

**UNITED STATES
COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS**



CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION

FISCAL YEAR 2008



UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20425

OFFICE OF STAFF DIRECTOR

March 7, 2007

The Honorable Alan Mollohan
Chairman
Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice, and Commerce, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-310, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Mollohan:

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights requests an appropriation of \$8,800,000 for FY 2008. Please note that the tables and schedules in this submission are based on the President's budget of \$8,800,000. Hailed as the "conscience of the Nation" on civil rights matters, the Commission has recently demonstrated concerted efforts to regain the confidence of the American public after years of widely reported mismanagement. With new leadership at the helm, the Commission began to implement significant financial and operational reforms in FY 2005 and early FY 2006. While these reforms have not yet had their full impact, we are confident that they will bring much-needed changes to the agency's operations in future fiscal years. Our recent receipt of an unqualified audit opinion on our financial statements demonstrates that our efforts have already begun to yield positive results.

Created in 1957, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is a bipartisan, fact-finding agency charged with investigating and making recommendations to the executive and legislative branches on how to end discrimination in the Nation. The Commission's mandate encompasses the full spectrum of civil rights issues, including oversight of the civil rights programs of 14 executive departments and 27 other federal agencies. Among its responsibilities, the Commission must conduct other investigations, educate the public on civil rights matters, and operate programs that address both local and national civil rights concerns. To meet these responsibilities, the Commission maintains five key programs:

- a program to evaluate and identify ways of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of federal civil rights enforcement;
- a program to investigate allegations of discrimination and denials of equal protection of the laws based on race, color, religion, gender, age, disability, or national origin, or in the administration of justice;
- a program to promote greater public awareness of civil rights protection and responsibilities;

- a program to assist members of the public who seek information and advice about protecting their civil rights; and
- a network of State Advisory Committees that gives the Commission a vital local presence in communities across the country.

The Commission continually strives to improve quality and efficiency across these program areas. Some of our recent civil rights policy work, for instance, has been described as "groundbreaking" and "historic."

While the cost of carrying out our mandate has continued to increase and annual funding has remained constant, the Commission has taken significant steps to maintain expenditure levels consistent with our request.

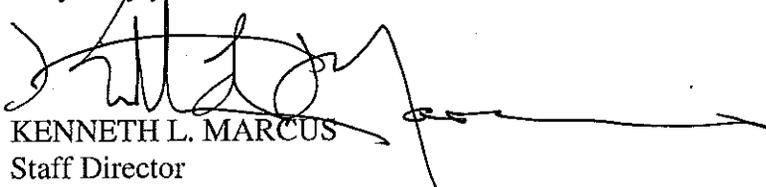
Coordination with Other Agencies

We have reviewed the appropriate sections of the OMB Circular No. A-11 concerning coordination with other agencies for compliance with stated policies, and the Commission is in compliance with Circular A No. A-11.

Section 1108(c) Certification

As required by Section 1108(c) of Title 31, United States Code, I am reporting that all statements of obligations furnished to OMB in connection with the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights' FY 2008 request consist of valid obligations as defined in section 1501(a) of that title.

Very truly yours,


KENNETH L. MARCUS
Staff Director

Enclosures



UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20425

OFFICE OF STAFF DIRECTOR

March 7, 2007

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
S-131 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Mikulski:

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights requests an appropriation of \$8,800,000 for FY 2008. Please note that the tables and schedules in this submission are based on the President's budget of \$8,800,000. Hailed as the "conscience of the Nation" on civil rights matters, the Commission has recently demonstrated concerted efforts to regain the confidence of the American public after years of widely reported mismanagement. With new leadership at the helm, the Commission began to implement significant financial and operational reforms in FY 2005 and early FY 2006. While these reforms have not yet had their full impact, we are confident that they will bring much-needed changes to the agency's operations in future fiscal years. Our recent receipt of an unqualified audit opinion on our financial statements demonstrates that our efforts have already begun to yield positive results.

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Coordination with Other Agencies

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Section 1108(c) Certification

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Very truly yours,



KENNETH L. MARCUS
Staff Director

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