



August 30, 2006

The Honorable Dennis Hastert
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: Protect Tax Payers and Small Business Owners.
Support the Free File Reform Act of 2006.**

Dear Speaker Hastert:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of The Latino Coalition, I am writing you today to ask that you to become an original cosponsor of the "Free File Reform Act of 2006".

This important, bipartisan legislation will help preserve the public-private partnership known as the Free File Alliance. The Free File Alliance provides free tax preparation services to help the poor and underserved prepare their tax returns.

Many taxpayers who use the Free File Alliance are also small business owners. These taxpayers use the Free File Alliance tax preparation services to fill out a free schedule C tax form along with their overall Federal tax return. *Most of these taxpayers use their small business profit to help supplement their overall income.* In fact, the FFA is a broader public service program than even the IRS Walk-In Centers, the VITA Volunteer service or the Elderly Assistance program.

The legislation sets strict guidelines on the operation of the Free File Alliance to ensure consumer protection and privacy, and returns the program to the original Congressional intent of a free, philanthropic public-private partnership between the Government and the American software industry.

These new program guidelines include the banning of any cross marketing, advertising, or selling of additional products or services, ensure that the tax return information cannot be sold or shared, and assures free preparation of federal AND state tax returns to individuals who use the Free File Alliance through the IRS website.

The Latino Coalition is a non-profit, non-partisan organization based in Washington, D.C. TLC was established to address policy issues that directly affect the well-being of Hispanics in the United States. TLC's agenda is to develop and promote policies that will foster economic equivalency and enhance overall business, economic, and social development of Hispanics.

This pro-taxpayer and pro-consumer bill ensures that consumers who use the Free File Alliance enter a safety zone where taxpayers can prepare their returns confidently, privately, and securely. If you would like to become an original cosponsor, please have your staff contact William Rys in Rep Hart's office at 225-2565 or Ur Jaddou in Rep Lofgren's office at 225-3072.

Sincerely,

Robert G. de Posada
President