

## About Eva Bermúdez Zimmerman

At an early age, Eva and her two siblings were among the 18 children selected as plaintiffs in the Sheff case, which sought to bring racial integration to the Hartford region's public schools.

Eva is the youngest child of activist parents who migrated from Puerto Rico and settled in Hartford. She attended one of the new regional magnet schools that opened in response to the Sheff lawsuit.

During her time in school she loved learning, finding passions in engineering, debate, and science. Zimmerman finished high school early at age 16. After high school Zimmerman was selected by Rotary International to go on a humanitarian service project that would bring her to the Favelas of Brazil. There she became fluent in Portuguese. Growing up in a bilingual community she became fluent in Spanish as well. Her time in Brazil led her to a career in activism, a career that has fought against poverty, for a wider access to healthcare, and labor rights. "They want someone who is not a coward, someone who is standing up to corporations, someone who is standing up to anyone who is not focusing on safer schools, to anyone who's not there having conversations about jobs, vocational training, infrastructure opportunities, sustainable energy," she says.

Eva first got involved with direct grassroots organizing by canvassing with (CONNPIRG) Connecticut Public Interest Research Group organizing for environmental awareness. Those opportunities fueled her desire to help be part of changing her community rather than the sidelines. She's volunteered for community groups like CSS/CON one of the regional zoning groups in Hartford serving as Treasurer, Connecticut Center for a New Economy, Connecticut Citizen Action Group and Danbury Rising to name a few.

Eva is a fierce champion for Connecticut people. She served in Washington under Congressman Rangel through the Córdova/Fernós Program, managed a state senate campaign, served on the legislative council in Newtown and on the Democratic State Central Committee where party stalwarts recognized her leadership and potential.

In 2015, Eva was awarded Latina Citizen of the year by the Connecticut General Assembly for her outstanding activist achievement in single handedly navigating 10,000 Connecticut residents to health insurance through the Access Health Marketplace. She held enrollment fairs throughout the state during her weekends off to connect as many people as possible with the opportunity to be covered by affordable health care plans. In the same year, she received the Ella T. Grasso Women's Leadership Award by the Democratic Party for her leadership.

Eva recently stepped up to run for the role of Connecticut's Lt. Governor. Bringing her understanding of legislative processes, and the mechanics of Access Health, she was well equipped for the job. Eva made her first run for statewide office after winning support of 40% of delegates to the state Democratic convention in May. Although she did not win the election, Eva was the first Latina to make primary for statewide office in Connecticut. She did so with endorsements from Connecticut AFL-CIO, AFTCT, SEIU, United Auto Workers, Working Families Party, Our Revolution and CCAG . Since the election, Eva has continued to commit to creating lasting change for Connecticut residents

With her professional experience working on stimulus package legislation in Congress, performing labor negotiations as an SEIU Child Care Director, and as a former Newtown Legislative Council member, Eva is committed to improving and fighting for our communities.