

September 29, 2023

Representative Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Rules Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Chairman Cole:

As Hispanic leaders and activists from across the United States, we are writing to commend the House Appropriations Committee for defunding the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Latino in the FY24 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies bill. We have deep concern at the leftist ideological narrative regarding the history and culture of U.S. citizens of Hispanic origin being advanced by the Museum and anticipate that funding cut will remain in the final bill ultimately considered by the House of Representatives.

As three of the undersigned [stated](#) last year in an opinion editorial, the Museum's first exhibit at the National Museum of American History, "offers an unabashedly Marxist portrayal of history, religion and economics" which reduces "the identity and history of Hispanics in the U.S. to a 'struggle for justice,' mostly centered on advancing a leftist agenda "on labor, education access, fair housing, and more recently, immigration and justice reform, LGBT rights...".

*"Presente! A Latino History of the United States"*, as the exhibit is titled, is unfortunately not an outlier of what the Museum intends to present to the public. A recent Time article revealed that the Museum's next exhibit, which was being curated by two well-known radical professors, was to highlight leftist organizations that questioned the benefits of the American capitalist system. The Smithsonian decided to put a break on the exhibit only after the abovementioned editorial came out and out of concern that it could affect the Museum's fundraising efforts.

It is regrettable, but clear, that this Museum will not present an objective and inclusive description of Hispanics. An accurate portrayal would include unsavory aspects of our history, but it would also focus on our largely successful experience and on the diversity of political views and outlooks within our community. It would also highlight the impressive growth of Hispanic businesses, the importance of family and faith for our communities, and the deep sense of love and devotion to America as evidenced by the many Hispanics who have served with honor and pride in our Armed Forces.

The reality is that the Museum has been set up as a forum to promote a culturally Marxist take of the experiences of Hispanics in the United States. It paints Hispanics as victims that must air grievances against the United States. The Left's plan is to inject that ideology into the public discourse and transform the country to their wishes.

This is not surprising. The Museum's Scholarly [Advisory Committee](#), which is responsible for providing substantive guidance to the Museum's leadership, is controlled by leftist professors and activists.

We, therefore, commend the House Appropriations Committee for not renewing funding for the Museum for Fiscal Year 2024 and expect that the funding cut will remain in the final bill ultimately considered by the House of Representatives.

We strongly believe that it is too risky to proceed with this project at a time when there is a concerted effort by Leftist cultural elites in academia and other educational institutions, including museums, to push an extreme and biased account of U.S. history. In this sense, we think it would be very naïve for Congress to be swayed by any assurances from the Smithsonian's leadership that they will take action to rectify the Museum's content.

Remember that once the museum is fully established and built, it will be inconceivable for Congress to demand and achieve changes later.

We can assure you, finally, that Hispanics do not want a museum on the National Mall that presents a distorted representation of who they are. That is why your decision to pause funding for the Museum of the American Latino will not be perceived by them as a slight on Hispanics, but as a defense of their identity.

Respectfully,

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