



PRESS RELEASE  
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**NPRC COMMENDS HISPANIC LEGISLATORS FOR JOINING EFFORT TO  
PROTECT FUNDS FOR THE U.S. TERRITORIES**

***“Generating only 40 jobs is not economic development, is corruption”***

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 14)** – The National Puerto Rican Coalition, Inc. (NPRC) today praised a resolution passed by the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL), an organization representing the interests of over 300 elected Hispanic State legislators to ensure that future revenues to the U.S. Territories from the so-called “rum cover-over” are protected from going to the pockets of British global conglomerate, Diageo PLC.

“State legislators understand the responsibility of protecting federal funds intended for the people and not to excessively stuff the pockets of corporations,” said NPRC Chairman Miguel Lausell. “When an organization like NHCSL express grave concerns about a deal which will give at least \$2.7 billion to a foreign-owned company, and will only generate 40 low-paying jobs in the USVI, Congress cannot avoid taking action.”

“Legislators and communities nationwide will be rallying behind New Jersey Senator Robert Menendez and congressional leaders to send a clear message that giving federal subsidies to a foreign-owned company that amount to twice of what it costs to make their product Captain Morgan, is not economic development, is corruption,” noted NPRC President Rafael Fantauzzi. “NHCSL joins our efforts by asking Congress to take a stand, once and for all, to set limits that will protect the people of the Territories and not widen the gap in funding disparities.”

“Sen. Menendez’s bill is desperately needed to protect funds that historically Congress has used to support the poor, sick, and aged of both Territories. The backing of this respectable organization gives us the legislative credibility to stand tall on the side of fairness and justice,” asserted Lausell. “Diageo needs a reality check.”

To view NHCSL resolution, visit [WWW.NPRCINC.ORG](http://WWW.NPRCINC.ORG)

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The National Puerto Rican Coalition, Inc. (NPRC) is a non-profit, non-partisan, advocacy organization with its mission to systematically strengthen and enhance the social, political, and economic well-being of all Puerto Ricans throughout the United States and in Puerto Rico, with a special focus on the most vulnerable.