



NHLA National Hispanic Leadership Agenda

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alianza Americas
American G.I. Forum
ASPIRA Association
AVANCE Inc.
Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network
Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute
Farmworker Justice
Green Latinos
Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities
Hispanic Federation
Hispanic National Bar Association
Hispanics in Philanthropy
Inter-University Program for Latino Research
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
LatinoJustice PRLDEF
League of United Latin American Citizens
MANA, A National Latina Organization
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
Mi Familia Vota
NALEO Education Fund
National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives
National Association of Latino Arts and Culture
National Association of Latino Independent Producers
National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc.
National Day Laborer Organizing Network
National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators
National Hispanic Council on Aging
National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts
National Hispanic Media Coalition
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Latinx Psychological Association
Presente.org
SER Jobs for Progress National
Southwest Voter Registration Education Project
U.S.- Mexico Foundation UnidosUS
United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
United States Hispanic Leadership Institute
United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce
Voto Latino

December 1, 2020

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
Office of the President-elect
Washington, D.C.

Dear President-elect Biden,

The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA) has voted to strongly recommend Xavier Becerra, Attorney General for the State of California, for nomination as the next U.S. Attorney General. NHLA is composed of over 40 leading national Hispanic civil rights and public policy organizations.

Mr. Becerra would be a bold and dynamic pick to lead the U.S. Department of Justice, and his tenure as California State Attorney General and a former U.S. Representative make him uniquely qualified to lead the Justice Department in a new direction and undo the damage done by the Trump Administration. In his current position, Mr. Becerra led the State of California in over 100 lawsuits against the Trump Administration. Mr. Becerra understands the breadth of issues he must lead on in this position, and understands the specific actions of the Trump Administration that must be reversed. He also understands the urgency of restoring legitimacy and impartiality to the Justice Department. He is prepared to get to work immediately to restore the integrity of the DOJ, and his appointment would send a strong message about the importance of the Latino community in this nation.

As our roster indicates, NHLA includes organizations with a significant breadth of specific interests. This includes voting rights, civic engagement, environmental protection, criminal justice reform, health care, reproductive health, worker rights, and business. With his uniquely extensive experience in Congress and as California Attorney General, Xavier Becerra has developed significant expertise in all of these areas and others that will fall within the important work of the United States Department of Justice. His nomination would demonstrate a commitment to serious and effective transformation of the Department after four years of narrow and politicized leadership under the Trump administration.

There has only ever been one Latino to serve in one of the top four Cabinet positions, with the appointment of Alberto Gonzales to serve as Attorney General under President George W. Bush more than 15 years ago. NHLA strongly urges you to consider the appointment of a Latino to serve in one of the top four Cabinet positions, and to consider Mr. Becerra for the Attorney General position, a job for which he is strongly qualified.

As you work to assemble a team to rebuild what has been broken and advance our nation toward a more equitable society, Mr. Becerra understands the challenges that lay ahead and he is prepared to tackle them with a new vision for the Justice Department. His track record as a legislator and as the chief legal officer for the country's most populous state reflect that. NHLA urges you to consider Xavier Becerra for the position of U.S. Attorney General.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us to discuss this letter of support. Your staff may contact the Co-Chairs of the NHLA Civil Rights Committee, Thomas Saenz, MALDEF, at tsaenz@maldef.org and Juan Cartagena, LatinoJustice PRLDEF, at jcartagena@latinojustice.org, or the Co-Chairs of the Government Accountability Committee, Kenneth Romero, National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL), at kromero@nhcsl.org, and Al Gallegos, National Association of Hispanic Federal Employees (NAHFE), at president@nahfe.org, if you have any questions about NHLA's position regarding this or any other appointments. Thank you for your consideration.

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
LatinoJusticePRLDEF



Kenneth Romero
NHLA Government Accountability Co-Chair
Executive Director, National Hispanic Caucus
of State Legislators (NHCSL)



Al Gallegos
NHLA Government Accountability Co-Chair
President, National Association of Hispanic
Executives (NAHFE)