



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 11, 2010

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***The Reverend Luis Cortés, Jr. and Immigration Leaders
meet with President Obama at the White House***

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, President Obama held a meeting at the White House to discuss the issue of comprehensive immigration reform with a group of immigration leaders, including the Reverend Luis Cortés, Jr. of the national **Esperanza for America** campaign. During the meeting, the President was pressed by Reverend Cortés on the need for him to respond to the crisis that is afflicting Hispanic communities due to convoluted and antiquated immigration laws.

Reverend Cortés also stressed the need for the President to set a moral tone for the candid, open conversations that need to be held in government and amongst our citizens about comprehensive immigration reform. Reverend Cortés also shared information about the **Esperanza For America** campaign with the President. The campaign will be launched next Tuesday, March 16th, in Washington D.C., and will bring together the largest gathering of Hispanic evangelicals in the nation for comprehensive immigration reform. The President was encouraged by what he hopes will be bipartisan support for reform legislation.

Senators Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) were scheduled to meet with the President immediately after this gathering, to discuss a potential framework for comprehensive immigration reform. Reverend Cortés urges all people of faith to pray for our leadership during this time, as our country and our immigrants need politicians of courage from both the Democratic and Republican parties to step up and address this moral dilemma.

Esperanza is the largest Hispanic Evangelical network in the United States. With a national network of over 12,000 Hispanic congregations and community non-profits, Esperanza is one of the leading voices for Hispanics in America.

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