

Statement of Carmen Sierra
December 9, 2009

Members of the Committee--my name is Carmen Sierra. I am Executive Director of the Connecticut Association for United Spanish Action--CAUSA.

We are a leading social service provider to the Latino community in Connecticut.

I must oppose the Governor's proposal to reduce the Hispanic Human Resources Development Program by 25 percent.

This cut would be devastating for our local agencies throughout the state.

It is one thing to freeze our payment in the future or to give us time to adjust to a future situation.

But a mid-year cut of this magnitude is unfair. It is wrong and people will be hurt if it is adopted.

If the 25% cut is for the entire fiscal year, then it really is a 50% cut since there are only two quarters left.

Regardless, think about the most vulnerable people in the state. Low-income, many unemployed, some with substance abuse or mental health problems.

Very vulnerable people.

We are the provider of last resort. If you cut the remaining program 25% like the Governor proposes, the result is people will be harmed.

Please reject the cut to the Hispanic Human Resources Development Program line item.

Thank you.