

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

16<sup>ta</sup> Legislative  
Assembly

6<sup>ta</sup> Ordinary  
Session

**SENATE OF PUERTO RICO**

**S. R. 2453**

November 9, 2011

*Presented by Mrs. Arce Ferrer*

**RESOLUTION**

To extend the warmest congratulations and recognition to Felix W. Ortiz, Chair of the New York State Assembly Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force, in the occasion of the “2011 Winter Somos Conference” in San Juan Puerto Rico.

**EXPOSITION OF MOTIVES**

Somos goal is to create opportunities for Hispanics through participation in the public policy process. The Winter Conference will address health, academic, and employment disparities through workshops. Assembly Ortiz has also engaged corporations and higher educational institutions to join efforts in the building of a new venture of establishing internship and apprenticeships in government offices, business and corporations where they can learn and gain access to future employment.

Felix W. Ortiz was elected to the office of New York State Assembly in November 1994, defeating a one-term incumbent. Once elected, Assemblyman Ortiz went to work for people of all ages who were in need. During his first week in office he held a press conference to call attention to the unjust treatment of sweatshop workers and set out to address the numerous labor violations in the industry. As a result of his efforts on behalf of immigrants and other workers,

the Speaker of the Assembly selected Assemblyman Ortiz to chair the Subcommittee on Sweatshops. As Chair, he continued the fight to hold the industry accountable for its horrendous labor violations and force it to comply with state and federal labor laws and worker safety conditions. With the help of the State Attorney General, Assemblyman Ortiz was able to recover back wages previously denied by the factory owners. To this day, Assemblyman Ortiz continues to monitor labor and wage practices and the safety conditions in the industry.

Assemblyman Ortiz serves as President of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators, Vice-President of COPA USA, Chair of the Labor and Workforce Committee of the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL), and Executive Committee Board Member of the Council of State Governments (CSG), Ex-Officio Board Member of the NALEO. Assemblyman Ortiz is a member of the Assembly Standing Committees of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse; Corporations, Authorities and Commissions; Corrections; Economic Development, Job Creation, Commerce and Industry; Energy; Labor; and Banks and the Assembly Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force, and the Black & Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus.

The Senate of Puerto Rico congratulates and recognizes the hard work of Felix W. Ortiz and exhorts to him to continue with his extraordinary dedication.

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

1 Section 1.- Extend the warmest congratulations and recognition to Felix W. Ortiz, Chair  
2 of the New York State Assembly Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force, in the occasion of the  
3 “2011 Winter Somos Conference” in San Juan Puerto Rico.

4 Section 2.- A copy of this Resolution in the form of parchment, will be given to Felix W.  
5 Ortiz on November 10, 2011, in The Hotel Conrad in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

1 Section 3.- This Resolution shall take affect immediately after its approval