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**Hispanic National Bar Association Dismayed at the Sidetracking of
Comprehensive Immigration Reform Legislation**
Perhaps it's Congress that is broken.

(Washington, DC) – The Hispanic National Bar Association (“HNBA”) has been vigilant and active in the Senate legislative process on comprehensive immigration reform. Yesterday, Senator Reid withdrew the legislation from further consideration after two attempts for cloture failed. Shortly thereafter, Senators traded blame for the inability of the Senate to close debate and bring the legislation to vote for passage. Two factors stand out. First, the early work by the coalition of bi-partisan Senators and Cabinet Secretaries Gutierrez and Chertoff achieved a negotiated reform package that exemplified the best of leadership by compromise. Second, the exchange of heavy-handed amendments, in particular by Senators with announced opposition to any immigration reform, was a sad lesson in Congressional debacle. In sum, the Senate’s failure to pass legislation on immigration reform is not acceptable.

“The HNBA supports passage of the Senate bill on comprehensive immigration reform, said Jimmie V. Reyna, HNBA National President. “We are fully aware that the legislation contains parts that are not desirable, and we are committed to work to improve those parts. We also recognize that immigration reform involves more than improving an immigration agency or administrative system; real immigration reform means security at the border, in our economy, within our society, and for America’s future. The reform legislation must be put back on track, and our elected leaders must stand tall for all of America by passing meaningful and effective immigration reform.”

The HNBA is a non-profit, non-partisan, and national association representing the interests of over 38,000 Hispanic American attorneys, judges, law professors, law graduates, law students, legal administrators, and legal assistants or paralegals in the United States and Puerto Rico. The mission of the HNBA is to improve the study, practice, and administration of justice for all Americans by ensuring the meaningful participation of Hispanics in the legal profession and to address legal issues that affect the Hispanic community.
