

November 18, 2022

Senator Marsha Blackburn
357 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Marsha:

On behalf of the Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (the Coalition) and the programs, communities, and survivors 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. Without OVW funding, our network of domestic violence shelters and rape crisis centers could not sustain their services.

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.

I have had the opportunity to meet Ms. Hidalgo and believe she 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.

Thank you for your continued support of our efforts to end domestic and sexual violence in Tennessee and we respectfully urge you to move forward to confirm Ms. Hidalgo's appointment as soon as possible.

Best Regards,

Kathy

Kathy Walsh
Executive Director

Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence

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