

# MEDIA ALERT

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## University of California co-hosts Policy Briefing on the Impact of Health Care Reform on California's Latino Community

**SACRAMENTO** – Not all ethnic and racial groups in the United States will benefit equally from the health reform law approved by the Congress and signed into law by President Obama in 2010, despite the law's pledge to reduce disparities in health access and health care. In 2011, California will begin the process of implementing the key provisions of the law, paying careful attention to how the law will affect Latino and immigrant groups. Latinos make up 27% of the state population and 26% is foreign-born.

This is the subject of a policy briefing to be held at the California State Capitol on January 26<sup>th</sup> co-hosted by the Health Initiative of the Americas (HIA), Migration and Health Research Center (MAHRC) and the California Program on Access to Care (CPAC) programs of the School of Public Health at the University of California Berkeley and Davis, in collaboration with the Latino Health Alliance and the Consejo de Federaciones Mexicanas en Norteamerica (CoFEM).

Health reform is likely to benefit millions of Latinos in California, through expansion of Medicaid and through the creation of a state-based health insurance exchange. Yet, many California Latinos are considered to be hard-to-reach, and outreach is needed to educate them about the new law. Health reform does not apply to undocumented immigrants. 75% of undocumented immigrants are Latino and 24% of undocumented immigrants live in California.

"In our efforts to reduce health disparities among ethnic groups, it is crucial that California consider the impact of health reform on our Latino and immigrant communities," says Xochitl Castaneda, Director of HIA. "Latinos make up the fastest growing population group in the United States, and their needs should be taken into account in implementing the reform," stated Marc Schenker, director of MAHRC.

The policy briefing will be held January 26, 2011 from 3 pm to 5 pm at the California State Capitol in Sacramento. Speakers include: Dylan Roby of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, Lucien Wulsin, Director of the Insure the Uninsured Project, Marc Schenker, Director of the Migration and Health Research Center, Carmella Castellano, CEO of the California Primary Care Association, and others.

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