



*The National Voice of the Hispanic Legal Community.*

Contact: Andreia Rosa  
Phone: 202-223-4777  
E-Mail: andreiarosa@hnba.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 15, 2006

**HNBA URGES SENATE LEADERS TO PROTECT  
ANTI-DISCRIMINATION PROVISIONS IN TELECOM LAWS**

(Washington, DC—February 15, 2006) — The Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) today urged members of the United States Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation to oppose efforts to eliminate the current anti-discrimination rules that have provided Hispanic communities with equal access to video services and broadband technologies. HNBA National President Nelson Castillo issued the following statement:

“We support competition in the U.S. cable television markets, and we believe that true ‘video choice’ requires current anti-discrimination laws to ensure that all communities get the benefits of video competition. Without the current anti-discrimination laws, many Hispanic consumers will be excluded from the *Choose Your Cable* movement,” said Nelson Castillo. “The so-called anti-discrimination provisions in current proposals are not anti-discrimination provisions at all. They merely state that new entrants cannot redline in the communities they self-select. In Washington D.C. for instance, that provision would mean that new entrants could serve only Chevy Chase while redlining the rest of the city – an unacceptable position. We need to strengthen, not weaken, current law.”

In a letter sent to the Senate Commerce Committee in connection to the hearing, the HNBA told Senators: “In our view, the anti-redlining provisions of the federal cable laws are critical to ensuring that members of the Hispanic community have fair and equal access to the latest technology.” The letter continues: “Were companies given permission to bypass communities, many Hispanic residents are likely to be left behind, thereby widening the digital divide that exists in America today.”

The HNBA is a non-profit, non-partisan national association that represents the interests of over 27,000 Hispanic attorneys, judges, law professors, law students and legal professionals. Its continuing mission is to improve the study, practice and administration of justice for all Americans by ensuring the meaningful participation of Hispanic American legal professionals.

###