



July 9, 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, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Durbin, and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am the U.S. Director for Movement.org, a global organization focused on catalyzing Christian leaders to spiritually and socially impact the cities in which they live, work, and do ministry. I previously served as the Lead Pastor at Christ Memorial Church in Holland, Michigan and as President and CEO of Prison Fellowship Ministries. In 2015, I was appointed to the Charles Colson Congressional Task Force on Federal Corrections, a bipartisan, blue ribbon panel that developed practical, data-driven recommendations to enhance public safety by creating a more just and efficient federal corrections system.

I write to express my strong support for the confirmation of Myrna Pérez to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. In the many years I have known Myrna, she has consistently exhibited the highest moral character, exercised sound judgement, and lived out her profound commitment to uplifting the downtrodden. She is unrelenting in her pursuit of justice and would be a thoughtful and impartial jurist.

Through her work and her service to others, Myrna upholds the principle of *imago dei*—the idea that God created man and woman in His image. She believes that all people have value, that they are equal in the eyes of the Creator, and that no mistake or wrongful act could place one of God's children beyond redemption. We share the belief, deeply rooted in our faith, that current and former prisoners are beloved children of God, worthy of our society's forgiveness and of the blessings of democracy. I can think of no better moral foundation for a potential jurist.

I have worked closely with Myrna alongside a range of faith leaders representing diverse theological, spiritual, social, and political perspectives. Myrna has been a critical ally to the Prison Fellowship Ministries in seeking to restore voting rights to citizens with past criminal convictions. At her invitation, I have spoken on panels at Brennan Center events and

Congressional briefings. She always ensures that different experiences and beliefs are represented. She is an active listener who seeks common ground.

We also served together on the Board of Directors of the Crossroads Prison Ministry when I was the Chairman. I observed firsthand her intelligence, her heart, and her commitment to justice. On the Board, she was the consummate team player, working well with other members who reflected a range of views and approaches. Her abiding faith and deeply held belief in the dignity of all people always informed her considered judgment.

Myrna is an active community servant, committed to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly. She has worked for the federal government and in the nonprofit sector for most of her career. She is president of her church council, sits on the board of Sojourners, and has served on the Board of Grace Community Services in Jersey City. She is a coordinator of a crew of volunteers to provide meals to food insecure persons in Jersey City, and spearheads other anti-hunger initiatives in her community. She is active in her son's Title I public school, and until the pandemic closed it, coordinated the school's beloved and popular after-school program.

Should she be confirmed as a federal judge, Myrna will encounter serious legal questions that affect real people. Myrna is open-minded, level-headed, and committed to the facts. Having worked and fellowshiped with her closely, I have absolute confidence she will apply the law equally and fairly and that she would be an exceptional jurist.

Sincerely,

Jim Liske
U.S. Director for Movement.org