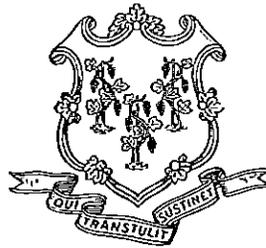


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State of Connecticut
SENATE

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Aging Committee
Regulations Review Committee

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Public Safety & Security Committee

Member

Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee

Good Morning Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, ranking members, Senator Kissel, Representative Rebimbas and the members of the Judiciary Committee. I am here today to speak on behalf of the nomination of Judge Carmen Espinosa to serve on the Connecticut State Supreme Court.

Judge Carmen Elisa Espinosa made history by becoming the first Latina appointed to serve as a judge of the Appellate Court in 2011 and with the support of this committee and ultimately both chambers she will break another glass ceiling.

Judge Espinosa has had a long and distinguished career and I expect it will continue to be one of much accomplishment. As a community we are very proud of Judge Espinosa for being the first Latina, we are even more proud of the fact that she has the credentials to accept this nomination. Judge Espinosa received her Juris Doctor from The George Washington University Law School. She holds a Master of Arts Degree in Hispanic Studies from Brown University and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Secondary Education with a minor in Spanish and French From Central Connecticut State University. Prior to her appointment to the bench Judge Espinosa was an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut in Hartford. While in that capacity she received the United States Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award and the United States Department of Justice Special Achievement Award. Before becoming a federal prosecutor, she was a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Judge Espinosa comes to this new position with a wealth of knowledge and a tremendous amount of experience which will make her an excellent jurist. She brings an excellent legal mind, professional experience at different levels of the judicial branch and just as important the life experience of a WISE Latina woman.

This nomination brings great pride to the Latino community of Connecticut but let's be very clear about this nomination, Judge Espinosa is highly qualified and will do an excellent job. I commend Governor Malloy's nomination of Judge Espinosa but I also want to ensure that we continue to diversify our Courts because in the six years I have been in office I do not remember voting for any other Latino judges. We have approved many judges in the six years I have been here and although we are about to gain a Latino member to the State Supreme Court, with your support, it is not an additional member added within our Judicial Branch. I look forward to working alongside you, legislative leadership and the Governor to address this inequity. In conclusion I ask the members of the Judiciary Committee to support the nomination of Judge Carmen Espinosa to become the next jurist in the State of Connecticut Supreme Court.

Thank you,

Senator Andres Ayala