Congressional Hispanic Caucus

United States Congress

Washington, DC 20515

CHAIRWOMAN
NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ
12TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

April 29, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), we applaud you for your commitment to ensuring a federal government representative of the United States population. Your recent selection of some of our nation's most talented Latinos to serve in your Administration is commendable, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to build a diverse federal workforce.

We write to ask that should a vacancy on the Supreme Court occur you actively engage in identifying a qualified Hispanic legal professional for consideration. As you know, Hispanics are significantly underrepresented in the judiciary. Though we make up 15% of the U.S. population, less than 4% of federal judges are of Hispanic descent and not one has served on our nation's highest court. Appointing our nation's first Hispanic justice would undoubtedly be welcomed by our community and bring greater diversity of thought, perspective and experience to the nation's legal system.

Once again, we applaud your commitment to diversity and look forward to working with you to appoint our nation's first Hispanic Supreme Court Justice. If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Nydia Velázquez
Chair
Congressional Hispanic Caucus

Charles A. Gonzalez
First Vice Chair
Congressional Hispanic Caucus

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