



**For immediate release  
June 8, 2007**

**Contact: Chris Barron  
202-546-0008  
202-297-9807**

## **Unholy Alliance between Extremists Working to Block Comprehensive Immigration Reform**

**Washington, D.C.** – The Latino Coalition (TLC) calls on members of Congress to stop playing political games and pass comprehensive immigration reform. “It is a sad day in America when the extremists in both parties are able to kill common-sense legislation that is so important for the security and economic vitality of our country,” said TLC Chairman Hector Barreto. “This is not the time for political games, now is the time for action. The country needs our elected officials to stand up to the special interest on both extremes and pass legislation to address this crisis.”

“We call on the Senators that crafted the compromise to intensify their efforts to bring back together a coalition large enough to move legislation forward,” Barreto said. “We cannot allow opponents to kill the good in their search for the perfect. One thing is clear – our country cannot afford the status quo.”

The Board of Directors of The Latino Coalition called it unacceptable that several prominent Senators currently running for President have publicly stated that the country might have to until a new President is elected to pass immigration reform. “It is easy to sit in an air-conditioned office in Washington and ignore the plight of millions of workers,” said TLC President Robert Deposada. “This country cannot afford to wait to deal with the immigration crisis we face. Now is not the time to try to score political points by playing games with our community.”

“We cannot allow the unholy alliance between organized labor and far right extremists to derail immigration reform,” Deposada added. “We have known for a long time that the right wing extremists were not on our side, but now we know that organized labor has chosen to stand with those extremists and against our community. Organized labor’s betrayal of Hispanic workers is the untold chapter in this sad story. The AFL-CIO, the Teamsters and other unions are putting politics over the interest of our community. By choosing to stand in the way of the best interests of our community, these unions are making it clear to millions of Latino workers that they do not represent them.”

TLC urges Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and the Democratic leadership in the House to demonstrate courage and leadership on this issue and take on immigration reform while the Senate continues their negotiations. “There is no reason why the House of Representatives should use the Senate as an excuse for failing to do the job the American people elected them to do,” continued Deposada.

“We certainly hope that Speaker Pelosi will not succumb to the political pressures from the union bosses and the extremists on the right that are stalling action in the Senate. The unions and their extremist friends are only focused on one thing - politics,” continued Deposada. “They would rather have our community to use as a political pawn in the 2008 elections than to actually address our immigration crisis.”

“Speaker Pelosi knows she can pass comprehensive immigration reform without the level of Republican support she is demanding. Speaker Pelosi doesn’t need the support of 70 Republicans to take up immigration reform,” concluded Deposada. “This demand is little more than irresponsible excuse intended to keep a partisan issue alive for the next campaign. Now is the time for her to show the courage of a national leader by standing up to the special interests.”

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. [www.thelatinocoalition.com](http://www.thelatinocoalition.com).

###