



State of Connecticut
Latino and Puerto Rican
Affairs Commission

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Testimony of Fernando Betancourt,
Executive Director of the LPRAC
before the *Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee*
in support of Estela R. Lopez, PhD to be a member of the *Judicial Review Council*
4/10/08 – 12:00 P.M. in Room 1A of the LOB in Hartford, CT.

Good afternoon State Senator Looney, State Representative Janowski and members of the *Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee*. My name is Fernando Betancourt, Executive Director of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission (LPRAC). I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the LPRAC in support of the nomination of Dr. Estela R. Lopez, PhD from East Hartford to be a member of the Judicial Review Council.

Dr. Estela Lopez is currently serving as the Director of the Latino Policy Institute at the Hispanic Health Council, a non-profit research based service provider, which is located in Hartford, Connecticut. Dr. Lopez had served as the Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs for the Connecticut State University System, as Vice-President for Academic Affairs at Northeastern Illinois back in 1997, and from 1990 to 1995; Dr. Lopez served as Vice-President for Academic Affairs at the Inter American University of Puerto Rico.

Dr. Lopez was born in Cuba and raised in New York with a strong education background in Spanish literature. She earned her bachelor's degree at Queens College in 1963 and received both a master's degree and a Ph.D. in Spanish literature from Columbia University.

Furthermore, the LPRAC selected her as the *Latina Citizen of the Year* in 2006. She also received the Hispanic Caucus of AAHE Award for her distinguished leadership in Higher Education among other recognitions and appointments.

Therefore, it gives us great pleasure that the Honorable M. Jodi Rell, Governor of the State of Connecticut, nominated Dr. Estela R. Lopez to be a member of this important Council, pursuant to sections 4-1 and 51-51k of the Connecticut General Statutes. The LPRAC believes that Dr. Lopez will be a positive addition to this council because she is a strong analytical thinker that will reinforce the legislative charge of this ruling body, which is to “*investigate and resolve complaints alleging misconduct, disability, or substance abuse of state judges, family support magistrates, and workers' compensation commissioners in order to promote public confidence in the courts and the integrity and independence of the judiciary by ensuring high standards of judicial conduct on and off the bench.*”

Consequently, I would respectfully request your committee's support on the previously mentioned nomination and for your support when it comes to a vote in both chambers of the Connecticut General Assembly respectively.