

NHMC URGES ALL LATINOS TO TAKE A STAND AND FIGHT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

2006-04-27

In anticipation of a May 1st national protest and boycott by Latinos, the National Hispanic Media Coalition (NHMC) is encouraging Latinos to do all they can to help the U.S. Senate and the American people realize how much of an asset they are to this country. NHMC hopes this realization will influence the U.S. Senate to come out with a just and fair immigration bill ultimately affecting millions of Latinos.

With this purpose in mind, Alex Nogales, President & CEO of the NHMC, stressed that “the United States has to do something about bringing Latinos into a status that is more commensurate to what this country is all about.” He stressed that “this is not only about immigration; it’s also about civil rights. We cannot forget that many of those who are undocumented have children who were born in this country, and hence, are American citizens. So what are we going to do, deport the parents and leave the children behind? That is absolutely preposterous!”

As May 1st approaches, Latinos are coming up with different tactics to achieve fair and just immigration legislation. Nogales explains, “Although there are two main trains of thought among Hispanics about what should be done on May 1st, remember, we all want the same result and need to be respectful of each other’s opinion.” He added that, “this is the time for the entire Latino community to work together. To date, the Spanish language media has helped us unite on all fronts. Univision and their affiliate radio stations, Telemundo, and TVAzteca, have all been excellent in reporting the news and will continue to do so. You will all remember that these entities played a key role in bringing out the people to the great marches we saw nationwide in March.”

Nogales stressed his point that “now it’s time for the Senate to step up to the challenge and do what’s right. Making undocumented workers criminals is ludicrous and hypocritical. Throughout the history of the United States, undocumented workers have contributed to this country’s economy. In fact, we have always depended on this type of labor. If that weren’t the case, the United States Senate wouldn’t be considering a guest worker program as a viable compromise to the House’s bill.”

As a civil rights group seeking an increase in presence and visibility of Latinos in the media, NHMC has four simple messages:

- To our elected officials: acknowledge the work of our Latino labor force and do the right thing as it relates to providing a path for citizenship to the millions of people who have worked and lived in this country for years.

- To the media, especially the mainstream media: report responsibly what is important; be cautious that your reporters are not a source of instigation, hate or fear against Latinos.

- To prominent Latinos: take responsibility for your position and visibility and dare to speak up for justice -if you don't, who will?

- To Latinos in this country: do all you can to make your presence and your voices heard, not just on May 1st but from this day forward until justice is served.

NHMC is confident that if these messages are taken to heart, the community will have the ability to impact the nation in a way that Congress will be forced to think twice before creating unfair immigration legislation. “*Señores,*” stressed Nogales, “it is time for all Latinos to stand up and say *Presente!*”

NHMC National Office | 55 S Grand Avenue, Pasadena CA, 91105
Tel: (626) 792-NHMC (6462) | Fax: (626) 792-6051 | info@nhmc.org