

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

16th Legislative
Assembly

6th Ordinary
Session

SENATE OF PUERTO RICO

S. R. 2494

November 15, 2011

Presented by *Senators, Rivera Schatz and Ríos Santiago*

RESOLUTION

To present a well deserved recognition from the Senate of Puerto Rico to Iris Y. Martinez President of the “National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators” for a job well done during the last two years of her Presidency of this organization.

EXPOSITION OF MOTIVES

Iris Y. Martinez is a Democratic member of the Illinois Senate, representing the 20th district since 2003. She is also the President of “National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators” and the Assistant Majority Leader in the State Senate. Martinez is a graduate of Northeastern Illinois University and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Her election marked the first time a Hispanic woman had been elected to the State Senate in the history of Illinois. She made history once again by serving as Assistant Majority Leader from 2007-2008, a position never before held by a Latina. Senator Martinez has used her position as a State Senator to be an advocate for affordable housing and a strong voice for Illinois’ children.

Senator Martinez’s position as Champion of Affordable Housing and Homeownership for the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) has made her a leading voice for affordable housing in the Illinois Senate. She has passed legislation granting incentives for school districts to provide safe, affordable housing near schools. In addition, she has fought to help individuals residing in low-income housing to cope with rising energy costs

by allowing landlords to capture “LIHEAP” credits on behalf of their renters, ensuring energy bills are paid on time.

During tough economic times, Senator Martinez has fought to protect renters from becoming victims of foreclosure by requiring that tenants be given timely notice if their building is in foreclosure. The legislation states that renters must be given a minimum of 30 days notice in the event of an eviction. Prior to the passage of the legislation, many renters found themselves homeless or living in poor conditions as a result of not being given notice that their buildings were in foreclosure.

Senator Martinez has also been a tireless promoter of programs to improve the quality of education for youth in Illinois, including the Grow Your Own Teach Initiative, an effort to place 1,000 teachers in low-income, hard-to-staff Illinois public schools over the next seven years by offering forgivable student loans to paraprofessionals, parents and other community leaders who wish to become teachers. She has also worked to support the Golden Apple Scholar Program, which seeks to place highly qualified teachers in the State’s hard-to-staff schools.

In 2004, Martinez was awarded the Hillary Rodham Clinton Leadership Award presented to an elected official by the Illinois Democratic Women’s organization. Martinez is the Chairperson of the Pensions Committee and Vice Chairperson of the Housing and Community Affairs Committee. She serves as a member of additional committees such as: Commerce, Health and Human Services, the Education, Energy and Redistricting and Insurance Committees.

Martinez was born and raised in Chicago’s West Town community. She resides in the city’s Albany Park neighborhood and has a daughter, Jacklyn Nicole. Her district includes some of Chicago’s most diverse neighborhoods including Albany Park, Avondale, Belmont, Cragin, Hermosa, Humboldt Park, Logan Square, and Portage Park.

It is an honor for the Senate of Puerto Rico to give recognition to Iris Y. Martinez President of the “National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators” for a job well done during the last two years of her Presidency of this organization.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF PUERTO RICO:

1 Section 1.— To present a well-deserved recognition from the Senate of Puerto Rico to Iris Y.
2 Martinez President of the “National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators” for a job well done
3 during the last two years of her Presidency of this organization.

4 Section 2.— This Resolution, in scroll form, shall be presented to Iris Y. Martinez President of
5 the “National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators”, at the celebration to take place at El
6 Conquistador Hotel in Fajardo, Puerto Rico.

7 Section 3.— This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its approval.