



## MEMORANDUM

### Latino▣Decisions

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Re: COVID-19 impact on Latinos and views towards HEROES Act  
From: Matt Barreto and Gary Segura, Latino Decisions co-founders  
Date: May 20, 2020

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One-fourth of Latino Americans know somebody who has been infected with COVID-19, and of those Latinos one-third know somebody who died from the virus. More disconcerting is the fact that a startling high percentage of Latinos—27%—report that they know someone who wants a test, but has been unable to get tested. As the HEROES Act moves to the Senate, more than 80% of Latinos want the bill to protect all immigrant families and to ensure loans for Latino small-owned businesses.

These are among the key findings of a new poll conducted by Latino Decisions on behalf of SOMOS, UnidosUS and MoveOn (May 10-16, 2020, n=1,829 Latino adults nationwide, +/- 2.3%). The poll includes a national sample of the 50 states plus DC, and includes oversamples in six states—Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois and Texas—plus a two-state combined sample of New York and New Jersey, where the coronavirus has been especially pervasive.

Key findings:

#### Latinos see government response to coronavirus as most important issue

- More than half (54%) of Latinos cite the virus as the “most important issues facing your community that you think Congress and the President should address.” A combined 91% said they are following either “very closely” (59%) or “somewhat closely” (32%) news about the virus. Attention to the coronavirus pandemic is all consuming and risks crowding out enthusiasm/interest in the 2020 election. Currently 62% of Latinos say they are certain to vote, down from a high of 73% in February 2020.

#### Latino views on specific provisions in HEROES Act

- Latinos strongly agree that the initial stimulus bill was not enough and that families will need more over the next few months. What’s more, millions of Latino families and businesses missed out on getting any support in the CARES Act. Overall, 31% of US born Latinos and 45% of immigrants said they did not receive any stimulus checks at all. When asked about a second stimulus check 88% of Latinos agreed Congress should authorize an additional \$1200/\$2400 household payment.

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- When asked about specific provisions in the HEROES Act, there is overwhelming support for the full inclusion of all immigrants in receiving financial support:
  - 85% say any undocumented immigrant who paid federal taxes should qualify
  - 86% say US born citizen children should qualify regardless of parents' status
  - 85% support undocumented immigrants classified as essential workers being fully included in relief support
  - 87% say Congress should take this opportunity to reauthorize legal work permits for immigrants who had TPS or DACA
- Latinos want expanded testing and treatment available to everyone regardless of immigration status: 89% support coronavirus testing available to everyone, while 92% support funding for coronavirus treatment for everyone.
- Congress should renew and extend unemployment benefits and small-business loans. 91% of Latinos want to see a small-business and self-employment fund established for people who missed out on the first round of loans, and the same percent also support expanding unemployment insurance and benefits to assist those now jobless.
- Latinos have high levels of trust in state and local governments handling of COVID-19 crisis and overwhelmingly support increased funding for state and local governments to provide essential services – 91 percent support in the Heroes Act.

### Latinos face continued health and economic disparities

- COVID-19 continues to impact Latino communities. One-quarter of Latinos know someone who has become ill due to coronavirus, while 27% know someone who wants to be tested but has not been able to. Among those who know someone ill, 58% say the person has been admitted to the hospital and 32% say the person has died. Among all Latinos nationwide, that represents 8% who know someone who has died of coronavirus.
- The health pandemic continues to have devastating economic impacts for Latinos. More than one-third – 36% – say they or someone in their household has lost their job and 46% say they or someone in their household has faced a furlough or significant pay cut. Taken together, a full 60% experienced either a job loss or hours/pay cut, including 22% who had experienced *both*. And right now, 41% say they are having a hard time paying basic monthly expenses such as rent, mortgage and bills. Looking ahead, Latinos share significant economic concerns:
  - 64% are concerned someone in their house will lose their job
  - 68% say they won't be able to meet their housing or basic monthly bills
  - 71% say they may lose their savings or retirement
  - 81% worried their children are falling behind in school

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- Latino small-owned businesses and those self-employed have been hard hit. Nationwide over one-quarter of Latino entrepreneurs have seen their business shutdown or lost significant revenue. Among those, almost half – 49 percent – say they had trouble getting a loan under the initial stimulus bill.

### Latinos perspectives on handling the crisis, reopening economy

- Latinos do not trust Trump’s handling of the coronavirus crisis. His trust index is only 3.27 out of 10, similar to the trust score for congressional Republicans (3.86), but significantly lower than the trust scores for their community’s doctors and nurses (7.07), home-state governors (5.87), county/local officials (5.66) and congressional Democrats (5.15). Moreover, 67% of Latinos say Trump ignored early warnings and his delays are the reason so many Americans died.
- When asked about continued quarantine versus re-opening states, more than three-quarters (76%) of Latinos continue to support stay-at-home orders, despite the pervasive health and economic woes. Fully 81% say governors should re-open their states slowly, based on the advice of health experts, rather than rush to open.
- Roughly half of Latinos surveyed said they experienced difficulty during the pandemic in acquiring food, medicine or household supplies (50%) and had to home-school their children (46%) during the lockdown. Among those working and schooling from home, 84% have received no technological or financial support such as loaner laptops or help paying higher internet or cell phone bills.

**About the poll:** Latino Decisions interviewed n=1,829 Latino adults nationwide from May 10 – 16, 2020. Respondents answers questions on their cell phone or landline with live callers, or via online self-responses through text or email invitations. Respondents were all randomly selected and lists deduped so each respondent only had one opportunity to be included. The invitation and survey were both available in English or Spanish, and overall 41% of respondents answered in Spanish. Final data were compared to the Census ACS most recent estimates for Latino adults nationwide and weights were included to balance demographics for age, gender, education and region. Overall, the full sample contains a margin of error of +/- 2.3%. Some questions were just asked of registered voters (n=1,251) which contains margin of error of +/- 2.8%. State oversamples averaged approximately 240 respondents and have a margin of error of +/- 6.3%.