



National Hispanic Leadership Agenda

Member Organizations

- American G.I. Forum*
- ASPIRA Association*
- AVANCE, Inc.*
- Casa de Esperanza*
- Cuban American National Council*
- Farmworkers 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*
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- 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 15, 2013

The Honorable Senator Thomas Carper
 Chairman
 U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs
 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Senator Tom Coburn
 Ranking Member
 U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs
 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Coburn:

On behalf of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA) – the coalition of 36 preeminent national Latino organizations in the country – we commend you for moving forward the hearing on Katherine Archuleta, President Barack Obama’s nominee to serve as Director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). We urge you to advance her nomination to the Senate floor so that she may be confirmed quickly and begin the important work of leading the nation’s agency tasked with building an effective world-class Federal civilian workforce helping serve the American people.

Once confirmed, we are confident that Ms. Archuleta will bring to OPM a deep passion for public good and a highly commendable history of over 30 years in public service to our nation through various positions in local and federal government as well as in non-profit leadership roles. For example:

- Ms. Archuleta clearly has a unique breadth of experience in federal workforce issues having served as Chief of Staff to the U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Hilda Solis, from 2009 to 2011, and as Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Transportation with Secretary Federico Peña from 1993 to 1997. She also served as a Senior Policy Advisor at the U.S. Department of Energy in 1997.
- At the local level in Colorado, Ms. Archuleta held various positions of responsibility in the Office of the Mayor Federico Peña of Denver from 1983 to 1991, including Deputy Chief of Staff, and as a Senior Advisor on Policy and Initiatives for the City and County of Denver working with Mayor John Hickenlooper from 2005 to 2009. She also served as Co-Founder and Principal of the Center for Regional and Neighborhood Action from 1997 to 2000, then as Director of Professional Services for Davis, Graham and Stubbs, LLP from 2000 to 2002.
- Over the past decade in particular, Ms. Archuleta has emerged as a national Latina role-model successfully leading positions of great significance to the Latino community – serving as Executive Director of the National Hispanic Cultural Center Foundation based in New Mexico, from 2002 to 2005, and as the first Latina to ever serve as a National Political Director on a major presidential campaign from 2011 to 2012.

- Additionally, Ms. Archuleta carries an important dedication to developing the next generation of leaders – as can be seen from the start of her career, which began with her teaching 5-year-olds at Denver’s Del Pueblo Elementary School, on through to her service as an adjunct professor at the University of Denver from 1992 to 1993.

We especially welcome the opportunity to work with Ms. Archuleta, as the next OPM Director, to continue advancing the work of OPM’s Hispanic Council on Federal Employment. This Federal Advisory Committee Act council is designed to advise the OPM Director on the leading employment practices to help recruit, hire, retain and advance Hispanics in the Federal workplace. While Latinos are nearly 17% of the population of the United States, we represent just 8.2% of the federal workforce according to OPM’s Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Performance Report. For nearly two decades, our NHLA coalition has raised concerns about the stark underrepresentation of Latinos in the federal workforce and this is a critical issue that we must all continue to prioritize if the statistics are to improve.

More must, and can, be done by all branches of our federal government to ensure that our nation’s federal workforce reflects the diverse people it serves. The confirmation of Katherine Archuleta will be a historic step forward as she would become the first person of Hispanic descent – and first Latina – to head OPM since its inception.

As you consider the merits of Ms. Archuleta’s background please know that, in addition to her decades of public service experience, she also brings with her the respect of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda coalition and the Latino community. We look forward to closely following your committee’s upcoming nomination hearing.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me at hsanchez@lclaa.org or Melody Gonzales at melody@nationalhispanicleadership.org or (202) 508-6917.

Sincerely,



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

cc:

Majority Committee Members

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