



Jeb Bush
Governor

M. Rony François, M.D., M.S.P.H., Ph.D.
Secretary



October 25, 2006


Greetings!

As the Chief of the Bureau of HIV/AIDS, it gives me great pleasure to join you this evening and witness this remarkable campaign produced by our public health and community partners in Miami-Dade County. As we reflect on 25 years of AIDS, this epidemic continues to disproportionately impact Black and Latino communities in Florida and the United States.

As such the Department of Health, Bureau of HIV/AIDS has redoubled its commitment and mobilized its resources to address the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on minority communities. In the past two years, this commitment was elevated once again to address the increases of HIV/AIDS among Latinos living in Florida. The *25 Mitos and 25 Realidades* public awareness campaign is one of several products developed through the department's Latino initiative.

As a state with one of the largest and fastest growing Latino populations in the country, this campaign is another example of Florida's leadership and continued commitment in addressing the AIDS epidemic in Latino communities. As we continue to develop and evaluate HIV/AIDS programs throughout the state, we must always ask: does this work for Latinos? Unless the answer to that is yes, we cannot expect to be successful in addressing HIV/AIDS among Latinos.

To the celebrities, sponsors, production crew and staff I extend my gratitude for your contributions to this project. The Bureau of HIV/AIDS looks forward to your partnership in addressing HIV/AIDS among Latino communities in Florida.

Sincerely,

Thomas Liberti
Chief Bureau of HIV/AIDS

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