



The Senate of The State of Texas

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October 28, 2011

Ms. Cherie Townsend
Executive Director
Texas Youth Commission
P.O. Box 4260
Austin, Texas 78765-4260

Dear Ms. Townsend:

It has come to my attention that the Texas Youth Commission has had a contract with Walter Quijano for treatment services for several years and at several TYC facilities. I am also told that the current contract is now under review.

I am not aware how long your agency has known about the statements Mr. Quijano made in open court about race being a contributing factor in determining an individual's future criminal risk. Statements which are prejudice, if not racist.

Given that over 34 percent of the TYC population is African American, I find it extremely alarming that someone with Mr. Quijano's bias has had any control over their health care and well-being. I am also shocked that his contract was not immediately suspended when you and your staff learned of his recent comments in court.

I request that you immediately remove Mr. Quijano from having any contact with the youth at TYC and that you terminate his contract. I also suggest that every child Mr. Quijano has had contact with over the last several years be reviewed to ensure the treatment they received was not in any way negatively impacted or that their length of stay or progression through the TYC treatment program was not altered due to Mr. Quijano's bias.

I look forward to your quick response.

Sincerely,


JOHN WHITMIRE

