

Hector P. Garcia, M.D.

1315 BRIGHT
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78405

Low of: cultural
Veterans and
Mexican Amer.

27th Congressional District

PHONES:

OFFICE: 512/883-1789

EXCHANGE: 512/884-0661

REMARKS BY DR. HECTOR P. GARCIA
BEFORE THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING
APRIL 6, 1990

MR. CHAIRMAN, I AM PRIVILEGED TO SPEAK BEFORE THIS COMMITTEE TODAY TO SHARE MY THOUGHTS WITH YOU REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF HISPANIC REPRESENTATION OF A PREDOMINATELY HISPANIC DISTRICT.

I LIVE IN THE 27TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS, WHICH IS ROUGHLY 60%* HISPANIC IN POPULATION. SINCE 1982, WE HAVE BEEN REPRESENTED IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BY MY FRIEND, SOLOMON ORTIZ, WHO, LIKE THE VAST MAJORITY OF HIS DISTRICT, SHARES A PROUD HISPANIC HERITAGE. 608

TODAY, I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING THE CURRENT BOUNDARIES OF THE 27TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT. THE FIVE COUNTIES THAT COMPRISE THE 27TH DISTRICT ARE SMALL COUNTIES WHOSE POPULATION SHARES MANY COMMON INTERESTS, AS WILL AS NEEDS. ALL FIVE COUNTIES ARE BORDERED ON THE EAST BY THE GULF OF MEXICO, IN WHICH MANY OF THE PEOPLE LIVING IN THESE COUNTIES MAKE THEIR LIVING.

1986 Thornburg vs Gingles
THE CURRENT GEOGRAPHY IS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE 1982 VOTING RIGHTS ACT AND THE SUPREME COURT DECISION IN THORNBURG V. GINGLES, MANDATING THAT STATE LEGISLATURES CREATE "MINORITY DISTRICTS" IN AREAS WHERE THERE IS SUFFICIENT MINORITY POPULATION CONCENTRATION TO DO SO.

24 November
CLEARLY, THAT WAS THE CASE IN SOUTH TEXAS. FOR MANY YEARS, EVEN DECADES, THE GOOD PEOPLE OF SOUTH TEXAS WERE PROPORTIONATELY OUT OF SYNC WITH THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES. THANKS TO THE 1982 VOTING RIGHTS ACT, THAT NON REFLECTIVE REPRESENTATION HAS BEEN REPAIRED, AND A MEMBER OF THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY REPRESENTS THIS DISTRICT.

THE CURRENT GEOGRAPHY OF THE 27TH IS AN EVEN MORE DIRECT RESULT OF THE TEXAS STATE SUPREME COURT'S INTERVENTION IN 1982, WHEN THEY REALIZED THAT THE CONFIGURATION DRAWN UP AS RESULT OF THE 1980 CENSUS WAS STILL DISPROPORTIONATE, AND THEY NARROWED THE DISTRICT TO THESE FIVE COASTAL COUNTIES.

I ALSO HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT THE SEPARATION OF CORPUS CHRISTI, WHICH BOASTS A LARGE HISPANIC COMMUNITY, FROM THE REST OF THE 27TH. I BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO DILUTE THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY IN CORPUS BY INCLUDING THE CITY IN ANOTHER DISTRICT. THAT ACTION WOULD BE UNFAIR TO THE HISPANIC POPULATION IN CORPUS CHRISTI AND CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF THE 1982 VOTING RIGHTS ACT.

Hector P. Garcia, M.D.

1315 BRIGHT
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78405

PHONES:

OFFICE: 512/883-1789

EXCHANGE: 512/884-0661

WE ARE A DISTRICT OF PREDOMINATELY MEXICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE AND WE ARE NOW REPRESENTED IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS BY A GENTLEMAN WHO IS ALSO OF MEXICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE. SOLOMON ORTIZ HAS ALWAYS BEEN FAIR IN HIS REPRESENTATION OF THIS DISTRICT, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE PERCEPTION OF EQUALITY IN SOUTH TEXAS IS VOLUMINUS BY SIMPLE VIRTUE OF HIS HERITAGE.

TRUE, FAIR AND REFLECTIVE REPRESENTATION WAS THE INTENTION OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT, AS WELL AS THE COURT DECISION IN THORNBURG V. GINGLES. *Thornburg vs Gingles*

IN CLOSING, LET ME SAY THAT THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT ACCOMPLISHED ITS INTENDED PURPOSE IN 1982, AND THIS DISTRICT IS A SHINING RESULT OF THE LETTER AND THE SPIRIT OF THAT LAW. THE REPAIR WAS MADE IN 1982; THE CONFIGURATION OF THE 27TH HAS WORKED WELL AND SATISFACTORILY FOR ALL HER CITIZENS.

AS THE FIRST HISPANIC TO SERVE AS A COMMISSIONER OF THE U.S. COMMISSION AND CIVIL RIGHTS AND AS A SPONSOR OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION AND A LONG TIME FIGHTER FOR CIVIL RIGHTS, I BELIEVE THAT THIS DISTRICT SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO STAY AS IT IS.

FURTHERMORE, SOLOMON ORTIZ HAS SERVED HIS DISTRICT WELL AND HAS MADE MANY TRIPS TO THE SPANISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES AND THUS HAS SERVED HIS DISTRICT WELL AND THUS HIS COUNTRY WITH DISTINCTION.

PERSONALLY, AS A VETERAN I AM WORRIED ABOUT THE LACK OF ASSISTANCE THE GOVERNMENT IS GIVING THE DISABLED VETERANS. WE HAVE HAD AND STILL CONTINUE TO HAVE PROBLEMS WITH VETERANS HOSPITALIZATION AND TRANSPORTATION.

CONGRESSMAN ORTIZ WAS RESPONSIBLE IN ESTABLISHING THE NEW CENTER *Veteran*
IN CORPUS CHRISTI. HE JOINED OTHER CONGRESSMEN IN ESTABLISHING ANOTHER ONE IN THE VALLEY.

TRANSPORTATION FOR DISABLED VETERANS TO THE AUDIE MURPHY HOSPITAL HAS BEEN NEGLECTED. THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HAS FAILED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE TRANSPORTATION. THE NUECES COUNTY VETERANS HAD TO PROVIDE OUR OWN VETERANS VAN. IN THE CAMERON COUNTY WE ARE ASKING FOR ASSISTANCE TO GET ANOTHER VAN. CONGRESSMAN SOLOMON ORTIZ IS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE PROBLEMS AND HAS ASSISTED US AND CONTINUES TO ASSIST US WITH THESE PROBLEMS. A
CHANGE WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO OUR PLANS.

LAS "COLONIAS" A THIRD WORLD POVERTY EXISTS TODAY IN THE SOUTHWEST UNITED STATES INVOLVING 3/4 MILLION OF OUR PEOPLE IN ABJECT POVERTY, WITHOUT SANITARY FACILITIES, WITHOUT DRINKING OR

Hector P. Garcia, M.D.

1315 BRIGHT
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78405

PHONES:
OFFICE: 512/883-1789
EXCHANGE: 512/884-0661

Secy Health + Human Services
Louis Sullivan

BATHING WATER, WITHOUT ELECTRICITY AND WITHOUT PAVED STREETS, THIS VALLEY OF POVERTY AND SUFFERING HAS TO BE CORRECTED. SOLOMON ORTIZ WITH THE COOPERATION OF CONGRESSMAN COLEMAN FORM EL PASO IS WORKING ON THIS PROBLEM AND HAS ENTERED LEGISLATION IN WASHINGTON. THIS IN SPITE OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, LOUIS SULLIVAN IN VISITING THE AREAS, THEY ARE STILL THERE. THEY ARE ALL OVER ORTIZ DISTRICT IN CAMERON COUNTY IN WILLACY ETC. HE IS HELPING. IN SPITE OF PRESIDENT BUSH'S REFUSAL TO MAKE THE LOANS TO THOSE PEOPLE IN LAS COLONIAS THEY STILL NEED THE MONEY. CONGRESSMAN ORTIZ CAN DELIVER THE HELP. 830 million

Home govt

THEREFORE, I DO RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT THE 27TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CONTINUE TO BE A SYMBOL OF THE AMERICAN JUSTICE IN ITS BEST.

I THANK THE COMMITTEE FOR THEIR TIME AND THEIR DILEGENCE.

THANK YOU,

H. P. Garcia

DR. HECTOR P. GARCIA

FOUNDER

AMERICAN GI FORUM AND

RECIPIENT OF THE

PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

*SOURCE: ELECTION DATA SERVICES, INC. TABLE (p. 51),
REDISTRICTING IN THE 1990S (1989, POPULATION REFERENCE BUREAU)

ENCL. 1. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE
1987

2. HUMANITARIAN OPERATION "LAS COLONIAS"