

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nov. 13, 2019**

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## **Silencing an Invaluable Messenger in the Latino Community The Latino Policy Forum's Statement on the Shuttering of Hoy Newspaper**

**CHICAGO** - Tribune Publishing's decision to cease operations of Hoy, an important and consistent source of Spanish-language news in Chicago for the past 16 years, creates an enormous void at a time when Illinois' 2.2 million Latinos constitute the largest and one of the fastest growing minority groups in the state.

Hoy has been more than a journalistic pillar that Chicago's Latinos have depended on; it's been a symbol and source of pride for the Latino community, and its closure represents a step in the wrong direction.

Chicagoland's media should be increasingly accommodating Spanish speakers. Chicago's Spanish language TV news stations have shown that there is a solid audience and need for this brand of news that is not only inclusive of our language and culture, but also highlights positive aspects of the Latino community that English-language media have traditionally ignored.

At a time when Latinos are under constant attack by the White House, Hoy has been a reliable partner providing valuable information to provide the facts on proposed policy changes and quell the fear surrounding the nation's current immigration environment.

The Forum hopes to see a forthcoming plan from Tribune Publishing for remedying this loss. We recommend the Tribune consider appointing Latino-beat reporters that are focused on highlighting all aspects and contributions of the community.

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