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MANA Partners with National Hispanic Leadership Agenda on 2008 Hispanic Policy Agenda

Washington, D.C. -- MANA, A National Latina Organization, with headquarters in Washington, DC, twenty five Chapters nationwide and six affiliates across the nation, as a long time member of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), which consists of 26 key national and regional organizations representing Hispanics, was pleased to release the 2008 NHLA Hispanic Policy Agenda at a press conference at the National Press Club on August 21, 2008.

This agenda will be introduced at both the Democratic and Republican National Conventions. It is a product of research, meetings and input from Hispanic leaders and advocates from across the nation, focusing on civil rights, economic empowerment, education, government accountability, health, and immigration. MANA partnered with organizations to produce the economic empowerment section and co-chaired the development of the government accountability section of the agenda. The entire document may be found at www.hermana.org.

MANA President and CEO, Alma Morales Riojas, also serves as the Secretary/Treasurer of the NHLA Board of Directors. She joined other NHLA board members, including Chair John Trasviña of the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), Vice-Chair Dr. Gabriela Lemus of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA), and Immediate Past Chair Ronald Blackburn-Moreno of ASPIRA in releasing the 33-page document that not only identifies issues of importance to the Hispanic community, but also provides policy recommendations to Congress and the incoming Presidential administration.

“This is an extraordinary time in history, when Latino voices and votes will not only be heard in record numbers, but will very probably decide the upcoming Congressional and Presidential races. We have been dedicated and loyal citizens but our impatience with inequities and exclusion is born out of concern not just for Hispanics but for the future of our nation. As such, we need to deliver a clear message with our priorities and recommendations. Candidates interested in reaching and getting support from Hispanics should read the 2008 Hispanic Policy Agenda and use it as a guide in formulating solutions that resonate with the community,” said Alma Morales Riojas.

The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda has been assisted in their efforts by Southwest Airlines, Southern California Edison, The Coca-Cola Company, and Holme Roberts & Owens LLP.

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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 18, known as "HERMANITAS®".