



# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE 84<sup>TH</sup> TEXAS LEGISLATURE

*Nuestro Texas: A Reproductive Justice Agenda for Latinas* offers a comprehensive blueprint to restore Texas Latinas' rights to health, information, non-discrimination, and other fundamental human rights. Specifically, the policy agenda outlines concrete action steps the 84th Texas Legislature can take to:

- Ensure that preventive sexual and reproductive health services meet the needs of all Texans;
- Ensure access to comprehensive information about sexuality and reproduction;
- Ensure access to safe, legal, and affordable abortion for all Texas women;
- Expand health insurance coverage;
- Protect the human rights of immigrants.

Latinas are the highest population of women of reproductive age in Texas. Compared to Texas women of other racial and ethnic groups, Latinas are less likely to have health insurance or access to sexual and reproductive health care. Consequently, they experience poor reproductive health outcomes, including far higher rates of cervical cancer, unintended pregnancy, and sexually transmitted infections.

The policy agenda that follows is a subset of the key policy recommendations discussed more fully in *Nuestro Texas: A Reproductive Justice Agenda for Latinas*. Policy recommendations reflect a reproductive justice analysis that is rooted in the fundamental human rights principles of universality, indivisibility, participation, accountability, transparency, equality, and non-discrimination. Despite the formidable barriers that exist, Texas Latinas are increasingly organized and mobilized for policy change.

**We urge you to stand with Texas Latinas and support the Nuestro Texas reproductive justice agenda.**

## **ENSURE THAT PREVENTIVE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL TEXANS**

- Substantially increase funding for women's health and family planning programming to meet Texas Latinas' growing need for affordable contraception and other services
- Boost provider capacity in family planning service provision, especially in rural and underserved areas, by ensuring every provider is trained in specialized women's health care and the particular needs of Latinas and immigrants
- Ensure employment opportunities and sustainable funding for Community Health Workers, or *promotoras*, who provide critical health information, education, and health promotion services to Latino communities
- Require all providers contracted with the state to offer a full range of FDA-approved contraceptives, including long-acting reversible contraceptives available onsite, and comprehensive options counseling and referrals

## **ENSURE ACCESS TO COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION ABOUT SEXUALITY AND REPRODUCTION**

- Require schools that teach sex education to use age-appropriate, evidence-based information
- Remove the requirement that women be informed about an association between abortion and a risk of breast cancer as part of the consent process
- Remove waiting periods and biased counseling laws that interfere with women's right to information and autonomous decision-making about their reproductive health

## ENSURE ACCESS TO SAFE, LEGAL, AND AFFORDABLE ABORTION FOR ALL TEXAS WOMEN

- Repeal HB2 and refrain from passing laws targeting abortion facilities and providers that make safe abortion harder to obtain
- Repeal laws that place unnecessary and costly burdens on obtaining abortion, including the 24-hour waiting period and restrictions on provision of medication abortion

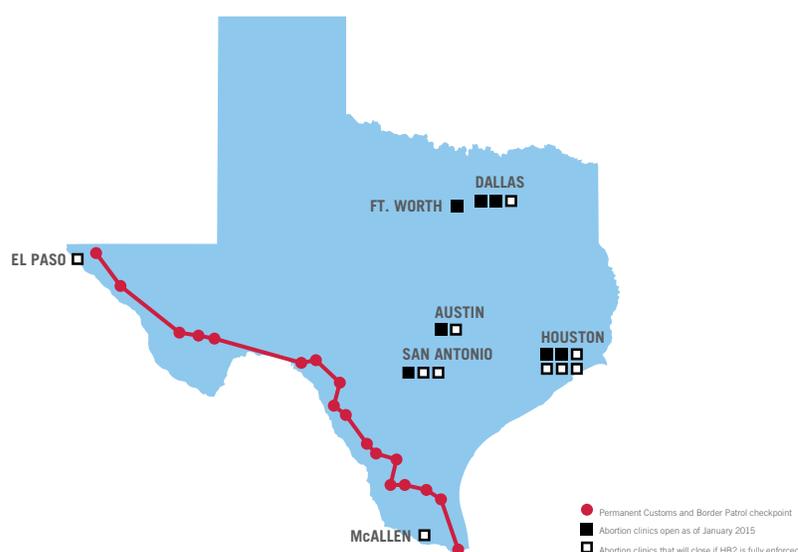
## EXPAND ACCESS TO HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR ALL TEXANS

- Close the “coverage gap” to maximize health insurance coverage for the uninsured
- Take proactive steps to ensure Texans have access to culturally competent health information and resources when seeking coverage through the federally operated health insurance marketplace

## PROTECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF IMMIGRANTS

- Update state identification requirements to ensure all Texans have access to a validly issued state identification
- Limit the establishment of road checkpoints within 100 miles of the border inside Texas
- Allow authorized immigrants to enroll in comprehensive Medicaid once they have resided in the United States lawfully for five years and meet income eligibility requirements

Texas Abortion Clinics and Immigration Checkpoints



Source: N.Y. Times, “A Shrinking Number of Abortion Clinics in Texas”; U.S. Government Accountability Office, Report to Congressional Requestors on Border Patrol (Aug. 2009)

For questions about the *Nuestro Texas: A Reproductive Justice Agenda for Latinas* contact:

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