

we want to accelerate this process, particularly for Latinas. **Currently, there are only nine Latinas serving in the House of Representatives and not a single Latina has ever been elected to the U.S. Senate.**

<http://nationalhispanicleadership.org/NHLA2.png>

Check out what Carmen Orozco-Acosta, formerly with NHLA and now a senior legislative aide in Congress, has to say about what equal representation means to her by [clicking here](#)

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Latinas, 25 million strong and growing in the U.S., have increasing influence in our culture, communities, and at the ballot box. Despite this, they are dramatically underrepresented in politics, with only 109 Latinas serving in state or national political offices—out of 8,236 total seats. While often encouraged as voters, Latinas are rarely encouraged as candidates.

THE LATINA TASK FORCE

NHLA's Latina Task Force was created to develop recommendations and systems that fully integrate gender-specific perspectives into the operating principles and structure of the NHLA. Through trainings of NHLA's policy committee chairs and recommendations, the Latina Task Force will develop sustainable strategies to integrate the issues that are particular to women throughout the work of the coalition.

<http://nationalhispanicleadership.org/NHLA1.png>

Ann Marie Benitez, Senior Director of Government Relations at the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, discusses why equal access to health care for women is so important: [click here](#)

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The Latina Task Force supports the commitment of the NHLA to intentionally integrate a gender-inclusive lens throughout its priorities and work. The efforts of the Latina Task Force strengthen the commitment of the NHLA as a vital leader and partner in assisting in the advancement of diversity, equity and inclusion of Latina women in different contexts, may it be labor rights, immigration, health care law, economic opportunity, or others.

We hope you will also take time to help the Latinas in your life succeed. The more we can strengthen the position of Latinas in society, the stronger our