**Menéndez, Reid, Rubio, Becerra y Ros-Lehtinen Presentan Proyecto de Ley para Autorizar Museo Latino en los Predios del Smithsonian**

**WASHINGTON** –El Senador Robert Menéndez (D-NJ) el Líder de la Mayoría del senado Harry Reid (D-NV) ), el Senador Marco Rubio (R-FL), el Presidente del Caucus Demócrata de la Cámara de Representantes Xavier Becerra (D-CA) y la Representante Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) presentaron hoy un proyecto de ley en el senado y la cámara de representantes para autorizar que el edificio de Arte e Industria del Smithsonian sea la localización y sede oficial del Museo Latino del Smithsonian. La autorización del museo sigue las recomendaciones del reporte de Mayo 2011 de la *Comisión para la Creación del Museo Nacional Latino*, la comisión bipartidista establecida por ley en el 2008.

***El Senador Menéndez*** *dijo: “Estamos en una era en donde el papel que juegan los latinos en nuestro dialogo nacional es mucho mas significante. Nuestra presencia, igual que nuestra importancia, como parte de la historia de los Estados Unidos sigue creciendo. La existencia de un Museo Nacional Latino exhibiría nuestra gran historia en los Estados Unidos, y educaría a los visitantes acerca de cómo el éxito de este país no hubiera sido posible sin los logros de los hispanoamericanos. Durante años, he liderado el esfuerzo para realzar este proyecto largamente esperado. Con la reintroducción de este proyecto de ley, tengo la esperanza de que - con la ayuda de mis colegas en ambas cámaras - finalmente podamos lograr un museo nacional que honre las innumerables contribuciones políticas, culturales y económicas de la comunidad Latina en los Estados Unidos.*

***El Senador Heller*** *dijo: “La comunidad hispana de Nevada es rica en cultura y sin duda juega un papel importante en la historia de nuestro estado. Un museo en honor a su herencia serviría de mucho para educar a todos los estadounidenses sobre las contribuciones que han hecho las comunidades hispanas a lo largo y ancho de nuestro país. Me complace formar parte de este grupo bipartidista de senadores y esperamos poder mover hacia adelante esta legislación para honrar a estas vibrantes culturas”, dijo el senador Heller.*

**PDF DE LA POPUESTA DE LEY (S.568):** <http://www.menendez.senate.gov/download/?id=6c101bda-f80e-4dcc-84b7-6970e006c079>

**RESUMEN DE LA LEGISLACIÓN:**

**The Smithsonian American Latino Museum Act**

Summary

Following the work of the bipartisan Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino, a Commission established by law on May 8, 2008, Senators Menendez and Reid are introducing legislation that would authorize the Arts and Industries building of the Smithsonian Institution as the designated location of the Smithsonian American Latino Museum.

This museum has widespread support from the Hispanic community across the nation, and would tell all Americans the story of American Latinos, who have contributed to the political, social, cultural and economic vitality of the United States since the founding of this nation.

* **Site Designation**: The bill designates the Arts and Industries Building (AIB) as the location of the museum, including an annex that would be constructed underground and adjacent to the AIB.  The bill requires that the planning, design and construction of the museum be harmonious with open space and visual sightlines of the National Mall.
* **Site Development**: The legislation gives the Board of Regents 18 months to conduct a plan of action study to determine the best way to plan, design and construct the Museum of the American Latino, taking into account the Commission’s report.
* **Funding:** As written, the bill simply authorizes a site to allow for private fundraising to begin for the planning, designing and construction of the museum.

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**Menendez Reintroduces Legislation to Authorize American Latino Museum on the National Mall**

WASHINGTON D.C.— US Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Majority Leader Reid (D-NV), US Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL, and US Senator Dean Heller (D-NV), were among the original co-sponsors who reintroduced bipartisan legislation today in the Senate to authorize the Smithsonian’s Arts and Industries building on the National Mall as the designated location of the Smithsonian American Latino Museum.  This authorization of the museum follows the recommendations of the May 2011 report by the bipartisan Commission to Study the Potential Creation of the National Museum of American Latino, a Commission that was established by law in 2008.

***Senator Menendez*** *said: “We are in a new era in which Latino Americans have a prominent seat at the table of national discourse. Through the years, our numbers have grown as well as our significance to the story of America. A National Museum of the American Latino would officially acknowledge the Latino community’s great history in the United States, and educate all Americans about how the success of this country could not have been accomplished without the achievements of Hispanics. For years, I have led the bipartisan push to bring to this long overdue project to fruition. With the reintroduction of this legislation, I am hopeful that – with the help of my colleagues in both chambers – we can finally make a national museum that honors the countless political, cultural, and economic contributions of America’s Latino community a reality.”*

***Senator Heller*** *said****:*** *“The Hispanic community in Nevada is rich in culture and no doubt plays an important role in our state’s history and future. A museum to honor their heritage would go a long way to educate all Americans about the contributions Hispanic communities have made throughout our country. I am pleased to join this bipartisan group of Senators and look forward to moving this legislation forward to honor these vibrant cultures,” said Senator Dean Heller.*

**PDF OF THE LEGISLATION:** <http://www.menendez.senate.gov/download/?id=6c101bda-f80e-4dcc-84b7-6970e006c079>

**SUMMARY OF THE LEGISLATION:**

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