

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 25, 2007

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

As Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, we write to express serious concern regarding allegations that White House officials heavily edited testimony provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) about the impact of climate change on public health. We urge you to release the full, uncut statement and provide an explanation of why the detailed information regarding expected impacts of climate change on health was deleted.

According to press reports, testimony delivered by Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the CDC, was "eviscerated" at the direction of the White House. Deletions included details on how many people might be adversely affected because of increased warming and the scientific basis for the types of diseases which may be spread in a warmer climate.

We are particularly concerned about the health impacts of climate change on the Hispanic community. Climate change will increase the risks of climate-sensitive health outcomes, and create economic instability, particularly in already vulnerable populations. Over 50 percent of the 39 million people living in poverty reside in urban settings, a large percentage of which are minorities. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicts that cities in North America that already experience heatwaves are expected to face more frequent, more intense and longer heatwaves over the course of the next century with the potential for consequent adverse health impacts. More than 15 million Hispanics lack health coverage, exacerbating these circumstances and making the consequences of such health impacts more severe.

Communities of color deserve to know the full impacts of climate change on their health. Denying them access to this information because the impacts may reveal information that does not support the Administration's policy is irresponsible and wrong. We urge you to immediately release Dr. Gerberding's full, uncut statement and explain why the detailed information regarding expected impacts of climate change on health was deleted.

Sincerely,



JOE BACA  
Chair, Congressional Hispanic Caucus



HILDA L. SOLIS  
Chair, CHC Health and Environment Task Force