

Sample Letter From Local and State Elected Officials

July __, 2009

The Honorable Senator [Insert Name]
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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Dear Senator [Insert Name]:

On behalf of the undersigned elected officials, we write to express our support for the confirmation of Judge Sonia Sotomayor as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Over an illustrious career that spans three decades, Judge Sotomayor has worked at almost every level of our judicial system – yielding a depth of experience and a breadth of perspective that will be invaluable – and is currently not represented – on our highest Court. Judge Sotomayor has clearly distinguished herself through her outstanding intellect, her impressive professional credentials, and her deep respect for the rule of law, establishing herself beyond question as fully qualified and ready to serve on the Supreme Court. She would bring more federal judicial experience to the Supreme Court than any justice in 100 years, and more overall judicial experience than anyone confirmed for the Court in the past 70 years.

Judge Sotomayor will be an impartial, thoughtful, and highly-respected addition to the Supreme Court. Her unique personal background is compelling, and will be both a tremendous asset to her on the Court and an historic inspiration to others. Her legal career further demonstrates her qualifications to serve on our nation's highest court. After graduating from Yale Law School, where she served as an editor for the Yale Law Journal, Judge Sotomayor spent five years as a criminal prosecutor in Manhattan. She then spent eight years as a corporate litigator with the firm of Pavia and Harcourt, where she gained expertise in a wide range of civil law areas such as contracts and intellectual property. In 1992, on the bipartisan recommendation of her home-state Senators, President George H.W. Bush appointed her District Judge for the Southern District of New York. In recognition of her outstanding record as a trial judge, President Bill Clinton elevated her to the U.S. Court of Appeals in 1998.

Through her long career on the bench Judge Sotomayor has demonstrated a thorough understanding of a wide range of complicated legal issues and is respected for reaching decisions based on a careful application of the law to the facts of each case. She understands the need for judicial restraint and has deep respect for the Constitutional role of the legislative and executive branches in making and administering the law.

The undersigned elected officials urge you not to be diverted by those who would pull a few comments out of context to paint a distorted picture of Judge Sotomayor's record. The Senate will have a chance to fully review her record, and we are confident that Judge Sotomayor's seventeen-year record on the bench – hundreds of judicial decisions that every American can read for him or herself – will speak far louder than any attack.

In short, Judge Sotomayor is fair-minded and ethical, and delivers thoughtful rulings in cases based upon their merits. We strongly urge you to support Judge Sonia Sotomayor as the next Associate Justice to the Supreme Court, and to ensure that she takes her seat in time to help decide which cases will appear on the Court's docket in the next term. If you have any questions, please contact _____ at _____.

Respectfully,