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PRESS RELEASE

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HOPE.ACT.VOTE. Latinas take ACTION in Sacramento

Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) will celebrate its *14th Annual Latina Action Day, Sacramento on Tuesday, April 22nd, 2008.*

Hundreds of Latinas from across the State of California will join together to celebrate Latina leadership, voter empowerment, and will advocate on issues related to the state budget, education, and healthcare reform. Eli Lilly and State Farm will serve as title sponsors of the conference.

The event will kick-off with a *Rally and March on the Capitol* where participants will help launch the HOPE.ACT. VOTE campaign which is a statewide project that aims to mobilize California's 1.6 million Latina registered voters to become informed citizens, effective policy advocates, and active civic participants through an interactive web-portal at www.latinas.org. "The goal of the campaign is to lend greater support for Latina advocacy efforts in Sacramento by amplifying constituent voices on HOPE's policy agenda", said HOPE Board Chair Elmy Bermejo.

Participants will also be addressed by Secretary of State Debra Bowen at the *"HOPE.ACT.VOTE. Voter Empowerment Luncheon"* where she will discuss voting and its importance in the upcoming November elections. Dr. David Long, the Secretary of Education will address participants about current legislation impacting California's education system at an interactive *Educational Town Hall*. Participants will also attend a *Healthcare Reform Panel* discussion which will allow the group to explore local, state, and national viewpoints on healthcare reform and its importance to Latinas.

Latina Action Day includes a youth component which will access college opportunities for Latina high school students from throughout California and will include a conversation on the “***Historical Presidential Election and the Latina Youth Vote***”. According to pre-conference survey results taken by youth conference participants, 87% of Latina high school seniors surveyed will be eligible to vote and plan on voting in the November 4th Presidential Election, hereby demonstrating the power of the Latina Youth Vote. Youth participants will present the rest of their findings at ***Latina Action Day’s Youth Townhall***.

The day will conclude with a VIP reception and a “***Celebrating Latina Leadership Dinner***” honoring Latina Legislators for their leadership, service, and dedication to California. Senator and incoming President Pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg will also be presented with the “HOPE Be With You Award” and will receive a commissioned painting by acclaimed artist Irene Caranza for his commitment to education policy.

Once a year, HOPE convenes 600 Latina leaders from all regions of California in Sacramento for an annual public policy issues conference, ***Latina Action Day Sacramento***. This one day conference is designed to facilitate dialogue between corporate and community Latina leaders and elected officials on public policies affecting Latinas in California. Through townhalls, public hearings, and workshops, HOPE presents up to date information, analysis, and access to decision makers on critical issues such as access to healthcare, higher education, and the California State budget.

HOPE is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization committed to ensuring political and economic parity for Latinas through leadership, advocacy, and education to the benefit of all communities and the status of women.

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