

(Washington DC) Congressman Charlie Gonzalez issued the following statement in response to the walkout of students all over the country in protest of the Immigration Bill:

“While I encourage young people to participate in our democratic process, it is important that such activities take place after school. Our ancestors fought and sacrificed to come to America and the best way to honor them is to stay in school and get your education. Moreover, educational achievement is the surest route to improving our community and making sure that Latinos have their concerns heard in Washington DC. Higher levels of education will mean greater awareness and prosperity, which Latinos will need to realize the American dream.

Moreover, I understand the passion these students feel as the rhetoric has sometimes taken racist overtones, but mass walkouts will only foster the idea that Latinos are neither serious about assimilating nor doing well in school. Neither could be further from the truth, of course, but this will only give ammunition to the fringe Right. Accordingly, we should carry the American flag since that is the flag of our nation, and some will condemn Latinos as un-American for carrying the flag of Mexico.

I encourage young people in our community to participate in the political process, but walking out of school should not be the way you communicate those thoughts. Education is the key that will open the door to the American dream and Latinos should use it.”

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