



# 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

Inter-University Program for Latino Research

Labor Council for Latin American Advancement

LatinoJustice PRLDEF

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

Presente.org

SER Jobs for Progress – National

Southwest Voter Registration Education Project

United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

United States Hispanic Leadership Institute

United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce

U.S.- Mexico Foundation

December 8, 2014

Honorable Senator Robert Menendez  
Chair  
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations  
444 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Corker  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations  
444 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

### RE: The Nomination of Maria Echaveste as United States Ambassador to Mexico

Dear Chair Menendez and Ranking Member Corker:

On behalf of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), a coalition of 39 of the nation’s preeminent Latino organizations, I write to urge your Committee’s support in scheduling a hearing on the nomination of Ms. Maria Echaveste for the position of United States Ambassador to Mexico.

As a group of leaders working to advance the representation of Latino issues in public policy, we created the NHLA Latino Appointments Program. Through this program we support highly qualified candidates in their efforts to serve our nation in the federal government. We fully support Ms. Echaveste’s nomination because of her outstanding record, accomplishments, and leadership abilities. We believe she possesses the skills and experience needed to ensure that the United States continue to strengthen its relationship with Mexico – a relationship that is critical for the future prosperity and well-being of both nations.

Her track record with our organizations as Deputy Chief of Staff to President Bill Clinton demonstrated her ability to achieve consensus with leaders across the country on a variety of issues. In addition, her seven years of experience in the public sector, afforded Ms. Echaveste the opportunity to develop the leadership and policy skills needed for a top diplomatic position. Ms. Echaveste is one of the highest-ranking Latinas to have ever served in a Presidential Administration. She also gained diplomatic and policy experience with Latin American affairs in 2009, while serving as the U.S. Special Representative to Bolivia.

With over 2,000 miles of shared border, Mexico is one of the United States’ most important partners. Our next Ambassador to Mexico must demonstrate a deep understanding of our complex cultural, economic, and social ties with that country. According to the U.S. Department of State, U.S.-Mexico trade reaches approximately \$1.4 billion, and Mexico is the top destination for American tourists, with 20 million of our citizens vacationing there in 2013.

Throughout her career, Ms. Echaveste's volunteer responsibilities have complemented her professional activities and deepened her knowledge of issues affecting the relationship between Mexico and the United States. She co-founded the Mexican American Leadership Initiative of the U.S.-Mexico Foundation, which offers Americans of Mexican descent the opportunity to engage in binational social, cultural, and economic opportunities. Additionally, she served on the boards of the Mexico Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the binational U.S.-Mexico Futures Forum, and CARE International. These activities demonstrate her strong personal commitment to U.S.-Mexico relations, and we believe she will bring great conviction to her work as the U.S. Ambassador to Mexico.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. We look forward to working with you for a swift confirmation of Maria Echaveste. Should you have any questions, please contact Carmen Orozco-Acosta, NHLA Senior Program Coordinator, at [carmen@nationalhispanicleadership.org](mailto:carmen@nationalhispanicleadership.org) or 512-787-6508.

Sincerely,

Hector Sanchez  
Chair, National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA)  
Executive Director, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA)