



UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA

Douglas J. McCarron

General President

February 16, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman and Senator Murray,

I am writing to inform you of my union's support for Alexander Acosta to be Secretary of Labor. Mr. Acosta is a true American success story who has distinguished himself in several prior government positions by displaying competence and an open mind to all viewpoints on issues. He is the son of Cuban immigrants who fled Communist Cuba for a better life. His parents had no advanced education, but his mother worked as a legal assistant and his father worked for a phone company to give their son greater opportunities. Through hard work and determination, Alex earned undergraduate and law degrees from Harvard. He has an appreciation for the realities that working families face as they strive to give their children a better life.

Mr. Acosta has served with distinction in three presidentially-appointed, Senate-confirmed positions. He was a member of the National Labor Relations Board, where he participated in or authored more than 125 opinions. Following the NLRB, he was Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division at the United States Department of Justice and was the first Hispanic to hold the rank of Assistant Attorney General. While serving as the head of President Bush's Civil Rights Division, Mr. Acosta received the 2003 Excellence in Government Service Award from the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund and the Hugh A. Johnson, Jr. Memorial Award from the DC Hispanic Bar Association.

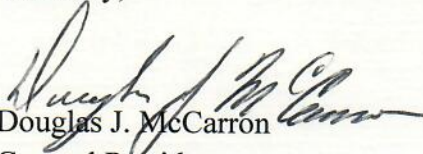
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Most of Mr. Acosta's government service was spent serving as the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida. He was the longest serving U.S. Attorney in the District since the 1970s. While U.S. Attorney, Alex prosecuted a number of high-profile defendants, including Jack Abramoff for fraud, José Padilla for terrorism, and Charles "Chuckie" Taylor Jr. for torture (the first torture case of its kind in the U.S.). Under his leadership, his office also targeted white collar crime, prosecuting several bank-related cases, including a landmark case against Swiss bank UBS. The case resulted in UBS paying \$780 million in fines, and for the first time in history, the Swiss banking giant provided the United States with the names of individuals who were using secret Swiss bank accounts to avoid U.S. taxes. Acosta also emphasized health-care fraud prosecutions and charged more than 700 individuals responsible for more than \$2 billion in fraud. Moreover, his office pursued cases involving check cashing and accounting schemes that were part of elaborate operations by employers to evade taxes.

Alex Acosta is someone with a demonstrated commitment to public service. He has demonstrated great ability, integrity and open-mindedness in every prior position he has held. In addition, both his professional and personal experience make him attuned to the concerns and realities of working men and women. We think that he is someone who deserves to be confirmed quickly for the position of Secretary of Labor.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this matter.

Sincerely,


Douglas J. McCarron
General President