

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 26, 1983

Dear Friend:

Yesterday, President Reagan announced his intention to dismiss three Commissioners of the six-member U.S. Civil Rights Commission, including the Commission's only Hispanic, Blandina Cardenas Ramirez, a San Antonio educator. I am deeply concerned that President Reagan's new appointments do not include an Hispanic Commissioner, and have asked the President to reconsider his proposal.

If the Senate confirms the President's nominations, the Commission will not include an Hispanic for the first time since 1968. I find that unacceptable. The Commission was created in 1957 to combat discrimination and denial of equal protection under the law because of race, religion, sex, age, or national origin. It is therefore important that all groups affected by discrimination in our society, particularly a group as large as the Hispanic population, be represented on the Commission.

The U.S. Civil Rights Commission, having no enforcement authority, relies exclusively upon the persuasiveness of its findings and recommendations. It is therefore important that the Commission maintain its political independence so that its future effectiveness is not reduced.

Sincerely,

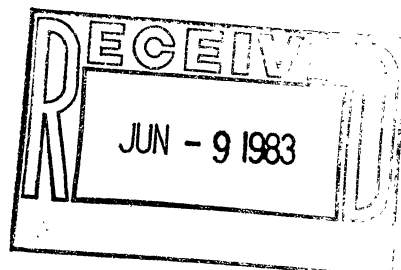


Lloyd Bentsen

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5751933-5AW
DR. HECTOR GARCIA
AMERICAN G.I. FORUM
1315 BRIGHT
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 78405



Lloyd Bentsen
U. S. S.

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