



**PRESS RELEASE**

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FORWARD LATINO, AFFILIATES AND ALLIES FROM ACROSS WISCONSIN AWARD WI DHS SECRETARY KAREN TIMBERLAKE HEALTH EQUITY CHAMPION OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**Franklin, WI –** Forward Latino, a non-partisan, non-profit service, and advocacy organization, its affiliates and allies from across Wisconsin traveled to Madison, Wisconsin to award Wisconsin Department of Health Services Secretary Karen Timberlake the Forward Latino “2022 Health Equity Champion of the Year Award.”

Darryl Morin, Forward Latino National President issued the following statement:

“It is with great appreciation that Forward Latino, our affiliates and allies across the state came together to present Secretary Karen Timberlake with Forward Latino’s “2022 Health Equity Champion of the Year Award.” While a vote to confirm her appointment by Governor Tony Evers was never scheduled by legislative leadership, she assumed the role in January 2021 amidst the greatest healthcare challenge our state and nation have faced in a generation, the COVID-19 pandemic. Secretary Timberlake took immediate steps to protect the lives and health of every Wisconsinite.

From providing a constant flow of information to Hispanic leaders across the state, to ensuring the life-saving vaccines were distributed in an equitable manner, and by creating the Community Vaccination Outreach Grant, which provided trusted community messengers with the resources they needed to share the benefits of getting vaccinated with Wisconsin’s Hispanic community, her efforts and those of her department saved lives.

In addition to her efforts throughout the pandemic, she elevated the issue of health equity throughout the department, ensuring all Wisconsinites, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, orientation or socio-economic status had access to quality healthcare. She then institutionalized her efforts by formally creating the Office of Health Equity within the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

For these reasons and more, Forward Latino awarded Secretary Timberlake our “2022 Health Equity Champion of the Year Award.”

**About Forward Latino:**

Forward Latino is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that empowers affiliates to inspire and engage communities, strengthen our democracy, improve the lives of working families, protect the environment, and stand up for equality and civil rights. Forward Latino cultivates, trains, and supports a diverse national network of Latina/o/x community leaders addressing the civic, economic, and political challenges of the 21st century. Forward Latino has members and affiliates across 29 states.

Link to video: <https://youtu.be/cWmEsCjQqSQ>

Images listed below:

- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Florida
- Hawaii
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Mexico
- New Jersey
- New York
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Texas
- Virginia
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin



*Forward Latino is a non-profit, non-partisan advocacy and service organization dedicated to assisting Latinos pursuing the American Dream.*





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