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January 24, 2007

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NCLR LAUDS PRESIDENT'S COMMITMENT TO IMMIGRATION

But the Policy Details Matter, Murguía Says

Washington, DC – The National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the U.S., today applauded President Bush's renewed call for comprehensive immigration reform, announced last night in his State of the Union address.

“The President has been steadfast in continuing to put this critical issue on the table, and last night he strengthened that commitment by making comprehensive immigration reform one of his top domestic priorities this year,” said Janet Murguía, NCLR President and CEO. “We must take advantage of this historic opportunity to enact the best possible reform in 2007.”

“But as the debate proceeds, it is important to get the policy details right. If we are going to truly reform our broken system, the new system must be effective. Immigrants whose hard work benefits this country should have the chance to earn their way to full status as Americans, and there should be strong labor protections for immigrant workers and their American co-workers alike. This reflects our most cherished values as a nation of immigrants, and it is the best way forward in this debate,” continued Murguía.

“The high priority the President has now placed on immigration reform, coupled with the shift in Congress and the commitment of both the House and Senate leadership, gives us hope that the path is clear for Congress and the Administration to work together in a bipartisan way to achieve a lasting, effective solution to this critically important issue.”

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