



JEB BUSH
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

Office of the Governor

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November 28, 2006

The Honorable Tom Tancredo
United States House of Representatives
1130 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0606

Dear Representative Tancredo,

As Governor of Florida, I am proud of our diverse array of heritages and cultures. Florida's immigrants are part of the reason Florida leads the nation in job growth, continues to be in ascendancy and why we are a model of the greatness America represents. I was disappointed to read of your disparaging comments regarding my hometown of Miami.

The fact is members of all ethnicities in Florida contribute to our economy, enhance our communities and enrich our cultural heritage. From the arts and entertainment, to politics and policy, to law and sciences, Florida's residents have left a positive mark on the city of Miami and the state of Florida. And they will continue to do so.

Miami's younger generation of students are leading the charge in Florida's education accomplishments and in closing the achievement gap. More minority students are taking the PSAT and SAT tests, graduating high school, and applying to college than ever before, and several of Miami's high schools are home to the best Advanced Placement programs in the country. Miami Coral Park Senior High School has the largest number of Hispanic students in the nation scoring a 3 or higher in AP Calculus AB and AP Psychology. Miami Palmetto Senior High School has the most Hispanic students across the country scoring a 3 or higher in AP Chemistry and Miami Sunset Senior High School sets the national record for Hispanic students scoring a 3 or higher in AP Macroeconomics. These achievements are a far cry from the "ethnic enclaves devoid of any English" you mentioned in your statement.

There's no question that all large cities, including Denver, are prone to crime, however we have been working to fix that in Miami. We have toughened our crime laws throughout the state and hardened our punishments. Since 1999, the crime rates in the city of Miami and Miami-Dade County have dropped every year.

The bottom line is Miami is a wonderful city filled with diversity and heritage that we choose to celebrate, not insult. Miami has been my home for years and I am looking forward to returning there in January.



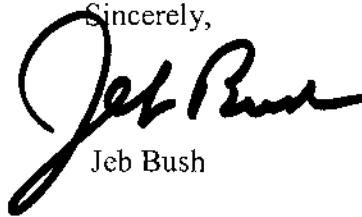
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If there is a lesson to be learned from this, perhaps your naïve comments serve as a good reminder for everyone to lessen the anger, frustration and emotion surrounding the issue of immigration. Overheated rhetoric won't solve this issue. We need a comprehensive solution that will require cooler heads to prevail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeb Bush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Jeb" and "Bush" being capitalized and prominent.

Jeb Bush

P.S. I hope you will take
Cong. Ros-Lehtinen's offer to
come visit our community.