

# News from Congresswoman NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

Representing New York's 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District • Brooklyn, Manhattan & Queens  
Chairwoman, House Small Business Committee

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## **Velázquez on Puerto Rico Civil Code Legislation**

*Washington, DC* – Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez (D-NY) released the following statement regarding legislation in Puerto Rico that would alter the Island's Civil Code, which passed the legislature Thursday:

“The Governor should veto this bill. It would erode the rights of women and constitutes a direct threat to the rights of our LGBTQ communities. For the transgender community, this bill would institute needless and dehumanizing hurdles making it harder for people changing their name to comport with their gender. At a time when we have seen horrifying acts of transphobia on the Island, this sends exactly the wrong message. The bill also includes language that redefines personhood in a manner that could ultimately undermine a woman's right to choose.

“This backward thinking legislation should be rejected immediately by the Governor.”

In November, Velázquez [previously called for the legislature](#) to vote down this bill.

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