



DEMOCRATIC HISPANIC CAUCUS OF FLORIDA

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Republican Senate Votes for Custom over People: Senate “accidentally” votes to support DREAMers only to later retract the amendment

Orlando, Florida – Yesterday the republican-controlled Florida Senate demonstrated how fickle its support of the Hispanic community truly is by retracting an amendment meant to support DACA and DAPA recipients. The amendment which was filed by Senator Soto argued that state funds could not be used to prohibit the implementation of DACA and DAPA; and, is a result of AG Pam Bondi’s decision to join Texas in suing the federal government for President Obama’s executive action which halts deportations of nearly 11 million immigrants.

The amendment originally passed by a 16-15 vote and was briefly celebrated by Hispanic groups throughout the state, but as the republicans quickly realized what happened, Senator Latvala filed a motion to reconsider the amendment. While Senator Latvala had initially voted for the amendment stating that he “sympathized” with the policy, his vote was “accidental” as it is “custom” for the Budget Subcommittee Chairs to support one another, and in this case that meant voting against the amendment. The DHCF is disappointed that Senator Latvala would prioritize custom over people when voting to continue separating Florida families rather than allowing them to contribute to our economy.

The DHCF is also dismayed that Senator Anitere Flores, who represents a heavily Hispanic district, initially supported Senator Soto’s amendment and yet when republican leadership scurried to revoke the amendment, she walked out and abstained from voting. DHCF President, Vivian Rodriguez released the following statement:

“The DHCF seeks to empower our Hispanic community in Florida. We are proud to support Senator Soto and all the democratic senators who fought against using our state funds to tear families apart. It is a shame to see some of our elected officials vote for custom and tradition over what is right for Florida’s families, especially those who represent large Hispanic districts.”

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