

November 1, 2022

United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510



Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and Committee Members:

Esperanza United (formerly Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities) was founded in 1982 in Minnesota to provide emergency shelter and support services for women and children experiencing domestic violence. Growing from our local programming, in 2009 Esperanza United launched its national resource center that provides training and technical assistance, research, and national policy advocacy focused on addressing and preventing gender-based violence, primarily in Latin@ communities.

It is with this experience in mind that we support Rosemarie Hidalgo to serve as the Director of the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). We encourage you to quickly confirm her nomination.

OVW provides essential leadership across the federal government and beyond to prioritize addressing and ending domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Because OVW has such an instrumental role in ensuring that individuals across the country can live free from these horrific crimes, the office needs a strong, confirmed leader that serves with the upmost integrity so that OVW can fulfill its goals.

Ms. Hidalgo is eminently qualified to lead OVW. She is a nationally recognized leader with over 25 years of experience in legislative policy development and implementation, advocacy, grant and program management, and training related to gender-based violence. She is experienced in developing broad-based coalitions, advancing policy advocacy, and creating innovative strategies and programming to address sexual and domestic violence. She is currently the Senior Advisor on Gender-Based Violence and a Special Assistant to the President. Previous positions include Senior Director of Policy at Esperanza United and Deputy Director for Policy at the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women.

Esperanza United respectfully urges the Judiciary Committee to move forward to confirm Ms. Hidalgo's appointment as soon as possible. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Patricia Tototzintle
President and Chief Executive Officer