

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 1, 1974

Hector P. Garcia, M.D.
1315 Bright Street
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Doctor Garcia:

As you are aware, a member of my Austin staff recently had the opportunity to monitor a presentation you made in Austin on a comparison of achievement scores of students, at different grade levels, who were enrolled in the schools of the Corpus Christi Independent School District. Larry Combest, whom you met and visited with following your presentation, apprised me of your remarks and also forwarded to me the charts and material that he had received from you.

Since I am very much interested in both the short-term and the long-term education problems of the Spanish-speaking in our State--child, youth, and adult, alike, I certainly understand your concern and share your dismay over the significant differences in achievement scores that are reflected in the charts I have reviewed.

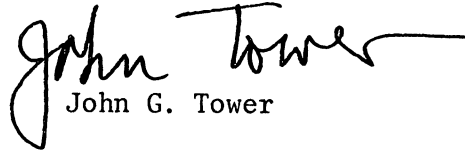
As United States Senator, I have an equal responsibility to all Texans. Yet, in this critical area of the formal educational process, the problems of my Spanish-speaking constituency have been even more severe than those experienced by any other segment of my constituency. In my view, this has required a special effort on behalf of the Spanish-speaking community designed thereby to provide simply the same equal opportunity that is available to all Americans. Since I have been pleased to undertake various such efforts, and since you have been personally involved for many years in the social and education problems and progress of the Spanish-speaking, I am enclosing some information that perhaps will be of interest to you.

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With respect to my letter to Dr. Edgar, I wish to add this note. Following Dr. Edgar's initial written interim reply to me, my office has received additional telephonic interims from the Texas Education Agency. TEA has assured my office that it fully intends to provide me with the comments I solicited earlier this year, however, it has also suggested that it would be more appropriate for such comments to be provided to me by the new Commissioner, Dr. Brockett. As of this writing, I do not believe any final report has been received by my office.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,


John G. Tower

JGT:dm
Enclosures