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June 17, 2009

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Chairman  
 United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy:

It gives us great pleasure to write this letter in support of the nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to be the next United States Supreme Court Justice as nominated by the President of the United States of America, the Honorable Barack Obama, on Tuesday, May 26, 2009. Judge Sotomayor has been hailed by many people as a role model for her ascent to the federal bench from a difficult upbringing in a housing project in New York. She grew up in the South Bronx, New York in a public housing project with the help of her single mother Celina Sotomayor.

Judge Sotomayor, despite all the odds, graduated as the valedictorian of her class at Blessed Sacrament and at Cardinal Spellman High School in New York and graduated *summa cum laude* from Princeton University where she was a co-recipient of the M. Taylor Pyne Prize, the highest honor Princeton awards to an undergraduate student. Furthermore, Judge Sotomayor also received her law degree at Yale Law School in New Haven, Connecticut.

Judge Sotomayor is the first Hispanic to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit as recommended by President Clinton in 1998. As a matter of fact, during her stay on the Second Circuit, Judge Sotomayor participated in over 3000 panel decisions, authorizing more than 400 published opinions on difficult issues that ranged from constitutional law and other complex procedural matters that allowed her to earn a positive reputation as a knowledgeable judge of legal doctrine. Prior to this appointment, Judge Sotomayor was appointed by President George H. W. Bush to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York where in 1995 she issued an injunction against Major League Baseball owners which ended a baseball strike in the longest dispute in professional sports history.

It is within this context that it gives us great pleasure to support this nomination and we urge your committee to do the same. We make ourselves available to you and your committee should our additional input be helpful during the selection process.

Sincerely,

Ivette Servera  
 Chairperson  
 Connecticut General Assembly's  
 Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission

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