

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 17, 2003

HE Vicente Fox Quesada  
President of Mexico  
Los Pinos  
Mexico City, Mexico

Dear Mr. President:

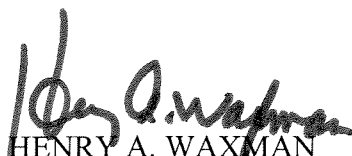
We are writing to commend your government on the landmark anti-discrimination legislation that you recently signed into law. We know this historic step could not have been taken without your tenacious efforts, the support of the Mexican Congress, and the active involvement of civil society. We are confident that this law will ensure that Mexico's diversity continues to thrive by providing equal opportunity and respect for all its citizens. Your commitment to this principle has been a hallmark of your presidency.

As you stated upon signing the legislation, "Nobody should be excluded from their social well-being because of their ethnic origin, gender, age or religion; because of their opinions, poor health or different capacities." We share your profound belief in these fundamental values and take particular note of the fact that this law specifically bans "anti-Semitism" as a form of discrimination - making Mexico one of but a few nations in the world to explicitly include this term in its anti-discrimination legal code. At a time when the world is experiencing an alarming rise in hate crimes, this law serves as a model of the high level of governmental and societal attention needed to address this crisis.

As Latino and Jewish Members of the United States Congress, we recognize that minorities face unique challenges and require rigorous protection from discrimination and enforcement of the law. This bold step is representative of the U.S. and Mexico's shared commitment to preserving an open and pluralistic society, democratic governance and the rule of law.

We understand that the new law establishes a National Commission for the Prevention of Discrimination and instructs this commission to promulgate regulations to enforce anti-discrimination. We are very interested to see the fruits of this commission's work, and we will continue to support your efforts as we work on issues of mutual concern.

Sincerely,

  
HENRY A. WAXMAN  
Member of Congress

  
CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ  
Member of Congress

**July 17, 2003**

**Jewish and Hispanic Members of Congress  
Letter to Mexican President Vicente Fox**

1. Henry A. Waxman
2. Ciro D. Rodriguez
3. Susan A. Davis
4. Joe Baca
5. Luis V. Gutierrez
6. Howard L. Berman
7. Gary L. Ackerman
8. Anibal Acevedo-Vila
9. Robert Menendez
10. Steve J. Israel
11. Barney Frank
12. Grace F. Napolitano
13. Lucille Roybal-Allard
14. Tom Lantos
15. Jerrold Nadler
16. Linda T. Sanchez
17. Jose E. Serrano
18. Rahm Emanuel
19. Adam Schiff
20. Hilda L. Solis
21. Jane Harman
22. Dennis A. Cardoza
23. Charles A. Gonzalez
24. Bob Filner
25. Robert I. Wexler
26. Ed Pastor
27. Nita M. Lowey
28. Janice D. Schakowsky
29. Nydia M. Velazquez
30. Peter Deutsch