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Hector V. Barreto, Jr. to Join The Latino Coalition as its National Chairman

-- Statement by Robert de Posada, President of The Latino Coalition --

WASHINGTON - Robert de Posada, president of the Latino Coalition, issued the following statement today:

"On behalf of the board of directors of The Latino Coalition, we are very pleased and honored that Hector V. Barreto, Jr. has agreed to accept our invitation to become national chairman of our organization.

"Hector Barreto is one of the most respected leaders in our nation. Because of his extensive experience in the public and private sectors, we know that once he comes on board he can help take The Latino Coalition to a whole new level.

"The U.S. Hispanic community finds itself at an important crossroads. It has experienced incredible growth, increased economic power, is contributing to the fabric of our nation and is beginning to exert political force. However, despite these positive developments, the private and public sector, including elected officials, still have much to learn about the behavior, attitudes and potential of our nation's largest ethnic group.

"Additionally, at this crucial moment where pivotal issues such as immigration are being debated, our community needs to ensure it has the right leadership to help guide it through these times of rapid change. The right steps now will help Hispanics reach their fullest potential and solidify their role in shaping American society. As national chairman, Hector Barreto will be a leader that helps set the community on the right course to greater prosperity."

About The Latino Coalition

The Latino Coalition is a non-profit, non-partisan organization based in Washington, D.C. The organization was established to address policy issues that directly affect the well being of Hispanics in the United States. The Latino Coalition's agenda is to develop and promote policies that will foster economic equivalency and enhance overall business, economic, and social development of Hispanics. For more information on The Latino Coalition, please visit our website at <u>www.TheLatinoCoalition.com</u>

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