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Patrick J. Leahy
 United States Senate
 Committee on the Judiciary
 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support of the Confirmation of the Honorable Sonia Sotomayor to the United States Supreme Court

Dear Senator Leahy:

The California Women Lawyers strongly supports the confirmation of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the United States Supreme Court. A review of Judge Sotomayor's judicial record, as precisely articulated by the Women's Bar Association of New York in their statement, demonstrates a woman of many dimensions. Judge Sotomayor is highly intelligent, thoughtful and analytical. At the same time, Judge Sotomayor demonstrates an understanding of "real life" and how the opinions of the Court affect those who live by those opinions.

While much has been made about Judge Sotomayor's upbringing, her ethnicity and background and her gender, these aspects of what makes Judge Sotomayor who she is today should be viewed as enhancing her qualifications to be a Supreme Court Justice. Judge Sotomayor is a strong, independent woman of color who matured from such humble roots to become a respected and honored jurist who clearly has committed herself to public service. There is no doubt that Judge Sotomayor will continue on her path of excellence and of judicial independence. Undoubtedly, she has the intellect and will to evaluate the law and the facts and come to a fair decision.

For more than 35 years, the California Women Lawyers has served as the voice for more than 30,000 women attorneys and judges in the State of California. It is with that voice that we express our support for the confirmation of Judge Sonia Sotomayor. We request that our Letter of Support be entered into the Confirmation Hearing Record.

If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely

Jean M. Pledger
 Jean Pledger
 President

Affiliates: Black Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles; Fresno County Women Lawyers; Kern County Women Lawyers Association; Lawyers Club of San Diego; Monterey County Women Lawyers; Napa County Women Lawyers; Orange County Women Lawyers; Queen's Bench; Santa Barbara Women Lawyers; Women Lawyers Section of Santa Clara Bar Association; Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles; District 9 - San Diego; Women Lawyers Association of San Luis Obispo County; Women Lawyers of Alameda County; Women Lawyers of Long Beach; Women Lawyers of Sacramento; Women Lawyers of Santa Cruz County