

(Washington DC) This morning, Congressman Charlie Gonzalez and other leaders of the San Antonio Latino community urged students to stay in class and not walkout to protest the immigration bill. They emphasized that educational achievement is the best way for young people to help the Latino community.

“Students should stay in school and not join the protests happening during the school day,” said Congressman Gonzalez. “There are many ways to get involved in the political process, and I encourage these students to write letters or organize events after school. Not enough young people participate in the political process, especially minorities, so I am pleased that they feel passionate and want to do something. However, marches should happen after school.

Moreover, getting good grades and earning a higher education are the best tools young Latinos have to fight for our community. With higher education comes higher earning power and a greater stake in the political process. We need to be more involved on all levels of the national debate on issues important to our community, and education is the key in fighting for our community.

Moreover, if students do want to protest after school hours, I urge them to carry the American flag. Ours is a nation of immigrants who upon reaching our shores leave behind their allegiances to other lands. I know that I am very proud to be Mexican-American, but America is my home, and the red, white, and blue my flag. Do not let the fringe Right use pictures of Latinos carrying the Mexican flag as evidence we are un-American. Nothing is further from the truth, of course, as many Latinos have fought and died for this country.

By all means, young Latinos should make their voices heard, but you should do so after school hours.”

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