

WASHINGTON, DC—On Monday, by a margin of 49 to 37, a plurality of United States Senators voted in favor to move towards the confirmation of Ambassador Mari Carmen Aponte's status as our nation's top diplomat in El Salvador. Unfortunately, a minority of Senators used a procedural tactic—the filibuster—to deny an up-or-down vote on Ambassador Aponte's nomination. Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-31), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus and a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, released the following statement:

“Once again, our country has fallen victim to obstructionists. Just as they filibustered the DREAM Act, and as they tried to filibuster Supreme Court Justice Sonya Sotomayor's nomination, today's vote is a reminder to all Latinos that President Obama's agenda to rebuild America and fix our broken immigration system has not stalled because of his efforts but rather because his priorities have been obstructed by a small minority in the United States Senate.

Rather than voting on the merits of Ambassador Mari Carmen Aponte's record in El Salvador—as a voice for a strong democracy, human rights and economic prosperity—Senate Republicans hid behind a procedural tactic and denied her confirmation an up-or-down vote, putting at risk our nation's ability to strengthen its ties to El Salvador and Latin America. Without Mari Carmen Aponte as Ambassador, the American people lose an invaluable leader and diplomat.” □