

Joint Advisory Committee for the Improvement of Air Quality
Comite Consultivo Conjunto para el Mejoramiento de la Calidad del Aire
Cd. Juarez, Chihuahua / El Paso, Texas / Sunland Park, New Mexico

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The Honorable Richard Carmona

The Surgeon General
Office of the Surgeon General
5600 Fishers Lane
Room 18-66
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Carmona:

During your time as Surgeon General, you have made strong and positive statements about seeking to improve the health and well being of the Hispanic community, especially those citizens along the U.S.-Mexico border. We also share the same interest and hope there are ways that we can work together to further our mutual goals.

Our Binational Joint Advisory Committee Paso Del Norte Air Quality was formed to create a positive change in air attainment status for our border region. This model of three states-Texas, New Mexico, and Chihuahua, Mexico, united by common air shed problems which traversed boundaries, has led to the formation of a binational water task force and a binational health task force. Many of the special needs of our border area are unmet by existing public policy, legislation, state and federal agencies. Your statement at the National Conference of State Legislators in San Diego, spring of 2003, was, "I will dedicate myself to creating a legacy of positive change for the border region, for America, and for the global community, which I now serve, and I will do that with your help and leadership."

We, as the Binational Joint Advisory Committee Paso Del Norte, urge you to publish a Surgeon General's report on Hispanic/Latino health issues, which would include a special section on health along the U.S.-Mexico border. Our group, as well as the similarly modeled groups, are working diligently to create environmental quality of air and water to decrease adverse health impacts in our border region. The Pew Commission Report, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, as well as the Healthy Border 2012 have mission statements of changing detrimental environmental factors which affect the health of our region. Yet, there needs to be a stronger unifying movement, as a Surgeon General's report on Hispanic/Latino health issues with a special emphasis on health along the U.S.-Mexico border. Thus, we ask you to initiate this report to create your legacy of positive change for our border region

Sincerely,

Elaine Mowinski Barron, M.D. on behalf of the Binational Joint Advisory Committee
Paso Del Norte.