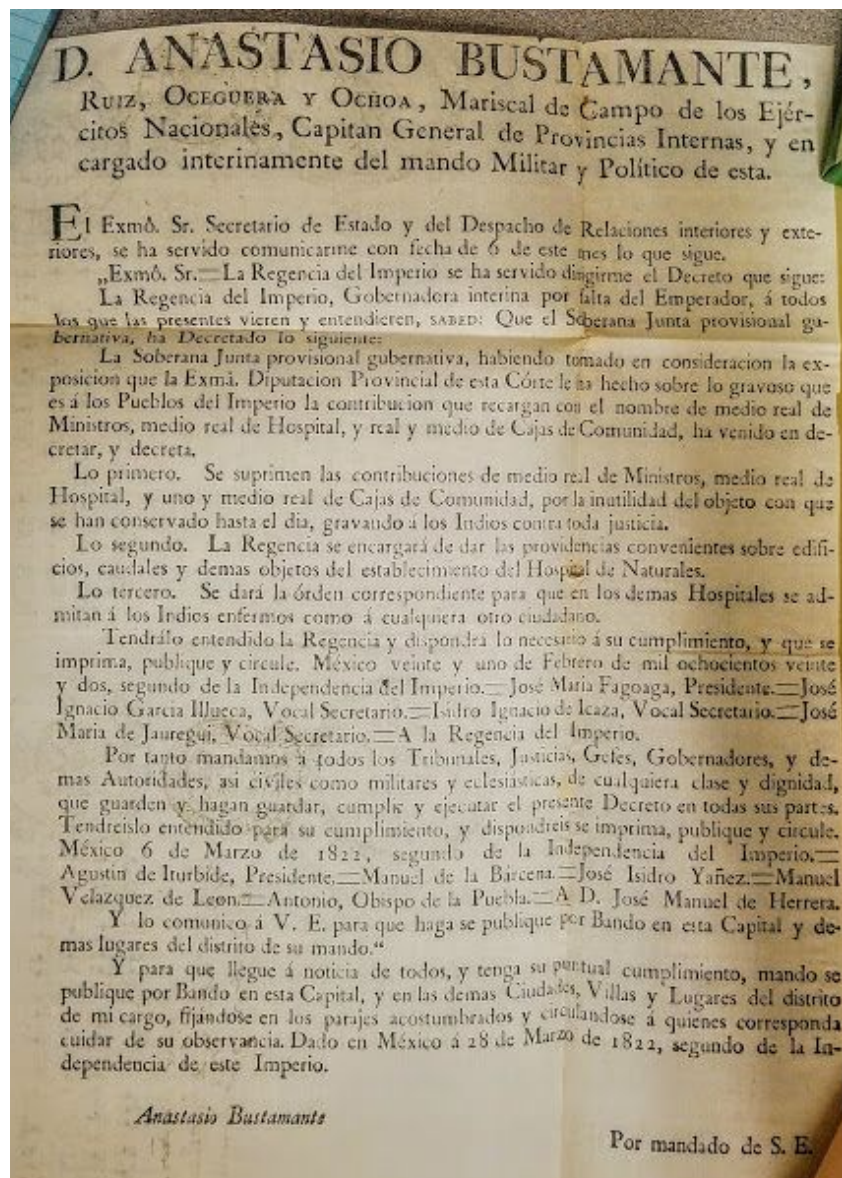


Access to Medical Care

Level: Grades 3-12

This is a letter that was written by a government official to staff at a Mexican hospital in 1822. He asks that they treat Mexican natives in the same way they treat everyone else.

Read the letter carefully and then imagine you have to give a speech at a big doctor's meeting trying to convince them that they needed to treat patients who were born in Mexico in the same way they treat patients from everywhere else. What would you say to convince them to do what you ask?



The Esteemed Secretary of the State and of the Office of Interior and Exterior Relations, has communicated the following to me on the 6th of this month:

Esteemed Sir: The Regency of the Empire has served me the following decree:

The Regency of the Empire, interim Governor for lack of the Emperor, to all who are present and who understand: Let it Be Known: That the Sovereign Provisional Government has Decreed the following:

The Sovereign Provisional Government has taken into consideration the exposition that the Esteemed Provincial Deputy of this Corte has made about the gravity of the towns of the Empire that serve the Ministries, through the Hospital, through the Community Chest, has decreed, and decrees:

First. The Contributions of the Ministry, the Hospital, and the Community Chests, through the lack of utility of their functions until today, have injured the Indians again all forms of justice.

Second. The Regency will take charge of all the buildings, structures, and objects of the establishment of the Hospital of the Indians.

Third. The Regency gives the order that all Hospitals admit sick Indians just as in all other citizens.

The Regency understands that all will be done to complete these orders, including printing, publishing, and circulating. Mexico, twenty one of February of 1822, second date of the Independence of the Empire. Jose Maria Gagoaga, President. Jose Ingacio Garcia Illueca, Secretary. Isidro Ignacio de Icaza, Secretary. Jose Maria de Juaregui, Secretary. To the Regency of the Empire.

We send this to all the Courts, Justices, Chiefs, Governors, and all Authorities, civil, military, and ecclesiastic, of all class and dignity, those who guard and are guarded, who must complete and execute the present Decree in all its parts. Understand and comply, and distribute, print, publish, and circulate. Mexico, 6 of March of 1822, second date of the Independence of the Empire. Augstin de Iturbide, President. Manuel de la Barcea. Jose Isidro Yanez. Manuel Velazques de Leon. Antonio, Bishop of Puebla. A.D. Jose Manuel de Herrera.

And I communicate to Your Excellent so that you publish this throughout the Capital and all the other areas of the district under your command.

And so that this news arrives to everyone, and is punctual in its fulfillment, I command that you published this throughout the Capital, and all the other Cities, Valleys, and Places of the district under my command, focusing on the usual areas, and circulating to all. Decreed in Mexico the 28 of March os 1822, second date of the Independence of this Empire.

Anastasio Bustamante

Decreed by His Excellency