

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 15, 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman, Senate HELP Committee
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Chairman Harkin:

As Members of the Senate Democratic Hispanic Task Force, we write to thank you for your unwavering support for the swift confirmation of Mr. Thomas E. Perez to serve as Secretary of Labor. We appreciate your continued commitment to moving Mr. Perez's nomination forward, and wish to reiterate our support for your leadership on this issue. We pledge to do everything we can as your Democratic colleagues to help secure Mr. Perez's confirmation in a timely fashion.

We were extremely disappointed to learn that Republicans yet again delayed the Senate HELP Committee vote on Mr. Perez's nomination on May 8, 2013 and continue to voice objections and concerns about Mr. Perez's qualifications. As you know, Mr. Perez is highly qualified to serve our nation as the next Secretary of Labor. His distinguished record of accomplishments and impressive career in public service at the local, state, and federal levels make him an extraordinary candidate, yet he continues to come under attack precisely for his effectiveness at championing the rights of all Americans.

In his current role as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, Mr. Perez has increased the Civil Rights Division's productivity and ensured the Division maintained the highest level of trust and integrity. He has worked with stakeholders from all states and of all political affiliations to make certain the civil and constitutional rights of all Americans, particularly the most vulnerable, are protected. A Department of Justice Inspector General report released March 12 of this year confirmed that Mr. Perez has put reforms in place to restore merit-based hiring practices and that none of the decisions regarding enforcement of voting rights laws have been based on racial or partisan political considerations.

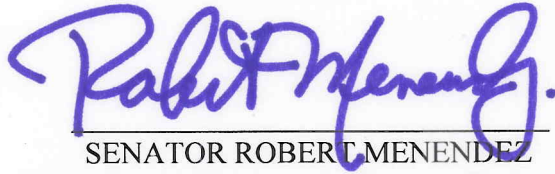
Under Mr. Perez's leadership, the Civil Rights Division has increased prosecutions of human trafficking by 40 percent, convicted 74 percent more defendants on hate crimes charges, handled more new voting cases in 2012 than any year prior, won \$50 million for service members whose homes were improperly foreclosed on while serving our nation in uniform overseas, and settled the three largest fair-lending cases in the history of the Fair Housing Act, recovering more money for victims in 2012 than in the previous 23 years combined. Mr. Perez achieved the Department's largest-ever disability-based housing discrimination settlement, worth \$10.5 million.

Prior to his current role, Mr. Perez served as Maryland's Secretary of Labor, Licensing and Regulation at a critical time during the economic crisis, mitigating many of its worst impacts. With the input of business and labor leaders, Mr. Perez led efforts to reform Maryland's enforcement of state and federal wage protection laws. His collaborative approach has earned him praise from both business and labor leaders. Indeed, both the Maryland Chamber of Commerce and labor unions such as the AFL-CIO have endorsed Mr. Perez's nomination as Secretary of Labor.

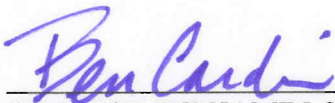
Mr. Perez is a celebrated and valued member of the nation's Latino community and a trailblazer on the path to fighting for the civil and constitutional rights of workers, voters, students, the disabled, and other underrepresented groups. He shares the Hispanic Task Force's commitment to helping all Americans achieve the American dream and would undoubtedly protect every American worker's rights as the next Secretary of Labor, regardless of race, sex, disability, religion, familial status, or national origin.

We believe that Mr. Perez's record of achievement, especially his proven ability to successfully lead a state's labor department, make him a strong candidate for Secretary of Labor. We support his nomination and your efforts to advance his confirmation by the full Senate without delay.

Sincerely,



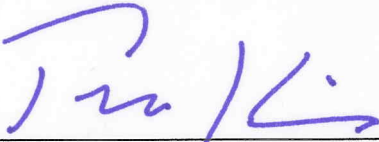
SENATOR ROBERT MENENDEZ
Chair, Senate Democratic Hispanic Task Force



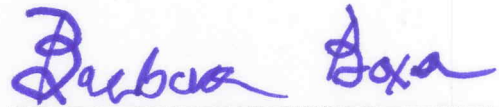
SENATOR BENJAMIN CARDIN



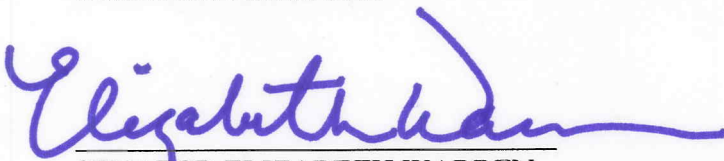
SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI



SENATOR TIM KAINE




SENATOR BARBARA BOXER



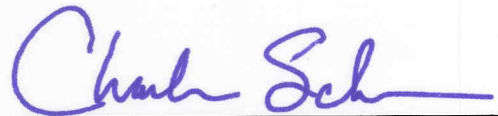
SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN



SENATOR KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND



SENATOR JACK REED



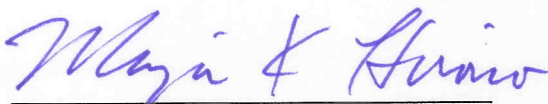
SENATOR CHARLES SCHUMER



SENATOR RICHARD BLUMENTHAL



SENATOR FRANK LAUTENBERG



SENATOR MAZIE HIRONO



SENATOR MARTIN HEINRICH