



Labor Council for Latin American Advancement

“Un Pueblo Unido: Be Powerful! Be Heard!”

The Official Latino Constituency Group of the AFL-CIO

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Latino Working families oppose proposed changes to the Constitution

Washington, DC: Milton Rosado, President of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) joins LLEGO, Pride at Work, national Latino organizations and members of Congress to oppose House Joint Resolution 56, an Amendment to the constitution that would make discrimination against same sex couples part of American law.

In a statement delivered by Karinné Hernandez, Assistant Director of LCLAA on behalf of President Rosado, Ms. Hernandez noted that if members of congress change the constitution to deny civil marriage to same sex couples, it would be the first time the constitution would serve as document designed to deny civil rights to a whole class of people. “It would have terrible consequences for same sex couples, for their families and for the rights of all fifty states and the District of Columbia. Latino working families are especially concerned that the Federal Marriage Amendment will invalidate thousands of union contracts that provide domestic partnership benefits for employees. The FMA will make it impossible for unions to provide parity in their benefits packages and will divide union members at a time when we must remain strong and united for all families.”

Latino working families, as all Americans are concerned about the economy. Our families are suffering from the loss of good manufacturing jobs that helped us enter the middle class in the past, we are concerned about the safety of our troops in Iraq and need comprehensive immigration reform on the agenda. On behalf of Latino working families, LCLAA urges members of congress to concentrate on these important issues. We urge proponents of the FMA to address these critical priorities and to stop the effort to divide Americans. Latinos have faced discrimination and have taken refuge in the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the subsequent amendments. The documents that have made our country great exist to protect Americans, not to discriminate.

“LCLAA will not stand for a constitutional amendment designed to deny rights to anyone. The proposed amendment is against the principle of equal protection that we have fought so hard to uphold. Latino working families are people of good conscience. We cannot and will not support a discriminatory constitutional amendment to exclude any group from protection or prevent law-abiding citizens from living full and happy lives.”

About LCLAA: The Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) is a national non-profit organization that represents the interests of approximately 1.7 million Latino/a Trade unionists throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. Founded in 1973, LCLAA is the official Latino Constituency group of the AFL-CIO. It builds coalitions between Unions and the Latino Community in order to promote an inclusive working family agenda. LCLAA promotes civic participation, mobilizes workers to vote and works with national organizations to advocate for the civil, economic, and human rights of Latino workers and their families.

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