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Judiciary Committee

Nomination of the Honorable Carmen Espinosa

Friday, February 1, 2013 at 10:30 A.M. in Room 2C of the Legislative

Good morning committee members. My name is Annette Deonarine, I am Director of Multicultural Affairs at Advocacy Unlimited, Inc. I'm submitting my testimony in support of the Honorable Carmen Espinosa's nomination.

It is with great honor and a sense of pride that I write this today. In 1988 as I walked the stage at the Bushnell to receive my High School diploma from Hartford Public High School, I was extremely honored to receive it from a woman I greatly admired, and at that time MY ROLE MODEL, Ms. Maria Sanchez. It was a time when she was the only woman who was active in our community and fought for the betterment of the people she served. Not many women held positions in the area of advocacy or in public office—and I was highly impressed and wanted to be 'just like her' when I grew up!

Fast forward to present day and we have many women in public office here in CT, teachers, doctors, professionals, even our Secretary of State! But Latina's are slowly emerging. I'm proud to say that I will be able to raise my daughter in a time where she will witness a Latina in our state's highest court. She has many role models, however she will be able to aspire and aim higher because someone like Carmen Espinosa has paved the way for her! For many young Latina women in our community.

In conclusion, today I am a community advocate and activist because someone in my time DARED to stand up against injustices---and that person although no longer with us still inspires me. I whole heartily support the nomination of Carmen Espinosa and it swells me with pride to know she's like me, Latina but that she's also the most qualified WOMAN for the job!

Thank you for your time.