



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Ruben Diaz

Senator Diaz's Letter to Attorney General Andrew Cuomo

RUBEN DIAZ August 12, 2009

| ISSUE: **LABOR**



Honorable Andrew Cuomo

Office of the Attorney General

The Capitol

Albany, NY 12224-0341

Dear Mr. Cuomo:

In response to the recent attention directed at the hiring and resignation as the Director of the New York State Intergovernmental Relations of Senator Pedro Espada's son, Pedro G. Espada, I am respectfully calling for an investigation by the Office of the New York State Attorney General to determine the number of family members of state legislators, commissioners and department heads currently on the New York State Legislature's payroll.

Although the State Public Officers Law forbids nepotism and forbids officials from participating in "any decision to hire, promote, discipline or discharge a relative," countless family members and friends of State officials have been and are routinely hired. Thus, I am asking your office to determine whether Senator Espada's son is the only family member of an elected representative of the New York State Legislature to obtain a job with the State. Also, investigate whether any family member of the previous Republican Majority in the New York State Senate obtained employment with the State.

If there a history of nepotism exist in New York State, the focus should not be solely on Senator Espada. If he must abide by the rules, then every New York State official must do the same.

I look forward to your reply and findings.

Sincerely,

Senator Reverend Ruben Diaz