



2010-04

Senator Iris Y. Martinez (IL)

Introduced April, 2010 Executive Meeting (Adopted)

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**A RESOLUTION**

To protect rum cover-over tax funds provided to Puerto Rico

**Short Title:** Protect Puerto Rico rum tax cover-over funds

**WHEREAS** the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL) strives to positively impact the quality of life for all segments of the Hispanic community by advocating for improvements to the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, and health and civil rights of Hispanics in the United States and Puerto Rico; and

**WHEREAS** NHCSL represents the interests of Hispanic state legislators from all states, commonwealths, and territories of the United States; and

**WHEREAS** in appreciation of the tremendous contributions of Puerto Ricans in the fields of arts, science, medicine, culture, business, literature, and sports which have enriched the U.S; and

**WHEREAS** in the knowledge that Puerto Ricans have shed their blood to defend the nation of the United States, but cannot elect its President or federal legislators; and

**WHEREAS** in the knowledge that Puerto Rico is experiencing an economic crisis were 1 in 3 people live below the poverty line and an estimated 16% unemployment rate threatens the economic stability of 3.9 million U.S. citizens; and

**WHEREAS** in the knowledge of the actions taken by British-owned Diageo PLC to move its Captain Morgan operations to the U.S. Virgin Islands without any regards to the impact in revenue losses to Puerto Rico from federal funds designated by Congress to be used for economic development, education, health services, and land preservation and NOT for excessive corporate subsidies; and

**WHEREAS** in the knowledge that the Government of Puerto Rico has responsibly designated reasonable limits on the utilization of the rum cover-over tax rebate for corporate incentives; and

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**WHEREAS** in knowledge that the Hispanic community is a high volume consumer of Diageo's brands like Johnny Walker, Jose Cuervo, Bailey's Irish Cream, Tanqueray, Smirnoff Vodka, Captain Morgan Rum, and Dom Perignon; and

**WHEREAS** in knowledge that some of our highly respected community partner organizations like the National Puerto Rican Coalition, Inc. (NPRC), the National Puerto Rican Day Parade, Inc. of New York, and other Hispanic serving institutions are asking all Hispanic consumers to join their "STOP DIAGEO NOW" campaign by discontinuing their consumption of any Diageo brands and by denying them from participating in the largest cultural celebration on the mainland until Congress takes corrective action in the form of reasonable limits on corporate incentives from the rum cover-over tax rebate;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that NHCSL calls upon policy makers at all levels of government, including but not limited to Congress and the Senate, and the Obama Administration to support legislative protections that would establish clearly-defined safeguards for ensuring that rum cover over funds are utilized responsibly and create substantive opportunity for job creation, economic growth, and social investment for the vulnerable U.S. citizens of the Territories.

**Sponsored by:** Senator Iris Y. Martinez (IL)

**THIS RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE NHCSL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON APRIL 10, 2010 AT THE 2010 NHCSL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN WASHINGTON, D.C.**