



*League of United Latin American Citizens*  
COUNCIL NO.1

November 10, 1988

VICTOR M. GONZALEZ, JR.  
PRESIDENT

Sister Carol Ann Jokerst, CCVI  
Chairperson  
Board of Trustees  
Spohn Hospital  
613 Elizabeth Street  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78404

Dear Sister Jokerst:

As President of Lulac Council #1, I write to express concern regarding the absence of Hispanics on the Spohn Hospital Board of Trustees and the lack of Hispanics on the Administration Staff for Spohn Hospital.

I speak with all candor when I express to you my deep disappointment that Spohn Hospital is not showing a greater sensitivity to the placement of Hispanics in its Administration and other decision making bodies. Spohn Hospital now serves a community that is predominantly Hispanic. I am sure that the omission of Hispanics is not an intentional act. However, the perception in the Hispanic community is that Spohn Hospital is not working diligently to expand its policy making structure to include Hispanic representation and input.

Lulac is confident that Spohn Hospital receives federal financial support through the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The receipt and use of federal dollars subjects Spohn Hospital to the applicability and enforcement of federal laws. Lulac's interpretation is that Spohn Hospital cannot through omission or commission exclude Hispanic Americans from decision making entities which make daily decisions affecting Hispanic staff, Hispanic patient load and the Hispanic community, in general, of South Texas.

Further, there is the possibility that Spohn Hospital may have received grant monies for building and expansion. Under the Hillburton Act, it is Lulac's understanding that a certain segment of these funds must be set aside for indigent health care. Please advise if Spohn Hospital is impacted or not by the Hillburton Act.

This letter is written in a spirit of good will and with the intention of resolving a problem that has long concerned our Hispanic community. Spohn Hospital has generated a wealth of good will over the span of many generations.

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However, as we approach the 1990's, it is imperative that the Hispanic community not only fill hospital beds but that we also fill hospital board rooms as decision makers. Please look favorably upon the expansion of the Board of Trustees to include Hispanic representation and advise our organization and the community of Corpus Christi of what efforts are being made for the recruitment and retention of Hispanics in key administration positions.

The indifference or neglect of this problem could possibly subject Spohn Hospital to the loss of federal funding under appropriate federal statutes.

Respectfully submitted,



Victor Gonzalez  
President of Lulac Council #1

VG:sv

- cc: news media
- cc: Department of Justice  
Civil Rights Division  
P.O. Box 65968  
Washington, D.C. 20035
- cc: Texas Attorney General  
Jim Mattox  
P.O. Box 12548  
Supreme Court Building  
Austin, Texas 78711

SPOHN HOSPITAL

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