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Friday, February 08, 2008

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens, the largest and oldest Hispanic Civil Rights organization in the United States, we write to express our support for S. 381/H.R. 662, or the "Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act." This legislation will establish a commission to investigate the World War II- era relocation, internment, and deportation of Latin Americans of Japanese descent and to endorse appropriate remedies.

The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 honorably addressed the plight of Japanese Americans by providing a compensation of payments to former internees. However, this law did not address the inhumane treatment of some 2,300 Latin American citizens also of Japanese ancestry. During World War II, the United States government forcibly removed approximately 2,300 men, women, and children of Japanese ancestry from thirteen Latin American countries. 800 of those individuals were used as collateral in prisoner exchanges, while the rest were situated in internment camps where they were subjected to inhumane treatment.

This sad event in our nation's history needs to be investigated appropriately in order to promote a better understanding amongst the American people, reconciliation for those affected by these events, and to ensure that these injustices are never repeated.

S. 381/H.R. 662 deserves your support and is a necessary step towards closure for the victims of this tragic event. We urge that you work for its final enactment.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Javier Dominguez, Legislative Director at 202-833-6130, x. 12 or at jdominguez@lulac.org

Sincerely,

Rosa Rosales
LULAC National President