



NEWS RELEASE

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NALEO Educational Fund Urges Newly-Confirmed Commerce Secretary to Make the Census Bureau a Priority

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund today released the following statement from CEO Arturo Vargas following the confirmation of Gina Raimondo as Secretary of the Department of Commerce:

“NALEO Educational Fund congratulates Gina Raimondo on her Senate confirmation as Secretary of Commerce. The Department, which includes the Census Bureau, is a critical part of the federal government tasked with overseeing the decennial census, the foundation of our democracy. At a time when the Census Bureau has faced complex challenges brought on by insufficient funding, political interference by the previous Administration, and the extraordinary impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on 2020 Census operations, the confirmation of a new Secretary of Commerce is a positive development.

“During Secretary Raimondo’s confirmation hearing, she expressed a commitment to rebuilding the public’s trust in the census by relying on data experts and statisticians at the Bureau, ensuring the decennial count is apolitical. She also expressed a commitment to not rushing the Bureau’s work so that it can deliver an accurate count. The secretary’s collective outlook on what she seeks to accomplish as head of the Department of Commerce is welcomed, necessary, and requires a sense of urgency. We call on Secretary Raimondo to devote the time and attention needed to ensure the Census Bureau’s integrity and credibility are restored and that it continues to be the world’s preeminent statistical agency.

“Latinos are second-largest population group in the United States. Ensuring we are accurately and fairly counted and that our communities receive their fair of resources is central to our work at NALEO Educational Fund. In addition to other policy priorities, we look forward to working with Secretary Raimondo, the Department of Commerce, and the Census Bureau to ensure that this census, as well as all future censuses and surveys, are fair and accurate.”

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About NALEO Educational Fund

NALEO Educational Fund is the nation’s leading non-partisan, non-profit organization that facilitates the full participation of Latinos in the American political process, from citizenship to public service.