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4TH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

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JUDICIARY

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**House of Representatives**

**Washington, DC 20515-1004**

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October 24, 2017

Mr. Maury McIntyre  
President and COO  
Television Academy  
5220 Lankershim Blvd.  
North Hollywood, CA 91601-3109

Dear Mr. McIntyre:

As a senior member of the House Judiciary Committee, a founding member of the Congressional Caucus for Advancement of Studio, Talent (CAST) and Film Diversity, and a member that has long championed the equal rights for others, I write to congratulate you on the work that has been done to acknowledge television achievement by minorities. I applaud the successes seen on the most recent Emmy telecast; yet, there is still more that needs to be done, particularly with regard to Latino actors.

I noticed the glaring issue of Latino marginalization during the same telecast. I understand that the Emmys occur after all the casting choices have been made, but because the Emmys represent the best in television, we need to join together and address the front end problem. Unfortunately, my research shows that only nine Latinos (two Latinas and seven Latinos) have won a total of thirteen Emmys in the entire history of the Emmy Awards.

- The first Emmy, received by a Latino actor was in 1964 to **Albert Paulsen**, who won for *Bob Hope Presents the Chrysler Theatre* (Outstanding Supporting Actor/Drama)
- In 1965, **Edward James Olmos** won for *Miami Vice* (Outstanding Supporting Actor)
- In 1978, **Ricardo Montalban** won for *How the West Was Won* (Outstanding Guest Actor)
- In 1978, **Rita Moreno** won for *The Rockford Files* (Outstanding Guest Actress)
- In 1990, **Jimmy Smits** won for *L.A. Law* (Outstanding Supporting Actor/Drama)
- In 1997, **Hector Elizondo** won for *Chicago Hope* (Outstanding Supporting Actor/Drama)
- In 1999, **John Leguizamo** won for *Freak* (Individual Performance in a Variety Show)
- In 1999, **Louis C.K.** for *The Chris Rock Show* (Outstanding Writing for a Variety Show)
- In 2007, **America Ferrera** won for *Ugly Betty* (Lead Comedy Actress)
- In 2012, **Louis C.K.** for *Live at the Beacon Theater*, 2013 for *Oh My God* and In 2015 for *Live at the Comedy Store* (Outstanding Writing for a Variety Show)

Diversity and inclusion are not just about race, gender, or sexual orientation, but also about ethnicity. Undervalued performances by individuals like **Gina Rodriguez** in *Jane the Virgin*, **Benito Martinez** in *American Crime*, **Sofia Vergara** in *Modern Family*, **Wilmer Valderrama** in *NCIS*, **Gael Garcia Bernal** in *Mozart in the Jungle* and **Miguel Angel Silvestre** in *Sense8* are a small example of unrecognized Emmy worthy roles.

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I am working with the National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts (NHFA), the NAACP, CAST Caucus, the National Urban League, and a host of other organizations and welcome an opportunity to meet with the Academy to discuss the issue of Latino underrepresentation among the nominees and among the Emmy show presenters. NHFA has commissioned studies on Latino underrepresentation in television. For more information, please see the following report on the Latino Media Gap: <http://bit.ly/2n2ONiZ>. Similar studies have been undertaken about African Americans, LGBTQ persons, and other minority groups. In today's pluralistic society, it is essential that diversity be celebrated and acknowledged. This is especially true for the arts, which have the potential to heal divisions, inform, and bring our nation and the world together.

Again, Mr. McIntyre, I, along with colleagues, look forward to opening up a dialogue with the Television Academy and hope that you will visit with us when you are next in Washington. Until then, I would welcome the opportunity to schedule a conference call with you to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hank Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Hank" and last name "Johnson" clearly distinguishable.

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress