



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

Address Reply to the
Division Indicated
and Refer to Initials and Number

DSD:SPC:ph
DJ 169-74-34

27 JAN 1978

Dr. Hector P. Garcia
American G. I. Forum
1315 Bright Street
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia:

We have received your letter dated December 8, 1977, concerning the educational opportunity afforded to Mexican American and black students in the Corpus Christi Independent School District. In your letter you stated that the evidence of poor academic achievement by Mexican American and black pupils supports the allegation that those students are being denied their constitutional right to equal educational opportunity. You also referred to a letter from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) to the school district requesting a plan to bring the district into compliance with the bilingual education requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The specific matter you raised falls within the primary jurisdiction of HEW. That department currently is actively pursuing voluntary compliance by the School District with the requirements of the law as it affects educational opportunity for students with limited English-speaking ability. Should those efforts prove unsuccessful HEW can then refer the issue to this Department for litigation. Until that time we will be unable to take action directly affecting your complaint. On January 14, 1978, however, this Department filed a motion in United States v. State of Texas, Civil Action No. 5281, in United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas seeking implementation by the defendants in that case of a comprehensive plan to meet the requirements of federal law for the education of limited English-speaking children throughout the State of Texas.