

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Governmental Organization

The meeting was called to order by Senator Vidricksen at _____
Chairperson the old
Supreme Court
1:40 ~~am~~/p.m. on February 22, 1983 in ~~XXXX~~ Room of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Gaines

Committee staff present:

Bruce Kinzie - Revisor
Julian Efird - Research

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Feliciano
James Apodaca - Executive Director, Kansas Advisory Committee on Mexican
American Affairs
Jerry Shelor - Department of Human Resources
Richard Lopez - Jobs for Progress
Guillermo Barreto-Vega - member of the Board of Directors of the National
Hispanic Council on Aging, Kansas Chapter
Elias Garcia - Department of Transportation
Eduardo Ramirez - Hispanic Businessman

The Chairman called the meeting to order and explained about the summer testimony and study of the Advisory Board and the purpose of this hearing and S.B. 479.

Senator Feliciano spoke in support of the Advisory Committee on Mexican-American Affairs and stressed that this Committee was vitally important and very much needed for this segment of society. He gave a brief background on why it should be continued and stated that it must be responsive to the needs of these people and that it was the only state agency that existed for the Hispanic community.

Mr. Apodaca discussed the problems that would be created if the Advisory Committee on Mexican-American Affairs was abolished and answered questions from the Senate Committee.

Jerry Shelor addressed the Committee briefly stating that the Department of Human Resources supported the continuance of this Advisory Committee.

Richard Lopez testified in favor of maintaining the Advisory Committee but explained that he felt there was a need to restructure. He recommended that the funds be maintained and not be released until the restructure of the Advisory Committee was completed.

Mr. Garcia stated that he opposed the abolishment of the Advisory Committee but felt that the Committee needed to be held accountable in regard to its mission.

Mr. Barreto-Vega spoke in behalf of the National Hispanic Council on Aging stating that one of their goals is to advocate and promote the establishment of public policy that ensures equitable distribution and access to resources by the Hispanic elderly. He recommended that the name be changed to "Advisory Committee on Hispanic Affairs" and suggested that the agency be removed from state government influence.

Eduardo Ramirez supported the Advisory Committee on Mexican-American Affairs stating that the role the agency plays in keeping the Hispanic community informed on matters of state government is vital to the continued economic growth of the Hispanic in Kansas.

The Committee took no action on the bill. The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

GUEST LIST

COMMITTEE: Senate Governmental Organization DATE: Feb. 22

NAME	ADDRESS	COMPANY/ORGANIZATION
Eduardo Ramirez	1205 Ks. Ave.	TURQUOISE T-SHIRTS OWNER
Peter Tavares Jr.	2515 N. Topeka Topeka	Farm Bureau
RICHARD HERNANDEZ	427 TOPEKA	DEPT OF Human Res.
Elizabeth Cajan-Jenkins	1430 SW Byron	Governor's Office
George D Vega	1186 Garfield	
Robert Ruiz	547 N. Lime	Topeka, Ks.
Alfonso R. Gonzalez	1700 Atchison	La Colonia
Brad Bartlow	1815 W Lyman	Topeka Ks
ELIAS GARCIA	PO BOX 2082	TOPEKA, KS.
Leo Casados	923 N. RUTAN	WICHITA, KS. 67208
Richard E Lopez	335 N. Huff	Wichita, Ks 67205
Guillermo Berneto-Vega	1337 Clay #10	Topeka, Ks 66604
Phil Anderson		BUDGET DIV
Gomez Delgado	1301 Seward	Topeka Ks 66616
Arnono Cordus	1301 Seward	el Centro
Quirica R. Sepulveda	1219 Seward	Topeka, Ks. 66616
Fr. Tom Kozmy	736 Shawnee	Kansas City, KS 66105
Mary Chang	509 Emmett	Topeka, Ks 66616
St. Consuelo Iruar	736 Shawnee	Kansas City Ks 66105
Father Joseph E Chontos	5972 W. 25th, Topeka, Ks	Christ the King Church
John Kelly	Topeka	DHR (KACEH)
Mike Lechner	Topeka	DHR (KACEH)
Concha Tiscareno		elderly
Jacoba D Vasquez	Topeka	"
Praxedis Hernandez	229 Woodruff St	"

GUEST LIST

COMMITTEE: Senate Governmental Organization DATE: 2/22/84

NAME	ADDRESS	COMPANY/ORGANIZATION
Sullivan Apodaca	620 NE 35th	
William Hutchinson	3401 GAGE	
Skip HERR	512 W 6th	DHR
Jerry Powell		DHR
Josef Romero	217 WOODRUFF	ADVISORY COMM. ON MEX-AM. AFFAIRS BD. MEMBER
Gloria Carona	3417 SW 37 th	Citizen
John L. Abbott	Silver Lake	State
John Boggs	227 Woodlawn, Topeka	"
Del Ramirez	913 Shirley Bonner Ave	State Rep.

**Article 64.—ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON INDIAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS
(Not in Active Use)**

Revisor's Note:

Advisory committee on Indian American affairs abolished by 1976 Executive Order No. 14, which was issued by the governor of this state on February 10, 1976, see 75-5701 to 75-5732 (L. 1976, ch. 354).

74-6401 to 74-6405.

History: L. 1974, ch. 200, §§ 1 to 5;
Repealed, L. 1976, ch. 370, § 104; July 1.

74-6406.

History: L. 1974, ch. 200, § 6; L. 1975, ch. 416, § 17; Repealed, L. 1976, ch. 370, § 104; July 1.

74-6407 to 74-6410.

History: L. 1974, ch. 200, §§ 7 to 10;
Repealed, L. 1976, ch. 370, § 104; July 1.

**Article 65.—ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON MEXICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS**

Revisor's Note:

The advisory committee on Mexican American affairs was attached to and made a part of the department of human resources by 1976 Executive Reorganization Order No. 14, which was issued by the governor of this state on February 10, 1976, see ch. 75, art. 57 (L. 1976, ch. 354).

74-6501. Establishment; advisory to secretary of human resources. There is hereby created the advisory committee on Mexican American affairs hereinafter referred to as the "advisory committee." The advisory committee shall be advisory to the secretary of human resources.

History: L. 1974, ch. 208, § 1; L. 1976, ch. 370, § 88; July 1.

74-6502. Same; composition; qualifications; appointment; terms; vacancies. The advisory committee shall consist of seven (7) members no more than four of whom shall be members of the same political party and each congressional district in the state of Kansas shall be represented on said advisory committee by at least one member who shall be a resident thereof at the time of his appointment. Advisory committee members shall be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate. Of the initial appointees, two (2) shall be appointed to one-year terms, two (2) to two-year terms, and three (3) to three-year terms. Appointees to any vacancy which may occur shall be appointed only for the unexpired term of the

member such appointee replaces. After the initial appointees have served their initial terms, all appointees shall be appointed for a three-year term.

History: L. 1974, ch. 208, § 2; July 1.

74-6503. Same; chairman and secretary. The advisory committee shall elect one of its members as chairman and one as secretary to serve a one-year term.

History: L. 1974, ch. 208, § 3; July 1.

74-6504. Same; functions, powers and duties. The advisory committee shall have the following functions, powers and duties:

(a) Gather and disseminate information and conduct hearings, conferences and special studies on problems and programs concerning Mexican Americans;

(b) Coordinate, assist and cooperate with the efforts of state departments and agencies to serve the needs of the Mexican American especially in the area of culture, education, employment, health, housing, welfare and recreation;

(c) Develop, coordinate and assist other public and private organizations with understanding the problems of Mexican Americans;

(d) Develop, coordinate and assist other public and private organizations to provide services to Mexican Americans;

(e) Propose new programs concerning Mexican Americans;

(f) Evaluate existing programs and proposed legislation concerning Mexican Americans;

(g) Stimulate public awareness of the problems of Mexican Americans by conducting a program of public education;

(h) Conduct training programs for community leadership and service project staff;

(i) Accept contributions from any person to assist in the effectuation of this section and to seek and enlist the cooperation of private, charitable, religious, labor, civic and benevolent organizations for the purposes of this section;

(j) Solicit, receive and expend federal funds to effectuate the purposes of this act and enter into contracts and agreements with any federal agency for such purposes

(k) Establish advisory committees on special subjects; and

(l) Cooperate with the state board of education in advising and assisting school districts, upon request, in conducting in-

service training programs for bilingual education personnel.

History: L. 1974, ch. 208, § 4; L. 1979, ch. 220, § 16; July 1.

Cross References to Related Sections:

Bilingual education, see 72-9510.

74-6505. Same; meetings; quorum. The advisory committee shall meet at least four times a year. The chairman may call additional meetings. A majority of members shall constitute a quorum.

History: L. 1974, ch. 208, § 5; July 1.

74-6506. Same; compensation and allowances of members. Members of the advisory committee attending meetings of such committee shall be paid amounts provided in subsection (e) of K.S.A. 1975 Supp. 75-3223 and amendments thereto.

History: L. 1974, ch. 208, § 6; L. 1975, ch. 416, § 18; July 1.

74-6507. Executive director: qualifications. The executive director of the advisory committee shall be qualified by education and experience to assume the responsibilities of such office and be able to converse and write fluently in both the English and Spanish languages.

History: L. 1974, ch. 208, § 7; L. 1976, ch. 370, § 59; July 1.

74-6508. Same; administrative officer, duties. The executive director shall be the administrative officer of the advisory committee and shall serve the advisory committee by gathering information, disseminating findings of fact and other information, forwarding proposals and evaluations to the secretary of human resources, the governor, the legislature and various state agencies, carrying out public education programs, conducting hearings and conferences and performing other duties necessary for the proper operation of the advisory committee.

History: L. 1974, ch. 208, § 8; L. 1976, ch. 370, § 90; July 1.

74-6509. Assistants; personnel. The executive director of the advisory committee may appoint any subordinate personnel necessary to assist said executive director in the performance of his or her duties, including clerical staff and technical advisors. The executive director of the advisory committee may appoint assistants if necessary to develop, assist and cooperate with local commissions on Mexican Americans.

History: L. 1974, ch. 208, § 9; L. 1976, ch. 370, § 91; July 1.

Revisor's Note:

Office of director of advisory committee on Mexican American affairs abolished in 1976, and powers, duties and functions transferred to executive director appointed by secretary of human resources, see 75-5716 and 75-5717.

Article 66.—NATURAL AND SCIENTIFIC AREA PRESERVES; ADVISORY BOARD

74-6601. Name and citation of act. The act shall be known and may be cited as the natural and scientific areas preservation act.

History: L. 1974, ch. 322, § 1; July 1.

74-6602. Purpose. The purpose of this act is to secure for the people of Kansas the benefits of an enduring resource of natural and scientific areas by establishing a system of natural and scientific preserves, to provide for the protection, control and management of these areas, and to establish and maintain a registry of natural and scientific areas.

History: L. 1974, ch. 322, § 2; July 1.

74-6603. Definitions. As used in this act, the following words and terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, unless the context shall indicate another or different meaning or intent:

(a) "Board" shall mean the natural and scientific areas advisory board created by K.S.A. 74-6605.

(b) "Natural and scientific area" shall mean an area of land or water in public or private ownership which either retains to some degree its primeval character, though it need not be completely natural and undisturbed, or has natural flora, fauna, ecological, geological, historical or archeological features of scientific or educational interest.

(c) "Natural and scientific preserve" shall mean a natural or scientific area which is formally dedicated under the provisions of this act to be maintained as nearly as possible in its natural condition and to be used in a manner and under limitations consistent with its continued preservation, without impairment, disturbance, or artificial development except that deemed necessary for scientific research, education, or public interpretation of the area.

History: L. 1974, ch. 322, § 3; July 1.

TESTIMONY TO THE GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE
CONCERNING S.B. 479

by James M. Apodaca
Executive Director
Kansas Advisory Committee on Mexican American Affairs

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

The Kansas Advisory Committee on Mexican American Affairs (KACMAA) wishes to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Governmental Organization Committee for the work being performed to insure that Kansas tax dollars are spent in a fashion which will enhance and develop the lives of all Kansans. As tax payers, members of the Hispanic community share your concerns and it is in this spirit that we approach the review of the KACMAA created by you in 1974.

The KACMAA is the only agency found throughout Kansas State Government which is specifically charged and mandated to carry out an ongoing advocacy program for the Hispanic community. This was and is still of great importance to the 63,000 Hispanics in this state. As introduced, S.B. 479 proposes to abolish the KACMAA and its executive offices. If this bill is passed, it will seriously weaken the progress our community has achieved in the last 10 years. It will restrict the future input and development the Hispanic community will have in the areas of economic development, education, employment and labor, health and social welfare, aging, housing and administration of justice. It will also virtually abolish the input of Kansas Hispanics to the executive, legislative and judicial branches of state government.

The Kansas Hispanic community has made many accomplishments through the diligent efforts and commitment of the board members and the agency staff. The seven-member board represents all areas of Kansas. Therefore, the agency is able to address particular needs of Hispanics from all areas of our state. The assistance and expertise the board members provide the agency in the planning

of programs for Hispanics is invaluable. On advice from the board, the agency has been concentrating in the areas of economic development, education and employment. Committees, proposals and reports have been finalized in these areas. Still, much work remains to be done.

KACMAA has built an extensive network for disseminating information to Kansans. The main instrument for providing information is the agency's newsletter, La Voz del Llano. The agency has a mailing list of approximately 7,000 names and organizations. Another major ongoing project of the agency is the monitoring of legislation. To transmit the relevant legislative information to Kansas Hispanics, KACMAA publishes three Legislative Bulletins during the legislative session, this Legislative Bulletin is a twenty-page handout that contains an update of major issues governing debate at the Statehouse. This information is not provided to Kansas Hispanics through any other means.

The monitoring of legislation and the dissemination of information indicate only two ways in which the agency acts as a liaison for the Hispanic community. There are many other important activities which the agency carries out. These include providing Spanish language translation for state agencies, organizations and individuals; technical assistance to community based organizations, such as the League of Latin American Citizens, the American G.I. Forum, El Centro Para Servicios Hispanos, VOZ of Southeast Kansas, the Mexican American Organization of Emporia, Kansas, and the various MECHA organizations found throughout the state at our institutions of higher education. The Advisory Committee has also been active in making recommendations and developing workable programs for the employment of Hispanics at the administrative and policy levels of Kansas state government, migrant concerns, minority business development, currently found in H.B. 2960. In addition, we continue to support bilingual education programs in our state. These are but a few of the areas which we are currently involved in with the Hispanic community. The

work which we hope to accomplish in these areas has progressed but it has been a slow and arduous task for the committee, its agency, staff and for the Hispanic community as a whole.

Before I close, I would like to discuss why it is necessary that KAMCAA remains in service for Kansas Hispanics. Data from the 1980 Census points to the fact that Hispanics lag far behind non-Hispanics in most areas. For example, only 53 percent of all Kansas Hispanics, 25 years old or older, are high school graduates, compared to 61 percent for the black population and 74 percent for the white population. Hispanics are under-represented in administrative occupations, comprising only 1.3 percent of Kansans in managerial and professional occupations. Hispanics, however, comprise 2.7 percent of the Kansas population. Furthermore, 13.3 percent of the Kansas Hispanic community have incomes below poverty level. These daily social and economic problems are compounded by the limited English speaking ability of some Hispanics. Sixty-four percent of all Kansas Hispanics consider Spanish their native language.

Of greater importance, Hispanics represent the fastest growing ethnic group in Kansas. Between 1970 and 1980, the Kansas Hispanic population experienced a increase of 17-21 percent. Nationwide, the number of Hispanics increased 61 percent. Given the current and projected levels of industrial, agricultural and warehousing development in Kansas and given the recent increased immigration of Hispanics to the United States and Kansas, it is reasonable to assume that the Kansas Hispanic population will continue to grow at an accelerated pace.

The measurable economic and social lag of the Hispanic community, coupled with the rapidly increasing population, assures KACMAA of an increased workload as Hispanics continue to catch up. Since KACMAA is the only state agency which exists specifically to address Hispanic issues, the agency will be called upon to assist both the public and private sectors in developing and

maintaining the necessary links with the Hispanic community.

Even though the calls for assistance and the workload of the agency has increased, the KACMAA Staff has not increased within the last five years. To better serve the Hispanic community, KACMAA would like to request the assistance of the Governmental Organization Committee in expanding the agency. There are many concerns that KACMAA has had to back away from because it lacked sufficient personnel. The agency must grow to meet the concerns of the growing Kansas Hispanic population. To do this, KACMAA recommends that their budget be increased to provide for two more full time staff positions: an Economic Development Specialist and a Clerk I. The Economic Development Specialist will work with the Hispanic community concerning procurement and packaging; will research and disseminate information on economic issues; will work directly with the Departments of Administration and Transportation to increase contracts to Hispanics; and will collect data from the Department of Administration, Division of Purchases, on Hispanic participation. The Clerk I will aid the agency secretary in processing the work of the agency. Both of these two positions will assist the agency in carrying out its mandated duties.

At issue here today is the future development of the Kansas Hispanic community. I encourage the committee to protect the right of the Hispanic community to be represented equitably in Kansas State Government through the continued existence of the KAMCAA board and agency. I urge you to recommend that KACMAA be maintained to serve as the liaison between the Kansas Hispanic community and the executive, legislative and judicial branches of Kansas State Government. The support KACMAA provides the Hispanic community is priceless. A loss of the KACMAA agency and Board will be felt by Kansas Hispanics and Kansas State government for years to come.

November 30, 1983

P. O. Box 2002
Topeka, Kansas 66601

James M. Apodaca
Executive Director
Kansas Advisory Committee on
Mexican American Affairs
503 Kansas Avenue Suite 328
Topeka, Kansas 66603

Dear Mr. Apodaca:

It is with a sense of embarrassment for the Kansas Advisory Committee on Mexican American Affairs and a deep concern for the Kansas Hispanic community that I return this corrected list of Kansas Hispanic elected and appointed officials.

As Research Associate for the Midwest Voter Registration Project in Columbus, Ohio, I was astounded to learn that you would actually send out such obsolete and general misinformation which you knew was to be included in a Midwest Directory (10-state) and to be disseminated nationally.

Included in your list of Kansas Hispanic elected and appointed officials were individuals who resigned two years ago, an individual who holds no official post, individuals whose terms had expired; but perhaps the most ridiculous of all was your inclusion of a person of Irish descent, one of Swiss descent, and yet another of Greek descent! It was fortunate that I was conducting the research for the Midwest Directory, thus diffusing the situation. Also, how could you possibly exclude Sen. Paul Feliciano?

This is yet another example of how far removed KACMAA is from the Kansas Hispanic community and shows the rest of the country (or wherever else you send information) how poorly Kansas Hispanics are represented.

As it is apparent that KACMAA has no semblance of awareness regarding Kansas Hispanics and issues impacting on our communities, the question then becomes, "What is KACMAA doing with its time and our tax dollars?"

If the Kansas Advisory Committee on Mexican American Affairs were required to function as other state agencies, clear/concise, periodic reports would be mandatory. These reports would include, among other things, explanations of past/present agency operations and their benefit to community, future plans/activities, fiscal reports and community feedback mechanisms. To date, this has not been the case. The majority of the Kansas Hispanic population has no idea that KACMAA exists, and those who do have no idea what the Advisory Committee is doing. KACMAA public presentations consist of nothing more than rambling, double talk, and imaginary projects which can never be discussed because "it's untimely."

Why is the Kansas Advisory Committee on Mexican American Affairs exempt from those governmental requirements that regulate all other state agencies? Why is it that the at-large Kansas Hispanic community is not receiving the same access/representation from KACMAA that it does from S.R.S., Employment Services, or other state agencies? This is especially unacceptable since KACMAA was conceived to address issues which impact on our respective Hispanic communities.

Throughout the tenure of present KACMAA administration, we've witnessed a state agency close its doors to its constituents, conduct limited clandestine operations, selectively provide agency services, encourage community factionalism, and numerous other negative actions (official/unofficial), of which the benefactors have been the Kansas Hispanic community.

In an era where Hispanic social, economic, and political issues are effectively being addressed across the country, Kansas' governmental liaison, 'The Kansas Advisory Committee on Mexican American Affairs,' among other things, lacks the competency to identify our own people who serve as elected or appointed officials.

The time is long overdue for the at-large Kansas Hispanic community to investigate past/present KACMAA activity, assess its value to our communities, and make necessary administration changes conducive to the support of national Hispanic goals/objectives (Hispanic socio-economical-political development).

The Kansas Hispanic community must retain/regain its resolve in perpetuating Hispanic upward mobility in our state and/or society. We do this not just for our todays, but also for our children's tomorrows!

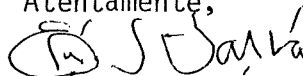
In this all-important election year of 1984, we cannot afford a non-functional Mexican American Advisory Committee who refuses to address the most significant single Hispanic issue of our time -- Voter Registration/Get Out To Vote! Why?

It is my sincere hope that all those empowered to make decisions on behalf of us, the Kansas Hispanic community, assume a more active role in reshaping the direction of our advocacy agency (KACMAA) to the benefit of our local and national Hispanic communities.

I'd like to meet with you and further discuss the contents of this correspondence, or perhaps a community meeting could be organized to provide you a forum to expound your philosophies, policies, etc.

I look forward to your response.

Atentamente,



Elias L. Garcia

ELG/bym

cc: Governor John Carlin
Jerry Shelor, Secretary of Human Resources
Kansas Hispanic Elected and Appointed Officials
Community Leaders

Enclosure

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF

Human Resources

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MEXICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

109 W. 9th St., Suite 200, Topeka, Kansas 66612 (913) 296-3465

John Carlin
Governor

James M. Apodaca
Executive Director

GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE

Antonio Augusto
Salina

HISPANIC ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS IN KANSAS *

Gilberto R. Chabarría
Liberal

Alfred Calvillo, Ph.D.
1835 S.W. Buchanan
Topeka, KS 66604

Betty Taliaferro
619 Ann Avenue
Kansas City, KS 66101

} COULD NOT CONFIRM
ETHNICITY

James P. Garcia
Wichita

Marcella Leon
Independence

Al Gonzales
Bureau of Apprenticeship and
Training
444 S.E. Quincy
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Andrew Valdivia
1001 S.E. 43rd Terrace
Topeka, KS 66609

John J. Mendez
Kansas City

Raul Velasquez
Clayton

Arthur R. Diaz
4819 W. 20th Terrace
Topeka, KS 66604

} HOLDS NO OFFICIAL
STATE APPOINTMENT

IRISH

Edward J. Costello
230 Tanglewood Lane
Marion, KS 66861

Steven L. Islas
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} RESIGNED 2 YRS. AGO

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} SWISS

Marc Marciano
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Kansas City, KS 66103

James Apodaca
503 Kansas Avenue, Suite 328
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} STATE EMPLOYEE

GREEK

Michael P. Sarras
1619 N. 81st
Kansas City, KS 66112

Antonio Augusto
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Salina, KS 67401

Antonia Pigno
453 Warner Park Rd.
Manhattan, KS 66502

James P. Garcia
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Wichita, KS 67204

Gilberto Chabarría
223 West 1st
Liberal, KS 67901

John J. Mendez
2324 Lawrence Avenue
Kansas City, KS 66106

Marcella Leon
825 South 4th
Independence, KS 67301

*DOES NOT REFLECT IN WHAT CAPACITY EACH SERVES

HISPANIC ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS IN KANSAS, cont.

Raul Velasquez
107 S. Missouri
Ulysses, KS 67880

Trinidad Chavez
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Topeka, KS 66605

Jose Hernandez
5821 Schwartz Rd.
Kansas City, KS 66102

Charles P. Navarro
821 S. Main
South Hutchinson, KS 67505

TERM EXPIRED

Sister Mary Augustine
Sacred Heart Junior H.S.
410 W. Iron Avenue
Salina, KS 67401

Lydia Gonzales
204 S. 6th
Garden City, KS 67846

Richard Ruiz
736 Shawnee
Kansas City, KS 66105

Mr. Casados
City Commissioner
Wichita, KS

NO ADDRESS

Louie Sanchez
Dodge City, KS

Joyce Romero
217 Woodruff
Topeka, KS 66616

Dennis Garcia
305 E. Santa Fe
Garden City, KS 67846

RESIGNED

Mary T. Villar
1935 E. Blake
Wichita, KS 67211

Luis Z. Serrano
539 S.E. Dupont Rd.
Tecumseh, KS 66542

Alfred Ramirez
205 E. 2nd
Bonner Springs, KS 66012

Jim J. Marquez
Columbian Building
Topeka, KS 66603

Fortunato Bonilla
811 Comanche
Salina, KS 67401

HOLDS NO STATE
ELECTED/APPOINTED
CAPACITY

Dennis Mendoza
Commissioner on Civil Rights
Emporia, KS

CHAIRMAN OF HUMAN
RELATIONS COMMISSION

*

EXCLUDED COMPLETELY FROM 'KACMAA' LIST:

MR. ED CARMONA
MR. JACK COBOS
SEN. PAUL FELICIANO

Kansas Advisory Committee on Mexican American Affairs

1. History of the Advisory Board, Dates, etc.

The Kansas Advisory Committee on Mexican American Affairs (KACMAA) was created by the 1974 Kansas Legislature and Governor Robert Docking (KSA 74-6501 et. seq.) in a sincere effort to eliminate official neglect and to provide better opportunities for Hispanic advancement in the state of Kansas. Governor Robert Bennett in 1976 (Executive Reorganization No. 14) maintained KACMAA, placing it under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Human Resources.

During its first four years the KACMAA Board and Staff concentrated on structure: establishing itself through programs and procedures in the executive and legislative branches, and maintaining itself as a state agency. The programs during the initial period attempted to heighten cultural awareness of Hispanics. To facilitate the progress of Hispanic development, KACMAA changed its focus in 1980. The board and the agency have been acting as a facilitator of economic development, education and employment for Kansas Hispanics.

2. What are the main duties of the Advisory Board as you understand its function:

KACMAA serves as an effective and efficient liaison between the Kansas Hispanic community and the Governor's Office, the Legislature and State agencies. The agency and its board does research and work in seven areas that concern Hispanics: economic development, education, employment and labor, housing, health and social welfare, aging and administration of justice. In addressing the needs in these areas, KACMAA interfaces with all facets of state government. In addition, KACMAA conducts hearings, conferences and special studies on problems and programs concerning Hispanics; proposes new programs for Hispanics; evaluates and monitors proposed legislation that might have a disproportionate effect on Hispanics; and stimulates public awareness of the problems of Kansas Hispanics.

3. How many members is the Advisory Committee authorized by statute?

The advisory committee consists of seven members, no more than four of whom shall be members of the same political party. In addition, each congressional district in the state of Kansas is represented by at least one member who is a resident thereof at the time of appointment (KSA 74-6502).

4. How many yearly meetings are authorized by statute?

The advisory committee is required by statute to meet at least four times a year (KSA 74-6505).

5. Who is responsible for selecting the date and time of committee meetings?

The chairman of the board is responsible for selecting a date and time for the committee meeting, which will be convenient for both the board and the agency.

6. How many members are actually appointed to the committee as compared to authorized members of the board?

All advisory committee members are appointed by the Governor. There are no authorized members of the board (KSA 74-6502).

7. Who is responsible for the agenda for a meeting?

The chairman of the board in consultation with the agency director plans the agenda for the meeting. The agenda is sent to all board members prior to the meeting for their input.

8. How many times has a meeting been cancelled or a decision made not to continue a meeting due to a lack of quorum?

KACMAA has not cancelled any meetings due to a lack of quorum. Once in the last four years there was a lack of quorum at a meeting. The meeting was still held for the benefit of the board members and community members present, but no official voting action took place.

9. How many times has an idea originated in the committee itself and implemented as policy by the agency?

This has happened many times since the advisory committee sets most of the policy for the agency. Because of their suggestions, the agency is presently concentrating their work in the areas of employment, education, economic development and migrant/seasonal farmworkers. Following is an example of how a policy set by the board is followed by the agency.

During a September, 1980, Board meeting, the advisory committee decided that the most crucial part of their position as board members was to influence the policymaking process of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of state government, especially as it concerns Hispanics. The board decided that one way to do this would be to get Hispanics into policymaking positions so that they can affect program development. The agency was advised to work for the goal of getting more Hispanics into policymaking positions. By April of 1982, Kansas Hispanics had made the following achievements in this area, due to the policy set by the committee.

1. Kansas Hispanics had acquired the first comprehensive profile, People of the Sun, documenting our contributions and outlining them to public and private sector policymakers throughout the state.
2. Kansas Hispanics had obtained regular access to civil service information through workshops sponsored by the State Personnel Office conducted at statewide Hispanic functions, and through a KACMAA financed network of information dissemination.
3. Kansas Hispanics had been included in a statewide Minority Recruitment Directory utilized by state government agencies in advertising job vacancies.
4. Kansas Hispanics had educated the major policymakers in the state on the continuing employment needs of Hispanics.
5. Kansas Hispanics had secured the Governor's support and consequent executive directives to cabinet agencies to improve their recruiting, hiring and promoting efforts as it concerns Hispanics.
6. Kansas Hispanics had experienced an overall increase in the total number of Hispanics employed by the state.

Fully cognizant of the gains that had been made over the past years, the board recognized that work still remained to be done before Hispanics were represented equitably throughout the strata of state government. It was decided that the agency should continue to work in this area.

In August of 1982, KACMAA submitted a proposal to the Governor to help move Hispanics into policy-making positions. Also during August, the board suggested during a meeting that the agency needed a method of tracking the movement of Hispanic state employees. For the last year-and-a-half, the agency has been working to implement the employment proposal and to start a Hispanic Job Skills Bank.

10. How many times has the agency made up the agenda with items to be discussed and these items implemented as policy?

Work on the agenda is performed jointly by the agency director and the Chairman of the Board. Agenda items are then cleared with all board members. During the board meetings, all agenda items are discussed by the board members with time allotted for input and questions from the public. Agenda items are only implemented as policy if agreed upon by the board.

11. How many times has the advisory committee rejected programs or ideas by the agency?

At times, programs and ideas that have been submitted by agency staff have been rejected by the board.

12. In your opinion is the advisory committee important to the overall mission of the agency?

The advisory committee is definitely important to the overall mission of the agency. They provide contacts for the agency to the different areas of the state. In addition, they provide valuable input into policy formation, representing the Hispanic needs of their community. The contact they provide to the community cuts down money and time needed for staff travel.

13. Would the program or agency function without the advisory board?

The program could function without the advisory board. It would, however, lessen the input of Kansas Hispanics in Kansas State Government since the major cities and communities with a high Hispanic concentration would not be represented at the agency's policy making level.

14. If the board number was reduced would it cut down the effectiveness and mission of the board?

Yes, a reduced number would affect the mission of the board. Presently, the five Congressional Districts are represented on the board providing input and contact from the major Hispanic centers of Kansas (Kansas City, Wichita, Independence, Topeka and Ulysses). The two at-large members are from Congressional District #1, due to the vast amount of territory covered by this district, the distance from the state capital and the special needs of Hispanics in western Kansas. A reduction in the number of board members would change the board's representation and statewide coverage and therefore, specific needs and concerns of a particular community might not surface at board meetings and in policy planning.

15. Would you support a consolidation of advisory boards when the boards duplicate subjects?

KACMAA would be supportive of a consolidation of boards when the boards duplicate subjects. However, there are no other state boards, committees or commissions that specifically address the needs and concerns of the Hispanic Community of Kansas.

Groups endorse Carlin

Jamie Apodaca, director of the Kansas Advisory Committee on Mexican American Affairs and the Siglo Hispano Para Carlin, announced Saturday that both groups are endorsing Gov. John Carlin in his bid for re-election. Carlin, a Democrat seeking his second term, is running against Republican Sam Hardage, Wichita.

Mexican American committee to meet

INDEPENDENCE — The Kansas Advisory Committee on Mexican American Affairs will be held at 10 a.m. Nov. 12 at the Independence Junior College.

The meeting will be in the Council Room of the Student Union. It will be open to the public, according to James M. Apodaca, executive director.

2/29

February 28, 1984

Committee on Governmental
Organizations
c/o Ben Vedrickson
Kansas Senate
State Capitol, 3rd Floor
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Vedrickson,

As addendum to my testimony of February 22, 1984 I'd like to submit the following resolutions:

1. That an immediate audit of the advisory committee on Mexican-American affairs financial and program management be performed. That the audit encompass a span of the time from when the current administrator assumed the position to the present budgeted period.
2. That the current procedure for the selection on board members be completely abolished, as well as the current board. That a new selection procedure be established so that representatives of the congressional districts as well as the at-large position, be nominated by state elected officials on a bipartisan.
3. That the size of the current board be expanded from seven to eleven positions. This will insure that members of all Hispanic nationalities can be represented.
4. That any funding for the coming year be withheld until all such restructuring of the board is complete and satisfactory, and until a reorganization of the board's administration has taken place.
5. That an advisory committee on Hispanic affairs be maintained, but not in its current form or structure.

Again I's like to stress my support of a Hispanic Advisory Committee, but under the current structure and administration, we are a people without a presence or a future.

Your sincere interests in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

ELIAS

Elias L. Garcia

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

CONFERE: ELIAS L. GARCIA

My name is Elias Garcia, and I thank you for the opportunity to voice serious concerns regarding the Kansas Advisory Committee on Mexican-American Affairs (KACMAA).

My presence here today is in opposition to abolishment of the KACMAA yet in support of auditing this extremely controversial office.

I like to start by saying that many issues could be discussed today, issues of personalities, of falsities, and other emotional claims and counter claims which would be counter productive in today's proceedings.

Today lets talk about facts of the KACMAA functions, goals, and objectives as mandated by PL 74-6501 thru 74-6504 and the failure of the current KACMAA Administration to meet this mandate.

Since its controversial/clandestine beginning in which four individuals selected the current Executive Director (Mr. Apodaca being one of those board members-See December 12, 1984 board minutes), the KACMAA has suffered one controversy after another, each time deteriorating the efficiency and effectiveness of the office both in state Government and in our community.

When we ask who is responsible/accountable for the slow deterioration of our representative office, we must look to its board of directors and staff members.

In terms of the board, we are talking about seven members of the Hispanic community, who I'm sure, when they agree to sit on this board, possessed noble feelings of advocacy on behalf of their representative community.

There mission as board members was clear, to represent their designated area of the state, meet quarterly, and provide direction to Kansas Staff regarding needs of their respective constituencies.

What we have in reality are nobel individuals who neither have the time or energy to keep up with the affairs of state government of their constituencies.

Examples of this can be seen in the total absence of records of board members meeting with their respective constituencies, lack of quorum at regular quarterly meetings, or any significant direction to KACMAA staff.

In regards to the KACMAA staff, we must look at the position of the Executive Director.

In my opinion we have as director an individual who as yet has not accomplished anything other than create friction between KACMAA and other government officials, perpetuate community fragmentation, and countless of other activities which undermine the purpose of the organization.

KACMAA's leadership to date reflects a self serving interest as reflected in their refusal to act on the single most important issue facing Hispanics, voter registration, yet think nothing of making an official endorsement of a Democratic candidate for Governor (Topeka Capital-Journal article submitted).

As the Hispanic communities voice in government, the current administration has raised numerous communication barriers within state and local government, making effectant representation nearly impossible (ex.-Incident with Topeka Commissioner Gene Miles).

Blackballing and exlusionary tactics have been employed by this Administration, in an effort to silence those who wish input into the committee. This action far exceeds the right of this office to select which Hispanic Groups/Individuals it wishes to represent, and only serves to exaserbate

within our community governmental apathy.

Hand outs I've submitted exemplify othe activity and misinformation distributed by KACMAA. After reviewing this information I'm sure you will better understand why we seek an audit, restructuring of KACMAA.

In closing, let me say that if KACMAA is the Kansas Hispanic Govern-ment, then we are MUTE!

We respectfully solicit your assistance in once again making our representative office a viable one, worthy of the respect and trust of Kansas Hispanics.

THANK YOU

NATIONAL HISPANIC COUNCIL ON AGING
KANSAS CHAPTER
TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL #479
PERTAINING THE REVIEW OF
ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF MEXICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
PRESENTED TO THE
SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE
STATE CAPITAL, SUPREME COURT ROOM 313 S
TOPEKA, KANSAS
FEBRUARY 22, 1984

Good afternoon, Chairman Vidricksen and members of the Senate Governmental Organization Committee. My name is Guillermo Barreto-Vega, Kansas resident and member of the Board of Directors of the National Hispanic Council on Aging (NHCcA) Kansas Chapter. I am testifying today as member of the Board of Directors of the NHCcA Kansas Chapter, which is a non-profit organization that promotes and facilitates the self help and mutual help among the Hispanic elderly. One of the primary goals of the NHCcA is to advocate and to promote the establishment of public policy in our society and government that ensures equitable distribution and access to resources by the Hispanic elderly. As such, we would like to make the following comments on SB 479:

- o We, as a society, have made progress towards equal distribution of resources, however, discrimination and unfairness still persists in America. Consequently, we support the continuing existence of the Advisory Committee on Mexican-American Affairs in Kansas. However, we would like to suggest that management and financial audits of the agency be mandated by the legislature in order to make this agency's task more effective and efficient.

- o The agency's name should be changed to reflect the growing numbers of other Hispanic populations and interests in Kansas. We suggest the name of "Advisory Committee on Hispanic Affairs". This change in focus from Mexican-American to Hispanics will ensure that other Hispanic population interests will be represented by this agency.

- o Finally, we would like to recommend that the agency should be removed from the state government influence, in order to effectively advocate the Executive and Legislative Branches of the Kansas government. It is very difficult for state employees to advocate for changes within the government, which do not reflect the governmental policies. As the American saying goes, "You don't bite the hand that feeds you."

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. I will happy to respond to any questions that you may have.

February 23, 1984

Ben E. Vidricksen
Chairman
Senate Governmental Organization Committee
State Capital, Room #143-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Chairman Vidricksen:

It was a pleasure to testify on SB 479 pertaining to the review of the Advisory Committee of Mexican-American Affairs.

We would like to reintegrate the NHCaA recommendations on SB 479:

First, we support the continuing existence of the Advisory Committee on Mexican-American Affairs in Kansas. However, we would like to suggest that management and financial audits of the agency be mandated by the legislature before Mr. James Apodacas' request for additional funds are granted.

Second, the agency and Advisory Committee's names should be changed to reflect the growing numbers of other Hispanic populations. We suggest the name of "Advisory Committee on Hispanic Affairs" (ACHA). In addition, the committee composition should reflect the Hispanic population composition. That is 78.8% of the ACHA membership should be Mexican-Americans and 21.2% should be other Hispanics (Puerto Ricans, Cubans and South Americans).

Third, we recommend that the Committee be enlarged from its present size of seven to eleven members. Five Committee members should be appointed by each the congressional representative to the U. S. House of Representatives. The other six members should be selected by the Governor of the State of Kansas. Of those, three should be representatives of other Hispanic populations: one for Puerto Ricans, one for Cubans and one for South Americans. The other three members should be at large Hispanic members having expertise in Economic Development, Education and Job Development in Kansas.

Finally, we propose that the ACHA should be removed from state government control and placed on a quasi-governmental position, such as a non-profit agency. This non-profit agency could be granted funds to operate after an agency work plan has been submitted and approved by the State funding source. This process would ensure accountability that tax payors' dollars are spent appropriately and effectively, by holding the Agency responsible to implement the work plan.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to hear our concerns on such an important piece of legislation to the Hispanic community.

Sincerely,

Guillermo Barreto-Vega
NHCaA Member

TESTIMONY PREPARED FOR THE GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE
CONCERNING S.B. 479

by Eduardo Ramirez
Owner
Turquoise and T-Shirts

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

As a Hispanic businessman I was distressed to read about the legislative action that would abolish the office of Mexican American Affairs. This office has served the entire Hispanic community for the past ten years with a high degree of professionalism.

The role the agency plays in keeping the Hispanic community informed on matters of state government is vital to the continued economic growth of the Hispanic in Kansas.

Please vote for Senate Bill 479 and against the abolishing of this very important office.

February 21, 1984

Senator Ben Vedrickson
Committee on Governmental Organization
Kansas Senate
143 N. State Capitol
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Vedrickson:

It is with great concern that my wife and I write this letter on hearing that your legislative committee is studying the possibility of abolishing the Kansas Advisory Committee on Mexican American Affairs. We are deeply concerned for many reasons, which I will briefly discuss below.

In the early 70's, many of us walked through the rotunda demonstrating for the need of a state agency to serve as a voice for the Hispanic community in state government. Many in our community were being adversely affected by laws made at the state level. This situation has not changed. Hence, it is imperative that the Advisory Committee continue to exist to provide for our representation and to speak out on legislative issues affecting our community. It is our means of communication with the legislature.

Secondly, our community has also felt the brunt of bureaucratic indifference and insensitivity. A second major function of the Advisory Committee then has been to serve as an ombudsman and to help our citizens cut through the paper work and red-tape that discourages involvement and participation in government programs we pay for with our taxes. Certainly, the amount budgeted to the Advisory Committee is but a small return on our investment in this great state.

Finally, as a former employee of the Advisory Committee, let me attest to the hard work performed by the staff of the Advisory Committee. Under the leadership of Mr. Jaime Apodaca, efforts have been made to assist our agricultural industry by addressing the issue of migrant labor. Efforts are also underway to expand employment opportunities in state government. Through its newsletter, KACMAA also plays a key role in informing both the Hispanic community and the legislature of issues, problems and opportunities. The agency also assists, facilitates and coordinates other state agency services and programs by providing translation and interpretation services. It also assists and refers citizens to appropriate state agencies, such as assisting and referring small businessmen to KDED. It has also worked with DHR in implementing the new Jobs Program.

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Senator Ben Vedrickson
Kansas Senate
February 21, 1984

In brief, the continuation of the Advisory Committee is vital to the interest not only of Hispanics but also to the legislature and to other citizens of this state. The task which the Advisory Committee seeks to address is immense and continues with us today -- Discrimination. The agency must exist in order to call attention to these forces ever present in our democracy and, if left unchecked, can only take us back full circle to the destruction of the late 60's. That must not be allowed to occur. The Kansas Advisory Committee on Mexican American Affairs serves as a safeguard against that alternative. We trust that your committee will understand the concerns of our community and we trust that your committee will demonstrate an understanding and sensitivity to our plight by endorsing the continuation of the Advisory Committee.

Respectfully yours,

Mr. & Mrs. John Mendoza

Mr. & Mrs. John Mendoza
3442 S. E. Lake Court
Topeka, Ks. 66609

cc: Advisory Committee
on Mexican American Affairs
Topeka, Kansas



League of United Latin American Citizens

P.O. Box 1154
Topeka, Kansas 66601

Phone 234-5809

TESTIMONY PREPARED FOR THE GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE
CONCERNING S.B. 479

By Hazel Gomez
President, LULAC Local Chapter
and Past State LULAC Chairman

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

The League of United Latin American Citizens, the largest Hispanic organization in the U.S. would like to express its support of the Kansas Advisory Committee on Mexican American Affairs.

The Advisory Committee performs a vital function for all Hispanics in the state of Kansas. They provide that important link through their representation of our interest in state government. The Advisory Committee on Mexican American Affairs administrative and programmatic track records are to be commended.

At a time when funds are limited and efficiency in state government is of utmost concern, we hope you will recognize the valuable service and work the Advisory Committee is providing the Hispanics throughout Kansas. They provide the belief that state government will not let them down and their voice can make the difference in how state government works for the benefit of all people.

"All for One - One for All"

TESTIMONY PREPARED FOR THE GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE
CONCERNING S.B. 479

By Peter Tavares Jr.
Office Manager
Shawnee County Farm Bureau, North

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

As a member of the Hispanic community in Topeka and former President of the Topeka Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, I wish to express my concern over Senate Bill 479, which proposes the abolishment of the Kansas Advisory Committee on Mexican American Affairs and its agency.

As a recipient of La Voz Del Llano, the newsletter published by the agency, I have found that the agency and committee continue to keep the Hispanic population informed on issues of importance to all Hispanics, among others: Economic Development, Housing, Education and Employment. The agency is also involved in another area of grave importance, that being Migrant Concerns.

The Advisory Committee and agency on Mexican American Affairs are important to the people of Kansas. I sincerely urge you to reconsider the abolishment of the Advisory Committee on Mexican American Affairs.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Governmental Organization Committee for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the Advisory Committee. Only when concerned citizens such as myself are allowed to voice our concerns, can we make our great state a better place to live.