

September 24, 2024

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH**

**Proclaiming October 1, 2024, as National Latino Physicians Day in Los Angeles County**

Despite being half of the population in Los Angeles County (County), Latinos are significantly underrepresented at every level of our healthcare system. This is especially true of Latino doctors. According to the Medical Board of California, only 6% of physicians are Latino. The significant health care barriers that exist for Latinos are exacerbated by the lack of Latino physicians.

Research has consistently shown that Latino patients are more likely to access medical advice and care, and are more satisfied with their care, when their healthcare providers (doctors, nurses, technicians) share similar backgrounds to their own - not just speaking the same language but also sharing a deeper understanding based on culture, beliefs, values, and community. Sharing lived experiences and cultures allows for comfortability, honesty, and trust between patients and providers and, as a result, contributes to better health outcomes.

The work of Latino physicians brings about real, and oftentimes immediate, benefits for their patients. But for Latino physicians, this is done despite an educational system, career pathways, and professional networks that tend, like other institutions, to make underrepresented groups' experiences more intense, complicated, and difficult. Aspiring Latino physicians experience obstacles and hardships related to financial and opportunity costs, academic and

MOTION

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

MITCHELL \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

HORVATH \_\_\_\_\_

socioeconomic disadvantages, and immigration-related barriers.

In 2023, Congressman Raul Ruiz and Congresswoman Yadira Caraveo, both physicians, designated October 1st as National Latino Physician Day. The day brings awareness to the critical underrepresentation of Latino physicians across the county and the need to address inequities in education and health outcomes.

National Latino Physicians Day provides a call to action for Latinos, healthcare organizations, educational institutions, and society at large. This day also highlights the need to increase greater representation in the healthcare system from all communities of color, race, and ethnicities.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim October 1, 2024, as National Latino Physicians Day in Los Angeles County.
2. Encourage the Department of Health Services, Department of Mental Health, and Department of Public Health to collaborate with Hispanic-Servicing Institutions to reduce the underrepresentation of Latino physicians in the County.

**# # #**

LPH:af

