

**Member Organizations**

American GI Forum of the United States

ASPIRA Association, Inc.

Casa de Esperanza

Cuban American National Council

Farmworker Justice

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

Hispanic Federation

Hispanic National Bar Association

Labor Council for Latin American Advancement

LatinoJustice PRLDEF

League of United Latin American Citizens

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund

MANA, A National Latina Organization

National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives

National Association of Hispanic Publications

National Association of Latino Elected Officials

National Association of Latino Independent Producers

National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc.

National Council of La Raza

National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators

National Hispanic Leadership Institute

National Hispanic Council on Aging

National Hispanic Environmental Council

National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts

National Hispanic Medical Association

National Hispanic Media Coalition

National Institute for Latino Policy

National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health

National Puerto Rican Coalition

SER Jobs for Progress-National

Southwest Voter Registration Education Project

United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

United States Hispanic Leadership Institute

United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce



September 13, 2013

Honorable Michelle Obama  
First Lady of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Obama,

On the eve of Hispanic Heritage Month and National Public Lands Day, the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA) – a coalition of 36 leading Latino nonpartisan civil rights and advocacy organizations in the country – writes to respectfully request that you incorporate the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) as a priority to your successful *Let's Move!* initiative.

Latino children and adolescents are more likely to be overweight or obese than their non-Hispanic White and African-American peers. Two in five Latino children ages two to nineteen are overweight or obese, putting them at risk for diseases like diabetes, cancer and heart disease. Contributing factors include lack of access to healthy and affordable foods, and safe places for physical exercise. This has long-term impacts on our community's health and quality of life.

As you know, the Land and Water Conservation Fund provides much-needed resources for communities looking to combat childhood obesity by increasing the number of safe places for kids to walk and play outside. Using royalties paid by energy companies drilling for oil and gas offshore, LWCF protects national parks and forests, but also provides matching grants for close-to-home parks, playgrounds, soccer fields and other places for children to play outside.

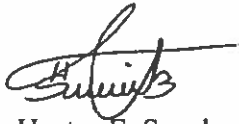
The President's proposed budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 includes a robust investment in the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and proposes to fully fund the program by 2015. The proposed FY 2014 budget also includes funding for the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program through LWCF, which enables cities to revitalize parks and playgrounds.

Unfortunately, although hundreds of millions of dollars in royalties are paid into LWCF each year, Congress diverts nearly all of this money to other purposes, dramatically impacting community efforts to build local parks, playgrounds and provide outdoor recreation.

We are eager to work with you to inspire action for the health of our youth. Please contact NHLA through Bertha Guerrero at 202-641-7186 or [bguerrero@hispanicfederation.org](mailto:bguerrero@hispanicfederation.org), to discuss how *Let's Move!* can put a spotlight on the role of the Land and Water Conservation Fund in providing outdoor recreational opportunities for Latino youth and families.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Hector E. Sanchez  
Chairman, National Hispanic Leadership Agenda



José Calderón  
President, Hispanic Federation

Cc:

Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior

Honorable Nancy Sutley, Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality

Chef Sam Kass, Executive Director, Let's Move! and Senior White House Policy Advisor for Nutrition Policy