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**MANA, A National Latina Organization, Urges Senate to Act
on Immigration Bill**

MANA, A National Latina Organization, with headquarters in Washington, DC, twenty-one Chapters nationwide and five affiliates across the nation, is hopeful that the Senate will seize the opportunity to pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill. The current debate provides an option for bi-partisan success and would be a tremendous step toward acknowledging inherent immigration issues and taking a proactive approach to addressing them.

Proposed immigration reform legislation must provide for security at our borders, re-establish laws governing immigration, and allow immigrants the opportunity to earn citizenship, and still value the important cultural component that immigrants have always contributed to American society. With this vote, the Senate can send the statement that they want to secure our borders with increased manpower and technology, and provide incentives for those who respect the American rule of law.

“The Senate has the power to make history by passing comprehensive immigration reform,” stated Alma Morales Riojas, President and CEO of MANA. She continues, “We urge Senators to act on immigration reform, not as the ultimate answer, but as an earnest first step toward accepting and valuing the contributions of immigrants. We are encouraged by bipartisan efforts and hope others will take their cues from their colleagues on both sides of the aisle. As millions throughout the history of our country have done before, immigrants work hard every day, contribute to American society, thrive despite overwhelming odds, and deserve the opportunity to earn citizenship. The safety of our country, the continued economic growth, the rule of law, and strength of our cultural fabric rests in your hands.”

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***About MANA:** MANA, A National Latina Organization, is a nonprofit advocacy organization headquartered in Washington, DC. With chapters across the country, it is the oldest national Latina membership organization in the United States. MANA, whose mission is to empower Latinas through leadership development, community service, and advocacy, envisions a national community of informed Latina activists working to improve the quality of life for all Hispanics. MANA also has the only national Latina mentoring program for girls 11 to 17, "HERMANITAS®" which brings over 100 girls each year to a Washington, DC leadership institute that includes educational activities at the White House, on Capitol Hill, and at the Pentagon.*