



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **NALEO Praises Leadership of U.S. Rep. Jose Serrano Following Announcement He Will Not Seek Re-Election**

*As the longest serving Puerto-Rican in elected office, U.S. Rep. Serrano has worked tirelessly to defend the rights of the Latino community and advocate for an accurate Census 2020*

**Washington, D.C.** – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) released a statement on U.S. Representative Jose Serrano’s (NY-15 D) decision to not seek re-election in 2020:

“The entire NALEO family is saddened to hear that U.S. Rep. Jose Serrano will not seek re-election next year due to illness. As the longest serving Puerto-Rican and most senior Latino Democrat in Congress, U.S. Rep. Serrano has dedicated his life to fighting for the interests of Latinos and all Bronx residents. We are confident he will bring this same level of strength and resilience as he confronts the challenges that lie ahead in his battle against Parkinson’s disease.

“Throughout his accomplished career, U.S. Rep. Serrano has broken barriers and paved the way for future generations of Latino leaders in the Empire State and nationwide. Currently the only member of the New York City delegation on the House Appropriations Committee and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science, he has used his platform and power to ensure that the prosperity of our country is shared by the neediest and most vulnerable members of our society.

“As a longstanding Census champion, U.S. Rep. Serrano has been a steadfast leader in the effort to make sure that the U.S. Census Bureau collects accurate information about the Latino community and residents of Puerto Rico. Helping to lead the fight against the inclusion of a citizenship question and pushing for full funding for the Bureau, his voice on this critical issue has been invaluable. Through the introduction of legislation like the 2020 Census Improving Data and Enhanced Accuracy Act, U.S. Rep. Serrano has truly been an ally in our efforts to protect every person’s right to be counted, and represented, in our democracy.

“U.S. Rep. Serrano has also worked tirelessly to ensure that our nation’s political system is accessible to all its citizens. His Voting Rights Language Assistance Act of 1992, signed into law, mandated that voter materials continue to be provided in different languages. In addition, U.S. Rep. Serrano has been a consistent supporter of comprehensive immigration reform, and has repeatedly introduced the Child Citizen Protection Act, which would allow judges to exercise discretion in deportation cases that involve parents or guardians of citizen children.

"NALEO will always be incredibly grateful for U.S. Rep. Serrano's leadership, and we look forward to working side-by-side with him during his remaining months in Congress to ensure that Latinos and all underrepresented Americans are not missed in Census 2020."

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**About NALEO**

*The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials is the non-partisan leadership organization of the nation's more than 6,700 Latino elected and appointed officials.*