

NHMC Congratulates Hilda L. Solis as Secretary of Labor

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Historical Confirmation appoints First Latina to Presidential Cabinet

February 24, 2009 Pasadena, CA. - The National Hispanic Media Coalition (NHMC), one of the country's foremost American Latino media advocacy organizations, joins citizens across the country today in congratulating Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis (CA-32) for making history as the first Latina to be nominated and confirmed as Secretary in a Presidential cabinet. Secretary Solis was confirmed today after a vote of 80-18, making the California native, and the first Hispanic woman to serve in the state senate, President Obama's new Secretary of Labor. "This historical appointment is significant because Congresswoman Solis has the credentials, judgment, expertise and dedication to the working men and women of America to be one of the most outstanding Labor Secretaries in the history of the department," cheered Alex Nogales, NHMC President & CEO, "We have had the pleasure of working with Secretary Solis on many issues that impact the American Latino community, including the upcoming Digital TV (DTV) transition."

First elected in 2000, Congresswoman Solis is serving her fourth term in the U.S. House of Representatives. She represents California's 32nd Congressional District, which includes portions of East Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley. Prior to her election to Congress, Ms. Solis served eight years in the California state legislature. In August 2000, Solis became the first woman to receive the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award for her pioneering work on environmental justice issues in California.

In 2003, Secretary Solis became the first Latina appointed to the powerful Committee on Energy and Commerce where she is the Vice Chair of the Environment and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee and a member of the Health and Telecommunications Subcommittees. She is also a member of the House Committee on Natural Resources. In March 2007, Solis was named a member of the newly created House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming. Solis is also Vice Chair of the Democratic Steering & Policy Committee and serves as a Senior Whip, as well as a Regional Whip for Southern California. She is also serving her third term as the Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus' Task Force on Health and the Environment.

“This is truly a momentous occasion and we heartily congratulate Secretary Solis for her leadership and service to our country,” said Nogales, “American Latinos have contributed greatly to this great country of ours by serving in all her wars, engaging in business, and sharing the unique music, art, food and culture that has created a strong and colorful influence on the fabric of the United States. This historical appointment is not only important to the Latino community, it’s important to all Americans.”

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