

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on the Judiciary

Washington, DC 20515-6216
One Hundred Tenth Congress

April 12, 2007

The Honorable Gerald A. Reynolds
Chairman
U. S. Commission on Civil Rights
624 Ninth Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20425

Dear Chairman Reynolds:

It has come to our attention that the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will be considering nominations to the State Advisory Committees for Michigan and Virginia.

We have received reports that these nominations may not conform with applicable rules and procedures governing such appointments. For example, we are concerned that these nominations may not conform with the Commission's Administrative Instruction 5-9 or 41 C.F.R. §102-3.60, which require that SACs have "fairly balanced membership." The regulation requires the agency to "consider a cross-section of those directly affected, interested, and qualified, as appropriate to the nature and functions of the advisory committee," and states that "Advisory Committees requiring technical expertise should include persons with demonstrated professional or personal qualifications and experience relevant to the functions and tasks to be performed." It is our understanding that the nominations under consideration may not reflect this policy.

We are also concerned that the Staff Director may have failed to engage in the normal consultations with the Regional Directors as part of the selection process.

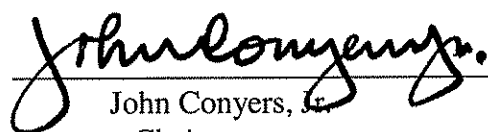
It is the intention of the Subcommittee to examine the procedures by which the Commission has been making appointments to the SACs to ensure that the spirit and letter of all applicable laws, rules and procedures are followed, and that the SACs are truly representative.

The Honorable Gerald A. Reynolds
Page Two
April 12, 2007

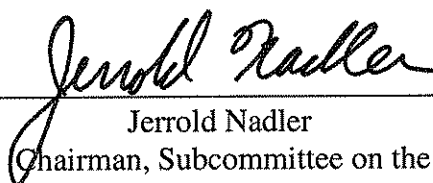
We will follow this letter with a more detailed inquiry concerning the Commission's actions. In the interim, we would hope that the Commission consider with great care any further actions in this regard to ensure that the integrity of the SAC system is preserved.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



John Conyers, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary



Jerrold Nadler
Chairman, Subcommittee on the
Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

cc.: The Honorable Lamar Smith
The Honorable Trent Franks
Jennifer C. Braceras
Peter N. Kirsanow
Ashley L. Taylor, Jr.
Abigail Thornstrom
Arlan D. Melendez
Michael Yaki
Kenneth Marcus