



**ERIC
GARCETTI**
President, Los Angeles City Council
COUNCIL DISTRICT 13



200 N. Spring St. Room 470 • Los Angeles • CA 90012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 4, 2007

Contact: Josh Kamensky (213) 473-7013

LATINO CAUCUS WINS COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR BECERRA-SALAZAR LATINO MUSEUM EFFORT

The Latino Caucus of the Los Angeles City Council, comprising Councilmembers Ed P. Reyes, Tony Cárdenas, Richard Alarcón, Eric Garcetti and José Huizar won unanimous passage of a council resolution that supports federal legislative efforts for the creation of a National Museum of the American Latino in Washington, DC.

“The Smithsonian museums on the Mall aim to reflect the history, culture, and achievements of the people of the United States. But today, there is no substantive permanent Latino presence in any of the exhibits. Even with the many challenges and opportunities facing the Latino community, the importance of proper representation of Latinos and their contributions in our nation's foremost cultural institution cannot be underestimated,” said Council President Garcetti. “The passage of this bill is just one step towards correction a long-overdue omission, an institution that will hopefully serve to educate all Americans of the history and accomplishments of those of Latin American descent,” continued Garcetti.

“Los Angeles City Council President Eric Garcetti and City Councilmembers Richard Alarcón, Tony Cárdenas, José Huizar and Ed Reyes have done incredible work to bring this important legislation to the attention of their colleagues,” said Raul Yzaguirre, President of the Advisory Committee of the Friends of the National Museum of the American Latino. “By establishing this museum in Washington, DC and placing it among our nations other prestigious museums and landmarks, we will be able to properly honor the history of America and legacy of Latinos,” Yzaguirre added.

HR 512 and S 500, also known as The Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of American Latino Heritage Act, were introduced in Congress by Congressman Xavier Becerra (CA-31) and Senator Ken Salazar (CO). The legislation would create a 23-member commission that would organize a national conference to examine the viability of the museum. H.R. 512, passed the House with a unanimous vote on February 6, 2007 and S. 500 will be considered in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks early next month.

###