

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 18, 2023

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Menendez  
Chair  
United States Senate Foreign Relations  
Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jim Risch  
Ranking Member  
United States Senate Foreign Relations  
Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chair Menendez, and Ranking Member Risch,

As members of the Congressional Croatian Caucus, we support Nathalie Rayes's nomination to be the next U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Croatia and respectfully request that you expeditiously schedule a confirmation hearing to take up her nomination.

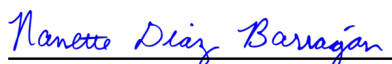
The Congressional Croatian Caucus's priority is to promote and expand bilateral cultural exchange between the United States and Croatia through shared values, cross-cultural cooperation, and the promotion of trade and business opportunities across the Atlantic. It is critical that we have a confirmed Ambassador in place to fully realize the bilateral goals of the Caucus to continue to strengthen relations between our two nations. Thus, it is important that the Senate take up Nathalie's nomination at the earliest possible opportunity.

Ms. Rayes is a proven leader and public servant with extensive experience in the private and public sectors who is dedicated to building cross-cultural relationships. Currently, Ms. Rayes is the president and CEO of Latino Victory and was previously Vice President of Public Affairs for Grupo Salinas in the United States and the Executive Director of Fundación Azteca America. Earlier in her career, she served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Los Angeles Mayor James K. Hahn, where she managed the Office of Intergovernmental Relations, International Trade, and Protocol and established Los Angeles' first Office of Immigrant Affairs. In this position, Ms. Rayes formed sister city relationships between Los Angeles and San Salvador, El Salvador, Beirut, Lebanon, and Ischia, Italy. Ms. Rayes's professional background and achievements illustrate her commitment to public service and ability to forge cross-cultural relationships, which will be an asset as Ambassador.

Furthermore, Ms. Rayes's professional background illustrates her passion and commitment to global affairs and diplomacy. She was confirmed to the U.S. Institute for Peace Board of Directors in 2021. She also served over six years on the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars as Chair of the Audit Committee. As a Department of State Fellow, she worked at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo under the Economic and Political Section. Nathalie also holds a Masters of Public Policy with a concentration in International Affairs and Education from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Ms. Rayes's experiences in leadership, cross-cultural cooperation, international background, and dedication to public service exemplify her qualifications to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Croatia. Therefore, we request your thorough, full, and expeditious consideration of Nathalie Rayes to serve in the administration as U.S. Ambassador to Croatia.

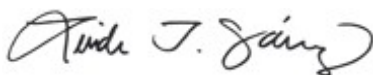
Sincerely,



Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress