



# Eastern Regional Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS



## **Senator Gustavo Rivera, NY**

Senator Rivera speaks on Thursday, August 19 at 10:15 am.

Senator Gustavo Rivera has represented the 33rd Senate District in the Bronx since 2010. He addresses health inequity legislatively and on the ground as exemplified by his launch of the Bronx CAN (Changing Attitudes Now), a community-oriented initiative to encourage residents to develop healthy behaviors and shape policies to reduce institutional barriers to adopting healthier lifestyles. Rivera's passion to improve health and healthcare led to his appointment as chair of the Senate's Health Committee.

As chair, Senator Rivera collaborates with colleagues, stakeholders, and constituents to improve health outcomes, increase access to coverage, and ensure a financially viable system for the 20 million New Yorkers he serves. As a member of the Senate Health Committee, he passed laws to ban smoking around schools, afterschools, and libraries. As ranking member of the Senate's Crime Victims, Crime and Correction Committee, he championed legislation to allow charitable organizations to post bail bonds for individuals who cannot afford to do so and facilitated development of a comprehensive reentry center.

Senator Rivera champions and empowers Latino communities across the state and nation in a variety of ways, including service as a board member of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials and mentor for the Model State Senate program, "Somos El Futuro," sponsored by CUNY, SUNY, the New York State Assembly, and the Puerto Rican Hispanic Task Force.

Prior to becoming an elected representative, Senator Rivera worked as a community organizer for local, state, and national candidates. After graduating from the University of Puerto Rico, he moved to New York to pursue an advanced political science degree at the City University of New York.