

**Centennial Honors College**  
**Thomas E. Helm Undergraduate Research Day 2024**

**ABSTRACT**

Major: Political Science

Podium

Faculty Mentor(s): Jonathan Day

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**Hispanic & Latin American Individuals in the U.S. Congress: An Emphasis on members of The Congressional Hispanic Caucus & Spanish, Puerto Rican, and Mexican Member Case Studies**

**Winter Hurst-Leadicker**

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In the United States political system, and the United States congress specifically, it can be stated that there exists a mismatch between the proportional make up that Latin Americans and Hispanic populations share within the total population of the U.S. and their actual representation within the United States congress, both in the Senate and the House of Representatives. This peer-review will focus on Latin American and Hispanic congressional members who take up the honorable mantle of representing this expansive and diverse community. This section will range from historical examples to modern illustrations, and specific case studies, which will include congressional members from Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Spanish nation state territories. This will include but not be limited to, Representatives Luis V. Gutierrez, Nanette Díaz Barragán, Jim Costa, Salud Carbajal, Raul Ruiz, Tony Cárdenas, Grace Napolitano, Pete Aguilar, Jimmy Gomez, Norma Torres, Linda Sánchez, Robert Garcia, Nanette Barragán, Loui Correa, Mike Levin, and Juan Vargas. All of which consist of members of the congressional Hispanic caucus, which will also be a focus in the peer-review. The peer-review will conclude on the topic regarding the overall makeup that Hispanics and Latin Americans have on the U.S. population, and their increasing voting power within the federal legislative branch of the U.S. government.