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Washington, DC - Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui (CA-05) joins millions of Americans this weekend in celebrating Cinco de Mayo. This day marks the historic triumph of the Mexican people over the French Army in the battle of Puebla in 1862. In the United States, Cinco de Mayo is a celebration of the rich cultural heritage Mexican Americans have contributed to our society and the great impact it has had in our communities.

"Today, we celebrate the importance of Hispanics throughout the country, specifically the contributions Mexican Americans have made and continue to make that help strengthen our nation. From the founding of the Spanish missions to advancement of civil rights by Cesar Chavez, California has been particularly influenced by Hispanic culture and achievements," said Congresswoman Matsui. "Furthermore, this date is of special significance because it reminds us that all people -- regardless of their race, color or background -- need freedom, liberty and self-determination and that all cultures are worthy of respect."

Latinos are the fastest-growing minority group in the United States. Today, over 20% of the Sacramento population and 35% of the California population is comprised of Latinos. These people have made vital contributions to our culture and economy. They are the largest minority-owned business community -- with a record 1.6 million businesses generating annual revenues of more than \$221 billion. Democrats recognize this entrepreneurial energy as vital to the Latino community and the American economy. Today, there are 30 Hispanic Members in the United States Congress, including 24 Democrats. Many of them are Mexican-Americans, representing constituencies from all around the country.

Congresswoman Matsui also noted that the Democratic-led House is taking bold steps to ensure that this community has every opportunity to reach the American dream. The Democratic Hispanic Agenda - *Compromiso Democrata con el Pueblo Latino: A New Direction for Latino Families* - embodies an historic commitment to the issues that Latino families care about, like education, jobs and meeting the commitment to our nation's veterans. The Democratic-led House is also making comprehensive immigration reform and improving minority health priorities in the 110th Congress.

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