

Statement of Julissa Reynoso
Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to Spain and Andorra
Submitted to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Madam Chair, Ranking Member, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as President Biden's nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain and the Principality of Andorra.

I am deeply honored to be considered by the Senate for this position and grateful to President Biden and Secretary Blinken for the confidence they have placed in me. Let me specially thank Dr. Jill Biden. Dr. Biden is one of the most remarkable people I have ever met, and she and the President honored me by giving me the opportunity to serve this Administration. If confirmed, I look forward to another opportunity to serve my country.

I would like to recognize my family, friends, mentors, and colleagues who have supported me over the years. There are too many to name here, but I would like to thank my mother Rosario, my sister Jessica, and my son Lucas. I would also like to extend my gratitude to my colleagues at the White House, especially Anthony Bernal. Finally, I want to thank Secretary Clinton and Cheryl Mills, who in 2009 gave me the opportunity to first serve at the U.S. Department of State as a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State and then as U.S. Ambassador to Uruguay.

If confirmed, it would be my privilege to lead the U.S. Mission to one of our strongest bilateral partners, where our talented interagency teams in Madrid and Barcelona work tirelessly to expand U.S.-Spanish cooperation in defense, law enforcement, commerce and trade, science, education, and people-to-people exchanges.

The relationship between the United States and Spain is strong. We share important values, including a commitment to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; sound economic policies; investment in people; a desire to protect the planet from the impacts of climate change; a commitment to peacefully resolve disputes between nations; and respect for the multilateral system. If confirmed, I look forward to continuing the productive partnership and transatlantic alliance between our two countries and will work diligently to advance these goals.

Spain is a vital bilateral partner and NATO Ally whose government is already reenergizing transatlantic cooperation with the Biden administration as host of the 2022 NATO Summit. The outstanding cooperation we have enjoyed with our Spanish hosts at Naval Station Rota and Moron Air Base for nearly 70 years is a tangible example of our strong partnership, including Operation Allies Refuge and Operation Allies Welcome. In Afghanistan, over 30,000 Spanish military personnel served alongside Americans during the 20-year mission, and over 100 Spaniards lost their lives. Spain deploys roughly 3,000 troops overseas each year in NATO, EU, UN, and national missions. It is a key partner in the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS and maintains a contingent deployed to Iraq.

Beyond our strong defense partnership, Spain enjoys a special relationship with Latin American nations and Latinos in the United States due to linguistic, cultural, and historical affinities. Spain and Latin American nations have a long and vibrant tradition of exchanges and training in law enforcement, defense, and other sectors. Spain and the United States share goals in protecting human rights and democracy in the hemisphere, most notably in Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua.

The United States and Spain also share a deep economic relationship, trading over \$36.9 billion in goods and services in 2020. Spain is the tenth largest source of foreign direct investment in the United States, creating over 90,000 jobs in the United States. The United States is the

largest source of FDI in Spain, supporting more than 178,000 Spanish jobs.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with the government of Spanish President Pedro Sanchez, civil society, and the private sector to build upon our already strong bilateral relations and expand the political, commercial, educational, and cultural ties between our two countries.

If confirmed, I also look forward to fostering our relationship with the Principality of Andorra and working together with Andorra's Head of Government Xavier Espot Zamora to further our joint goals to support democracy, human rights, and financial transparency.

Finally, if confirmed, I will work closely with this body to ensure your interests and concerns are addressed, and that we work together to advance U.S. interests while strengthening our partnerships with Spain and Andorra.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.