



For 40 years, Dr. Marie S. Torres has been a tireless champion and advocate for the medically underserved and the disenfranchised populations in California. Until 2021, she served as Senior Vice President of Government Relations and Community Research Initiatives for AltaMed Health Services Corporation. In this role she oversaw advocacy, public policy, and legislative initiatives. Simply put, her job was to protect a patient's right to access exceptional health care, and strengthen the communities of all those whom AltaMed serves.

In 1991, Dr. Torres was recruited by AltaMed CEO Cástulo de la Rocha to help establish the health system's Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). Mr. de la Rocha was as impressed with her background in social work and gerontology, as he was with her roots in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of East Los Angeles. Her own commitment to social justice mirrored that of AltaMed's and soon after, she established the Government Relations department.

Dr. Torres has helped AltaMed seamlessly weave social and political advocacy into its business model and its brand. She combines an affinity for grass roots organization with a deep network of political contacts, to help protect policy in building access to health care and eliminating disparities. She led AltaMed's efforts to support Medi-Cal, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and the Affordable Care Act, to name a few of the national programs, and countless others at the state and local levels.

One of her biggest advocacy successes came with Cal-Learn, a statewide program providing intensive case management and supportive services to pregnant teens, teen mothers, and their children to help them graduate from high school or its equivalent, become independent, and form healthy families. Despite the program's proven track record for fostering self-sufficiency, Cal-Learn was suspended in 2011, and many of the program's vital resources were eliminated. Working with elected officials and community leaders, Dr. Torres identified the program's success stories, as well as those who were most vulnerable, and arranged for them to give testimonials at state assembly hearings and conduct legislative visits. Thanks to a

concentrated, statewide nine-month campaign led by Dr. Torres, Cal-Learn was fully reinstated.

Dr. Torres spearheaded the development and launch of AltaMed's My Vote, My Health, Mi Voto, Mi Salud Civic Engagement Initiative, which aims to activate members of under-represented communities in civic matters and social issues and empower them to vote. Health care is at the core of the initiative, but on a broader scale, the program promotes justice, equality, and opportunity.

Most recently, her leadership and advocacy has resulted in AltaMed's expansion of the PACE program into Orange County, CA culminating after 13 years of policy changes required to allow additional providers into the Orange County. Her efforts came to fruition with the opening of two sites, one in Anaheim and one in Santa Ana expanding these needed services to elder and disabled populations.

Dr. Torres' advocacy extends beyond her work at AltaMed. Her professional efforts have been recognized by organizations at the local, state, and national level. In March 2019 she was honored with the Women of Achievement Award from State Senator Bob Archuleta. She was the recipient of the Woman of the Year by the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation's Annual National Latina Women's Conference. Dr. Torres has also been recognized with the Los Angeles Aging and Advocacy Coalition Champion Award; the 64th Assembly District Women in Leadership Award from Assembly member Mike Gipson; and the Betsey K. Cooke Grassroots Advocacy Most Valuable Player Award from the National Association of Community Health Centers, among many others.

Throughout her career, Dr. Torres has been active and held leadership positions in several professional associations including the CalPACE Association, California Primary Care Association, the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County, Coalition of Orange County Community Health Centers, America's Physician Groups, the National Association of Community Health Centers and National PACE Association.

Her dedication to safe and healthy communities extended to her own neighborhood and she organized a volunteer effort with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Industry Station Community Advisory Committee and served as a Neighborhood Watch Captain.

Dr. Torres recently retired and resides in Hacienda Heights, CA.

Education:

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