

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Shape California's Future](#)
Subject: Re: Candidate Angela Meriquez Vazquez
Date: Saturday, November 2, 2019 11:34:58 AM

Panel Members:

I am very pleased to write this letter in support of the candidate Angela Mariquez Vazquez.

I have known Ms. Vazquez for over a decade now. We worked very closely together on issues relating to young children in the foster care system in Los Angeles County. During that time she produced a remarkable white paper describing the extremely complex barriers young children in the system and their caregivers face in qualifying for and receiving subsidized childcare. The paper was both highly detailed and highly accessible, and included important recommendations for changes in policy and practice. I continue to use this piece in a course I teach at the USC school of social work. It serves both as important information and as a model for driving change.

I have served over the years on a number of committees with Ms. Vasquez. In those experiences, I have found that she has three qualities important to this commission: first, she always does her homework and is well informed; second, she is a passionate advocate for equity; and yet, 1/3 strength is her ability to hear, respect, and stay in relationship with those with other perspectives.

In the last 33 years, I have been fortunate to be involved in a number of County-and State-wide efforts, mostly involving education and/or young children. These have given me some insight into the diversity and complexity of our state. I can easily envision Miss Vasquez playing a valuable role in our next round of redistricting efforts.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions about Ms. Vasquez or my qualifications in reviewing her appropriateness for the commission.

Sincerely,
Richard Cohen, Ph.D.

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