

THE SENATE OF TEXAS

STATE CAPITOL, 3S.5
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711
(512) 463-0127

1210 W. INTERSTATE 2, STE. 10
PHARR, TEXAS 78577
(956) 787-5227



7 NORTH PARK PLAZA
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS 78521
(956) 548-0227

700 FM 3168
RAYMONDVILLE, TEXAS 78580
(956) 689-1860, EXT. 230

SENATOR
EDDIE LUCIO, JR.

June 15, 2020

Aaron Demerson
Chairman, Texas Advisory Council on Cultural Affairs
Texas Workforce Commission
101 E 15th St
Austin, TX 78778-0001

Dear Chairman Demerson:

I respectfully write to you on behalf of racial and ethnic minorities that I represent who are seeking to improve their lives in our state. As Chairman of the Texas Advisory Council on Cultural Affairs in the Governor's Office, and as the Texas Workforce Commissioner for Employers, you have the profound ability to effectively address the challenging needs of our racial minority constituency, especially those in underserved and economically distressed areas. Under your leadership the Advisory Council, supported by employers and businesses in Texas, can truly be the catalyst of positive change to help millions of racial minorities improve their quality of life in our state.

When I authored Senate Bill 459 to establish the Advisory Council in 2015, I did so because the emerging Hispanic population (especially in the South Texas communities I represent) needed Texas' increased attention and focus. Community leaders in Cameron and Hidalgo Counties and I were convinced that our constituents would be greatly served by having an advisory entity within the executive branch advising the governor's office on the needs of our growing racial minority population. It was our hope, and my legislative intent, that the insight that would be provided would strengthen Texas' effort in setting policy priorities to address, and raise public awareness of, the needs of racial minorities. Today, as our state is going through unprecedented times, now -- more than ever -- racial minorities in Texas are looking for tangible actions that will assist their socio-economic advancement. That is why I respectfully seek your assistance as Chairman of the Advisory Council in guiding our state to improve the lives of racial minorities across our state.

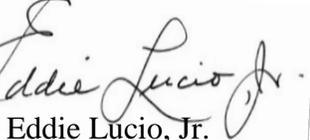
Being a graduate of one of the higher education institutions in the Senate District that I represent, Texas A&M Kingsville, you have seen the challenges that minorities in South Texas face. Living in an underrepresented, economically distressed region makes the possibilities for socio-economic advancements of my constituents much more difficult to achieve. That is why, during my tenure in the Texas Senate, I have fought to pass statutory reforms aimed at increasing the opportunities for improvement and growth for my constituents. From improving their ability to become homeowners, to strengthening the possibility of seeking a medical education in the Valley,

to increasing the resources for them to have clean, safe drinking water, to establishing the local pathways for them to pursue a career in the Aerospace industry, avenues for improving the quality of life of my constituents have been successfully established. These are among the reasons why I am proud to have successfully passed SB 459 into law.

It was my legislative intent in 2015, as it continues to be during these most difficult times that Texas is experiencing today, for the Advisory Council to encourage and support the continued, and consistent, progress of racial minorities in our state. I hope you agree that racial minorities could be greatly assisted by having the Advisory Council recommend innovative, deliberate, and profound initiatives that foster and engender the growth and socio-economic advancement of racial minorities in Texas. With your help, minorities can achieve meaningful positive change in the economy and the workforce, in their academic achievement, as well as in civic and political leadership. This can all happen if employers and businesses in our state support the Advisory Council's efforts. In a true public-private community effort, critical recommendations can be developed that will positively affect and support the changing demographic of Texas by creating new pathways for advancement for racial minorities. For example, new mentorships, targeted scholarships, specialized career-track work-study offerings, innovative increased minority business synergies, can all be created that will increase the quality of life of our racial minority constituency. Through your leadership roles in both the Advisory Council and in the Texas Workforce Commission, you can help tremendously improve the face of Texas by helping make it more reflective of today's changing demographics.

In conclusion, as an ex-officio member of the Advisory Council, I along with my office stand ready to assist you to ensure the continued growth and unwavering progress of racial minorities in Texas. With our joint determination to make Texas a better place for everyone, our Advisory Council can develop a series of robust recommendations for the upcoming 2021 Legislative Session. Together with businesses and employers in our state, in a synergistic manner, the Advisory Council can wholeheartedly meet the legislative intent of SB 459 while being the critical impetus to strengthen Texas' effort in profoundly improving the socio-economic standing of racial minorities in our state. The challenge is ours to take.

Respectfully,



Eddie Lucio, Jr.
State Senator, District 27

