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February 1, 2017

Hon. Susan M. Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Lindsey Graham
United States Senate
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. John McCain
United States Senate
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Marco Rubio
United States Senate
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

RE: PENDING APPOINTMENTS BY PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

Dear Senators:

It is with deep concern and the utmost of certitude that I request you vote down the appointments of Senator Jeff Sessions for Attorney General, Betsy DeVos for Secretary of Education and Representative Tom Price for Secretary of Health and Human Services for their respective positions in President Donald Trump's cabinet.

Senator Sessions is a chronic adversary of voting rights and is unparalleled in his anti-immigrant positions and rhetoric. He has voiced support to ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program that has helped 800,000 people with residing, working and pursuing higher education in this country legally.

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Senator Sessions said that "almost no one coming from the Dominican Republic is coming here because they have a provable skill that would benefit us or indicate their likely success in our society." This blatant mischaracterization and gross stereotyping of an entire nationality clearly disqualifies Senator Sessions for the position of United States Attorney General.

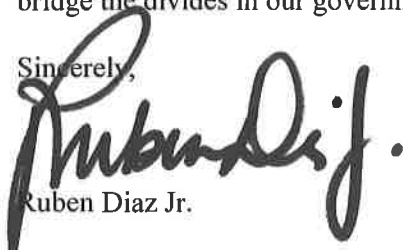
Furthermore, Ms. DeVos history of advocating for the diversion of taxpayer dollars to voucher programs at the expense of public schools, including charter schools, is highly problematic. The hearings on her nomination have only reinforced the reservations many Americans have regarding appointing an individual with essentially zero experience in public education, either as an educator or administrator to oversee the U.S. Department of Education. Lastly, she has served on boards that have donated millions to anti-LGBTQ groups.

Representative Price is a leader in the effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which would put health care in jeopardy for over 4.2 million Latinos and would disproportionately adversely impact The Bronx, which is over 50 percent Hispanic. Additionally he wants to privatize Medicare, which would dramatically increase the costs of basic health services and prescription drugs for seniors. Likewise, his votes to defund Planned Parenthood and end birth control access under the ACA are neither in the best interest of Bronx residents nor the City of New York.

President Donald Trump has announced Hon. Neil Gorsuch as his nominee for the United States Supreme Court. It is the height of hypocrisy for the U.S. Senate majority leadership to call for his quick confirmation when they refused to hold a hearing for then President Obama's nominee Hon. Merrick Garland. It was unprecedented obstructionism and a dereliction of duty. The Senate should not proceed with Judge Gorsuch until Judge Garland is afforded a hearing.

Your leadership on these appointments is greatly appreciated and I look forward to working with you to help bridge the divides in our government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruben Diaz Jr.", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name "Ruben Diaz Jr.".

Ruben Diaz Jr.