

(Washington DC) Tomorrow morning, Congressman Charlie Gonzalez and State Rep. Mike Villarreal will hold a press conference to remind last minute filers about the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA.) This year, at 25 sites throughout San Antonio, VITA will provide free tax preparation for workers who earned less than \$40,000 last year. Moreover, the volunteer tax preparers will check to see if the filers qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and then will file the taxes electronically, which will ensure refunds within 7-10 business days.

“With less than a month left before the filing deadline, I want to make people aware of VITA and EITC. Not every family in our community took advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit last year,” said Congressman Charlie Gonzalez. “This is one of the best tools we have for helping working Americans above the poverty line, so I encourage anyone in San Antonio who thinks they may qualify to visit a VITA site.”

“We want people to get back every penny they are owed,” State Rep. Mike Villarreal said. “Refund lenders target working families who could use the money for more important things like health care, reliable transportation or to make ends meet.”

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is designed to help low-income working individuals and families. Eligible filers can get back most of what they paid in federal income tax from their paycheck during the year. Last year, \$288 million in EITC benefits went to working families and individuals in San Antonio. But, a Texas Perspectives, Inc. study shows that 23 percent of eligible San Antonio families do not file for it. This means more than \$86 million went unclaimed last year.

WHO: Congressman Charlie Gonzalez and State Rep. Mike Villarreal

WHAT: Press Conference on Earned Income Tax Credit and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

WHERE: Bazan Library at 2200 W. Commerce 78207

WHEN: March 23rd at 9:30am