



## **HNBA 2021 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF COVID RELIEF AND HEALTH EQUITY**

**WHEREAS**, the Hispanic National Bar Association (“HNBA”) is an association created to represent the interests of Hispanic legal professionals and the Hispanic community, acting as a collective voice for issues of common concern to its members; and

**WHEREAS**, the HNBA is the national voice of its legal community and Hispanics in the United States and its territories and possessions; and

**WHEREAS**, as communities across the country grapple with the health fallout from the Coronavirus crisis, the HNBA is deeply committed to ensuring that our communities are not left out of the federal response and relief efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, federal policies impact health care access, delivery and outcomes of all communities and the Hispanic community is particularly impacted by barriers to health access; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has claimed the lives of more than 500,000 Americans, including more than 90,000 Hispanics and the hospitalization rate of Hispanics is almost 4.6 times higher than White Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 vaccination efforts are underway and more than 90 million doses have been administered so far, representing nearly 18% of the U.S. population. Yet, early evidence shows that Hispanics are being vaccinated at lower rates than White Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, Congress and federal agencies have advanced many regulatory, coverage, reimbursement, and funding policies that support increased access to health services, such as telehealth options; and

**WHEREAS**, the predictable availability of telehealth and funding, coverage and reimbursement for telehealth is necessary to ensure access to health technology and telehealth services, for all medical services, including behavioral health needs, in underserved communities, including the Hispanic community; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Congress ensure that access to health care, including the Coronavirus vaccine, is available regardless of a person’s immigration status, income, medical insurance status, or categorical eligibility; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Congress exercise its oversight authority to ensure an equitable distribution of the vaccine and to pass legislation that requires and enables equitable vaccine distribution, including language translations on all government COVID vaccine websites and call centers to overcome language obstacles and ensure that Spanish-speakers are able to register to receive the vaccine.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) should utilize all existing authorities, including existing demonstration and waiver authorities, to permanently authorize telehealth coverage and payment parity policies, including for audio-only services, with priority consideration given to historically marginalized and underserved communities.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, CMS should utilize existing waiver and demonstration authority to permanently lift geographic and originating-site restrictions for telehealth.

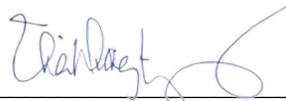
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, Federal healthcare programs should prioritize coverage and payment parity for telehealth and other services, such as remote patient monitoring for federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the HNBA authorizes its officers and staff to communicate the content of this resolution to members of the U.S. Congress, the press, and to whomever else suited to receive the information in order to affect this Resolution;

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of the HNBA until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I, **Elia Diaz-Yaeger**, National President of the Hispanic National Bar Association, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly enacted by the Executive Committee pursuant to the authority delegated to it by a duly-noticed meeting of the Board of Governors.



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**Elia Diaz-Yaeger**  
HNBA National President