



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **HOPE STATEMENT ON THE APPOINTMENT OF ALEX PADILLA TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE FOR CALIFORNIA BY GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM**

LOS ANGELES, CA, (December 22, 2020) — Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) issued this statement today applauding the appointment of California Secretary of State Alex Padilla to the United States Senate seat for California:

Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) is thrilled to congratulate Alex Padilla on his appointment to the United States Senate. As a longstanding champion of education equity, environmental justice and civic participation, and a dedicated public servant, we are certain that Secretary Padilla will serve as the United States Senator for California with the strong leadership and steadfast commitment to equity and justice that is needed to move our country forward.

Prior to the 2020 election, only nine Latinos had served in the U.S. Senate since it first convened in 1789. Zero Latinos have represented California in the U.S. Senate. Nationally, Latinos represent over 60 million Americans; with more Latinos living in the state of California than in any other state in the country. HOPE believes California needs a Latino leader in Washington D.C. that deeply understands the challenges faced by the 11 million immigrants in our state, by our community that is facing double digit unemployment rates, by our struggling small business owners, by our first generation college students and by working California Latinas who face the largest wage gap in the nation – and that we will have this representative leadership in Secretary Padilla.

As Secretary of State, Alex Padilla led the fight against the Federal government's voter suppression and election misinformation while increasing voter registration and participation and strengthening voter rights. The son of Mexican immigrants, Padilla was raised in the working-class community of Pacoima, and went on to earn a degree in mechanical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Padilla was the youngest President of the Los Angeles City Council and served in the California Senate for almost a decade, advancing legislation on health initiatives, education, climate change, and infrastructure.

Senator-select Padilla has been an ally of HOPE and a longstanding supporter of HOPE's mission of advancing the economic and political parity of Latinas. We are proud to celebrate his appointment and look forward to working with him in his new role as Senator.

We applaud Governor Newsom in his selection and his bold leadership in ensuring California's government is representative of our community. We urge the Governor to continue this momentum for Latino representation and to make history by appointing a Latina to serve as

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Attorney General of California. It's time for Latinas to also be represented at the highest levels of California.

*About Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) - HOPE® is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that has focused on empowering our communities through advocacy, Latina leadership training, and increasing knowledge on the contributions Latinas have made to advance the status of women for the past 30 years. To date, HOPE's innovative programming has served 56,000 Latinas statewide and touched the lives of several thousand more. For more information on HOPE, please visit [Latinas.org](http://Latinas.org) or follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/HOPE.org) or [Twitter](https://twitter.com/HOPE.org).*