

June 21, 2004

The Hon. Dennis Hastert, Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232 Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Hastert:

You might recall your correspondence with my congressman, Randy "Duke" Cunningham, back in late 1999. He had suggested that I might open the Second Session of the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress with the *Star-Spangled Banner* in a key in which the vast majority of people can sing the high notes. Your polite response at that time was that it wasn't customary to accept such requests.

I am writing to ask for your reconsideration. Since then, and most recently beginning with a front page article in the New York Times on June 5<sup>th</sup>, I have received amazing national support and enthusiasm for designating the key of G-major as the official key in which our National Anthem should be played when **audiences** are asked to sing it. I would be delighted to demonstrate if for you personally.

As with nearly everything, there are pluses and minuses. In this instance, I think you will agree that the pluses greatly outweigh the minuses. On the minus side, there would be less demand for soloists; for the novice brass instrumentalist, it would be more challenging; and there would be new printing costs. On the plus side, the vast majority of our population could, at last, share the thrill, sense of unity, and profound patriotism in being able to sing our National Anthem. It would also be easier to play on the piano and string instruments.

I am enclosing 1) the resolution I brought before my city council who, after due deliberation, passed it unanimously, 2), the brief presentation I presented before my city council, and 3) a few of the articles and editorials that my "crusade" has generated.

Your reconsideration would be greatly appreciated. I'll eager await your reply.

With all best regards,

Edward A. Siegel, M.D.

c.c The Hon. Randy "Duke" Cunningham