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## OSC Concludes Hatch Act Investigation of Secretary Castro

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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The U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) sent an investigative report to the President today, finding that Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julián Castro violated the Hatch Act during a Yahoo News interview on April 4, 2016. According to OSC’s report, Secretary Castro’s statements during the interview impermissibly mixed his personal political views with official agency business despite his efforts to clarify that some answers were being given in his personal capacity.

Federal employees are permitted to make partisan remarks when speaking in their personal capacity, but not when using their official title or when speaking about agency business.

OSC conducted an investigation after receiving a complaint about the interview. The final step in an OSC Hatch Act investigation of an official who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate is to send the report to the President, together with a response from the official.

OSC’s report can be found [here](#), and Secretary Castro’s response can be found [here](#).

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*The U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) is an independent federal investigative and prosecutorial agency. Our basic authorities come from four federal statutes: the Civil Service Reform Act, the Whistleblower Protection Act, the Hatch Act, and the Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). OSC’s primary mission is to safeguard the merit system by protecting federal employees and applicants from prohibited personnel practices, especially reprisal for whistleblowing, and to serve as a safe channel for allegations of wrongdoing. For more information, please visit our website at [www.osc.gov](http://www.osc.gov).*