

**Excerpts from Letters of Support Sent to the Senate Labor and Human Resources
Committee on Behalf of Secretary of Labor Designate Alexis M. Herman**

Labor and Business

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations
John Sweeney, President

“Alexis Herman is a wonderful choice for Secretary of Labor, and we look forward to working closely with her to put worker interests at the top of the nation’s agenda. Over the years she has had an excellent relationship with many union leaders in addition to myself. I know she is committed to putting together a strong team to work for good jobs, justice and dignity for America’s working families.”

MCI Communications Corporation
Bert Roberts, Jr., Chairman

“During her tenure as Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Public Liaison, Alexis served a critical role in enabling open dialogue between the President and the private sector on issues of national policy. The contact that I and my business associates had with Alexis demonstrated to us that she worked intensely both to ensure better understanding by the business community of the President’s policies but also to permit the views of business to reach the White House as it considered how best to meet national challenges. That is, in my judgment, a test of leadership: How to conduct an inclusive process that listens to varied opinion and works to build consensus while advancing the President’s key goals.”

National Education Association
Bob Chase, President

“From her work as a Job Training and Placement Coordinator with Catholic Social Services, to her leadership as Assistant to the President, Ms. Herman has shown her capacity to build coalitions and forge strong partnerships among varied interests, including the labor, business, and education communities. We believe this vision and commitment to consensus-building is essential if we are to adequately prepare both new and seasoned workers for the challenges of the 21st century.”

Eastman Kodak Company
George Fisher, Chairman & CEO

“I believe that Ms. Herman is a fair-minded advocate, uniquely qualified to effectively represent the labor constituency. At the same time, I know that she also has the broader perspective on labor matters to understand and assist business’ need for an educated, highly skilled and appropriately compensated workforce. Her background and experience will enable her to support policies that will be favorable to workers who want to help American businesses compete successfully at home and abroad.”

Service Employees International Union
Andrew Stern, International President

"[But] it is not Ms. Herman's unswerving advocacy of employment rights for all workers alone that qualifies her for this crucial nomination. It is her ability, proven over a lifetime, to face the most difficult challenges and to translate abstract theories into working programs for real people. Ms. Herman is a coalition-builder. She has proven herself able to work with organized labor, business, government, and workers from every background to produce unique solutions for the most difficult problems. SEIU believes that America stands today at a crossroads crucial to the future of our economy and our nation. We believe that Ms. Herman is the person for these times."

Small Business Legislative Council
John Satagaj, President

"Based on her exceptional performance, we have every confidence that Alexis will bring that competence and fairness to the Department of Labor. I think you will find many others in the business community who share this view of Alexis' performance in the Public Liaison office."

Procter & Gamble
R.L. Wehling, Senior Vice President

"Over a period of several years beginning in the mid-1980's, A.M. Herman & Associates provided overall consulting services focusing on the areas of diversity, employee development and retention, and leadership development. Their work was very well received, and key elements of it continue to be an important part of our Company's operation. Ms. Herman commanded the respect of upper management and all levels of our management employees in the Product Development, Manufacturing and Engineering Divisions."

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO
Gerald McEntee, International President

"No one knows better than myself the importance of collaboration and cooperation among workers and their employers as we all wrestle with the challenges of the ever-changing workplace. I believe that Ms. Herman's extraordinary and successful experience in building public awareness and support for the critical public policy issues facing this nation will serve her well as she crafts solutions and charts new directions for our workplaces, bringing together both employees and employers."

Xerox

Paul Allaire, Chairman & CEO

"...She [Ms. Herman] has made certain that all opinions are heard and policy decisions are guided by both fact and wisdom. Alexis' responsiveness and results are that much more remarkable given the many competing constituencies demanding her time and attention. Her ability to find common ground and honestly communicate opposing views and opinions will serve her well as the new Secretary of Labor."

Allied Signal

Larry Bossidy, Chairman & CEO

"...I have had the opportunity to work with Ms. Herman on several occasions during her previous service as Director of Public Liaison for the White House. I am convinced that she would bring to the position an informed grasp of labor policy issues, a skill in making the processes of government work, and a mind that is open to reasonable argument from all sides."

Personal Letters of Support

Patricia Caraher, OP

The Sinsinawa Dominicans, Southern Province

"I have known Ms. Alexis Herman since 1962 when she was a student of mine in high school. We have been friends ever since. During her high school days, it was eminently clear that Alexis was an exceptional leader among her peers. Then, I was in awe of her sense of the whole community, her ability to positively touch the lives of so many people, and her ability to make a difference by energizing a group..."

Rosemary Winder Strange, A.C.S.W., Executive Director
Catholic Charities

"Most notable was Ms. Herman's work with tenants at the Roger Williams Public Housing Project. She negotiated between tenants and the housing authority in efforts to assist the residents to take more responsibility for their grounds, buildings and equipment. When she learned that the Laborers' International Union at Ingall's Shipbuilding, Inc. in Pascagoula, Mississippi was opening up training opportunities for minority youth, she got her clients over there, even though Pascagoula is more than forty miles away. She worked out a transportation plan for the young trainees, none of whom had access to cars. When the youth began earning money at a level which neither they nor their families were accustomed, Ms. Herman initiated sessions on money management for them and their families. At the end of the year there were more youth from Mobile in the Pascagoula training program than were from the office established for that purpose in Pascagoula. The Union was so impressed with Ms. Herman's work and accomplishments, that when they opened an office in Atlanta to assist minority women to enter the trades, they pursued her to direct the project."

Ray Marshall
Former Secretary of Labor, Carter Administration

"I followed Ms. Herman's work very carefully and was sufficiently impressed with her managerial skills, intelligence, ability to work with a variety of groups and, above all, her ability to succeed even under adverse conditions, that I selected her to direct the Women's Bureau when I became Secretary of Labor in 1977...Ms. Herman is one of those rare people who has excelled in every position she has had. The words that best describe her are that she gets things done. She is especially good in translating plans and ideas into working programs. She is a tough-minded manager who expects much from those who work with her, but she is able to create harmonious relations between individuals and groups that have not always worked together. She also has strong learning as well as interpersonal skills and is an excellent communicator. She has the highest personal integrity and has been a long-time advocate of both strong families and the need for good employment opportunities for workers, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds. I have no doubt at all that she will be a superb Secretary of Labor and therefore recommend her very strongly and without reservation."

Aurelia Stanley
Placement, Black Women's Employment Program

"...I recall that Ms. Herman advised me of the wisdom of "getting my foot in the door" first and foremost. From there, she said the rest would be up to me. I took her advice - partly because of the impression she made on me. She was a model of the kind of person I knew would make an impact in this world - one who was competent, confident, and committed. After taking the position at General Motors, my effort to move into the labor relations area which had never employed a female, let alone an African-American female, met with some resistance. Frustrated and disappointed, I sought advice from Ms. Herman and with her guidance and support was successful in becoming that facility's first woman in labor relations. I credit Ms. Herman as being a key factor in my rise to my current position as the top human resources professional in the largest, most respected voluntary health organization in the world, The American Cancer Society, Inc...Her career successes prove that she is a visionary, and a demonstrated leader who will provide the same in her term as Secretary of Labor."

Beverly Lyle
Minority Women Employment Program, Houston, TX (1973)

"I currently work for NationsBank as a Senior Vice President. My status in Corporate America is a direct result of Alexis Herman and the influence she had on my earlier career life...I clearly owe all that I am today to Alexis' leadership and guidance. I was taught how to manage people, finances and circumstances. I left the organization recognizing that I had skills that were transferable and marketable. I fit the profile of the over 10,000 women we placed."

National Organizations

Black Leadership Forum

Yvonne Scruggs, Executive Director

“Alexis M. Herman’s qualifications for the position of Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor are impeccable and peerless. No other potential candidates, and few other prominent executives, offer the rich credentials and tenured experience, with workers’ issues, opportunities and needs, which she offers.”

Business and Professional Women / USA

Dianne Studer, Cindy Winckler, Anna Vacca, Candace Butler, Former National Presidents

“As the leading advocate for working women, BPW/USA is keenly interested in ensuring that the nation’s labor secretary is of the highest caliber. We believe the appropriate candidate must be articulate, forward-thinking, a skilled negotiator, and an effective administrator. We know from personal experience that Alexis Herman possesses all of these qualities in abundance.”

American Hospital Association

Richard Davidson, President

“Part of what makes Alexis special is her unique background which includes a variety of professional experiences at both the community level, and in Washington, that would enable her to make a very valuable contribution in the areas of employment and training, and working to create productive working environments. As Director of the White House Office of Public Liaison we can tell you from firsthand experience that she has demonstrated an ability to work cooperatively with various constituency groups, and has been very effective in developing effective coalitions among organizations that typically do not share the same positions.”

Leadership Conference on Civil Rights

Wade Henderson, Executive Director

“Ms. Herman also possesses an important capacity to forge cooperative approaches to solving important problems, which should serve her well as the Secretary of Labor. She is a coalition builder. In her work with Catholic Social Services, Ms. Herman helped break down barriers to employment for women and people of color by learning the needs of companies and seeking input from a variety of sources before deciding on a particular course of action, but she can also be decisive when necessary. She appreciates the importance of consensus, but she is not afraid to lead.”

Center for Policy Alternatives

Linda Tarr-Whelan, President/CEO

“As our country prepares for the 21st Century, Alexis brings the skills, experience and relationships needed to be a very effective Secretary of Labor. She has shown her ability to bring

together the private, non-profit and public sectors to achieve the goals of opportunity for all working people, workforce development and economic growth. I strongly urge her confirmation."