March 29, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Endorsement of Irasema Garza for U.S. Department of Justice Director of Community Relations Service

Dear Mr. President,

The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda submits this letter to recommend Irasema Garza for the position of Director of the U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service (CRS).

The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA) is a premier coalition of over 40 leading national Hispanic civil rights and public policy organizations. Collectively, NHLA leads the advocacy behind the pressing civil rights and policy issues, impacting the 60 million Latinos living in the United States. NHLA strives to increase Latino visibility and leverages its efforts to build a stronger Latino influence in our country’s affairs.

Irasema Garza has demonstrated her leadership skills in several governmental and non-governmental positions. She is an attorney who has worked in the labor movement, in the women’s rights movement and in several senior-level capacities in the federal government. During the Clinton Administration, Ms. Garza served in the Department of Labor’s International Affairs Bureau and then was the Director of the Women’s Bureau. Under the Obama Administration she served as Senior Counselor to the Secretary of Labor.

Ms. Garza’s demonstrated executive leadership skills, ability to communicate effectively with diverse constituencies, and experience working with diverse communities on a broad range of important issues, as well as her commitment to addressing discrimination and injustice, make her an exceptional candidate to lead the CRS.

Please have your staff contact the NHLA Chair and Civil Rights Committee Co-Chair Thomas Saenz, MALDEF, at tsaenz@maldef.org or Civil Rights Committee Co-Chair Juan Cartagena, LatinoJustice PRLDEF, at jcartagena@latinojustice.org, if you have any questions about NHLA’s position regarding this recommendation.

Sincerely,
Thomas A. Saenz  
Chair, National Hispanic Leadership Agenda  
NHLA Civil Rights Committee Co-Chair  
President & General Counsel  
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)

Juan Cartagena  
NHLA Civil Rights Committee Co-Chair  
President & General Counsel  
LatinoJustice PRLDEF