



For Immediate Release
February 24, 2009

Contact: Ana Gabilondo
Telephone: 202-833-0600
manaisabel@aol.com

**MANA Congratulates Our First Latina In Presidential Cabinet Position –
Hilda L. Solis as our Secretary of Labor**

MANA, A National Latina Organization, with headquarters in Washington, DC, twenty five Chapters nationwide and six affiliates across the nation, congratulates MANA Las Primeras® Awardee, the Honorable Hilda Solis as the new Secretary of Labor for President Barack Obama's Cabinet.

Secretary Hilda Solis, a 2007 Las Primeras® Awardee is now the nation's highest ranking Latina Cabinet member as well as the first Latina Secretary of Labor. Hilda Solis broke ground when she became the first woman to receive the John F. Kennedy, Profile in Courage Award. She also achieved other firsts, including being the first Hispanic woman to serve in the California State Senate and the first Hispanic woman to serve on the influential House Committee on Energy and Commerce. Ms. Solis began her political career by working in the Carter White House Office of Hispanic Affairs after earning her bachelor's degree from California State Polytechnic University and her master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California. She was first elected to public office in 1985 when she became a member of the Rio Hondo Community College Board of Trustees. She continued her public service career by serving in the California State Assembly starting in 1992 and ending in 1994, when she became the first Latina to serve in the California State Senate.

The people and the nation deserve to have such a qualified individual helping set the critical direction for today's and tomorrow's workforce. Secretary Hilda Solis has a long standing record of public service for the working men and women of our country and as our Secretary of Labor she will honor her commitment to be a leader in moving our economy forward and bringing jobs back home.

MANA is most thankful for all the support from its twenty five Chapters and six affiliates across the nation for taking leadership and being proactive voices in the confirmation process by sending letters, emails and making phone calls to the United States Senators representing their states.

“In a historic year where the Latino vote was crucial to the electorate, we are so proud that Hilda Solis was chosen by President Obama to serve in his cabinet as the Secretary of Labor. Her vast experience adds a vital voice in present and future workforce and workplace issues and the critical yet often overlooked employment issues affecting Latinas,” said President and CEO, Alma Morales Riojas.

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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 11-18, *HERMANITAS*®, which brings over 100 girls each year to a Washington, DC, Latina leadership institute that includes educational activities at the White House, on Capitol Hill, and at the Pentagon.