Dear Commissioners:

I am reaching out today to respectfully urge the eight of you to please prioritize the representation of the Latino community onto this incredibly important commission.

There are currently no Latino commissioners, but there are a total of 7 qualified Latinos in the pool of remaining applicants that you could select from. Latino’s make up about 40% of California’s population and the complete lack of Latino representation is deeply concerning and unbelievable, as if we don’t exist! But only when there is an election.

Latinos are needed at tables of power like this one to voice the concerns and needs of the largest ethnic group in the state. We have history in California, and yet we are treated as strangers in our state and the country. Systemic breakdowns throughout the entire application process—from the underrepresentation of the applicant pool to the probability of random drawings—have left the Latino community shut out of this commission.

With so much at stake, and fair representation on the line, I urge all of you to keep Latino representation in mind when selecting the next six commissioners.

Thank you and Regards,

-Victoria Sanchez De Alba