



League of United Latin American Citizens

NATIONAL PRESIDENT
Rosa Rosales

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Brent A. Wilkes

NATIONAL OFFICERS
Hector Flores
Immediate Past President
Jaime P. Martinez
Treasurer
Jessica I Martinez
Youth President
Richard Fimbres
VP for Elderly
Margaret Moran
VP for Women
Berta Urteaga
VP for Youth
Michelle M. Pelayo
VP for Young Adults
Angel G. Luevano
VP for Farwest
Alicia Rios
VP for Midwest
Toula Politis Lugo
VP for Northeast
Maria Rodriguez-Salazar
VP for Northwest
Vivian Feliciano
VP for Southeast
Adrian Rodriguez
VP for Southwest

STATE DIRECTORS
Ana Valenzuela Estrada
Arizona
Carlos F. Cervantes
Arkansas
Argentina Davila-Luevano
California
Tom Duran
Colorado
Ada Peña
District of Columbia
Bettina Rodriguez Aguilera
Florida
Eligio Marin
Illinois
Trinidad Alfaro, Jr.
Indiana
Gilbert Sierra
Iowa
Rodrigo Bonilla
Kansas
Annabelle Guerra
Massachusetts
Augustin Sanchez
Michigan
Heladio F. Zavala
Minnesota
Hortencia Vasquez Wilcox
Missouri
Paul A. Martinez
New Mexico
Rosa Torres Caskey
Ohio
Rey Madrid
Oklahoma
Carmen I. Cruz
Puerto Rico
Roger C. Rocha
Texas
Leni Gonzalez
Virginia
Ricardo S. Rico
Washington
Yolanda Santos Adams
Wisconsin

March 21, 2008

The Honorable Hilda L. Solis
U.S. House of Representatives
1414 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Solis:

On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens, the largest and oldest Hispanic civil rights organization, we commend your leadership and efforts in sponsoring: The Families First Enforcement Act (H.R. 3980) to protect the civil rights of detained immigrant families. This bill justifiably asserts that immigrant raids must be humane, apprehension protocols must be fair, and that the protection of children must be a priority.

The passage of this bill sends the message that the maltreatment of detainees either through neglect or through the unjustifiable separation of families occurring in the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention centers will not be tolerated in any way. This bill reiterates that the inhumane acts of cruelty towards detainees fall against the democratic principles that this country is built upon. H.R. 3980 provides safeguards for ensuring that the civil rights of immigrant detainees and their families are justifiably protected. We commend you for your legislative efforts to stop this rampage of maltreatment through the support of H.R. 3980.

According to ABC News, Gary Mead, ICE's assistant director for detention and removal, testified before Congress that at least 64 immigrants died in ICE custody between 2004 and 2007. It is atrocious that ICE detention facilities would be the haven for abuse, maltreatment, and inexcusable deaths.

We must resolve this issue and no longer allow cruelty to occur in American detention facilities. We urge Congress to move this legislation forward and protect the civil rights of families and all children.

Sincerely,

Rosa Rosales
LULAC National President