

For Immediate Release

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**MANA Supports Congressman Gutierrez on Efforts to
Make Immigration Reform a Priority**

Congressman Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) is taking the issue of comprehensive immigration reform nationwide to enlist public support and ask President Obama to make this issue a top priority. Congressman Gutierrez is leading a 19 city “[Family Unity Immigration Outreach Tour](#)” to build grassroots support for comprehensive immigration reform that keeps families together, stops raids and provides a path to citizenship. He has embarked on a nationwide grassroots campaign to raise awareness, generate support and build momentum for reform.

Hispanics around the nation voted in record numbers for President Obama, and played a significant role in his election. These votes represented the belief that President Obama would address issues that affect the Hispanic community, including immigration reform. We join Congressman Gutierrez in calling on President Obama to address immigration reform policies, as they relate to the separation of families and the protection of undocumented workers from exploitation and illegal raids.

MANA is encouraging members, chapters and affiliates to join Congressman Gutierrez’s tour when it stops in their cities, and become active in the immigration reform debate by writing letters and contacting their members of congress. Upcoming cities include: Saturday March 21st, 2009 – Chicago IL and Joliet IL
Sunday March 22nd, 2009 – Milwaukee, WI
Friday March 27th, 2009 – Detroit, MI
Sunday March 28th, 2009 – Orlando, FL and Homestead, FL

“I applaud Congressman Gutierrez for taking the lead in representing thousands of immigrant and Hispanic voices who advocate for a much needed immigration reform. Families are torn apart everyday, immigrant workers operate and live in hazardous environments, and our borders are insecure. Our country cannot afford to be passive for an already overdue comprehensive immigration reform,” said Alma Morales Riojas, MANA President and CEO.

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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®".

More information:

[America’s Voice Online website](http://www.americasvoiceonline.org/) - <http://www.americasvoiceonline.org/>

[Family Unity Tour](http://www.americasvoiceonline.org/pages/familias_unidas_family_unity) - http://www.americasvoiceonline.org/pages/familias_unidas_family_unity

[Congressman Luis Gutierrez website](http://luisgutierrez.house.gov/) - <http://luisgutierrez.house.gov/>