



CALIFORNIA LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS



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April 14, 2011

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The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor of California
State Capitol, Room 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Dear Governor Brown:

The California Latino Legislative Caucus (CLLC), made up of 23 members, who collectively represent over 13 million California constituents, humbly submit the recommendation of Mary T. Hernandez for consideration for: State Board of Education.

Ms. Hernandez is a graduate of Harvard University and Stanford Law School, a former School Board President, an education law specialist, a business owner and a mother of public school students. As a first generation professional, she understands the importance of access to education and has worked her entire career on issues of equity and access. Having been elected twice to the San Francisco Unified School District Board of Education (1996 and 2000), she understands the role of a Board member and the importance of accountability to ensure that taxpayer dollars are well-spent.

As an education attorney, Ms. Hernandez understands the issues. She currently provides legal assistance to charter schools, school districts and county offices of education as a founding partner of one of California's largest Latino-owned law firms – GCR, LLP. Prior to representing education institutions, Ms. Hernandez worked as a public interest education attorney and advocate for four years, representing parents and students and developing a special expertise in federal and state laws impacting English Learner students.

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As a mother, Ms. Hernandez brings a sense of urgency to her work in education reform. She has volunteered in the classroom, served as a PTA leader and school site council member and provided strong support and guidance to her two children, who currently attend Gateway Charter High School in San Francisco. Because Ms. Hernandez has the trust and confidence of charter schools and school district officials as well as education advocates and parents, she is uniquely poised to be a consensus builder around critical policy issues. She has the expertise, background and experience necessary to help make and support the best policy decisions possible on behalf of all public school students, especially our state's most disadvantaged students.

It is with great honor that we give the highest recommendation of Ms. Hernandez for an appointment with your administration. Her experience, motivation and commitment to educational integrity and effectiveness will serve our State well.

Thank you for your continued efforts to ensure diversity in your appointments. We look forward to continuing to work with you in seeking the candidates of the highest quality for your administration.

Respectfully,

TONY MENDOZA
Assemblymember, 56th District
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