

The State of Texas
House of Representatives

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State Representative
District 39

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June 13, 2014

Dear South Texas Youth Congress Members,

Congratulations on your inaugural session and this wonderful Dream Forward Dinner tonight!

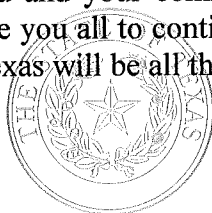
You have been afforded a great opportunity to grow not only as a student, but also as a future leader for the state of Texas. You have taken the initiative to enrich yourselves and your knowledge base. Never lose that drive because it will lead you to great things in the future. They say that every journey begins with a step; well because of your experience at South Texas Youth Congress all of you are running ahead of the pack.

I understand that at your February meeting in Corpus Christi you listed college and career readiness as well as college tuition as some of the Congress' top priorities. I commend you for focusing on these issues because they are vitally important to the future success of Texas. Our state is the leader in economic development in this country, but with this comes the need for an educated, financially stable workforce at hand.

Texas will only go as far as students such as yourselves do. I am encouraged to know that our future is bright with well-educated, hardworking individuals such as yourselves.

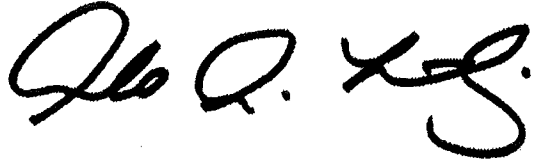
I hope you have enjoyed your time with the South Texas Youth Congress. Participating in this activity is an achievement you will cherish for your entire life.

South Texas Youth Congress has given you a brief glimpse into the life of a legislator. Some of you may continue down this path and become an elected official in the future - some of you may not - but if you learn anything from your time as a South Texas Youth Congress member let it be this: you and your communities are best served when you stand up for your beliefs. I encourage you **all** to continue to stand up for your beliefs and for your communities; the state of Texas will be **all** the better for it.



In the future, I invite you to visit your State Capitol in Austin. We would be more than happy to help you on your visit. God bless you and God bless the State of Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Armando Q. Martinez'.

Armando "Mando" Martinez
State Representative, District 39