



Congressman Pedro R. Pierluisi
Statement As Prepared For Delivery
One-Minute Speech to Commemorate the 58th Anniversary of the Puerto Rico Constitution
July 22, 2010

Mr./Madame Speaker:

58 years ago this Sunday, the Constitution of Puerto Rico took effect.

As we mark this occasion, it is appropriate to reflect on the progress that Puerto Rico has made in fulfilling the aspirations expressed in our Constitution—and to acknowledge the distance we have left to travel.

Our Constitution reflects the values and dreams of our people. Its words reinforce our commitment to democracy and equality, and confirm that we treasure both our Puerto Rican roots and our American citizenship.

Over time, the bonds between Puerto Rico and the United States have grown stronger. Like so many American stories, this is a chronicle of progress, evolution, and the steady march towards a more perfect union.

But the aspirations of the Constitution have yet to be realized. There will be no democracy for Puerto Rico until its people have a real voice in making the national laws that govern their lives. And there will be no equality so long as they can be treated differently than their fellow citizens simply because they live in a territory.

Today, I renew my pledge to fight so that, one day, democracy and equality will become more than words on a page for the people of Puerto Rico. I know in my heart that this day will come.