

# THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

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## PRESS RELEASE

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## **U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF TRANSCRIPTS FOR THE SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE MILITARY BRIEFING & THE CIVIL RIGHTS EFFECTS OF STATE IMMIGRATION LAWS BRIEFING**

**WASHINGTON, DC** - The United States Commission on Civil Rights announces that it has released the transcripts for the briefing held on January 11, 2013 on the topic of Sexual Assault in the Military and the August 17, 2012 field briefing on the Civil Rights Effects of State Immigration Laws. The briefing transcripts are available to the public on our website at: <http://www.usccr.gov/calendar/transcripts.php>.

Commission Chairman Martin R. Castro stated, "Recent events surrounding national immigration reform and concerns over sexual assault crimes in the military demonstrates the timeliness of the Commission's release of these transcripts. Data recently released by the Pentagon shows an increase in the number of reported sexual assault crimes in the military. This report, coupled with testimony received during hearings held on Capitol Hill, has strengthened bipartisan efforts to change the way that the U.S. military handles cases of reported sexual assault. These bipartisan efforts are also evident with the introduction of an immigration reform bill and the ongoing discussions that are occurring nationwide. It is hoped that the release of these transcripts will contribute positively to the efforts currently being made to improve the delivery of services to military victims of sexual assault and to the consideration of comprehensive immigration reform."

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with monitoring federal civil rights enforcement. Members include Chairman Martin R. Castro and Commissioners Roberta Achtenberg, Todd Gaziano, Gail Heriot, Peter Kirsanow, David Kladney, Abigail Thernstrom, and Michael Yaki. Commission meetings and briefings are open to the general public. The Commission's website is <http://www.usccr.gov>.