



November 21, 2022

Senator Lindsey Graham
c/o Scott Graber, Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Graham

On behalf of the **South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault** and the **22** programs, communities and survivors across our state we represent, I am writing to urge you to quickly confirm the nomination of Rosemarie Hidalgo as Director of the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women (OVW).

OVW has a pivotal role in ensuring the nation's response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking through essential grant programs that support local communities to address and prevent gender-based violence. Our coalition receives support from OVW that is critical to the operation of our legal program which connects survivors to civil legal services and lawyers at no cost to them. VAWA funds also support our language access and the fundamental work of the coalition, including foundational training for advocates providing direct services and technical assistance on best practices. Member organizations, law enforcement agencies and prosecutors' offices also benefit from VAWA funding administered by the South Carolina Attorney General's Office.

Additionally, OVW provides essential leadership across the federal government and beyond to prioritize addressing and ending these horrific crimes. The field needs a strong, confirmed leader at the helm of OVW to fulfill these 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. Ms. Hidalgo strives to work in a bipartisan manner and is experienced in developing broad-based coalitions, nationally and globally, across sectors to advance policy advocacy and develop innovative strategies and programming. 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 Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities (now called Esperanza United) and Deputy Director for Policy at the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women. I have also had the pleasure of serving on a panel for congressional staffers with Ms. Hidalgo and always find her to be generous in her sharing of the vast knowledge she holds on these issues.



We respectfully urge you to move forward to confirm Ms. Hidalgo's appointment as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Sara Barber, Executive Director
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