

# STRENGTHENING OUR VOICES

NATIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS OF STATE LEGISLATORS

NEWSLETTER | FALL 2006

## From the President



On behalf of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL) it gives me great pleasure to invite you to our Fourth National Summit which will be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 16-19.

First and foremost I want to thank Puerto Rico's Senate President Kenneth McClintock, House Speaker Jose Aponte Hernandez, and Senator Luz Arce Ferrer for their combined support and assistance to make this Summit a great success.

This is the time of year that our legislators come together to discuss some hard-hitting issues that are impacting the Hispanic community on a daily basis. At this year's Summit we will address the challenges around education, health care and immigration with experts who will be among our featured speakers.

This year we will also host a special session to discuss the status of Puerto Rico's future, recognize the successes and accomplishments of several individuals who have contributed greatly to this country; and have a dialogue on women's health issues.

Remember also to make plans to participate at the John S. Martinez Golf Outing. This is a fundraising event and your participation will help us raise the funds to support our scholarship efforts to help young Latinos attend college.

Thank you again for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you at the Caribe Hilton in San Juan.

*Assemblyman Felix Ortiz (NY)*

## NHCSL CONVENES SUMMIT IN PUERTO RICO

### Education, Immigration, Health Top Agenda

The National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL) will convene its member Hispanic legislators from across the country with corporate executives, government officials and policymakers at its Fourth National Summit on November 16-19, 2006 in San Juan.

"It is an honor to be hosting an event of such importance for the NHCSL. Not only is this the ideal occasion to strengthen the bonds of communication within the Caucus, it is time to make our voices be heard and our actions be noted through the positive impact on public policies that I am certain we can achieve."

- Senate President Kenneth McClintock

The Summit will attract more than 100 participants.

Topics of discussion will cover NHCSL's policy priorities in the areas of health, education and immigration. Some of the featured speakers will include Illinois **Congressman Luis Gutierrez**; Chief of the Office of Citizenship with U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services **Alfonso Aguilar**; **Dr. Elena Rios**, President of the National Hispanic Medical Association; **Elizabeth Casas Ray**, Director of Hispanic Communications & Outreach with the U.S. Department of Education; **Kimberly Casiano**, President of Casiano Communications, and businesswoman **Marion Luna Brem**, among others.

A plenary session focusing on Women's Health will also be held with a distinguished panel of medical experts. Other events include a dedication ceremony honoring Veterans and a plenary about Puerto Rico's future. NHCSL is also working in collaboration with the office of Senate President **Kenneth McClintock** and Speaker of the House of Representatives **Jose F. Aponte Hernandez** who will host a special reception at the State Capitol on Friday, November 17.

At the closing dinner, "Noche de Celebracion" **Dr. Joxel Garcia**, Deputy Director of the Pan American Health Organization  
*Continued on page 3 See Summit*



## SPECIAL PLENARY

Friday, November 17  
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

*"Puerto Rico's Future: The Options After 108 Years of Being Under the U.S. Flag"*

**Moderator:** Jeffrey Farrow, Former Co-Chairman, White House Task Force on Puerto Rico.

- Senator Kenneth McClintock, President of the Senate of Puerto Rico
- Representative Hector Ferrer Rios, House Minority Leader PDP
- Nestor Duprey, Ex-Clerk of the House of Representatives
- Carlos Frontera, Adjunct Secretary for North American Relations for the Puerto Rican Independence Party

**NHCSL**  
National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators

FOURTH NATIONAL SUMMIT  
OF HISPANIC STATE  
LEGISLATORS

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
NOVEMBER 16-19, 2006  
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO



Kenneth McClintock



Jose F. Aponte Hernandez



Dr. Elena Rios

## GOLF OUTING DRAWS EXCITEMENT FOR A GOOD CAUSE



The NHCSL Summit officially begins with the John S. Martinez Golf Outing to help raise funds for the “John S. Martinez Excellence in Leadership” Scholarship Fund created to help high school students attend college.

The fund was created to honor the legacy of the late, former president of NHCSL, Representative John S. Martinez of Connecticut. The golf outing will be held at the El Dorado Golf Resort in San Juan. Golf pros and amateurs are invited to participate for a good cause. Join us on Thursday, November 16.

To register visit [www.nhcsl.org](http://www.nhcsl.org) or call 202-434-8070 for more information.

## WOMEN’S HEALTH PANEL: PREVENTION, SURVIVAL AND STRENGTH

In a special breakfast session legislators and experts will address the issue of Women’s Health and the challenges women of all generations face today. At the Summit, **Marion Luna Brem** will share her inspiring story of success and courage as a breast cancer and cervical cancer survivor. Brem was married with two young sons when her near-perfect home was shattered when she was diagnosed with a terminal illness and told she had only 2 to 5 years to live. Today, she is a highly successful businesswoman who travels the country to share her story of inspiration and strength. She is also the author of “The 7 Greatest Truths About Successful Women” and most recently, “Women Make the Best Salesman.”

Medical experts on the panel will address a

*Continued on page 3 See Health*



Luz Arce-Ferrer



Marion Luna Brem



Anna Carbonell

The National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL) is the preeminent organization representing the interests of 300 Hispanic state legislators from all states, commonwealths, and territories of the United States. Founded in 1989 as a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)3, NHCSL is a catalyst and advocate for joint action on issues of common concern, such as health, education, immigration, homeownership and economic development to all segments of the Hispanic community. NHCSL also works to design and

implement policies and procedures that will impact the quality of life for Hispanic communities; serves as a forum for information exchange and member networking; an institute for leadership training; a liaison with sister U.S. Hispanic organizations; a promoter of public/private partnerships with business and labor; and a partner with Hispanic state and provincial legislators and their associations representing Central and South America.

Strengthening Our Voices is made possible by



# PRELIMINARY AGENDA

### Thursday, November 16

- 6:00 am – 2:00 pm John S. Martinez Golf Outing at the El Dorado Golf Resort (6:00 am - Transportation to golf site) Breakfast Buffet (7:00-8:00 am) Shotgun Start (8:00 am) Awards & Prizes & Lunch (12:00 noon)
- 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm Welcome Reception: Jardín Botánico, Universidad de Puerto Rico

### Friday, November 17

- 7:30 am – 3:00 pm Registration & Breakfast
- 9:00 am – 12:00 noon POLICY PRIORITIES PLENARY - Education - Immigration - Health
- 12:00 noon – 1:15 pm Veterans’ Luncheon
- 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm Plenary: Puerto Rico’s Future: The Option After 108 Years of Being Under the U.S. Flag
- 3:15 pm – 4:30 pm Hispanics in Philanthropy & Corporate Governance
- 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm State Capitol Reception Location: El Capitolio, San Juan

### Saturday, November 18

- 8:00 am – 12:00 noon Registration
- 8:00 am – 11:30 am The State of Women’s Health Breakfast & Panel
- 12:00 noon – 1:30 pm Special Recognition Luncheon
- 6:00 pm – 11:00 pm “Noche de Celebración” Presentation of the John S. Martinez Excellence in Leadership Award

*Schedule subject to change without notice; visit [www.nhcsl.org](http://www.nhcsl.org) for updates.*



**Elizabeth Burgos**, Executive Director  
**Maria Ibañez**, Senior Advisor, Editor, *Strengthening Our Voices*  
**Tatiana Guerra**, Senior Research Associate  
**Rhina Villatoro**, Administrative Assistant

444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 404  
Washington, DC 20001

Tel: 202-434-8070 | Fax: 202-434-8072

[www.nhcsl.org](http://www.nhcsl.org)

**Sponsorship Opportunities are available.** Please call 202-434-8070 for more information.

**The Fourth National Summit** will be held at the Caribe Hilton in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Register online at [www.nhcsl.org](http://www.nhcsl.org).

**Advertise** in the NHCSL Summit Journal Review. For more information call 202-434-8070.



Kimberly Casiano

## HISPANICS IN PHILANTHROPY & CORPORATE GOVERNANCE ON SUMMIT AGENDA

**Kimberly Casiano**, President/Chief Operating Officer, Casiano Communications, Inc. and a member of the Ford Motor Company Board of Directors, and **Carlos J. Dávila** President, Citibank Florida, Business Manager, Citibank Puerto Rico will be speaking about philanthropy and the role of corporate governance as it impacts Hispanic organizations and businesses.



Carlos Davila

The panel, Hispanics In Philanthropy and Corporate Governance, will be held on Friday, November 17 at 3:15 pm.

### Summit *Continued from page 1*

nization will be among the speakers and NHCSL will present the John S. Martinez Excellence in Leadership Award to a distinguished legislator. “Noche de Celebracion” will be held on Saturday, November 18.

### Health *Continued from page 2*

series of issues impacting women today such as cancer, chronic disease, as well as the importance of prevention and overall health and wellness. **Senator Luz Arce Ferrer**, Chair of the NHCSL Health Task Force will participate at this session and **Anna Carbonell**, Vice President, Press and Public Affairs, NBC4 And Telmundo 47, will moderate the discussion.

Most recently, Senator Arce Ferrer was honored with the Health Care Disparities Leadership Award during the NBCSL/NHCSL 2006 Health Disparities Conference held in September.

## OFFICIALS DEBATE IMMIGRATION



Alfonso Aguilar

**Congressman Luis Gutierrez** (Ill) and **Alfonso Aguilar**, Chief of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services’ Office of Citizenship will be among the featured speakers discussing the topic of immigration at the NHCSL Fourth National Summit.

Representative Gutierrez serves Illinois’ Fourth Congressional District. During his 13 years in Congress, Rep. Gutierrez has emerged as a leading voice on national issues in the Latino community, while maintaining his presence as a fearless and fiery fighter for the issues facing his constituents. On the national level, there has not been an elected official more committed or more passionate about protecting and advocating for our nation’s immigrant community. Because of the Congressman’s outstanding work on immigration issues, he has served as Chair of the Democratic Caucus Immigration Task Force, where he is the party’s leading strategist

and spokesperson on immigration issues; and as the chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Immigration Task Force.

Aguilar joined U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, within the Department of Homeland Security, in 2003 after serving as Press Secretary for Latin America and the Caribbean in the U.S. Agency for International Development. He joined the Bush Administration in May 2001, as Deputy Director of Public Affairs for the U.S. Department of Energy where he remained until August 2002. Mr. Aguilar moved to Washington, D.C. in 2000 to serve as the Executive Director of the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration. In this capacity, he advised the Governor and other officials on issues, initiatives, and developments of importance to Puerto Rico. A native of San Juan, Mr. Aguilar began his career in the Department of State of the Government of Puerto Rico in San Juan, coordinating and facilitating government efforts to promote international trade.

The immigration session is on Friday, November 17 during the Policy Priorities Plenary from 9 am to 12 noon.

The following is an excerpt of an article by NHCSL

### “A Growing Concern: Latinas, HIV/AIDS and Other STDs”



**f o c u s**

With the Hispanic population in the United States at an estimated 41 million and rising, mounting health challenges facing this community must be addressed. Specifically, increasing numbers of Hispanics are being diagnosed with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that approximately 19 million new STD infections occur every year, almost half of them among young people ages 15 to 24.

The article is a part of the Healthy States Initiative. To read the article in its entirety please visit [www.nhcsl.org](http://www.nhcsl.org).



**NHCSL Executive Committee**

**NHCSL President**

Assemblyman Felix W. Ortiz  
New York

**NHCSL President-Elect**

Representative Joseph Miró  
Delaware

**Vice President for Public Policy**

Senator Bernadette Sanchez  
New Mexico

**Vice President for Membership**

Representative John Aguilera  
Indiana

**Treasurer**

Representative Minnie Gonzalez  
Connecticut

**Secretary**

Representative Mario Goico  
Kansas

Representative José F. Aponte Hernandez  
Puerto Rico

Senator Jarrett Barrios  
Massachusetts

Senator Carlos Cisneros  
New Mexico

• Representative Floyd Esquibel  
• Wyoming

• Representative Steve Gallardo  
• Arizona

• Senator Efrain González, Jr. (Past-President)  
• New York

• Delegate Ana Sol Gutiérrez  
• Maryland

• Representative Bob Henriquez  
• Florida

• Speaker Ben Lujan  
• New Mexico

• Senate President Kenneth McClintock  
• Puerto Rico

• Senator Antonio Muñoz  
• Illinois

• Representative Dora Olivo  
• Texas

• Senator Deborah Ortiz  
• California

• Senator Juan M. Pichardo  
• Rhode Island

• Assemblyman Peter Rivera  
• New York

• Senator Leticia Van de Putte  
(Immediate Past-President)  
• Texas

**Business Board of Advisors  
Leadership**

**Chairman**

Rafael Fernandez, Vice President of Latin Music  
Recording Industry Association of America

**Vice Chairman**

Armando Mejia Gallardo, District Director  
Altria Group, Inc

**Vice President for Corporate Policy**

Bert Gomez, Director, Federal Government  
Affairs  
R. J. Reynolds

**Vice President for Membership**

Mary Foerster, Director of Diversity  
AARP

**Secretary**

Emilio González, Director, Public Policy &  
Strategic Alliances  
Verizon Communications



444 North Capitol Street, NW  
Suite 404  
Washington, DC 20001