



c/o Hon. Lourdes M. Ventura, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York 11435

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April 1, 2024

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
State Street and Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

I write you on behalf of the Latino Judges Association to express our fervent support of the provisions contained within Part F of the Governor's Public Protection and General Government Article VII legislation which focuses on enhancing judicial security. As jurists and citizens deeply invested in the safety and integrity of our judicial system, we believe that the provisions outlined in Part F are crucial steps towards ensuring the safety of our judges, court personnel, and the public we serve.

Founded in 1985, the Latino Judges Association, Inc., (formerly known as the Association of Judges of Hispanic Heritage) was established to increase and to promote diversity on the bench. We are committed to ensuring a strong independent judiciary that is representative of New York State's diverse communities. And, to that end, we are committed to working with court administrators and stakeholders to achieve judicial reform and diversity initiatives that further the goals of fairness, equality, and inclusion. This great responsibility is accompanied by the need to safeguard our members and the judiciary.

Attached please find our association's March 29, 2024 Statement on Judicial Security. This venerated organization represents a wealth of experience and insight into the challenges faced by judges from diverse backgrounds, particularly regarding security concerns. Our support of Part F further solidifies its importance and necessity within our legal framework.

The safety of our judiciary is paramount to the fair and effective administration of justice. Part F of the Governor's Public Protection and General Government Article VII Bill is a significant step to address security gaps and enhance protections for those who serve on the bench.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration. It is our sincere hope that the executive and legislative branches of our government will lend their support to this crucial piece of legislation.

Respectfully submitted,



Hon. Lourdes M. Ventura
President

cc: Elizabeth Fine, Esq., Counsel to the Governor
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Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Majority Leader, NYS Senate
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Hon. Brad Hoylman, Chair, NYS Senate Judiciary Committee
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Statement of the Latino Judges Association on Judicial Security

In upholding the rule of law and ensuring justice for all, the safety and security of the judiciary is paramount. Threats against the judiciary not only endanger judges and their families but also undermine the very foundation of our legal system. It is of the utmost importance that such acts are condemned, and concrete steps be taken to protect those who serve on the bench to ensure that the judiciary can carry out their duties without fear or intimidation. An attack on judicial independence is an attack on the core principles of democracy, and we must stand united in safeguarding the integrity of our judiciary. An attack on one judicial member is an attack on all members of the judiciary.

The Board of the Latino Judges Association
March 29, 2024

Declaración de la Asociación de Jueces Latinos sobre la Seguridad Judicial

Para defender el estado de derecho y garantizar la justicia para todos, la seguridad de la judicatura es primordial. Las amenazas contra la judicatura no sólo ponen en peligro a los jueces y sus familias, sino que también socavan la fundación de nuestro sistema legal. Es de suma importancia que se condenen esos actos y que se adopten medidas concretas para proteger a quienes ocupan el cargo y garantizar que la judicatura pueda desempeñar sus funciones sin miedo ni intimidación. Un ataque a la independencia judicial es un ataque a los principios fundamentales de la democracia, y debemos permanecer unidos para proteger la integridad de nuestro poder judicial. Un ataque a un miembro de la judicatura es un ataque a todos los miembros de la judicatura.

La Junta de la Asociación de Jueces Latinos
29 de marzo de 2024