



April 11, 1992

Dear Friends,

The long struggle for justice and reparations is not yet over!

Two very important components of the redress program we all fought for are being threatened: the *entitlement* designation for the redress appropriations and the *education fund*.

Write Letters to Support HR 4551

We are asking concerned members of the community to write letters to keep our entitlement classification and preserve the education function of the redress program. The Bush Administration is seeking to eliminate both.

We encourage you to write at least three letters urging support for House of Representatives Bill 4551 to:

1. Sen. John Seymour (R-CA)
Dirksen 367
Washington, D.C. 20510
2. Your representative in Congress.
3. President George Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Background of HR 4551

On March 24, 1992, Democratic House leader Richard Gephardt, with Republican leader Newt Gingrich, together with Reps. Mineta, Matsui, Don Edwards, Pelosi, Hyde, Horton and Mink introduced HR 4551, the Civil Liberties Act Amendments of 1992.

The basic components of HR 4551 are: (1) authorization of an additional \$320 million to complete the redress program: \$250 million in fiscal year 1993 and \$70 million in fiscal year 1994; (2) compensation for forty internees not of Japanese ancestry who accompanied their spouse or children into Camp; and (3) extension of the Office of Redress Administration by 180 days after the Fund terminates.

On April 1, HR 4551 was passed by the Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Law and Governmental Relations. Also passed was HR 4553, introduced by Rep. Matsui, adding amendments to ensure that Veterans Administration benefits are

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not affected by redress payments. The bills are now before the full House Judiciary Committee and will be considered after the Easter recess.

On March 31, Sen. Daniel Inouye introduced S. 2495, the Senate version of HR 4551. No hearing has been scheduled in the Senate.

Direct Spending vs. Entitlement

The Bush Administration alternative to HR 4551 provides that additional spending for reparations be classified as "direct spending." This is a budgetary term which means that redress payments would come from the domestic discretionary account, which would take away the redress payments' designation as an entitlement.

The Administration is also seeking to eliminate the education function of the fund. This could jeopardize the additional \$70 million included in HR 4551.

Letter Writing Strategy

The key person to target with your letter is **Senator John Seymour** of California. Redress is acknowledged as an important issue in this state. The Administration is very concerned about his reelection. If Seymour receives enough pressure to support HR 4551, the Administration might be persuaded to drop its opposition.

The next most important to receive letters are **Republican members of Congress**. There are no California Republicans sponsoring HR 4551. Write your Congressman. He or she is up for election this year. *Especially* if you have a Republican Congressman, ask that he or she sponsor HR 4551 and **support keeping entitlement status and support the redress education fund**.

Write to President Bush. Urge him to maintain the entitlement designation for the redress program and to honor the education fund as originally included in the law.

Your support will once again overcome these hurdles.

Justice Now! Reparations Now!

Sincerely,



Alan Nishio
President



Miya Iwataki
Legislation Education Chair