



February 10, 2010

Cal Berkeley Democrats

Dear Democrats:

I am writing to respectfully request Cal Berkeley Democrats endorsement of my campaign for California Insurance Commissioner in 2010. Your support would mean so much to me.

I am proud to be a lifelong Democrat and have been very active with the Democratic Party since joining the Long Beach Young Democrats. And like many of you, I found it very important to be active with the California Young Democrats to engage our youngest Californians in our nation's democratic process. I am proud to have received CYD's 2002-2003 Man of the Year for my "commitment and dedicated service to the young people of our state, and assisting with the development of Californian's future leaders," and Long Beach Young Democrats' 2003 Leadership Award for my "outstanding and exemplary leadership to Young Democrats Across the State of California."

I've decided to run for California Insurance Commissioner because we need a Commissioner with a steadfast commitment to protecting taxpayers and consumers. I have a deep understanding of insurance policy issues and I have focused on making health insurance a cornerstone of my work in the Assembly. Without strong laws and tough enforcement, insurance companies will put profits before patients.

I've also build up a reputation for taken on tough fights and winning. I cleaned up corruption in South Gate, even in the face of threats, because I knew it was the right thing to do. I helped create and now chair a new investigative committee that is identifying waste in state government and saving taxpayer dollars. I also have a strong reputation for building bipartisan coalitions in the legislature to pass bills that are important to Californians.

We need an Insurance Commissioner with strong progressive values and who is not afraid to take on important issues for fear of political backlash. I stood up publicly against Proposition 8 when other elected officials were unwilling to. As a minority, I am acutely aware of the day-to-day effect of civil rights and the importance of fighting to ensure that all people are treated equally and fairly. I wrote an editorial for La Opinion, the largest Spanish-language newspaper in the nation, and spoke regularly against Prop 8 on Spanish-language television and radio. In addition to my No On Prop 8 work, I championed various bills to advance civil rights including a bill to finally repeal all discriminatory restrictive covenants (which include anti-LGBT language) in title and deed

documents for property. Equality California acknowledged my work by honoring me with their 2006 Building Equality Award.

It is also important to have an Insurance Commissioner with the ability to communicate with the largest growing population group in California, the Latino community. I am a native Spanish speaker and when elected, I will communicate directly with our state's Latino population to make sure they understand their rights as consumers, and about accessing affordable and reliable health care services.

I am the only candidate in the race with broad management experience in the public and private sectors, which will be important in managing the Department of Insurance and its 1,100+ employees. I served as Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Labor in the Clinton Administration and previously worked as a corporate project manager for Southern California Edison and Judicial Administrator for the Los Angeles Superior Court.

My campaign is building momentum and I hope you will join my growing list of supporters. I am proud to be endorsed by the California Medical Association – the largest organization representing doctors, the Peace Officers Research Association of California – the largest organization representing peace officers, and the California Professional Firefighters. I also have the California Small Business Association supporting me, and a strong coalition of labor organization, elected officials, community leaders, and democratic activists across the state. I have attached my list of endorsement for your review.

I've also attached my answers to the California Democratic Party questionnaire.

I will be honored to earn the endorsement of the Cal Berkeley Democrats. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hector De La Torre".

Hector De La Torre
Assemblymember