

Tuesday, August 29, 2006

Dear Sir/Madam:

Congreso de Latinos Unidos, the largest Latino community-based organization in PA, located in Philadelphia, appreciates the opportunity to submit a comment on the Interim Recommendations of the Citizen's Health Care Working Group. We attended the working group meeting in Philadelphia on April 10, 2006. Our comment is as follows:

Page 19 – Define a 'Core' Benefit Package for all Americans:

Healthcare encompasses wellness, preventive services, primary care, acute care, prescription drugs, patient education, treatment, and management of health problems provided across a full range of inpatient and outpatient settings.

“The government should specifically earmark or designate a larger percentage of dollars for educational/preventive efforts as, long-term, these types of programs save the system money (and people from chronic disease, etc.). Community-based organizations should be included in the formula as potential outpatient health and wellness providers. This is especially relevant to our community (primarily low-income and Latino) who are usually not educated by their primary care physicians, due to language and sometimes cultural barriers. Community based organizations are equipped and trusted to educate the community in the area of health education, and the inclusion of these types of programs in the system ensures healthy lives and less expensive health care for all.”

Please confirm receipt of our comment, and if you have any questions please let me know. Thank you again for the opportunity to participate.

Best regards,

Kristin

Kristin Shipler
Director of Civic Engagement
Congreso de Latinos Unidos
www.congreso.net
215.763.8870 x1505