

**1717 K Street, Suite 311, Washington, DC 20036**

**Office: 202-293-2828**

**FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION**

**CONTACT:**

**May 17, 2007**

**Eric M. Gutiérrez: 202-293-2828**

**Estuardo Rodríguez: 202-365-0625**

**IMMIGRATION REFORM MUST PROTECT AMERICA'S FAMILIES  
AND FUTURE: Senate/White House compromise needs vast improvement**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – John Trasviña, MALDEF President and General Counsel issued the following statement on today's Senate/White House immigration compromise:

“While we await the full details of the proposed Senate-White House compromise on immigration, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) will oppose any legislation that harms the nation's future. Allocating visas on an untried and unknown point system threatens to strike at the cornerstone of our legal immigration system: family reunification. We are greatly concerned that any progress made in the negotiations on legalization may be undermined by this new point system.

Moreover, key sectors of the nation's economy are dependent upon immigrants, mainly from Latin American and Asian countries. As the United States ages, this reliance will only increase in the future. We will examine this complex and voluminous proposed compromise to make certain that the 11 million immigrants who today contribute to our nation's economy and society as well as future immigrants are treated with dignity and rights, not relegated to exploitation and isolation.

Any bill coming out of these negotiations must serve the nation's interest. If it does not do so and the full Senate and House of Representatives cannot improve upon it, MALDEF will reject it.”

Founded in 1968, MALDEF, the nation's leading Latino legal organization, promotes and protects the rights of Latinos through litigation, advocacy, community education and outreach, leadership development, and higher education scholarships. For more information on MALDEF, please visit: [www.maldef.org](http://www.maldef.org)