



State of Connecticut
Latino and Puerto Rican
Affairs Commission

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Testimony of Fernando Betancourt, Executive Director of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission
Human Services Committee
Tuesday, January 30, 2007
2:00 P.M. in Room 1C of the LOB
Proposed Bill No. 6278, "*An Act Appropriating Funds for the Connecticut Association for United Spanish Action (CAUSA)*"

Good afternoon Senator Harris, State Representative Villano, and honorable members of the Human Services Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly. My name is Fernando Betancourt, Executive Director of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission (LPRAC). I am here today in support of Proposed House Bill Number 6278, "*An Act Appropriating Funds for the Connecticut Association for United Spanish Action (CAUSA)*" while the bill does not have specific amount we would like to recommend that at a minimum it remains at the level of previous year's allocations.

The LPRAC believe that this bill should be strengthen by requiring the State the Department of Social Services develop a needs assessment study in the areas served by the agencies that belong to the CAUSA network. We understand that in the absence of such a tool it is extremely difficult for the state to provide the much needed funding to the community based organizations that CAUSA advocates for. We are convinced that benchmarks goals and objectives should be developed by the Department of Social Services in coordination with the previously mentioned organizations that will allow for a better and more accurate recommendation of funding for future years.

Thank you for your attention on this matter and I would be happy to respond to any questions that you may have at this time regarding this proposal.