



For Immediate Release
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Latino Leaders Praise Agreement to Keep Seizure Moratorium in Place

– *Return Illegally Seized Money Transfers Immediately, TLC says* –

Washington, D.C. – The Latino Coalition (TLC) today praised an agreement between Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard and Western Union that will keep in place a moratorium on the seizure of money transfers sent to Mexico from locations throughout the United States.

TLC also called upon Goddard to expedite the release of millions of dollars belonging to thousands of U.S. citizens, which his office seized before being ordered to cease and desist.

“We have been following these actions with great interest and we commend the court, Western Union and Attorney General Goddard in their attempts to find solutions that are rational and respect the constitutional rights of the community,” said TLC President Robert Deposada. “It’s still important, however, to make sure that the money illegally seized by Arizona agents is quickly returned to its rightful owners. Every day Arizona continues to hold these illegally seized funds is an outrage,” Deposada said.

Goddard recently began seizing money transfers of more than \$500 sent from 28 U.S. states to the Mexican state of Sonora, expanding his program far beyond Arizona. Before recovering their money, victims of this program must first undergo an extensive interrogation by Arizona detectives.

Recently, a Maricopa County, Ariz., Superior Court Judge ordered the attorney general to stop the seizures until a hearing can be held on a Western Union challenge to the seizures. Goddard and Western Union yesterday announced they have entered into discussions to resolve the matter and that the judge’s stay will remain in effect.

While Deposada praised the action as a good stop-gap measure, he also called upon Goddard to take further actions to stop unconstitutional activities in his office. “Terry Goddard has a reputation as a good, fair man – a friend of the community,” Deposada said. “If the Attorney General is truly committed to the Hispanic Community, he must find solutions balancing the needs of law enforcement with the rights of consumers”.

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 our website at www.TheLatinoCoalition.com.

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