



The National Voice of the Hispanic Legal Community.

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**HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
DISAPPOINTED AT SENATE'S FAILURE TO PASS THE DREAM ACT**

Washington D.C. – On October 24, 2007, the United States Senate, with encouragement from the White House, killed the Dream Act. In so doing, it failed to give a second chance to the single most sympathetic group of immigrants – young people residing in our Nation since childhood who now wish to go to college or join the military.

While the DREAM Act may have been halted, the “dream” remains alive for the millions of students who are hopeful that a path will soon open up for them to reach their full potential and become productive citizens. The HNBA would like to express its gratitude to the 52 Senators who see the DREAM Act as an opportunity to strengthen the future of our Nation.

The DREAM Act, sponsored by Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., would have provided a path to citizenship for immigrants who were brought to this country as children, have lived here for at least five years, have graduated from high school and complete two years of college or military service within six years of obtaining conditional legal status. The Dream Act was supported by 52 of the 96 senators who voted, falling short of the 60 votes needed to end debate. The vote split both parties: It was backed by 12 Republicans, but opposed by eight Democrats. The Senate’s failure to pass the Dream Act is demoralizing for Hispanics and other immigrant communities in the United States. The Latino community will not, however, give up the fight.

“Young people who were raised in this country and know no other home deserve our country’s compassion. They have proven themselves to be productive members of our society by completing high school, yet cannot get permission to work, join the military or go to college. It is truly sad that 44 Senators and President Bush would not give these young people a chance to succeed and become fully integrated into our great society,” said Victor M. Marquez, National President of the Hispanic National Bar Association. “We need these children to stay, and we need their talent. This country was built by immigrants. Embracing these children into our society is the right thing to do,” Marquez said further. “I urge all people who care about our country’s future to contact those senators who voted no to express their disappointment and urge them to do the right thing.”

The HNBA is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, national legal association representing the interests of 38,000 U.S. Hispanic attorneys, judges, law professors, law students, and legal professionals. Its mission is to improve the study, practice, and administration of law and justice for all Americans by ensuring full and meaningful participation by U.S. Hispanic legal professionals in the legal profession, and to address legal issues that affect the Hispanic community. www.hnba.com. #####