



**National
Puerto
Rican
Coalition,
Inc. ®**

July 13, 2009

Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
433 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Jeff Sessions
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
335 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Sessions:

On behalf of the National Puerto Rican Coalition Inc. (NPRC), representing the interests of over 8 million U.S. citizens in the states and Puerto Rico, I would like to express our full and enthusiastic support for the confirmation of the Honorable Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the United States Supreme Court. Her personal and professional experiences make her uniquely sensitive and qualified to address the concerns of all Americans in our nation's highest court.

Judge Sotomayor's personal story of growing up as a daughter of Puerto Rican parents in a Bronx housing project, and eventually going on to study in Princeton and Yale, is an authentic reflection of the power for motivated and talented people in our society to overcome hardship and achieve success. This experience allows her a profound sensitivity to the challenging conditions of life which are the reality for a significant portion of the U.S. population and will provide her with a unique perspective on how to justly and equally apply our nation's laws.

In her professional life Judge Sotomayor's legal career has included not only criminal prosecution and commercial litigation, but also academia and appointment to the federal bench. For the past ten years, her intellect, integrity, and consensus-building have made her a highly respected jurist on the Second Circuit. This followed a distinguished career as a federal trial judge, during which Judge Sotomayor's pragmatism and resolve brought the national baseball strike to an end that satisfied all parties. She then taught for over nine years at the New York University School of Law and at Columbia Law School and has been a mentor to hundreds of attorneys and students as well as a member of the Puerto Rican and the Hispanic National Bar Associations. This wealth of experience has impressed upon her both the law's potential, as well as its limits. Since her nomination was announced she has received endorsements and praise from across the country.

As the Senate holds confirmation hearings, NPRC will be watching carefully to ensure that the Senate treats Judge Sotomayor fairly. Our organization firmly believes that Judge Sotomayor is the best choice for our country's next Supreme Court Justice. Therefore, NPRC will include her confirmation vote as part of our NPRC Community Accountability Rating. I hope and trust that you and your colleagues will enthusiastically support her nomination.

Sincerely,

Rafael Fantauzzi
President & CEO

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