



**Thomas Perez Deserves an Up or Down Vote:  
Vote Yes on Cloture**

July 12, 2013

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the undersigned 85 organizations, we write to urge you to vote yes on cloture to allow an up or down vote on the confirmation of Thomas Perez as the next Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor. Mr. Perez has shown a commitment to advancing opportunity for all Americans, and his outstanding career in public service makes him well qualified to ensure the well-being of our nation's workforce as the next Secretary of Labor.

We believe the next Secretary of Labor must ensure that the voices of working families are heard and can bring the perspective, values, and needs of employees, and job seekers to policymaking. Based on his distinguished career, there is no doubt that as Labor Secretary Mr. Perez will promote the welfare of wage earners, job seekers, and retirees; improve working conditions and workplace safety; advance opportunities for employment; and assure work-related benefits and rights.

As the Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, Mr. Perez helped build consensus with stakeholders to uphold the civil and constitutional rights of all Americans, particularly some of the most vulnerable members of our society. Mr. Perez stepped up enforcement of human trafficking laws and efforts to ensure that veterans can keep their civilian jobs while serving in the military. He has also been a tireless champion of voting rights, disability rights, equal educational equity, and has prosecuted some of the most heinous hate crimes in recent memory.

Before his nomination to lead the Civil Rights Division, Mr. Perez was Secretary of Maryland's Department of Labor, where he collaborated with businesses and employees to address critical workforce development needs and continue to build a world-class workforce. Throughout his public service career, Mr. Perez has also prosecuted high profile civil rights cases, was a Director of the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, was Special Counsel to the late Senator Edward Kennedy, where he was Sen. Kennedy's principal adviser on civil rights, criminal justice, and constitutional issues, and also served as a local elected official on the Montgomery County Council in Maryland.

Thomas Perez's outstanding career in public service makes him eminently qualified to be the next Secretary of Labor and take on the important responsibility of ensuring the well-being of our nation's wage earners, job seekers, and retirees. For these reasons, we urge you to move forward without any additional delay and vote yes on cloture for the confirmation of

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National Partnership for  
Women & Families

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National Congress of American Indians  
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Human Rights Campaign

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NAACP Legal Defense and  
Educational Fund, Inc.

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International Union, United  
Automobile Workers of America

Elisabeth MacNamara  
League of Women Voters of the  
United States

Marc Morial

National Urban League

Mee Moua

Asian American Justice Center

Janet Murguía

National Council of La Raza

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National Partnership for  
Women & Families

Priscilla Ouchida

Japanese American Citizens League

Terry O'Neill

National Organization for Women

Mark Perriello

American Association of  
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Dennis Van Roekel

National Education Association

Anthony Romero

American Civil Liberties Union

David Saperstein

Religious Action Center  
of Reform Judaism

Shanna Smith

National Fair Housing Alliance

Randi Weingarten

American Federation of Teachers

**Compliance/Enforcement**

**Committee Chair**

Michael Lieberman

Anti-Defamation League

**President & CEO**

Wade J. Henderson

**Executive Vice President & COO**

Karen McGill Lawson

Thomas Perez. For further information, please contact Lexer Quamie at (202) 466-3311 or email [quamie@civilrights.org](mailto:quamie@civilrights.org).

Sincerely,

Advancement Project  
AFL-CIO  
African American Ministers In Action (AAMIA)  
Alliance for Justice  
American Association for Justice  
American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), AFL-CIO  
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO  
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)  
Anti-Defamation League  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC  
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | Asian Law Caucus  
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance and Institute for Asian Pacific American Leadership & Advancement  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | Los Angeles  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
Center for Community Change  
Children's Defense Fund  
Communications Workers of America  
Community Action Partnership  
Demos  
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund  
Equal Justice Society  
Fair Elections Legal Network  
FairVote  
Family Equality Council  
Farmworker Justice  
Freedom to Work  
Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN)  
Hispanic Federation  
Human Rights Campaign  
Immigration Equality  
International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, UAW  
Japanese American Citizens League  
LatinoJustice PRLDEF  
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
League of United Latin American Citizens  
MALDEF  
NAACP  
NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc.  
National Abortion Federation  
National Association of Human Rights Workers (NAHRW)  
National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO)  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Black Justice Coalition  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (National CAPACD)  
National Community Reinvestment Coalition  
National Conference of Black Mayors, Inc.  
National Congress of American Indians  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)  
National Council on Independent Living  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Education Association  
National Employment Lawyers Association  
National Employment Law Project  
National Fair Housing Alliance  
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund  
National Health Law Program  
National Hispanic Leadership Agenda  
National Hispanic Media Coalition (NHMC)  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium  
National Legal Aid and Defender Association  
National Organization for Women  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Senior Citizens Law Center  
National Women's Law Center  
NILC Immigrant Justice Fund  
People For the American Way  
PolicyLink  
Poverty and Race Research Action Council  
Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.  
Public Advocates Inc.  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF)  
The Sikh Coalition

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South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)  
Southern Poverty Law Center  
United Food and Commercial Workers International Union  
United Steelworkers