The United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Applauds Senator Reid's Leadership in Moving the DREAM Act Forward

Washington, D.C. (September 20, 2010) – The United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC), which represents the interests of nearly 3 million Hispanic-owned businesses and over 200 local Hispanic chambers of commerce nationwide, applauds Senator Harry Reid for attaching the DREAM Act to the defense authorization bill.

The DREAM Act provides a path to citizenship for young and undocumented immigrants if they were in the country before the age of sixteen and have been present for at least five years before enactment of the law.

USHCC President and CEO, Javier Palomarez said: “Passage of the DREAM Act is a necessary first step towards comprehensive immigration reform. As we work towards the economic recovery of our country, it is necessary to include our hard-working young talents as part of the solution. The DREAM Act is a smart bill because it encourages our youth, who through no fault of their own came to this country, to continue to work hard and study hard.” Palomarez added, “This bill does not reward breaking the law, instead it rewards the principles our country was founded upon – family, hard work and perseverance.”

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About the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Founded in 1979, the USHCC actively promotes the economic growth and development of Hispanic entrepreneurs and represents the interests of nearly 3 million Hispanic-owned businesses in the United States that generate nearly $400 billion annually. It also serves as the umbrella organization for more than 200 local Hispanic chambers in the United States and Puerto Rico.