

June 21, 2021

United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and Committee Members:


On behalf of the 180,000 advocates of National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), I write to express our support for the nomination of Chief Judge Gustavo A. Gelpí, Jr. to the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Chief Judge Gelpí has heard over 1,600 cases since his unanimous confirmation to the US District Court for the District of Puerto Rico in 2006, where he still sits today as Chief Judge. As a Puerto Rican jurist, Chief Judge Gelpí brings a much-needed perspective to the federal judiciary. In fact, his confirmation would make him the second judge from Puerto Rico to ever sit on the First Circuit.

Chief Judge Gelpí has demonstrated his dedication to ensuring US citizens residing in Puerto Rico have the same rights as other Americans, including the right to vote in presidential elections, receive Social Security when eligible, and marry whomever they choose. In *United States v. Vaello-Madero*, he held that excluding residents of Puerto Rico from receiving Supplemental Security Income is a constitutional violation, a decision that was later affirmed by the First Circuit and recently granted certiorari by the US Supreme Court.

For over 20 years, NCJW has advocated for judicial nominees who are fair, independent, qualified, and reflect the communities they serve. Deeply qualified and committed to upholding constitutional rights for all, Chief Judge Gelpí meets our criteria. **NCJW urges you to support the nomination of Chief Judge Gustavo A. Gelpí, Jr. to the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.**

Sincerely,



Jody Rabhan
Chief Policy Officer
National Council of Jewish Women