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November 10, 2010

Dear CHC Colleague:

I am writing to ask for your support of Jim Clyburn to continue as Democratic Whip. At this critical moment, it is important that we have a leadership team in place that reflects the diversity of the Democratic Caucus and promotes an inclusive and progressive agenda. Like many of you in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I have worked closely with Jim both to advance our priorities and to defend against Republican efforts to undermine these priorities. We face many similar battles ahead and we need Jim's continued leadership as Democratic Whip.

Jim truly understands the issues facing our community. As a young man, Congressman Clyburn directed South Carolina's migrant and seasonal farm workers program. He saw firsthand the needs of the immigrant community and fought to meet those needs. He has been fighting for the Hispanic community ever since.

As Majority Whip, Jim has been a staunch ally of the CHC and has worked tirelessly on the issues that matter most to us. He has been a champion of comprehensive immigration reform, hosting Member listening sessions and meeting with community leaders and immigration advocates to build consensus for reform within the Democratic caucus. A civil rights leader, Congressman Clyburn will continue to fight for the advancement of our community and for the civil rights of all immigrants.

Thanks to his leadership, we were able to pass the Recovery Act, health care reform and many other pieces of legislation that are helping to turn our country around. At the same time, Jim has been an essential ally in the trenches with us as we successfully beat back anti-immigrant amendments and motions to recommit that would have severely undermined our legislative goals and victories. As we transition into the minority, it is more important than ever that Jim Clyburn continues in his role as Whip.

I am certain that we can and must regain our majority in two years, but we need a leadership team that will stand up for the principles we cherish and effectively communicate why these principles will create more opportunity for all Americans. I know that we face difficult choices in times of historic change, and our choice of leadership team going forward is one of them. However, as we contemplate the future of our Caucus, I am certain about one thing. We need Jim Clyburn's leadership in the 112th Congress and I ask that you support him for Democratic Whip.

Sincerely,



Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress