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Contact:

Joseph Rendeiro

jrendeiro@nclr.org

(202) 776-1566

Business and Latino Advocacy Groups in Las Vegas Urge Congress Not to Leave Working Families Out of Tax Deals

LAS VEGAS— Today, the Las Vegas Latin Chamber of Commerce (LVLCC) joined NCLR (National Council of La Raza), Mi Familia Vota, Community Services of Nevada (CSNV) and local elected officials for a town hall where they called on Congress to include tax credits for workers in an upcoming debate over this issue. Congress is expected to resume negotiations on renewing or making permanent business tax credits set to expire this fall. During the town hall, speakers—including Otto Merida, President and CEO of LVLCC, Nevada State Assemblyman Nelson Araujo, Margarita Rebollal, Executive Director of CSNV, and Rafael Collazo, Director of Political Campaigns at NCLR—agreed that Congress should also protect key provisions of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC), which benefit 50 million Americans and would expire in 2017.

“If lawmakers are willing to help Nevada’s businesses, then they should also support Nevada’s hardworking families. After all, our local businesses rely on consumers in order to thrive,” said Rafael Collazo, Director of Political Campaigns at NCLR. “Millions of working families depend on these tax credits to keep them out of poverty. Ensuring that American workers keep more of what they earn must take priority in Washington.”

In 2009, Congress strengthened these refundable tax credits, which are only available to working people, in order to reach lower-income earners. Together, they now lift more than 9 million people out of poverty nationwide, including about 5 million children. In Nevada alone, approximately 500,000 households received the EITC and/or the refundable CTC in 2013, helping lift more than 100,000 households out of poverty. The EITC has also proven to be an economic boon for the state, adding an estimated \$554 million into Nevada’s economy in 2012.

“As an organization that runs a free tax-preparation program for working families, we see firsthand how the credits truly offer financial relief for lower-income families who live and work in Nevada,” said Margarita Rebollal, Executive Director of Community Services of Nevada.

“These tax credits keep people out of poverty, boost employment and have lifelong benefits for

children's ability to learn and succeed. If they are allowed to expire, those hit hardest would be lower-income earners, married couples and large families, many of whom are Hispanic.”

If Congress allows key provisions of these pro-work tax credits to expire at the end of 2017, the following would occur:

- More than five million Latino working families with nine million children stand to lose an average of more than \$1,000 each.
- More than 50 million Americans, including 25 million children, will lose part or all of their EITC or CTC.
- More than 440,000 Nevadans will lose some or all of their working-family tax credits.
- More than 100,000 Nevada children will be pushed deeper into poverty.

NCLR—the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States—works to improve opportunities for Hispanic Americans. For more information on NCLR, please visit www.nclr.org or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).