



# *League of United Latin American Citizens*

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## ***PRESS RELEASE***

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## **LULAC OPPOSES CAFTA**

### ***National Assembly Passes Resolution – Says NO to Job Exploitation!***

Washington, DC – The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) opposed the Central American Free Trade Agreement with overwhelming support. Hundreds of LULAC members voted against the passage of CAFTA last Saturday, at the LULAC National Assembly because the treaty is seriously flawed. LULAC's greatest concern is that CAFTA's weak labor provisions will grow exploitation of workers in Central America possibly growing the push factors for undocumented immigration towards the United States.

“We have taken a very holistic approach toward addressing immigration reform. Part of that approach involves ensuring that the economies of Latin America are advanced in a sustainable manner. If we do not ensure that workers and their quality of life throughout the Americas are protected, it is inevitable that we will open a Pandora's Box of economic degradation,” stated Hector M. Flores, LULAC National President.

LULAC is also very concerned about the environmental provisions of the trade agreement and feels that CAFTA fails to include adequate enforcement for violations of internationally recognized labor and environmental standards.

“This year is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the North American Free Trade Agreement. It is time that we review it and think upon the lessons learned,” stated Rosa Rosales, LULAC National Vice President for the Southwest. “And what are the results of NAFTA?: In the last 10 years more than 1.3 million Mexican farmers have lost their livelihoods and migrated north. Real wages in Mexico are lower now than when NAFTA took effect; and undocumented migration to the U.S. from Mexico has more than doubled since NAFTA was enacted. Clearly there is a problem.”

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is the oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization in the United States. LULAC advances the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health, and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs operating at more than 700 LULAC councils nationwide.

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