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August 1, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama and Mrs. Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President and Mrs. Obama:

As you know, recent media reports in Puerto Rico and the Huffington Post detail a despicable and racist twitter message about the President and Mrs. Obama. The message was posted by Heidi Wys, who works as an advisor to the Speaker of the Puerto Rico House of Representatives.

As a Puerto Rican, I believe it is appropriate to share with you my outrage regarding this message. I want you to know that I have called for Ms. Wys to be removed immediately from any position, formal or informal, that she holds with the government of Puerto Rico. Sentiments like this simply cannot be tolerated, and the Puerto Rican leaders responsible for her employment should act without hesitation.

I feel confident that I speak for all Puerto Ricans when I tell you that we reject this type of language, opinion and behavior. The Puerto Rican people have a long history of being the victims of racism, discrimination and violence. We also have a proud history of working to overcome these obstacles and fighting for positive change. We have marched with civil rights leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King and consistently promoted a message of fairness, tolerance and understanding. I want you to know the deep regret I feel that any Puerto Rican would publicly convey such a hateful message.

As always, I look forward to working with both of you to promote the positive, inclusive values that I know we share with the Puerto Rican people. Please call on me if I can be of service in any way.

Sincerely,



Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver, Chairman, Congressional Black Caucus
Cc: Members of the Congressional Black Caucus