



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

March 8, 2019

Contact: Amanda Bosquez, abosquez@naleo.org
(202) 546-2536, (361) 548-6989 (cell)

Paula Valle Castanon, pvalle@naleo.org
(213) 747-7606 ext. 114, (323) 253-6431 (cell)

NALEO Convenes Latino Policymakers for “Make Census 2020 Count” Advocacy Day

Washington, D.C. – As part of the annual “Make Census 2020 Count” Advocacy Day yesterday, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) and Latino elected officials from across the nation spent the day on Capitol Hill educating Members of Congress about the importance of providing full funding for Census 2020, removing the citizenship question, and protecting census data confidentiality.

A bipartisan delegation of Latino elected officials from Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, Rhode Island and Texas, participated in this year’s advocacy day. Meeting with more than 35 Members of Congress and their staff, from both sides of the aisle, advocacy day participants addressed how a successful Census 2020 is critical to their local communities.

“Given the importance of Census 2020 in distributing billions of dollars in federal funding and the allocation of political power to communities across the country for the next 10 years, we cannot afford to have millions of Latinos and other Americans missed in the nation’s decennial count,” stated Arturo Vargas, NALEO Chief Executive Officer. “A failed count of the nation’s second largest population group would mean a failed Census 2020 for the country. It is time for Congress to act to provide the Census Bureau with adequate funding and provide Latinos and all Americans with the clarity and safety they need to participate in the 2020 Census by removing the citizenship question once and for all.”

In less than one year, the 2020 Census will be in full swing. Timely funding for the 2020 Census is necessary to ensure that the Census Bureau can meet real and growing threats to an accurate count across the country. Communities and populations at risk of an undercount include low income rural and urban, American Indian, and Alaska Native areas; immigrant households (regardless of legal status); people of color; young children and single-parent households; young mobiles; and communities grappling with the opioid crisis. Cyber-security threats, fear of law enforcement and immigration authorities (especially in light of the new citizenship question), civic disengagement, and the digital divide (both reliable broadband and Internet use) put a successful census at risk.

###

About NALEO Educational Fund

NALEO Educational Fund is the nation's leading non-profit, non-partisan organization that facilitates the full participation of Latinos in the American political process, from citizenship to public service.