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Albuquerque, NM

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WOMEN JOIN FORCES TO BRIDGE THE GAP IN ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE AND MEDICINES

Chief Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court, Attorney General of New Mexico, Secretary of State of New Mexico and Others Unite at First Latina Summit on Health

Albuquerque, NM – Alma Morales Riojas, president and CEO of MANA, A National Latina Organization, issued a call to action today from the First Latina Summit on Health, outlining several steps to help facilitate access to needed medications for Latinos. The event, held Monday, Nov. 1st in Albuquerque, gathered the most prominent Latinas in the state, including the Chief Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court, Petra Jimenez Maes, the Attorney General of New Mexico, Patricia Madrid, and New Mexico’s Secretary of State, Rebecca Vigil-Giron, along with many other Latina leaders.

The group focused on the health care needs of the Latino community, which suffers from the highest rate of uninsured, and issued a call to action to mobilize community resources to help individuals access free and low-cost prescriptions available through new prescription assistance resources launched over the last two years.

“This summit to gather powerful women to generate ideas for solutions to a problem that each day becomes more and more critical within the Hispanic community was long overdue,” said Riojas. “Thanks to Pfizer we are able to make progress on closing the gap in prescription care coverage for Hispanics.”

One out of every three Hispanics in the U.S. and one in every four in New Mexico lack health insurance. Millions more do not have prescription drug coverage, preventing many from seeking and obtaining essential medical attention.

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“We come from disparate backgrounds and experiences but with a common purpose – to change the paradigm and help serve and protect the health of our

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community,” said Rebecca Vigil-Giron, New Mexico Secretary of State and President of the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS), who also attended the event and contributed to the report.

It is time for action, time to get informed and time to get the word out,” said Supreme Court Justice Jimenez Maes. “We must be the leaders to improve the health of our community. It is the only way.”

The Call to Action from the First Latina Summit on Health includes the following points:

- Educate a woman to educate a family to help save and rebuild communities. Hispanic women require health-care options and resources for themselves and their communities.
- Hispanic women should prioritize taking care of themselves so that they can be in a better position to take care of their families as the primary caregivers.
- Hispanic families are strengthened by family ties that provide unique trusting relationships. That strength can be extended to a broader community of neighbors, family, and friends.

MANA and Pfizer Inc., which helped in making this event possible, are committed to paving the way to help Hispanics and the uninsured gain access to critical healthcare resources. Pfizer launched the first comprehensive patient assistance program to assist people with no prescription drug coverage obtain the Pfizer medications they need for free or at reduced cost. In 2004 alone, Pfizer helped 2 million patients receive 10 million Pfizer prescriptions through its patient assistance programs. For more information on the program, visit www.PfizerHelpfulAnswers.com or call 1-866-706-2400.

MANA, is a nonprofit, advocacy organization established in 1974. Its mission is to empower Latinas through leadership development, community service, and advocacy. MANA fulfills its mission through programs designed to develop the leadership skills of Latinas, promote community service by Latinas, and provide Latinas with advocacy opportunities. For more information, visit www.hermana.org.

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