



MEXICAN AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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For Immediate Release

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AUSTIN, TEXAS (Feb. 26, 2008)—The Mexican American Legislative Caucus—Texas House of Representatives (MALC) announced the creation of a Border Security Task Force (BSTF) that will be charged with studying security issues along the Texas-Mexico border.

It is well understood that border security is a growing concern for all Texas lawmakers. The passage of legislation such as Senate Bill 11 was an attempt to address this pressing issue, which has garnered attention both statewide and on a national scale.

The committee will be led by State Representative Rick Noriega (Houston), who gained first-hand experience with border security as commander of the National Guard troops assisting the Border Patrol in the Laredo sector with Operation Jumpstart in 2006.

“Texas lawmakers can be a partner and an asset to the federal government in dealing with some serious national security threats along the border. We know our state best and can propose solutions that will have the best outcome on our constituencies,” Noriega said.

Leadership of the Task Force will be shared with Rep. Juan Manuel Escobar (Kingsville), who gained experience and expertise in matters dealing with the border while working as a ranking officer for the U.S. Border Patrol. When asked about the role of the Border Security Task Force, Escobar commented, “Border security is a complicated issue, and it is important for us to bring together people with different perspectives. This task force will be indispensable to state and national leaders who want an effective security strategy.”

The rest of this committee will be comprised of members with districts along the Texas-Mexico border, and therefore, at the forefront of this sensitive issue. This group includes: Norma Chávez, Kino Flores, Pete P. Gallego, Veronica Gonzales, Ryan Guillén, Pat Haggerty, Tracy O. King, Eddie Lucio, III, Armando Martinez, Paul C. Moreno, Rene O. Oliveira, Aaron Peña, Joseph Pickett, Chente Quintanilla, and Richard Raymond.

“This type of committee is a first in our state. It will allow MALC to study the border security issue and research new ways to protect the citizens of Texas and our national security, while maintaining the Latino Community’s civil rights as a top priority,” said Pete P. Gallego, MALC Chairman.

The Mexican American Legislative Caucus – Texas House of Representatives (MALC) is a leader in Latino issues in the State of Texas. Founded in 1973, MALC is a 501(c)(6) non-profit, non-partisan organization composed of 43 members of the Texas House of Representatives dedicated to addressing the issues that concern Latinos across the State of Texas.