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MANA Applauds Bi-Partisan House Vote On The Voting Rights Act, Calls Upon Senate To Do the Same

Washington, DC – Today, MANA, A National Latina Organization, approved the U.S. House of Representatives' bi-partisan renewal of key provisions of the of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965 which is set to expire in 2007.

"As a Texan who has done door to door registration and as a precinct election judge who fought for inclusion of Texas in the VRA, I still see a need to continue legislation that helps create optimum voting opportunities for all citizens," said Alma Morales Riojas, President and CEO, MANA. "Just as we monitor voting rights in other countries, let us make sure we are practicing an ideal that others can point to as an excellent and best practice model of democracy at work right here in the United States," she added.

Now that the VRA has cleared the U. S. House of Representatives it faces consideration before the U.S. Senate and then the President of the United States. MANA urges the Senate to follow in the steps of the House and act quickly to ensure the renewal of the VRA in its entirety and reject any amendments the will weaken minority voter's rights.

The Voting Rights Act remains the most effective civil rights legislation ever passed. The Act effectuates the 15th Amendment's permanent guarantee that no person will be denied to the right to vote due to race or color. Since 1965, the VRA has enabled millions of African American, Hispanic, Asian American and Native American citizens to participate in the political process and elect candidates of their choice.

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. For more information about MANA, and its programs visit our web site at www.hermana.org.

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