

**LETTER OF INTENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF ZACATECAS AND  
THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY  
TO PROMOTE AND PROVIDE PREVENTIVE AND PRIMARY HEALTH  
SERVICES TO THE ZACATECAN MIGRANTS**

The government of the State of Zacatecas, in compliance with the requests made by the population of Zacatecas to provide families access to health care, both to those residing within the state and those in the United States, and in accordance with the program "*Cien Días, Cien Acciones*" proposes to simultaneously implement health programs for the Zacatecan population in the United States.

The Secretariat of Health of the State of Zacatecas and the Health Initiative of the Americas, a program of University of California, Berkeley, hereinafter referred to as the "Parties";

BEARING IN MIND the commitment of the Parties to enhance the health and the quality of life of migrant communities of Zacatecan origin in the United States;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of improving access to health care for this population both in the United States of America and in their countries of origin;

EMPHASIZING the importance of promoting access and use of health care as well as disease prevention, on the understanding that health and diseases do not recognize borders;

ASSUMING that the participating officers representing the different governments and institutions are entitled to sign the present document;

REASSERTING that binational collaboration in public health related matters contributes to improving the quality of life of the population, both in the countries of origin and in those of destination;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that there are approximately 11.5 million Mexican immigrants in the United States, with the State of Zacatecas being one of the states with the highest proportion of migrants in this country, particularly in the State of California.

Zacatecan migrants, like all Mexican migrants in the United States, have dramatic disparities in health status and access to medical services: approximately 33% of Mexican adults lack health insurance, only 30% visit a doctor frequently, and 7.5% suffer from a chronic disease.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Office of Minority Health, <http://www.omhrc.gov/templates/browse.aspx?lvl=2&lvlID=54>

Zacatecan migrants have close ties with their communities of origin, which facilitates the implementation of binational health programs in terms of complementary and continuous efforts.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the experience that the Health Initiative of the Americas has achieved in terms of health in its 10 years of existence, through various programs aimed at addressing the health needs of migrant workers and their families, highlighting Binational Health Week and the program *Ventanillas de Salud* (health station booths at the consulates of Latin American countries).

THE PARTIES therefore, declare their intent to:

Work collaboratively to accomplish specific actions aimed at addressing the main causes of mortality among the Zacatecan population in the United States, including maternal and child health, obesity and diabetes, mental health and addictions, occupational health and workplace accidents, sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS. Also:

1. Jointly identify the areas of cooperation in public health, based on equality and mutual benefit, as well as evaluate the adoption of programs and agreements of specific programs of cooperation on health and education, through the following activities:
  - a) Collaborate on disease prevention and health promotion of migrants from Zacatecas to the U.S.A.,
  - b) Enhance the exchange of information and production of bilingual and culturally appropriated material,
  - c) Develop training programs for health professionals, students, and the general public on relevant health-related topics, education, and migration,
  - d) Strengthen the exchange of health and education professionals, thereby improving the understanding of the respective systems and their social and cultural contexts,
  - e) Conduct and promote a Binational Health Week with health promotion activities aimed at immigrant communities from Zacatecas, and
  - f) Place emphasis on binational research projects on issues of migrant health.
2. Establish a Joint Commission that will be coordinated by a delegate of the Secretariat of Health of the State of Zacatecas and a delegate of the Health Initiative of the Americas.
3. The Joint Commission will develop a Plan of Action that will include development of specific joint initiatives in order to deepen and broaden bilateral collaboration through the exchange of information and

continuous dialogue to better understand and improve access to health services for migrants and their families.

Signed in Los Angeles this 13<sup>th</sup> day of November of 2010.

WITNESS OF HONOR



MIGUEL ALONSO REYES  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ZACATECAS

FOR THE SECRETARIAT OF HEALTH OF THE STATE OF ZACATECAS, MEXICO



RAUL ESTRADA  
SECRETARY

FOR THE HEALTH INITIATIVE OF THE AMERICAS, A PROGRAM OF UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY



XOCHITL CASTANEDA  
DIRECTOR