



**For immediate Release**  
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**Contact: Martha Lozada**  
**202-546-0008**

## **The Latino Coalition Urge Congress to Oppose Increasing Taxes on Money Transfers to Mexico**

**Washington, D.C.** – The Board of Directors of The Latino Coalition (TLC) today announced their strong opposition to an Arizona State Senate resolution urging Congress to impose a tax on money transfers between the United States and Mexico. The resolution, which exempts businesses and only penalizes individuals who send money to their families in Mexico, was introduced by Senate Democratic Minority Whip Peter Rios.

“This idea is seriously misguided and harmful,” said TLC Board member Sal Gomez of Denver, Colorado, who also serves as Chairman of the Denver Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. “It’s misguided because it will damage the economy of Mexico, leading to higher unemployment and fewer opportunities. This will lead to a large increase in the number of undocumented workers seeking jobs in the U.S. simply because there are fewer economic opportunities in their homeland. It is unfair because it targets the most vulnerable in our society by imposing a burdensome tax on their income, which will lead to a significant decrease in beneficial economic activity and an increase in dangerous black market alternatives to send money to their families.”

The Board of Directors also strongly criticized the wording in the Arizona State Senate resolution, which states that *“it is estimated that fifteen billion dollars is annually wired to Mexico by individuals residing in the United States, most of whom are believed to be undocumented immigrants...”*

“I guess these legislators assume that almost everyone of Hispanic heritage in this country is an illegal immigrant,” said TLC President Robert G. Deposada. “The overwhelming majority of people who send money transfers to families in other countries are hard working Americans who have strong family values and ties. How discriminatory is it to have a tax on Mexican Americans, yet not on Canadians, or on Irish Americans? Why target just one ethnic group? The answer is simple: this is just another example of cheap and irresponsible racial rhetoric. These legislators prefer to focus on feeding a wedge issue and promoting a campaign of hatred and fear. No serious public official should be supporting this irresponsible and damaging resolution.”

“The fact is that remittances to Mexico exceed \$ 10 billion dollars a year, and actions like this would have serious negative consequences to the open economic trade between Mexico and the United States”, said TLC Board Member Honorio Padron of Chicago, Illinois, who also serves as President of the Hispanic Business Roundtable. “Further, this action is the equivalent of a personal tax that solely targets Mexican-American families; it is economic discrimination at its best. This is just another mean-spirited effort to damage the image of hard-working immigrants in this country, and no serious public official should be supporting this irresponsible and damaging resolution.”

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 please visit their website at [www.TheLatinoCoalition.com](http://www.TheLatinoCoalition.com).

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725 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E. · Washington, DC 20002 · [www.TheLatinoCoalition.com](http://www.TheLatinoCoalition.com)  
202-546-0008 Tel. · 202-546-0807 Fax