GALEO News and Updates

March 2005

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AJC, "Immigration battle

Dear Jerry,

There has been a lot of activity regarding immigration lately. This newsletter provides a glimpse of what has happened.

HR-256 has been introduced in the Georgia Legislature. HR-256 is bad for Georgia. HR-256 takes aim at innocent children in our school systems. HR-256 will hurt Georgia businesses and hurt Georgia’s ability to secure the FTAA Secretariate. Please follow the links below to learn more about this anti-immigrant legislation.

GALEO encourages all Latinos to attend "Family Day at the Capitol", Saturday, March 12, 2005. The Georgia General Assembly will meet in a unique Saturday Session from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon to allow Georgia families to witness the legislative process in action and to meet with legislators. Following the session, food will be provided on the Capitol grounds (weather permitting). The GA Legislature will be repealing the state’s "Jim Crow" laws on that date, many that were never removed from the books. GALEO is asking everyone opposed to HR-256 to wear RED shirt to show their opposition. Bring your family and meet your legislators.

On another note, GALEO has begun LeadershipPlenty sessions across the state to encourage further civic engagement and active participation within the Latino community. These sessions provide the tools to become more effective leaders. Sessions have started in Atlanta with 20 participants and in Smyrna with 12 participants. Dalton and Athens are the next sessions to begin. Please contact us for more information or if you would like to support these sessions financially.

Sincerely,

Jerry Gonzalez, Executive Director

2005 GALEO Legislative Agenda

Due to the urgency of immigration reform, GALEO will focus most of our efforts in the 2005 legislative session on providing pertinent immigrant community information to federal, state and local officials. All other issues will be secondary to this issue; GALEO wants to be a leading voice for immigration policy as our nation moves forward with the immigration reform initiated by President Bush.
Due to the growing rhetoric of anti-immigrant groups, GALEO felt it was important to provide facts regarding immigration and what these facts are saying regarding impact to our state and nation. GALEO started the "Getting It Right!" series delivered to state legislators as well as Georgia's Congressional delegation in order to provide them with factual information as President Bush leads our nation forward with comprehensive immigration reform.

Learn more and read GALEO's "Getting It Right!" Fact Sheets...

• HR-256 Fails to Provide Solution for National Issue

Atlanta, Georgia - Feb 21, 2005 On Thursday, February 17, 2005, Georgia HR-256 was introduced by Representatives Roger Williams (HD-4), Bobby Franklin (HD-43), Ronald Forster (HD-3), Scott Martin (HD-3), Jeannette Jamieson (HD-28). HR-256 calls for a state constitutional amendment to ban all public services to undocumented immigrants including all publicly funded healthcare and all education, including K-12 education. HR-256 also calls for greater cooperation between local law enforcement agencies with federal immigration authorities. GALEO believes that comprehensive immigration reform should be appropriately addressed at the federal level and does not believe HR-256 will solve our failed federal immigration policy. The U.S. Congress and President Bush should act and develop a solution and to consider our national security, to encourage and enhance continued economic development and to protect the rights and dignity of immigrants.

Read more...

• GALEO Urges Latino Community to Attend Family Day at Capitol

Atlanta, Georgia - March 1, 2005 GALEO urges the Latino community to participate in "Family Day" at the Georgia Legislature on Saturday, March 12, 2005. The legislature will be in session from 10:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M.

Read more...

• ATL Bus. Chronicle, "Legislators target illegal immigrants"

The Atlanta Business Chronicle
February 27, 2005
By Tatiana Prophet and Ryan Mahoney

The sponsors of six state bills that would bar illegal immigrants from receiving certain social services and holding certain jobs say they're sending a message to Georgia business owners.

Read more...

• Rey Pascual, Letter to the Editor for Atlanta Business Chronicle
Our immigrants have been and continue to be a vital part of our economy; they are the productive engine of many of our key industries, from agriculture and construction to manufacturing and tourism. President Bush himself has so recognized, hence his efforts in this regard.

**Read more...**

- **Debate intensifies over illegal immigrants**

  GOP senator says ‘doing nothing is not an option’ for complicated issue of immigration.

  By Dena Bunis

  The Orange County (CA) Register, February 27, 2005

  WASHINGTON -- Congressional debate on the complicated and emotional issue of immigration reform will begin in earnest in the coming weeks as congressional hearings are being scheduled on everything from border security to guest-worker programs.

  **Read more...**

- **Undocumented Immigrants, Education and HR 256: Some things from the Past and Present**

  By: Aldo Lozano, GALEO Intern

  Last week, state representatives Williams (R- Dalton), Franklin (R-Marietta), Forster (R-Ringgold) and Jamieson (D-Toccoa) introduced House Resolution 256, which proposes a constitutional amendment that would allow and encourage state law enforcement agencies to “fully cooperate with federal immigration authorities” to bar undocumented immigrants from receiving access to any state-funded health or educational service. This is not the first time that legislators attempt an assault on undocumented immigrants. However, the biggest concern is why they are targeting education. Fortunately, the past teaches us some lessons on this issue.

  **Read more...**

- **GALEO Intern Highlight! Laura Burns from Emory University**

  Laura Burns is a senior at Emory University and will be receiving a bachelor’s degree in Spanish this May. She serves on the Executive Board for Miracle Marathon, a fundraiser for Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, and she is an active member of her sorority. Laura was born in Dalton, Georgia, where she danced ballet and jazz for 15 years. She enjoys traveling and has studied abroad in Scotland, London, and Spain.

  **Read More About GALEO’s Spring 2005 Interns!**

- **Thank you to our Members!**
Save the Dates!

- Family Day at the Capitol, Saturday, March 12th
- Hispanic Professional Social Club Mega Mixer, Thursday, March 17th, 2005, 6:30 P.M. at Compound
- Ascending to New Heights, 5th Annual Career Growth Conference, National Society of Hispanic MBA's (NSHMBA)-Atlanta Chapter
- 2nd Annual GALEO Power Breakfast, Wed., 4/6/05
- GALEO Fall Fundraiser, 9/22/05
- GALEO Membership Holiday Reception, 12/1/05

Upcoming Events...

The University of Georgia (UGA) partners with GALEO & other organizations for a conference on Latinos in the SE

FINDING SOLUTIONS: Latinos and the Socio-Economic Development of the Southeast

June 6-7, 2005

Georgia Center for Continuing Education

Athens, Georgia

The 2005 Latino conference will focus on:

- Latino workforce issues including education and skill development; labor and employment issues; legal immigration and financial issues; and leadership development;
- Analyzing the role of the Latino workforce in the socioeconomic future of the southeast, and in particular, the southeast's economic and community development; and
- Encouraging discussion of potential solutions to barriers to Latino socioeconomic development and to the problems facing the Latino workforce, including legislative measures, policy development, and multilateral agreements.

AJC, "Immigration battle brews"
GOP walks a tightrope on illegals

www.ajc.com

Dan Chapman - Staff Saturday, February 19, 2005

In between the opening prayer and the lunchtime barbecue, hundreds of Georgians will find their faith in immigration reform reinforced today at the Christian Coalition of Georgia’s 2005 Families & Freedom Kickoff event.

Read more...

* Extensive New Survey Examines Mexican Migrants’ Views Toward Immigration Reform Proposals: Pew Hispanic Center report shows many respondents want to stay in U.S.

Washington, DC - An unprecedented survey of nearly 5,000 Mexican migrants who were interviewed while applying for identity cards at Mexican consulates in the United States has found that most want to remain in this country indefinitely but would participate in a temporary worker program that granted them legal status for a time and eventually required them to return to Mexico.

Read more...

* Doraville City Council Names Norman Cuadra as New City Court Judge

On February 22, 2005 the Doraville City Council named Norman Cuadra as a new Doraville City Court Judge, with the instrumental assistance and support of Councilman Jason Anavitarte.

Read more...

* GALEO launches first leadership training in Atlanta & Smyrna

Atlanta, Georgia - Feb 22, 2005 GALEO launched its first class of LeadershipPlenty® in Atlanta & Smyrna over the past several weeks and is accepting applications for upcoming leadership training programs in Athens and Dalton.

Read more...

* Voting Rights Commission Holds First Hearing to Examine Discrimination in Voting

Washington, DC - The National Commission on the Voting Rights Act will convene its first hearing as part of a nationwide series to examine the impending reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act ("VRA"). The Commission’s inaugural hearing will occur on Friday, March 11, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. in Montgomery, Alabama at the Freewill Baptist Church located on 1724 Hill Street. Congressman John Lewis, who was a leader in the voting rights movement that led to the law’s enactment, is scheduled to testify before the Commission along with other distinguished panelists.

Read on...
City of Doraville Names Corally Rivera as New City Court Clerk

3/4/05-Last week Acting Chief Major Thomas McElroy named Corally Rivera as the new Doraville City Court Clerk, with the instrumental assistance and support of Councilman Jason Anavitarte. Acting Chief McElroy announced his decision at a recent City Council meeting on February 22, 2005.

Read on...

Tax Deductible Donation to the GALEO Latino Community Development Fund

Make a generous, tax-deductible donation for increasing Latino civic engagement in Georgia!

Thank you for your support!

Please ask us about placing an advertisement in this newsletter. We plan to have one ad per monthly newsletter. Please contact Jerry Gonzalez, GALEO Executive Director, 404.745.2580, or jerry@galeo.org for more information.

Make a donation online!