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Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors
1545 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 811
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December 16, 2010

To: Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors

Subject: Letter of Support for Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors

Parents are their children's first teachers and their home is their children's first school. Research shows that parents' involvement in children's preschool years has profound effects not only on academic outcomes during formal schooling, but also on their learning potential throughout life. Parental involvement and their meaningful participation is critical to enhancing parents' capacity as advocates for their own children. Abriendo Puertas is a unique and influential program that promotes these values to Latino parents through culturally and linguistically relevant methods.

For Latino children, participating in early childhood education programs is an important building block in the continuum of education. The Latino Policy Forum works toward achieving the goal to close the education achievement gap of Latino children with policies that improve access to and quality of early childhood education programs. Our partnership with Abriendo Puertas has helped us further our work to develop the understanding and support for parental involvement in their children's education.

From academic researchers to foundations, Abriendo Puertas was introduced to the Forum in high esteem from partners and associates the field of early childhood from across the country. With support from the J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation, the Forum designed a program implementation plan to work with 10 Latino-serving early care and education organizations who will deliver the Abriendo Puertas program throughout Metro Chicago. Earlier this month, the Forum convened an Abriendo Puertas Facilitator's Institute that trained two co-facilitators at each of the organizations. After just the first day of the training, participants were greatly motivated by their experiences to begin implementing the curriculum. The trained facilitators will deliver the program to 20 Spanish-speaking parents at each of their sites. Program implementation will run throughout 2011. In its first year offering Abriendo Puertas in Metro Chicago, the Latino Policy Forum expects to reach 200 parents.

The Forum fully support the efforts of Abriendo Puertas as empowering parents, more than any other factor, reaps immeasurable benefits for children and the community-at-large.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sylvia Puente". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sylvia Puente
Executive Director
Latino Policy Forum