

CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS

December 18, 2020

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr. President-elect of the United States Biden-Harris Transition Washington, DC 20500

Dear President-elect Biden,

We are glad that this administration has taken initial steps towards ensuring a diverse Cabinet by nominating Alejandro Mayorkas as Secretary of Homeland Security and Attorney General Xavier Becerra as Secretary of Health and Human Services. As you continue to finalize your Cabinet, we would like to reiterate the importance of having more Latino representation in addition to the two outstanding leaders you have nominated to your Cabinet.

It has come to our attention that Mr. Miguel Cardona and Ms. Stacie Olivares are possible finalists for Cabinet appointments. Therefore, the members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) are proud to offer our enthusiastic endorsement of Mr. Miguel Cardona for Secretary of Education and of Ms. Stacie Olivares for Administrator of the Small Business Administration (SBA). Furthermore, we had previously sent a support letter for Lily Eskelsen Garcia for Secretary of Education and we remain strongly supportive of her.

In our view, it is essential that the next Cabinet reflects the diverse communities, especially Latino communities, which have been driving America's businesses and economic growth for years. In addition, it is a top priority that a Latina be nominated to serve in a top Cabinet position. Therefore, we write to restate our strong support for the nomination of Ms. Stacie Olivares to serve as the next SBA Administrator. Given the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on the American economy and on businesses throughout the country, it is more important now than ever before that the next Cabinet understand the needs of our communities. We believe Ms. Stacie Olivares' extensive career in the private and public sectors across finance and economics make her extremely qualified to serve in this position. Additionally, her years of leadership at the state level in California, where she has been integral in the management of millions of taxpayer dollars position her well to take on this key federal agency.

We view Ms. Olivares' level of expertise and wealth of experiences are exactly what is needed to ensure our communities are not left behind. We are confident that Ms. Stacie Olivares would lead the Small Business Administration with distinction from day one.

Mr. Cardona's extensive career has spanned across every level of education. He started his career as an elementary school teacher and then became a principal by the age of 28. He went on to serve as an assistant superintendent and then as an adjunct professor at the University of Connecticut. In 2019, Mr. Cardona was named the education commissioner, the first Latino to hold the post in the state of Connecticut. As a Spanish-only speaking student when he first started school, Mr. Cardona fully grasps the challenges that English as Second Language (ESL) Learners, Latinos, and other minority students face in America's classrooms.

We know that all schools, from the elementary level to the college level, face a challenging road ahead as we work to recover from the pandemic. It is clear that Mr. Cardona's record of accomplishments demonstrates that he is capable and qualified to lead the Department of Education. Further, as a Puerto Rican leader he will bring a valued and diverse voice to the Cabinet. We urge you to nominate Mr. Cardona as our next Secretary of Education.

We are eager to work with you to promote our shared goals of diversity and ensuring the most qualified individuals have the opportunity to serve all Americans.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Raúl Ruiz, M.D Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro Member of Congress Ben Ray Luján United States Senator-elect Nanette Diaz Barragán Member of Congress

Nanecto Diaz Baragán

Adriano Espaillat Member of Congress Grace Napolitano Member of Congress Norma Torres Member of Congress Jimmy Gomez Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas

Member of Congress

Linda Sánchez Member of Congress Darren Soto Member of Congress

Teresa Leger Fernández Member of Congress-elect