



**LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN  
AMERICAN CITIZENS**

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***PRESS RELEASE***

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**LULAC Joins with Religious Leaders for Historic  
Immigration Summit**  
*Nationwide Grassroots Campaign Launch for Meaningful  
Reform*

*Washington, DC* – Today, LULAC is joining together with religious leaders from the Global Evangelical Task Force and *Nueva Esperanza* to discuss strategy and launch a nationwide grassroots campaign for meaningful immigration reform. The historic summit will be held in the Hart Senate Building starting at 1:00 p.m. and will bring together members of Congress, Latino organizations, immigration rights groups and congregations from all over the United States.

“The Evangelical Task Force is a welcome addition to the immigration debate. They will work to mobilize thousands of churches and we will join with them to organize and mobilize our grassroots around the country to do what is right. Our goal is to pass by June 2004 a bipartisan bill to bring hard-working, tax-paying undocumented families out of the shadows with a clear option to permanent residence and citizenship. Many lives are at stake and it does a disservice to both immigrants and the country to ignore this critical issue and not acknowledge the needs of the economy and of the individuals affected,” said Brent Wilkes, LULAC Executive Director.

The summit will address the issue of how to best address the nation’s need for comprehensive immigration reform that includes a mechanism for earned legalization; a reduction of current backlogs; and family reunification among other issues. “The current state of the U.S. economy and national security needs demand that we do a critical assessment of who is here in the country to understand the management of future flows of immigrants,” said Gabriela D. Lemus, Ph.D. LULAC Director of Policy and Legislation.

President Bush stepped up to the plate by creating a platform for a fair bipartisan bill that includes a guarantee for family reunification and an option to residence and citizenship, including the permanent restoration of Section 245(i). It is now up to Congress to pass meaningful comprehensive immigration reform legislation and send it to the president to sign.

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is the oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization in the United States. LULAC advances the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health, and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs operating at more than 700 LULAC councils nationwide.

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