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# Iowa Latino leaders to meet with some of Iowa's national delegation, denied meetings with others during D.C. trip

For immediate release

Feb. 18, 2016

DES MOINES, IA – Iowa Latino leaders will travel to Washington, D.C. next week for the League of United Latin American Citizen's annual legislative event.

Meetings have been scheduled with almost 100 members of Congress to discuss issues of importance to the Latino community. This will be the 19<sup>th</sup> annual LULAC National Legislative Conference and Awards Gala.

U.S. Reps. Steve King and Rod Blum, both Republicans, have turned down meetings with the Latino group. This is the fourth straight year LULAC representatives have tried to meet personally with King, who represents the state's 4<sup>th</sup> district, and the second year with Blum of the 1<sup>st</sup> district.

LULAC's Iowa delegation who will travel to Washington D.C. are: State Director Mike Reyes, Political Director Christian Ucles and Council 307 Vice President Jorge Valencia, and LULAC National Vice President of the Midwest Joe Enriquez Henry.

"We are disheartened we could not meet with the entire delegation," Enriquez Henry said. "It would appear as though once again Steve King and Rob Blum are ignoring those they represent. There are important issues to discuss on the national level that involved immigration, employment, health care and educational opportunities for Latinos in Iowa. We cannot create working relationships with elected leaders who won't take the time to meet with constituents who travel all the way to Washington, D.C. to see them."

LULAC's Iowa delegation will meet with U.S. Sens. Chuck Grassley and Joni Ernst, both Republicans; and U.S. Reps. David Young, a Republican who represents the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District, and Dave Loebsack, a Democrat from the 2<sup>nd</sup> district.

While in Washington D.C., Enriquez Henry will share information about Latino participation in the 2016 Iowa Caucuses with the National LULAC Board of Directors. Between 10,000 and 13,000 Latinos – 25 percent of the registered Latino voters in the state – participated in the caucuses.

The National Legislative Conference and Awards Gala takes place each year to highlight critical legislative issues that affect Latinos on the national level.

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**The League of United Latin American Citizens** (LULAC) is the nation's largest and oldest civil rights volunteer-based organization that empowers Hispanic Americans and builds strong Latino communities. Headquartered in Washington, D.C. with 1,000 councils around the United States and Puerto Rico, LULAC's programs, services and advocacy address the most important issues for Latinos, meeting critical needs of today and the future.

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