



THE LATINO
COALITION

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**THE LATINO COALITION HAILS DEAL ON
MEDICARE AND ITS MSA PROVISION AS A
HUGE HELP FOR THE UNINSURED**

Deposada: "The Track Record Of MSAs Insuring The Uninsured Is Extremely Encouraging And The Deal Struck On The Medicare Will Be Very Well-Received News In The Latino Community"

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Robert Deposada, president of The Latino Coalition, today praised congressional leaders for a new deal worked out on Medicare that will include making Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) — formerly Medical Savings Accounts (MSAs) permanently available to all Americans. The IRS has consistently reported that MSAs have helped to insure many uninsured people, and Deposada noted that is a high priority for the Latino community.

"As the U.S. Census recently reported, Latinos have the highest percentage of uninsured among any ethnic group. One out of every three people in our community is uninsured. The track record of MSAs in insuring the uninsured is extremely encouraging and the deal struck on the Medicare bill will be very well-received news in the Latino community," Deposada said.

Since the pilot MSA program was enacted in January 1997, no less than 32 percent — or 1/3rd — of all MSA health insurance policy purchasers have been uninsured when they purchased their policies. According to the IRS, which has been tracking the numbers, that figure rose to an astounding 73 percent of all MSA policy purchasers were uninsured.

"There are so many uninsured Hispanics in this country that if you live in the community you either know someone who is uninsured or you are uninsured yourself. We need MSAs to be available to everyone, not just a select few as it is now," Deposada said.

To schedule an interview with Robert Deposada contact Katie Wright at (703)-683-5004, ext. 132.