

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

June 21, 1974

Dr. Hector C. Garcia  
1315 Bright  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Hector:

I received your telegram concerning the anti-busing amendments to the education bill.

As you know, the Gurney amendment, which was identical to the House bill, failed by a vote of 47-46.

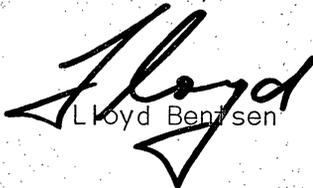
During the debate on S. 1539, the Senate passed an amendment which I introduced, providing some \$225 million over the next four years in incentive grants to those States which adopt statewide strategies to increase financial aid to poorer school districts.

I believe that equal educational opportunity hinges on efforts by the States and the Federal Government to overcome the wide discrepancy that exists in Texas and other States between the financial ability of poor school districts and those of their wealthier neighbors to provide a quality education for all children. We cannot be content with systems of school finance that penalize the child according to where he happens to live.

In my view, we are better served by seeking to eradicate the conditions that make poorer school districts unable to compete with neighboring districts than by concentrating resources on transporting students from one district to another. Too often the busing issue becomes a burdensome side issue, diverting us from our principal goal, which is improving education for all of our children.

I am pleased that you contacted me on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

  
Lloyd Bentsen