

COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO

16<sup>th</sup> Legislative  
Assembly

5<sup>th</sup> Ordinary  
Session

**SENATE OF PUERTO RICO**

**S.R. 2121**

May 18, 2011

Introduced by Mr. *Hernández Mayoral*

Referred to

**RESOLUTION**

To express the recognition of the Senate of Puerto Rico to The Washington Center for their commendable work during the past sixteen years in the administration of the Córdova and Fernós Congressional Internship Program, which have provided so many opportunities to hundreds of Puerto Rican college students.

**STATEMENT OF MOTIVES**

The Córdova and Fernós Congressional Internship Program was created by the Legislature of Puerto Rico by Public Law 59 of 1993. The Program represents a great opportunity for outstanding college students in Puerto Rico, allowing them to go through various learning experiences in the processes and procedures of the United States Congress and the Federal Government.

By participating in the Córdova and Fernós Program, students receive academic credits while working and studying for a semester in Washington, D.C. Also, the students improve their careers while they are exposed to the process of creating legislation. Likewise, they have the opportunity to interact with world-leading public figures, attending lectures in various embassies and establishing contacts in the Federal Capital.

This internship was designed by the Secretary of State of Puerto Rico, the Honorable Kenneth McClintock, while serving as senator in 1993. His primary goal was that college students had the opportunity to participate in a congressional internship. The main reason was that universities on the Island did not have such programs.

The Córdova and Fernós Congressional Internship Program officially began in January 1995, with a financial investment by the Legislature of Puerto Rico and in partnership with The Washington Center, a nonprofit organization that runs similar programs with students from different countries around the world. Since then, the program has been the means by which the Legislature of Puerto Rico has provided hundreds of college students on the Island the opportunity to know the legislative and administrative process of the United States Congress.

Currently, two groups of twenty students are selected to be divided between the spring and fall semesters. Once in Washington, students work full-time in their internship from Tuesday to Friday. On Mondays, they attend programming with their program advisor which may include visits to the Capitol, the Pentagon, the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, the World Bank, the Organization of American States and several embassies. They also attend lectures, conferences and workshops on issues including US-Puerto Rico relations, education, human rights, environmental affairs, immigration, trade, soliciting federal funding, defense and international relations.

The Córdova and Fernós Program, has been administered by The Washington Center for Internships and Academics Seminars for the past sixteen years and has offered its help and support to over 600 Puerto Rican students who have had the rewarding opportunity to participate in the Congressional Internship. For that reason, this Senate expresses its recognition to The Washington Center for their commendable work in the administration of the Córdova and Fernós Program which have provided so many opportunities to hundreds of Puerto Rican college students.

**TO BE RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF PUERTO RICO:**

- 1 Section 1.- To express the recognition of the Senate of Puerto Rico to The
- 2 Washington Center for their commendable work during the past sixteen years in the
- 3 administration of the Córdova and Fernós Congressional Internship Program, which have
- 4 provided so many opportunities to hundreds of Puerto Rican college students.

1           Section 2.- A copy of this Resolution will be sent to Michael B. Smith, President of  
2 The Washington Center, through Mr. José Luis Fernández, Senior Advisor for the Córdova  
3 and Fernós Congressional Internship Program.

4           Section 3.- This Resolution shall take effect upon approval.