

# Having Our Say!

Communities of Color's Stake in Health Care Reform

## Mobilizing Communities of Color

Jennifer Hernandez, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation

June 30th, 2009 ❖ Los Angeles, CA

## About Us

Having  
Our Say!  
Communities of Color's Stake in Health Care Reform



Founded in 2007, Having Our Say (HOS) is a statewide coalition of over 50 organizations, working to ensure that communities of color have a voice in the health care reform debate

**Join us by e-mailing: [havingoursay@cpehn.org](mailto:havingoursay@cpehn.org)**

\*Funding support for this conference was made possible in part by cooperative agreement MPCMP051003 from the Office of Minority Health, OPHS, OS, DHHS. The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services, nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

## Steering Committee Members

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- ▶ Asian Health Services
- ▶ Black Women for Wellness
- ▶ California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
- ▶ California Partnership
- ▶ California Immigrant Policy Center
- ▶ California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation



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## Why We Came Together

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- ▶ Original founding groups saw an opportunity to raise the voice of communities of color both in Sacramento and in Local Communities
  - ▶ Created a statewide coalition representative of California's communities of colors both demographically and geographically
  - ▶ HOS became a local/regional voice on health care reform
- ▶ Had to address the tough issues:
  - ▶ Health disparities
  - ▶ Impact of immigrant community
  - ▶ Impact of California's most vulnerable

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## 5 Principles of Health Care Reform

- ▶ Provide universal and affordable health care coverage for all
- ▶ Ensure equity of responsibility based on financial resources
- ▶ Assure an efficient health care system to sustain universal coverage
- ▶ Assure equitable, high-quality health care for all
- ▶ Prioritize prevention by encouraging preventive care and creating healthy communities

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## What We Do on the Ground

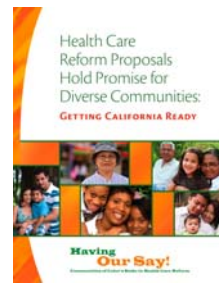
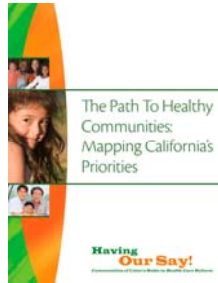
- ▶ Legislative visits
- ▶ Regional forums
- ▶ Press conferences
- ▶ Policy analysis



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## Policy Reports

- ▶ Health Care Reform Proposals Hold Promise for Diverse Communities: Getting California Ready (Aug 2007)
- ▶ Having Our Say's Reflection on Health Care Reform Efforts in California (May 2008)
- ▶ *The Path to Healthy Communities: Mapping California's Priorities (May 2008)*



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## Media

- ▶ HOS members conducted one-on-one media visits with ethnic outlets to share our perspective on health care reform and budget cuts in California
- ▶ HOS members and partners conducted press events across the state around ballot measures, health care proposals and budget cuts
- ▶ HOS has provided resources for media outlets in at least 5 languages

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## Community Building

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- ▶ HOS members and partners provided regional briefings on health care reform proposals, budget cuts and ballot measures
- ▶ HOS provided members with capacity building workshops on Policy Development, the Budget Process and Media Advocacy
- ▶ HOS developed user friendly materials for community dissemination

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## National Health Care Reform

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- ▶ HOS members attended June 25<sup>th</sup> Lobby Day in Washington D.C. and spoke at Health Equity town hall events.
- ▶ HOS members are organizing visits with California Congressional representatives to ensure that national health care reform solutions address the needs of communities of color around: Affordability, Immigrant Inclusion, Language Access, and Health Disparities and Prevention.

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### Voices for Change: Connecting the Dots Between Prevention & Care

A special thanks to our event sponsors, who help make this conference possible.

#### **Gold**

The California HealthCare Foundation  
The Office of Minority Health\*

#### **Silver**

The California Endowment  
Catholic Healthcare West  
Kaiser Permanente  
Language Line Services

#### **Bronze**

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations  
L.A. Care Health Plan

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