



Compromiso Demócrata con el Pueblo Latino:

★ Jobs, Opportunity, Prosperity ★

Democrats support proposals that will enable Hispanic families to achieve the American Dream. We call on the Bush Administration and the Republicans in Congress to support Democratic initiatives that will provide Jobs, Opportunity, and Prosperity for all Latinos.

Child Tax Credit

Democrats want to provide the child tax credit to millions of working families struggling to make ends meet. Unfortunately, although the most recent Republican tax bill expanded the child tax credit from \$600 to \$1,000, it left out millions of low income families, including 4.1 million Hispanic children. The Republican bill fails to consider that many Hispanic families have low incomes and are more likely to be affected by payroll and other taxes than by taxes on federal income, business expenses, or stock dividends, the cornerstones of the Republican bill. Democrats will continue to fight to expand the child tax credit as a more effective way of helping improve the livelihood of Latino families across America.

Overtime Pay

Democrats successfully fought President Bush's plan to deprive at least eight million workers of their overtime pay. The President's plan would mean that millions of workers, including teachers, journalists, store clerks, police, firefighters, emergency workers, and nurses, many of whom are Hispanic, would be denied the pay they need and deserve. The threat of a Presidential veto is looming, but Democrats continue to strongly oppose the Administration's efforts to abolish overtime.

Minimum Wage

Republicans in Congress have refused to help the rising number of people living in poverty – they have refused to pass a fair increase in the minimum wage, which is now only \$5.15 an hour (\$10,700 a year). Democrats support legislation to increase the minimum wage by \$1.50 an hour. This legislation would improve the quality of life for 1.4 million Latino workers by adding \$3,000 to the yearly income of a full-time, year-round minimum wage worker.

It has now been over seven years since Congress increased the minimum wage. In that time, the cost of living has increased 12 percent while the real value of the minimum wage has steadily declined. Today, the average household must earn more than \$15.00 an hour to afford a two-bedroom apartment and still meet other basic subsistence needs. That is almost three times the federal minimum wage.

Unemployment Insurance

Democrats have proposed reforming and expanding the existing UI program to cover low-wage and part-time workers, many of whom are Latino. Part-time and low-wage workers pay into the system and deserve to be assisted while searching for a new job.

The unemployment rate for Latinos continues to hover at over 7 percent, with nearly 1.5 million Latinos out of work. Many working Latinos are employed in low-wage jobs without benefits or long-term security. Limited employment and earning potential make many Hispanic workers particularly vulnerable to periods of economic downturn, and contribute to higher unemployment levels and lower incomes for Hispanics.

Small Business Health Tax Credit

Earlier this year, Democrats proposed a 50 percent tax credit to help small businesses pay their share of health insurance premiums. Nationwide, small businesses are struggling to keep their employees insured while cash is tight and health care costs are rising. Nearly one and one-half million of America's small businesses are owned by Hispanics. Over 3.5 million workers are employed by Hispanic-owned small businesses. The number of Hispanic-owned companies is growing at an annual rate of about 30 percent, which is twice the rate of all other companies. Small businesses are the engine of our national economy, and support for these businesses is important for our economic viability.

Manufacturing Tax Credit

America is currently experiencing a crisis in manufacturing. Democrats have put forward a tax proposal that promotes American manufacturing and provides incentives to keep good paying manufacturing jobs in the United States. Nearly 20 percent of American manufacturing work is done by Latinos.

Transportation Policy

Democrats call for a six-year highway bill that would create more than 650,000 jobs, help the economy, and improve the safety of our nation's roads and bridges. Seventeen percent of all construction jobs are held by Hispanics.
