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**CONTACT: Will Potter**  
**(202) 822-7823, wpotter@nea.org**

## **NEA votes to endorse Sonia Sotomayor's nomination to the Supreme Court**

WASHINGTON—The National Education Association Board of Directors voted today to endorse Judge Sonia Sotomayor's nomination to the Supreme Court. The NEA is joined by leading national organizations, from civil rights organizations to the Fraternal Order of Police, in supporting Sotomayor. The U.S. Senate will begin confirmation hearings in mid-July.

The following can be attributed to NEA President Dennis Van Roekel:

“If confirmed, Sotomayor would bring more federal judicial experience to the Supreme Court than any justice in 100 years, and more overall judicial experience than anyone confirmed for the Supreme Court in the past 70 years. She would replace Justice Souter as the only justice with experience as a trial judge, and she has handed down decisions on a range of complex legal and constitutional issues.

“In addition to her professional experience, she brings a unique set of personal experiences to the Supreme Court. Her father, a factory worker with a third-grade education, died when Sotomayor was 9 years old. At an early age, her mother instilled in Sotomayor and her brother a belief in the power of education. Driven by an indefatigable work ethic, and rising to the challenge of managing a diagnosis of juvenile diabetes, Sotomayor excelled in school. Her commitment to education, both in her professional and personal life, is one we would all do well to follow.”

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*The National Education Association is the nation's largest professional employee organization, representing 3.2 million elementary and secondary teachers, higher education faculty, education support professionals, school administrators, retired educators and students preparing to become teachers*