April, 1964

The Honorable Everett Dirksen
Senate Office Building
Washington, 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Dirksen:

The time has come for our nation to declare by law as well as in word that it takes seriously its constitutional and moral protestations of the rights of all its citizens to human dignity, freedom, justice, equal opportunity and equal protection under the laws. The time has come to pass a comprehensive law which will commit our nation to the elimination of discrimination and segregation on the basis of race, religion or national origin from every corner of the land.

It is the conviction of the undersigned that the present House version of the Civil Rights Act of 1963 (H.R. 7152), while leaving many areas of national concern outside its scope, goes a long way toward such a comprehensive law. Therefore we call upon you, as a lawmaker whose concern it is not only to represent your state but also the national interest, whose concern it is not only to enact legislation which is desired by the people but also which is morally right and constitutionally defensible - as we believe this bill to be, to do all within your power to work for the passage in the Senate of the present civil rights bill without weakening amendments.

Specifically, we call upon you:

1. To vote for cloture without elimination or weakening of any provisions of the bill as it came from the House of Representatives;

2. To remain in the Capitol Building during the filibuster so that you will be on hand for all Quorum Calls within the Senate; and

3. To vote for the civil rights bill (H.R. 7152) without weakening amendments or deletions once the filibuster is concluded.

It is with this concern that the people of this nation look to you in these crucial weeks.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

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