



Tony Cárdenas
Congress of the United States
29th District, California

December 1, 2016

Dear Colleague,

I respectfully ask for your support for the Leadership position for a Member of five terms or less.

I'm proud to have been working every single day to support and encourage the next generation of Democratic leaders. During my Chairmanship of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus' political arm, the CHC BOLD PAC, I have been committed to growing the Democratic Caucus. I'm proud to say we supported more candidates than ever, including more non-Latinos than Latinos.

We're in the minority, and that is a hard truth to face. But we *should* be in the majority. Our country is more diverse than ever before, and our young people are energized. Our work this Congress must be focused on how we get to the majority. Welcoming newer Members to the table is a crucial part of this.

When I was a freshman Member, I had the help of senior Members who encouraged me to get involved, whether it was in running for a leadership position or getting on an important committee. I will be that person for my colleagues. I will make sure their voices are heard and their experiences matter. We have an extraordinary team, and I will work to encourage every Member's success by giving them every opportunity to excel, climb and raise important issues for their constituents.

I will be active and I will work hard. I've never been someone to sit out the tough discussions or wait to see where the chips fall for fear of personal retribution. I'm tired of 'wait and see', and I think a lot of you are too. When facing challenges, we work harder and fight to win.

The 115th Congress welcomes the largest Congressional Black Caucus in history, with 49 members; the largest Congressional Hispanic Caucus in history, with 31 members; the largest Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus in history, with 18 members; and a growing LGBT Caucus that has influence and prominence. It is a silver lining in a dark time, but I think we can build on these successes. Our caucus is diverse and energetic, and we must provide all of our Members the tools they need to fight back against the harmful policies of the President-Elect and this Republican Congress.

There will be so many important battles over the next Congress – Medicare, the Affordable Care Act, women's health, the environment, voting rights and Dodd-Frank will all be under attack. I will continue working to give every Member a voice when crafting a strategy in how to win this war. We're stronger when everyone participates.

I appreciate your consideration of my request and I would be honored to serve you. If you have any questions, or advice, please call me directly at (202) 225-6131.

Respectfully,


TONY CÁRDENAS
Member of Congress