

National Hispanic Leadership Agenda

Member Organizations

American G.I. Forum
ASPIRA Association
AVANCE, Inc.
Casa de Esperanza
Cuban American National Council
Farmworker Justice
Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities
Hispanic Federation
Hispanic National Bar Association
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
Latino Justice PLDEF
League of United Latin American Citizens
MANA, A National Latina Organization
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities
National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives
National Association of Hispanic Publications
NALEO Educational Fund
National Association of Latino Independent Producers
National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc.
National Council of La Raza
National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators
National Hispana Leadership Institute
National Hispanic Council on Aging
National Hispanic Environmental Council
National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Hispanic Media Coalition
National Institute for Latino Policy
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Puerto Rican Coalition
SER Jobs for Progress – National
Southwest Voter Registration Education Project
United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
United States Hispanic Leadership Institute

July 17, 2013

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), a coalition of the 36 leading Hispanic organizations in the country, I strongly urge you to vote yes on the nomination of Thomas E. Perez as U.S. Secretary of Labor. Votes cast on this nomination may be used in compiling a NHLA congressional scorecard for the 113th Congress.

Mr. Perez has a distinguished career of public service at the local, state and federal levels, with a track record of working with various stakeholders in a pragmatic way to achieve meaningful results for the public good.

Mr. Perez is himself yet another example of the American success story. He is the son of immigrants who worked hard and focused on excelling in education, becoming the first in his family to graduate from law school. After achieving his own success, he focused his energy on helping others achieve the American Dream as well.

Improving the chances of workers to get good jobs is a high priority for all Americans. As Secretary of Labor in Maryland, Tom Perez worked vigorously with businesses and labor unions to make workforce development and adult education programs easier to navigate and more likely to provide workers with the qualifications that the state's employers needed. Perez also led efforts to ensure employees were properly paid, that employers who played by the rules weren't undercut, and that workers had safe workplaces. This is the leadership we need at the U.S. Department of Labor to ensure that, together, we build a world class workforce in which those who work hard can provide for their families and achieve the American Dream.

Both as Maryland's Secretary of Labor and U.S. Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, Perez has taken a leadership role in helping those struggling during the foreclosure crisis which hit Latino homeowners particularly hard. As Maryland Secretary of Labor, Perez prioritized the investigation and prosecution of fraudsters preying on desperate homeowners who were facing foreclosure. He also worked with banks, consumer advocates, state legislators, and the judiciary to make sensible reforms to foreclosure laws that gave homeowners more time to find a solution that would help them stay in their homes. As Assistant Attorney General, Perez worked vigorously to combat unfair and discriminatory lending, settling the three largest fair-lending cases in the history of the Fair Housing Act.

As chief of the Civil Rights Division, Mr. Perez has been an exemplary leader protecting the civil rights and human dignity of those who have suffered from human trafficking, sex discrimination, hate crimes, bullying in school, and abuse of power by law enforcement. He has protected the right to vote, our veterans' right to a job, and

expanded access for people with disabilities.

The experience and values Tom Perez will bring to the job, lead us to believe that he will be an effective Secretary of Labor dedicated to helping as many people as possible secure quality jobs and a safe workplace.

For all these reasons, we respectfully urge you to support Mr. Perez's nomination Perez' as Secretary of Labor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Sanchez", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hector E. Sanchez
Chairman, National Hispanic Leadership Agenda
Executive Director, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement