

National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators Calls on U.S. Congress to Support Pending  
United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement

**WHEREAS**, The United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement will provide duty-free access to markets providing immediate elimination of duties on 53 percent of current U.S trade, and

**WHEREAS**, the comprehensive free trade agreement between the United States and Colombia will eliminate tariffs and barriers to good and services, while promoting economic growth and stability to the country of Colombia, and

**WHEREAS**, Colombia is the longest standing democracy in South America and it is the strongest ally to the United States in the region.

**WHEREAS**, The total trade for 2006 between the United States and Colombia was estimated at \$14.7 billion with imports accounting for \$8.7 billion and exports at \$6.04 billion, and

**WHEREAS**, the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement levels the playing field and enhances competition, moving the United States-Colombia commercial relationship beyond a one-way preference to full partnership and reciprocal commitments, and

**WHEREAS**, the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement commits parties to effectively enforce their own domestic environmental laws and adopt, maintain, and implement laws, regulations, and all other measures to fulfill obligations under covered multilateral environmental agreements, and

**WHEREAS**, the security situation has improved in Colombia significantly since 2000, with kidnappings down by 76 percent, terror attacks down by 61 percent, and homicides down by 40 percent, and

**WHEREAS**, Colombia has proven itself worthy of America's support. In recent years, Colombia's democratically-elected President has taken courageous steps to stop drug traffickers, rein in paramilitary groups, and enforce the law, and

**WHEREAS**, President Uribe has allowed the International Labor Organization to station a permanent representative in Bogotá .He has also worked to offer Colombians better alternatives to a life of violence and drugs-including new jobs and economic opportunities that would come from a trade agreement with the US, and

**WHEREAS**, approval of the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement will ensure that Colombia continues to make progress in reducing violence while improving economic stability, NOW THEREFORE

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NATIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS OF STATE LEGISLATORS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ASSEMBLED IN MIAMI, FLORIDA, ON THIS 17<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2007** that NHCSL does hereby recognize, support and promote that passage of the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement by the United States Congress.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NHCSL will recognize, support, promote the efforts to urge members of the United States Congress to agenda the legislation and seek passage.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NHCSL will recognize, support, promote the efforts of State Legislatures to urge their state's Congressional delegation to support the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement.

*Assemblyman Felix W. Ortiz, (NY) NHCSL President*

*State Representative Juan C. Zapata (FL) Sponsor*