



MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER
THE HOSPITAL

Office of the President

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October 16, 1990

Hector P. Garcia, M. D.
1315 Bright
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia:

Your letter from Senator Lloyd Bentsen will be distributed to the Board of Managers today and copies will be sent to the Nueces County Commissioners as you requested.

Early this morning I called the office of Senator Bentsen in Washington, D. C. to talk with his Chief Administrative Assistant, Michael Levy, and I expect him to return my call this afternoon.

The Congress is struggling with the budget deficit, but the plan to reduce MEDICARE payments to providers by \$60 billion over 5 years will be devastating to hospitals and physicians. It is anybody's guess how the budget crisis will be resolved, In the meantime, hospitals across the nation again find themselves operating on the basis of interim policy, but it bodes ill for the public hospital and those who practice in it. Increases in deductibles and in medical insurance(Part B) for the Medicare patient will result in a greater amount of uncompensated care for the public hospital. Obviously the Medicare patient, living on fixed, minimal income can not pay the increased costs for their health care and those costs will be greater charity care costs for Memorial Medical Center and, eventually, for the district.

Thank you for bringing the plight of the public hospital to the attention of Senator Bentsen and I will keep you informed of the result of my call to Mr. Levy.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,


Wheeler B. Lipes
President

cc: Board of Managers, NCHD