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Martinez' Election "a Pro-America Move"

Today, Rev. Luis Cortés, Jr., president of Esperanza USA, congratulates the Members of the Republican National Committee on electing Senator Mel Martinez (R-FL) as General Chairman:

"The Hispanic Evangelical church in America is based on the values of family, trust and opportunity. We viewed Senator Martinez' nomination not as a pro-immigration move but a pro-America move. Martinez' life story is exactly what makes this country the strongest nation in the world. Electing one of our great Hispanic role models to lead the party is a statement of trust not only in him as an individual but a statement of trust in us as a people.

As Hispanic Americans, we believed the President of the United States when he told us the Republican Party was going to be an inclusive party, open to all. Senator Martinez' election is a positive step given the rift created by the loud, strident anti-immigrant voices of far too many Republican leaders heard throughout the '06 election cycle.

We stand ready to work with General Chairman Martinez, Chairman Duncan and all Republican leaders on a wide range of issues important to our people. Leading the list is enactment of real, workable, compassionate immigration reform."

Rev. Luis Cortés is president of Esperanza USA, the largest Hispanic faith-based community development corporation in the country. With a national network of 10,000 faith and community-based agencies, Esperanza is one of the leading voices for Hispanics in America.

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