



## Latinas United for Political Empowerment PAC

---

January 1, 2020

Senator Loretta Weinberg  
Via email

Dear Senator Weinberg:

The recent report on the state of New Jersey politics and the #MeToo movement has been a true eye opener for many across our state, despite the fact that some of this behavior has been familiar to a lot of us for far too long.

LUPEPAC's mission is to increase the number of Latinas in elected and appointed office in the State of New Jersey and to promote and support progressive leaders who stand up for an agenda that invests in Latina political leadership and advances critical issues that matter to Latinas in New Jersey. While there have been strides in creating better systems and structures for victims of sexual assault, the issues of misogyny, sexism and harassment that still exist are a pervasive problem that LUPEPAC is committed to helping to address and eradicate.

While the ongoing coverage of the #MeToo movement has touched upon the topic of the diversity of the women victimized by sexual harassment and assault; women of color are still underrepresented in this coverage. It has been shown in studies over the past three decades that women of color have vastly different experiences in terms of sexual harassment and assault. These differences are assumed to be due to a myriad of reasons, including socioeconomic status, stereotypes, and historical contexts.

Policy discussions and decisions are only successful when those participating in the conversations are fully representative of the diversity of the collective group those policies will impact. As women in politics in New Jersey, it is incumbent upon us to strengthen our alliances to effectuate change. This will only happen if we create better lines of communication among all women. We need to engage in a frank dialogue that allows us to understand our similarities, but also our differences. We can only stand together to fight oppression when we are truly united.

We applaud your development of an ad-hoc committee to begin this important conversation as it relates to government and politics in our state. Those publicly named thus far to this committee clearly have much to offer the conversation, but we want to ensure Latinas are also represented in this group.

We respectfully submit to you recommendations of New Jersey Latinas who should be considered for inclusion on your committee:

- Evelyn Padin, President, NJ Bar Association
- Margarita Echevarria, Esq., M. Echevarria, ADR LLC
- Sonia Delgado, Partner, Princeton Public Affairs Group
- Rosa Farias, Deputy Executive Director, NJ CRDA

Thank you and we look forward to the opportunity to participate in discussions and to help effectuate critical change on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Laura Matos, President, LUPEPAC and LUPEPAC Executive Board