

For Immediate Release
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Maria Elena Durazo Issues a Statement on the Passing of Senator Edward M. Kennedy

(Los Angeles) – Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO Executive Secretary-Treasurer Maria Elena Durazo issued the following statement today on the passing of Senator Edward Kennedy.

“Today, the over 800,000 workers of the Los Angeles Labor Movement mourn the passing of Senator Edward M. Kennedy.”

“The last time I met Senator Kennedy was during his visit to East Los Angeles College in February 2008, when we both were campaigning for President Obama-his mere presence told me that he was champion for working men and women.”

“No political leader of our time more selflessly defended over as many decades the civil and labor rights of minorities and all working people than Senator Ted Kennedy. Most recently, he co-authored the Employee Free Choice Act and actively fought for national healthcare reform.”

“Senator Kennedy also authored the comprehensive immigration reform bill for all immigrant workers with Senator McCain and was a leading author of the AgJobs immigration reform measure for farm workers.”

“From the 1960s on, Senator Kennedy and his late brother, Senator Robert Kennedy, never judged our struggles or tried to tell us what we should do or how we should do it. When they supported our cause, all they wanted to know was what were the problems and what we needed for them to do. That's how the Kennedy brothers earned the affection and respect of Latinos and other poor working people.”

*The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO is the chartered Central Labor Council (CLC) of the AFL-CIO in Los Angeles County and is the second largest in the country, representing over 800,000 workers through over 350 unions. Its mission is to promote a voice for workers so they can remain in the middle class, move themselves out of poverty by joining a union, encourage active participation in the political process by electing pro-union and pro-worker officials and to advance public policies that support workers and their families. As the coordinating center for labor's political activity, the Federation believes that in educating and mobilizing workers to be politically active they can create and sustain healthy communities, and **FIGHT FOR GOOD JOBS** that **REBUILD THE LOS ANGELES MIDDLE CLASS**. Visit the Federation at www.launionaflcio.org.*

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