

Statement for the Record of Carlos G. Muñiz
Nominee for General Counsel, U.S. Department of Education
U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
September 19, 2017

Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Murray, Members of the Committee: It is an honor to appear before you today as the nominee to be General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Education.

I would like first to thank President Trump for nominating me and Secretary DeVos for her support and confidence. I would also like to thank Senator Rubio for introducing me. Finally, I would like to acknowledge how grateful I am to the many mentors, colleagues, and friends who have helped me over the years, and to my family, especially my wife Katie and our three children, Robert, William, and Lydia.

At her own confirmation hearing, Secretary DeVos outlined many goals for her tenure as Secretary of Education- including: to promote an education system that meets the unique needs of each student; to support access to quality, affordable higher education; and to embrace new pathways of learning. She spoke of her commitment to supporting our public schools, to empowering our teachers, and to ensuring that all our students can pursue an education free from discrimination. And she pledged to carry out Congress's intention to restore states' and local communities' primary role in education. It would be a great privilege to assist Secretary DeVos and her colleagues at the Department of Education in working to accomplish these noble objectives.

Should I be given the honor of serving as the Department's general counsel, I would bring to the position legal expertise and management skills developed over a 20-year career in private practice and in public service. As Deputy Attorney General of the State of Florida, Deputy General Counsel to the Florida Governor, an adviser to the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, and a state agency general counsel, I have cultivated an expertise and appreciation for rigorous legal analysis, learned the importance of leading by example, and internalized the accountability that comes with public service. Perhaps most importantly, I have gained invaluable experience in, and pride myself on providing candid and independent legal advice, even when doing so is difficult.

If confirmed by the Senate, I will strive to carry out my duties with humility, integrity, and civility. I will work cooperatively with Congress and with the

Department's partners in the executive branch. And I will be guided always by a reverence for the Constitution and for the rule of law.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you.