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**Contact: Martha Lozada
202-546-0008**

Latino Coalition Announces its 2004 Congressional Endorsements *– 2004 Election Could Make History in the U.S. Senate –*

Washington, D.C. – The Board of Directors of The Latino Coalition (TLC) announced today the bipartisan list of endorsed candidates for the 2004 congressional election (list attached or at www.TheLatinoCoalition.com).

“This election could make history by electing two Latinos to the U.S. Senate, Florida’s Mel Martinez and Colorado’s Ken Salazar. These outstanding officials will bring to the Senate a unique perspective and human experience understood only by those in our community,” said TLC President Robert Deposada. “We urge Latino voters to go to the polls and help elect these two outstanding public servants to the U.S. Senate. It is extremely important for our community to finally have representation in the Senate. The fact that we represent over 10% of the total U.S. population, but did not have a voice in the most important legislative body in the country, was a huge obstacle for the economic and social progress of Latinos. And having both a Republican Hispanic and a Democratic Hispanic in the Senate will guarantee that our needs and concerns will finally be addressed by the caucuses in both parties.”

The decision of the Board, which was not unanimous, focused on some targeted races and also on rewarding key Members of Congress or challengers that have a solid record of promoting issues critical to the progress of the Hispanic community in the U.S. The Latino Coalition will launch an unprecedented campaign to contact its members in these states and district to encourage its members to support the endorsed candidates.

“This list of endorsed candidates shows that as a community we should be looking beyond party labels,” Deposada added. “Not all Democrats are our friends and not every Republican is our enemy. We need to look at the record and position of the candidates in a variety of issues that affect our daily lives. Issues like access to affordable health care, tax reform, education reform, immigration reform, trade, national security and the fight against terrorism, are critical to the success of our community, and we need elected officials who will promote an aggressive agenda to expand opportunities for all Americans.”

The Latino Coalition is a non-profit, non-partisan organization based in Washington, D.C. TLC was established to address policy issues that directly affect the well-being of Hispanics in the United States. TLC’s agenda is to develop and promote policies that will foster economic equivalency and enhance overall business, economic, and social development of Hispanics. For more information, or access to the entire endorsement list, please visit their website at www.TheLatinoCoalition.com.

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2004 Federal Endorsements

United States Senate

Open Seats:

1. **Ken Salazar (D-CO)**
2. Mel Martinez (R-FL)
3. **Barack Obama (D-IL)**
4. **Brad Carson (D-OK)**
5. John Isakson (R-GA)
6. Richard Burr (R-NC)
7. David Vitter (R-LA)

Incumbents:

1. Arlen Specter (PA)
2. **Blanche Lincoln (AR)**
3. **Ron Wyden (OR)**
4. **Evan Bayh (IN)**
5. **Charles Schumer (NY)**
6. **Harry Reid (NV)**
7. George Voinovich (OH)
8. George Nethercutt (WA)
9. Charles Grassley (IA)
10. Lisa Murkowski (AK)

U.S. House of Representatives (* incumbents)

Republicans:

1. Rick Renzi (AZ-1)*
2. Bob Beauprez (CO-7)*
3. Max Burns (GA-12)*
4. Anne Northrop (KY-3)*
5. Mark Kennedy (MN-6)*
6. Jon Porter (NV-3)*
7. Heather Wilson (NM-1)*
8. Nancy Naples (NY-27)
9. Pete Sessions (TX-32)*
10. Dave Reichert (WA-8)
11. Becky Armendariz-Klein (TX-25)

Democrats:

1. **Jim Costa (CA-20)**
2. **John Salazar (CO-3)**
3. **Joana Conti (CO-6)**
4. **Alan Boyd (FL-2)***
5. **Jim Marshall (GA-3)***
6. **Baron Hill (IN-9)***
7. **Dennis Moore (KS-3)***
8. **Nick Clooney (KY-4)**
9. **Allyson Schwartz (PA-13)**
10. **Max Sandlin (TX-1)***
11. **Nick Lampson (TX-2)***
12. **Chet Edwards (TX-17)***
13. **Charlie Stenholm (TX-19)***
14. **Don Barbieri (WA-3)**
15. **Henry Cuellar (TX-28)**

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