

June 28, 2019

Dear Story County Central Committee Members:

We Latinx community leaders from across Iowa are writing this letter to extend our heartfelt support to Jamet Colton to be the Democratic nominee for the House District 46 special election. You have several qualified candidates to consider, but we could not let this opportunity pass without sharing the historic nature of Jamet's candidacy.

Although the Latinx community is Iowa's largest racial or ethnic minority, we have never had a Latina or Latino elected to the Iowa Legislature. There are more than 180,000 Latinos and Latinas in Iowa and the median age is thirteen years younger than the rest of the state. Our community is young and growing and prepared to be a larger part of the future of Iowa. But to make our voice heard we need representation and you can provide that.

Jamet Colton was born and raised in Santiago, Chile and has made Ames her home since 2000 with her husband, Chase, and son, Tiago. She celebrated becoming a U.S. Citizen in 2014 and three years later was elected to the Ames School Board. Currently she works as a Spanish language interpreter at Primary Health Care, a non-profit community health center dedicated to serving individuals who experience barriers to receiving care.

She is an inspired community leader who serves on the Ames Pride Board and the Ames Education Foundation. She was honored for her work to build bridges in the community and promote diversity, inclusion and equity with the 2017 Ames Humanitarian Award.

We believe it is long past due to see a member of the Iowa Latinx community serving in the Legislature. Because of her track record of progressive leadership in the Ames community and her deep sense of service we feel that Jamet is someone we can count on and the best candidate for House District 46. We ask you to consider her many qualifications and the potential to make Iowa history with her selection.

Sincerely,

Rob Barron  
Des Moines

Heather Anderson  
Des Moines

Emilia Marroquin  
Storm Lake

Karyn Finn  
Hudson

Christian Ucles  
Windsor Heights

Maria Alcivar  
Ames

Brenda Phongsavanh  
Ankeny

Wendy Vasquez  
Des Moines

Dawn Martinez Oropeza  
Des Moines

Omar Padilla  
Des Moines

Jesse Ramirez

Alejandro Alfaro-Santiz  
Des Moines

Ila Plasencia  
West Des Moines

Paula Plasencia  
West Des Moines

Nathan Blake  
Des Moines

Lilián Sánchez  
West Des Moines

Joe Gonzalez  
Des Moines

Hazel Soto  
Des Moines

Isaac Medina  
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David Munoz  
Urbandale

Pablo Ortega  
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Joe Henry  
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Alejandro Orozco  
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Adriana Reyes Schnoebelen

Darcie Vandegrift  
Des Moines

Jessica Padilla  
Iowa City

Edgar Ortiz  
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