



January 27, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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Ramiro A. Cavazos
President and CEO

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell,

On behalf of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) and our Board of Directors, we write you to affirm our full support for the immediate confirmation of Alejandro Mayorkas to serve the Biden-Harris Administration as the Secretary for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). We urge you to hold a fair and swift confirmation so that the national security of the American people and the strategic direction of DHS can begin its important implementation.

The USHCC actively promotes the economic growth, development, and interests of more than 4.7 million Hispanic-owned businesses that, combined, contribute over \$800 billion to the American economy every year. We also serve as a platform for our nationwide network of over 250 local Hispanic chambers of commerce.

We believe immediate action must also be taken to rectify the inequities in our immigration system, national security, visa programs, and other policy issues that have kept our communities from achieving all they can as equal citizens of the United States. Having President Biden's Cabinet in place as soon as possible will allow us to address these important issues in a timely manner. Mr. Mayorkas has years of experience working as Deputy DHS Secretary and Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, playing a leading role in executing the agency's mission to protect the homeland from terror attacks, enhance the nation's cybersecurity, combat the outbreak of diseases such as Ebola and Zika, and help communities recover from natural disasters. He is widely known for his role in implementing the DACA program and expanding its opportunity to immigrants brought to America by no fault of their own.

The DHS Secretary is a key member of the President's national security team and is a critical piece of our nation's national security apparatus. His leadership is responsible for keeping our country safe from terrorism and violent extremists' threats. Its hard-working employees protect us from a wide array of threats and the agency must play a crucial role in fixing our fractured immigration system. Former officials who have served in both Democratic and Republican administrations have underscored the need for the rapid confirmation of this nominee, and it is undeniable that as we lose thousands of American lives every day, as millions struggle without jobs, and as we work to safeguard our national security, our nation cannot afford a delay in our need for this leadership and confirmation.

There is a longstanding, historical, and bipartisan precedent for a President's national security nominees to be confirmed on Day One because the full Senate agrees to waive a rule that would require 30 hours of debate before voting. But Senator Hawley is breaking



precedent, delaying this confirmation, and putting America's national security at risk. Instead of letting the Senate fulfill its duty to swiftly consider the nomination, Senator Hawley is indicating the need to spend 30 hours debating and delaying the confirmation vote.

Mr. Mayorkas is one of the most knowledgeable homeland security experts in our country. His professional identity has earned bipartisan praise and he has previously been confirmed by the U.S. Senate three times in his public service history. He also has deep support from the first responders, law enforcement, and labor communities. Furthermore, many leading organizations have endorsed him and called for his timely confirmation including the Border Patrol Council Union, Fraternal Order of Police, Major County Chiefs, and Major County Sheriffs. There is no time to waste on this important Senate vote and confirmation.

The USHCC in collaboration with our network of business owners, corporate leaders, chambers of commerce, and community advocates stand ready to work closely with Mr. Mayorkas and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to ensure that our critical policy needs are considered and met for the economic empowerment, global security, and growth of our community. Thank you in advance for your consideration on this important matter. We look forward to your positive response and collaboration on this request and strategic political confirmation direction for the U.S. Senate.

Respectfully,

Ramiro A. Cavazos
President and CEO
United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

CC: The White House
Members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security
The Congressional Hispanic Caucus