

Statement of Carlos Trujillo
Nominee to be U.S. Permanent Representative to the
Organization of American States
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
November 30, 2017

Chairman Rubio, Ranking Member Menendez, and Members of the Committee,

It is an honor to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to be the United States Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States. I want to thank the President for his confidence in me and for the opportunity – with your approval – to represent the American people during a critical period in the history of the Western Hemisphere.

Before I begin, I would also like to take an opportunity to express my gratitude to those who have supported me along the way: my wife Carmen and our four children; Carlos, Isabella, Juan Pablo and Felipe, who are with me here today. My family watching at home, my parents Georgina and Ruben, my step-parents Hector and Jamais, and grandparents Manuel and Alba Fernandez, and Ruben and Mirtha Trujillo.

I know that today is a remarkable day for my grandparents who came to the United States of America with nothing. This country has been our safe harbor and our greatest blessing. For me to stand before this august body is a testament to the American dream and the power of education and hard work.

By way of background, I am currently the Special Advisor at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. That job has uniquely prepared me for the challenges that come ahead.

In addition, my mix of public, and private, professional experiences has given me a set of skills I hope to be able to employ on behalf of the United States of America and in service to its people.

I have served as a prosecutor – fighting for dignity and justice for all. I have also served on the Board of Directors of the largest public hospital in the country, the Jackson Memorial Public Health Trust. There, I learned that people from all over the world will strive for a better and higher quality of life.

I have served as a State Legislator, elected to four terms, in one of the largest states in the nation. There, I served as Chairman of the Florida House of Representatives' Appropriations Committee, which oversees an \$83 billion budget. My experience working in a legislative body and negotiating delicate, confidential, and immensely important matters will only complement my service to the United States in this honorable capacity to which I have been nominated.

In my private life, I am a graduate of Spring Hill College, and the Florida State University College of Law. I have built a small and successful business. Along with my partners, I founded and manage a mid-sized Hispanic-owned law firm, with more than 50 employees. We have

weathered the storm of recession and strife, and I have learned much about the importance of tact, tenacity, integrity and perseverance which has served me throughout my career in public service.

If confirmed, it will be an honor for me to advance U.S. foreign policy interests through the OAS, a noble organization that remains the preeminent multilateral forum for our region, the Americas.

The OAS and the Inter-American system were created to promote democracy and the rule of law in the Americas; to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms; to advance the security of our citizens; foster economic development and prosperity; and to uphold the practices, purposes, and principles set forth in the Charter of the Organization of American States, the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man, and the Inter-American Democratic Charter, in accordance with the U.S. Constitution. These instruments embody the shared democratic values that make the Americas unique, and make our own country great. If confirmed, I pledge to do my utmost to ensure that the OAS lives up to this legacy as it confronts today's daunting challenges.

I will also work to make sure American tax payers are getting a fair return for their investment in the OAS by working to build a stronger, more efficient and more effective organization. Through tough but good-faith negotiations with other member states, we can achieve a broader, more sustainable financial base for the OAS that does not depend so heavily on a single country, in keeping with the objectives outlined in the "Organization of American States Revitalization and Reform Act of 2013."

If confirmed, I look forward to leading the U.S. mission to the OAS in advancing the above-mentioned goals. I believe that my past experiences have prepared me, if confirmed by the Senate, to serve effectively as the U.S. Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States. I am cognizant of the difficulties that have historically, and currently, face the region. If confirmed, I promise to work closely with you, others in the Executive Branch and all those concerned with advancing the goals of the American people.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Menendez, and Members of the Committee, it is an honor to appear before you today. I welcome your comments, humbly ask for your support, and look forward to answering your questions.