

April 16, 2012

The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

RE: Presidential Executive Order Protecting LGBT Federal Contractors

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR)—the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States—I strongly urge you to revisit your position on signing an executive order (EO) prohibiting the discrimination of federal contractors in the workplace on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identification.

The EO is important to millions of Hispanic LGBT community members. According to a recent Center for American Progress report, the EO provides badly needed legal protection for the 43% of lesbian, gay, and bisexual and 90% of transgender workers who have experienced workplace discrimination.

The EO would protect approximately 16 million contractors according to the Williams Institute at UCLA Law School. It will also help vital federal contractors attract and retain talented employees, as well as improve workplace productivity, appeal to consumers, and decrease the possibility of costly litigation.

A recent Human Rights Campaign poll conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner found that 72% of likely Hispanic voters in 2012 support an EO. A letter supporting an EO also found wide backing on the Hill. House members Raul Grijalva, Luis Gutierrez, Silvestre Reyes, Linda Sanchez, and former Congressional Hispanic Caucus chair Nydia Velázquez all signed the letter.

In addition, 25 of some of the largest federal contractors think it is a good practice to add sexual orientation and gender identity to their non-discrimination policies. It is, but it also does something else—it protects a group of people who have a long history of being marginalized and gives them hope. That is why we urge you to sign an EO on this matter as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Eric Rodriguez
Vice President
Office of Research, Advocacy, and Legislation