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**Office of the Executive Director**  
*Oficina del Director Ejecutivo*

March 26, 2018

Dear Members of the NSBA National Hispanic Council,

Texas serves 20% of the Hispanic students enrolled in our nation's public schools. Still, here in Texas, should your general membership or our NSBA Board refuse to take action, it is fair to presume that Lydia Hernandez of Cartwright School District #83, present Chair Elect of the National Hispanic Council, will *not* be welcomed to Texas in any capacity as Chair or Immediate Past Chair of the NHC.

Here in Texas, we regret the tragic experience we had of Hernandez during her most recent visit to our state. As all who were present at our annual Member Assembly know, Hernandez caused a public scene there, belligerently suggesting that, contrary to our bylaws, she possessed the right to vote during that Assembly. She has since been unrelenting in her mistaken—indeed laughable—assertion that our Member Assembly did not operate according to parliamentary procedure. More troubling, her state of inebriation on the evening of February 24 and morning of February 25 created situations for which we are still apologizing to longtime members.

Subsequently, Hernandez has attempted to impugn our organization, disparage and defame officers and directors, spread hearsay, and she has circulated the most incredible communications with allegations of purported events during non-sanctioned events that she attended until roughly 4:00 a.m. on February 25. The mistruths—the lies—that she continues to spread are a veritable cause for concern and have not been kindly received by our organization.

A local Mexican American historian here in Austin has suggested that we, as Mexican Americans, can be like Gila monsters, not relenting in the death grip with which we sink our teeth into the persons and issues on which we fixate, while injecting poison into them. During these past four weeks, Hernandez has injected considerable poison into our organization and into the state of public education in Texas. It was my original belief that we should offer Hernandez white-glove treatment and the benefit of the doubt. We can no longer. Hernandez has apparently allowed mental health issues to cloud her judgment, and her lack of character, empathy, decency and prudence makes it extremely difficult to fathom the possibility of respect for her as Chair of our National Hispanic Council. Even the most serene personality in our organization has expressed anger over her continued antics.

Our MASBA Board of Directors is focused on closing opportunity and achievement gaps for all students—particularly for the Hispanic students who comprise the majority of students in Texas, and for the English Language Learners who will be 25% of our Texas public schools by 2025. We have not appreciated the distractions and the drama created by Hernandez, and, while we are willing to suffer her for a year as Chair of our National Hispanic Council, she will not be welcome in Texas for the remainder of 2018, or at our annual MASBA conference in 2019 or 2020.

Please do not hesitate to email me (jayme@masbatx.org) or to call (512.826.0280) with any questions concerning the very serious matter of this communication, and, by all means, please feel free to reach out to other officers of our organization for their perspectives on Hernandez's puerile, unbecoming and unprofessional conduct.

*Adelante marchemos unidos,*

Dr. Jayme Mathias  
Executive Director

cc. National School Boards Association Board of Directors  
Cartwright School District #83 Governing Board