



HISPANIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION  
of NEW JERSEY

*Building Bridges to a Better Life*

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## Hispanic Directors Endorses Kevin Ryan for Human Services Commissioner

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The Hispanic Directors Association of New Jersey (HDANJ) today endorsed Kevin M. Ryan's nomination to serve as the Human Services Commissioner and urged the state Senate to quickly confirm him in the post. Ryan is scheduled to appear before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Monday, February 6.

"We are impressed with Kevin Ryan's record as an advocate for the state's most vulnerable children," said Elsa Candelario, HDANJ Chairperson, noting Ryan's 30-month tenure as New Jersey's first Child Advocate. "Even prior to that he worked for nearly a decade with homeless children in New Jersey and New York. He possesses the compassion and talent required to run the Department of Human Services, which administers programs for abused and neglected children, the mentally ill and the developmentally disabled, among others."

The HDANJ Board of Trustees voted unanimously to endorse Ryan, but said they expected him to maintain regular communication with the Latino community and address issues of specific concern. HDANJ has requested a meeting with him to discuss issues of specific concern to the Latino community.

"We expect him to move ahead to reduce the layers of bureaucracy in the state's child welfare system with programs that encourage prevention," said Daniel Santo Pietro, HDANJ Executive Director. "We also expect him to promote culturally appropriate mental health services in Spanish in the Latino community."

HDANJ is an umbrella organization representing 33 Latino community-based organizations across New Jersey serving approximately 600,000 clients a year.