



PRESS RELEASE  
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For Immediate Release  
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# California Legislature Takes a Stand Against Hate Speech

## *State Resolution passes in Assembly*

Pasadena, CA. - On June 21st, the California Assembly passed Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 58 addressing hate speech. The California Senate passed this resolution in late 2009.

Senator Cedillo introduced the resolution in Fall 2009, stating "[t]he increase of hate speech in media, in addition to lack of diversity in the media, media consolidation, and media concentration, are having a profoundly negative impact on the civil rights of Latinos and society as a whole. The Legislature condemns the increase of hate speech and demands accurate and fair reporting as well as equal access to counter one-sided hate speech in the media."

For three years, NHMC has led a campaign against hate speech in media. In January 2009, NHMC sent a letter to the National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA), asking it to update its 1993 report "The Role of Telecommunications in Hate Crimes." At the same time, NHMC filed a petition for inquiry at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), asking the Commission to inquire into the extent, nature and effects of hate speech in media, and to open a docket for transparent public dialogue on the issue. Regrettably, after more than a year of waiting, neither agency has taken official action. In the meantime, countless people have been the victims of violent, and sometimes deadly, hate crimes. Hate crimes against the Latino community have risen over 40% in just the past few years. We know that hate speech not only inspires violence, but that it also has a profound effect on the psychological well-being of children.

Resolutions like the one passed by the California Legislature send an important message to the bureaucrats in Washington D.C. The message is simple, hate speech is hurting our communities and the government should no longer ignore the problem.

"Hate speech in media not only targets the Latino community but also to other communities of color, women, the disabled and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. It is a cancer in our society and it needs to be addressed. Government needs to recognize, not ignore, the plight of the people. We are hopeful that the California resolution will inspire other state elected officials to do the same. We thank Senator Cedillo for his leadership on this important issue," said Alex Nogales, NHMC President & CEO.

The final resolution is available online at: [http://info.sen.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/sen/sb\\_0051-0100/scr\\_58\\_bill\\_20100622\\_enrolled.pdf](http://info.sen.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/sen/sb_0051-0100/scr_58_bill_20100622_enrolled.pdf)

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The National Hispanic Media Coalition is a non-profit, media advocacy organization established in 1986 in Los Angeles, California. Our mission is to improve the image of American Latinos as portrayed by the media, increase the number of American Latinos employed in all facets of the media industry, and advocate for media and telecommunications policies that benefit the Latino community.