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Hispanic College Fund, Inc.

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
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July 7, 2003

Office of General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20463

Re: Silvestre Reyes Hispanic College Fund Scholarship

Dear Mr. Norton,

Pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 437f, this letter requests an advisory opinion from the Federal Election Commission on behalf of The Honorable Silvestre Reyes, Congressman from the 16th District of Texas, and the Hispanic College Fund (HCF). Mr. Reyes is the Representative from the 16th Congressional District of Texas.

The Hispanic College Fund is a ten year old national 501c3 non profit organization that raises money from corporate, private, foundation and government sources to provide scholarships to Hispanic undergraduate students whose family income does not exceed the median family income in their region. All grants are need and merit based.

The Hispanic College Fund intends to provide a sum of money annually, to be initially at least $5000 and to be increased as more funds are solicited and donated, to fund program expenses and scholarships to students living in El Paso, Texas. All funds would be charitable donations made to the Hispanic College Fund, to be used for scholarships and related expenses, as reasonably determined by HCF. The scholarship would be called the Silvestre Reyes HCF Scholarship and it would be awarded to one or more full time college students living in El Paso, the 16th Congressional District, selected by the HCF, under criteria established by the HCF with input from Mr. Reyes. The scholarship would be promoted in El Paso by various means. The donor's name, subject to the donor's approval, would be included in any marketing of the scholarship. There would be flyers and posters, or other signage as well as direct contacts to educational institutions in order to solicit applications for scholarships.

Funds for the scholarship would be solicited by direct mail, on HCF stationary, with Mr. Reyes' signature, and by other means normally utilized by the HCF staff.

No mention would be made of any campaign for office, no part of the funds would go to Mr. Reyes' office or campaign, no expenses of Mr. Reyes or his office or campaign would be paid by the HCF, and no student will be selected by anyone other than the HCF.

We respectfully request that the proposed scholarship fund be allowed.

Sincerely,

J. Fernando Barrueta
President and CEO

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