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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY
(CREATED PURSUANT TO S. RES. 359, 91ST CONGRESS)
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

September 9, 1971

Dear Dr. Garcia:

Thank you for your letter concerning discrimination against Mexican American children in the Corpus Christi school system.

I certainly agree with you that equal opportunity of education has in the past not been available to most of our Mexican American children, and this discrimination is of course as deplorable as discrimination against any racial, ethnic, or cultural group.

As you probably know, the original Corpus Christi desegregation plan was stayed by the District Court and that stay was reversed by the Fifth Circuit Court in New Orleans. Subsequently, Supreme Court Justice Black reinstated the stay, and at this point, the whole matter is pending appeal in the Circuit Court once more. The outcome of the appeal will determine the manner in which the Corpus Christi school system is finally desegregated. Until that time, any definite proposals and predictions are obviously premature.

The Select Committee on Equal Educational Opportunity, on which I serve, has held some very informative hearings on Mexican American education in an effort to focus attention on the need to provide equal educational opportunities for this segment of our population.

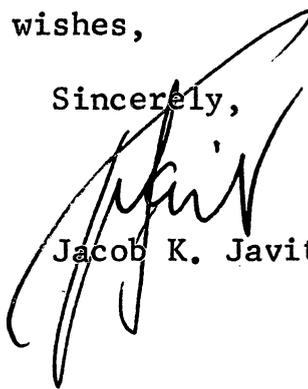
In addition, S. 1557, the Emergency School Aid and Quality Integrated Education Act of 1971, which was passed by the Senate and presently awaits a House vote, includes provisions specifically designed to provide bi-lingual and bi-cultural education.

I hope that from this legislation and from our Committee deliberations a national policy will emerge which can lay aside emotional rhetoric and root itself in educational objectives shared by all American children.

Your interest in this matter is appreciated.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Jacob K. Javits

Dr. Hector P. Garcia, Founder
American G.I. Forum of the United States
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