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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 24, 1969

President Richard M. Nixon The White House Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

On November 14, 1968, Dr. Hector P. Garcia was named as an appointee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights.

As the first Mexican American to serve on the Civil Rights Commission. Dr. Garcia brought to the position an extraordinary knowledge and sensitivity in the civil rights problems of minority Americans. In addition to his active medical practice, Dr. Garcia has tirelessly pursued the task of improving life for millions of Spanish Surnamed Americans.

After World War II, in which he served as a Major in the Army Medical Corps, Dr. Garcia began his efforts to organize returning Mexican American veterans in a drive toward better educational and employment opportunities. The American GI Forum was thus founded and has since grown into a national prganization that has given encouragement and strength to countless Spanish-speaking Americans.

In 1955, Dr. Garcia was the recipient of the Outstanding Democracy Forward award presented by the Texas Conference of Negro Organizations; in 1961, he served as a representative of the President with the American Delegation in the West Indies; and in 1967, Dr. Garcia served as a special representative to the United Nations with the rank of anhassador. During this period. Dr. Garcia distinguished our delegation by delivering, for the first time in our U.N. participation, a major speech in the Spanish language.

With this brief outline, I hope to convey the wide latitude of Dr. Carcia's commitments and the great resourcefulness which he brings to the Civil Rights post. Since January 23, 1969, when Dr. Garcia's appointment was withdrawn from the Senate for reconsideration by your administration, the Mexican American community has anxiously awaited a final determination. I respectfully recommend that this review be completed as soon as possible and that Dr. Carcia's name be resubmitted to the Senate for confirmation.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Montoya bc: Dr. Hector P. Garcia United States Senator Commissioner Vicente T. Ximines

JIM:asn