



PUERTORRIQUEÑOS EN ACCIÓN CIUDADANA
PUERTORICANS IN CIVIC ACTION

TEL. (809) 834-0726

101st CONGRESS

1st Session

US SENATE

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HEARINGS ON S.710, S.711, and S.712

To provide for a referendum on the political status of Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, P.R. - JUNE 16 - 19. 1989

TESTIMONY BY: Kirish J. Ramirez de Ferrer MD, President

-1-

Honorable Chairman of the Senate Energy Committee, Senator Bennett Johnston, Co-Chairman, Senator J. McClure, Honorable Members of this Committee, Distinguished Staff Members, Invited Guests and friends.

My name is Miriam J. Ramirez de Ferrer, I am a medical doctor, and president and founder of a non-partisan grassroots movement, called Puerto Ricans in Civic Action, which to date has gathered and delivered 350,000 thousand petitions for statehood to Congress.

We commend the unselfish dedicated work of thousands of grassroots volunteers from Puerto Ricans in Civic Action who throughout these last four years have collected over 350,000 petitions to Congress asking that Puerto Rico be admitted as a State of The Union. We recognize and respect all those who have signed their petition, and who by doing so, have contributed to make possible this historical moment.

We also wish to publicly express our deepest appreciation to Congressman Lagomarsino for his continued interest in helping the people of Puerto Rico solve this most important problem and for the introduction of a Statehood Bill during 1987 in response to our petitions. We also express our appreciation to Senators Dole, Thurmond, Simon, Matsunaga and are grateful to Congressmen Mark Siljander and John Lewis for officially receiving our petitions. Last but not least, we must be eternally grateful to President Bush for believing in the equal rights of the people of Puerto Rico and taking action in support for statehood in his emphatic statement to Congress.

We also commend your genuine interest in making this process as clear and fair as possible so that the people of Puerto Rico understand the seriousness of the decision that they are about to face. The people of Puerto Rico must be well informed that privileges, such as United States citizenship and protection under the United States Constitution, are at stake when they decide the political status of Puerto Rico. The people of Puerto Rico cherish these privileges and will vote on a status that will assure US citizenship permanently and protection under our Constitution. Permanent union and continuity of US citizenship cannot be assured to any separate political entity except to a State of Union.

Our pledge of allegiance says: " one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." If we became anything but a state, can you address the problem of two countries of US Citizens in the world ? Who governs those citizens? The President of the United States, or the Head of state of Puerto Rico ? If we travel overseas, will we find two embassies ? One for Puerto Rico and one for the United States ? If there is war, could we have an army of US citizens from the USA fighting against an army of USA citizens from P.R.?

by:Miriam J.Ramirez de Ferrer MD

It is your duty and obligation as members of the most respected legislative body of the world, to assure that the Bill you enact does not leave the slightest possible doubt or confusion as to what status assures the permanence of these privileges. It is also imperative that you remember that there are 350,000 petitions in Congress for statehood from U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico whose citizenship was not questioned when asked to fight in all US military interventions since World War I.

by: Miriam J. Ramirez de Ferrer MD