



State of Connecticut
Latino and Puerto Rican
Affairs Commission

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A Word from the Chairman

Though the 2009 legislative session is still young, it has been one of the toughest in recent memory, as the fiscal crisis negatively impacts communities across the state. And though the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission's very existence has been questioned, we remain stalwart in our commitment to carrying on the Commission's work on behalf of our communities.

Never has that work been more relevant than at a time when budget cuts threaten a disproportionate impact on minority communities. Though we now comprise nearly 12 percent of the state population we account for just 3.2 percent of appointments to state boards and commissions.

The Commissions (African-African American Affairs Commission, Asian Affairs Commission, Commission on Children and the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women), were created as advocates and watchdogs for the state's most vulnerable and underrepresented populations. Though battles have been won, there is still much ground to be gained. One need only look out of the windows of the state capitol to see that. We are the voice for entire populations and the conscience of a government and we will continue to act in that capacity.

I invite you all to examine our legislative agenda for this session. Built upon solid research, it is a clear assessment of our communities' needs and contains actionable recommendations that will impact minority communities at a time when every dollar is precious.

I ask you all to join us in building the coalitions and partnerships necessary for the advancement of the Latino and minority communities in the state.

Thank you,

Carlos Alvarez
Chairman LPRAC