

Written Testimony to the Appropriations Committee
February 11, 2009
RE: Asian Pacific American Commission

I unfortunately was unable to make it to today's meeting due to commitments at the University of Connecticut. Nevertheless, I want to emphatically stress the importance of APAC in the continued and necessary commitment to Asian Pacific American communities in Connecticut. As someone who works with Asian American students, and as an Asian American, I know firsthand the challenges that face a population that is consistently overlooked because they are viewed as "model minorities." I have talked to students who struggle with mental health issues. I have read, in their writing, their continued experiences with racism on and off campus. I have also spoken with them about their profound lack of visibility with regard to public policy and political initiatives. Excluded because of perceptions of privilege and denied access to health services as a result of invisibility, Asian Pacific Americans in Connecticut lack representation despite their position within one of the largest growing populations in the state and within the nation. It is therefore imperative that the commission's work continue and continue to be funded.

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