



Founded by Mexican American Women in 1974

June 9, 2009

Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
 Chairman, D-Vermont
 Senate Judiciary Committee
 433 Russell Senate Office Building
 United States Senate
 Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Jeff Sessions
 Ranking Member, R-Alaska
 Senate Judiciary Committee
 335 Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Leahy and Sessions,

MANA, A National Latina Organization, with headquarters in Washington, DC, twenty-six chapters nationwide, and six affiliates across the nation expresses wholehearted support for the appointment of the Honorable Sonia Sotomayor to serve as a Supreme Court Justice.

Growing up in the Bronx after her parents moved from Puerto Rico, Sotomayor's mother instilled the value of education early in her life. After graduating valedictorian of at her Catholic high school, Sotomayor went on to Princeton, where she continued to excel. She attended Yale Law School and wrote for the Yale Law Journal.

Judge Sotomayor has had an exceptional and diverse career that will be an invaluable asset in a role as a Supreme Court Justice. She began her career as an assistant district attorney in the state of New York. Later, she worked in private practice as a corporate litigator, dealing with cases for both American and foreign clients. In 1992 she served as a federal judge for the U.S. District Court, having been nominated by President George H.W. Bush. In this position she was the youngest judge in the Southern District of New York and the first Hispanic federal judge in New York. During that time she supported claims to freedom of religious expression under the First Amendment. She continued in that position until her appointment as appellate judge by President William Jefferson Clinton in 1998.

1146 19th Street N.W., Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20036 · 202-833-0060 · Fax 202-496-0588 · www.hermana.org

Founded by Mexican American Women in 1974

The Honorable Sonia Sotomayor's perseverance, work ethic, integrity, and tested and proven ability to excel demonstrate her strength of character. Her commitment to nonpartisan, fair decision making, and upholding the law without bias makes Judge Sotomayor a clear choice for Supreme Court Justice. We are confident that Judge Sotomayor will dutifully represent the law as it is written, always serving in the best interests of the nation. A true example of living the American dream, she is an inspiration.

Moving forward, we urge that the Senate follow the timeline suggested by the White House, with an expeditious hearing by mid-July. As is our established procedure, we will also be submitting this legislative vote to the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda for consideration on the Annual Congressional Report Card, which tracks and publishes the voting records of Members of Congress on issues relevant to the Hispanic community. In the best interest of our nation, we ask you to confirm the Honorable Sonia Sotomayor based on her credentials, experience, and desire to honorably serve our great nation.

Sincerely,



Alma Morales Riojas
President & CEO

CC: Senate Judiciary Committee Members

1146 19th Street N.W., Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20036 · 202-833-0060 · Fax 202-496-0588 · www.hermana.org