care Family Caregiver Foundation
Tennessee Justice Center
The Arc of the United States
The Children's Partnership
The Coelho Center for Disability Law, Policy and Innovation
The Fresno Center
The Witness to Witness Program

The Workers Circle
TN Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition
Treatment Action Group
TrueCare
Unidos Mn
Union for Reform Judaism
United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1445
United Parent Leaders Action Network (UPLAN)
United We Dream Action
University YMCA New American Welcome Center
USF
Utah Coalition of La Raza
Utah Health Policy Project
Violence Free Colorado
Voices for Utah Children
WeCount!