

National Hispanic Leadership Agenda

June 9, 2015

Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: The Nomination of Rafael J. López for Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

On May 5, 2015, I wrote to you on behalf of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), a coalition of 39 leading national Latino nonpartisan civil rights and advocacy organizations, in support of the nomination of Rafael J. López to be Commissioner, Administration on Children, Youth and Families at the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). One month later, the Senate has still not acted on Mr. Lopez' nomination. We believe Mr. Lopez is highly qualified to lead this agency and we again urge you to schedule a confirmation vote on his nomination.

The confirmation of Mr. Lopez is a top priority in the work we do in our federal Latino Appointments program. As such, it is our intent to score all votes associated with this nomination in our next NHLA Congressional Scorecard. The NHLA Congressional Scorecard records how Members of Congress voted in the House and Senate on issues that our membership deems important to the social, economic, and political advancement and quality of life of Latinos in the United States.

We reiterate that Mr. Lopez' qualifications for the position are many. Born and raised in Watsonville, California, Mr. Lopez and his family embody the American dream. His family's immigrant experience is one that has propelled his desire to excel and shaped his interest in public policies to better his community. His mother, who never finished the second grade, emigrated from Poncitlán, Jalisco, Mexico and raised Rafael, his sister and two brothers as a single mother. She supported her family, cooking, sewing and cleaning in another family's home and in the United States as a migrant farmworker and cannery worker.

Mr. Lopez brings to this nomination his mother's spirit and work ethic; as he is the first in his family to graduate from high school and college, earn a graduate degree and work for the President of the United States. Once a client of programs administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through his work as a Senior Policy Advisor in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and with the Domestic Policy Council, Rafael works to improve the relationship between the Administration, nonprofit and philanthropic organizations to strengthen domestic social

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
United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce
U.S.- Mexico Foundation

With the Annie E. Casey Foundation, a private, national philanthropy, Mr. Lopez has had direct experience in working on behalf of millions of children at risk of poor education, economic, social and health outcomes in the United States.

As the President and CEO of the Family League of Baltimore City, a nonprofit organization that creates public/private partnerships to improve the well-being of Baltimore's children, youth and families, he helped launch several programs including the B'More for Healthy Babies initiative which led to a 19% reduction in infant mortality in his first year. He has worked with Maryland's Juvenile Court and helped negotiate a State of Maryland commitment to expand the Family Recovery Program focused on helping parents reunify with their court removed children by providing substance abuse treatment, mental health services and supportive housing.

As the Mayor's Executive Director of the City of Los Angeles Commission for Children, Youth and Their Families, Rafael created programs aimed at safe passages for children and youth to get to school, which improved educational outcomes for 60,000 foster and probation youth in Los Angeles County. In 1999, Mr. Lopez became the youngest person to serve on the Watsonville City Council and was twice elected to represent the neighborhood where he was born.

Thank you again for your consideration of our views. Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Teresa Acuña, NHLA Director of Policy and Leadership Programs at (202) 508-6919 or via email at Teresa@nationalhispanicleadership.org.

Sincerely,

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

Hector E. Sanchez

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