

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 2, 2005

Mr. Gerald A. Reynolds, Chair
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
624 Ninth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20425

Ms. Abigail Thernstrom, Vice Chair
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
624 Ninth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20425

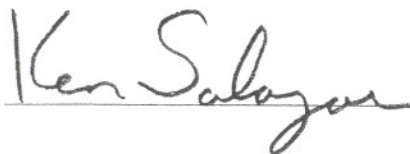
Dear Commissioners Reynolds and Thernstrom:

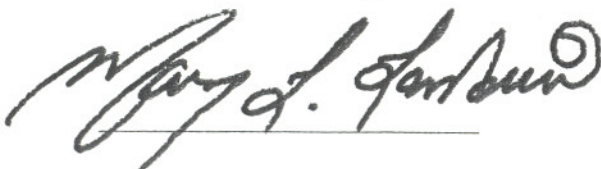
It has recently been brought to our attention that at its April 8, 2005 meeting the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights voted to close two of its six regional offices. We urge the Commission to carefully consider the potential impact these closures could have on safeguarding the civil rights of all Americans.

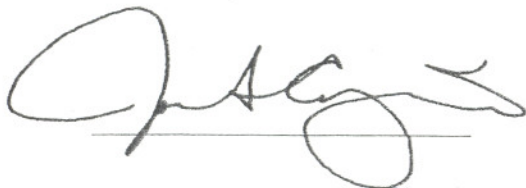
As you know, each of the six regional offices has several states under their jurisdiction and is charged with implementing the vital mission of the Commission. These offices operate with minimal staff that carries out many important duties, including investigating complaints of voter disenfranchisement; serving as a clearinghouse for information on citizen's civil rights and referring discrimination claims to appropriate entities; submitting reports, findings, and recommendations to the President and Congress; and supporting the work of federal advisory committees in each state within their region.

As Senators responsible for enacting a fiscally-sound annual federal budget, we applaud your efforts to save tax-payer dollars. However, we are concerned that your actions could hinder the Commission's ability to fulfill its mission. Therefore, we respectfully ask that the Commission consult with all interested parties before taking any action.

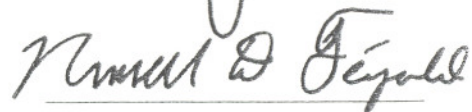
Sincerely,











John Johnson

Dick Durbin

Chris Dodd

Carl Tandy

Sam De

Max Baucus

Byron I. Morgan
