

# ALEX PADILLA

U.S. SENATOR  CALIFORNIA

## *The Smithsonian National Museum of the American Latino Act*

Senators Alex Padilla (D-Calif.), Ted Cruz (R-Texas), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.), Bernie Moreno (R-Ohio), Ben Ray Luján (D-N.M.), Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.), and Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.)

The *Smithsonian National Museum of the American Latino Act* would provide a waiver to allow the construction of the new Smithsonian Museum on the National Mall, which is needed to abide under the provisions of the *Commemorative Works Act* that restricts building a new “commemorative work or visitor center” in the core of the National Mall. The legislation will:

- Allow the Smithsonian to build the Latino museum on the National Mall in the Reserve
- Require the National Park Service to transfer the land to the Smithsonian which expedites the environmental review process and avoids significant delay

**The bill will be introduced in tandem with legislation to authorize the American Women’s History Museum** to be built on the National Mall as well. Both are museums that have been authorized in bipartisan legislation that President Trump signed into law in 2020. Now, Congress must pass legislation for a waiver to the *Commemorative Works Act* to build the two new museums on the National Mall.

The *Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum Act* is led by Senators Amy Klobuchar and Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.).

There is bipartisan support for this legislation. Last Congress, Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-N.Y.) led the *Smithsonian History of American Women and Latino (SHAWL) Act* (H.R. 9274) with 108 cosponsors (52 Republicans and 56 Democrats) which included both museums. This Congress, Rep. Malliotakis has introduced two respective bills, one for each museum to be located on the National Mall, again with significant bipartisan support. In the Senate, Senator Padilla is introducing similar legislation for the Latino museum with bipartisan support.

There are three recent examples where waivers have been granted on the National Mall including: the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, the National Global War on Terrorism Memorial, and most recently the Women’s Suffrage National Monument.

After 18 months of a site selection process that evaluated over 25 sites pursuant to the 2020 legislation establishing the two new museums, the Smithsonian Board of Regents recommended the Tidal Basin site for the National Museum of the American Latino and the South Monument site for the American Women’s History Museum. A map of the sites is available [here](#).