SENATOR TONI HARP, JOHN GERAGOSIAN 2/11/09
AND THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE,

MY NAME IS BRIAN CARPENTER, A FULL TIME STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT. I AM HERE TO SUPPORT THE ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN COALITION WHICH IS A NON-PARTISAN GROUP OF CONCERNED CITIZENS WHO ARE LEADERS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE ASIAN COMMUNITIES VOLUNTEERING THEIR TIME AND RESOURCES TO ADVOCATE ON THE BEHALF OF CONNECTICUT ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU IN THE SUPPORT IN THE PASSAGE OF ESTABLISHING AN ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION. THE LEGISLATION IS TO TAKE EFFECT ON JULY 1ST 2009 AND NEEDS FUNDING.

I REQUEST THAT YOU ADEQUATELY FUND THE COMMISSION, WHICH IS ONLY A TINY PART OF THE OVERALL BUDGET, SO THE ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN COMMUNITY CAN FINALLY HAVE A VOICE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES. FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND THE APA COMMUNITY IS ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING MINORITY GROUPS IN THE STATE. IT HAS BEEN PROJECTED THAT BY 2025 THE ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN COMMUNITY WILL OUT NUMBER LATINO AMERICANS.

SEVENTY PERCENT OF THE APA COMMUNITIES ARE REFUGEES OR IMMIGRANTS. WITH SO MANY NEW REFUGEES FLOODING INTO THE HARTFORD AREA FROM COUNTRIES LIKE BURMA, WE NEED TO GIVE THESE NEWLY TRANSPLANTED INDIVIDUALS THE RESOURCES TO BECOME SUCCESSFUL. THEY NEED TO BE GIVEN THE ASSETS TO GIVE BACK TO OUR ECONOMY RATHER THAN BECOMING FINANCIAL BURDENS.

THE COMMISSION WOULD BE ADVOCATES, PROVIDING ACCESS TO HOUSING, HEALTHCARE, AND EDUCATION. ONCE THESE CORE SERVICES CAN BE ESTABLISHED THESE COMMUNITIES CAN THRIVE FREE OF DISEASE, MALCONTENT AND IGNORANCE. THERE IS A NEED IN THE COMMUNITY AND THE COMMISSION WOULD ACT AS A LIAISON BETWEEN VARIOUS COMMUNITIES AND THE GOVERNMENT.

I AM ASKING THAT THE COMMITTEE ADEQUATELY FUND THE COMMISSION TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES THAT THE NEW WAVE OF ASIAN REFUGEES FACE. THEY ARE NOT THE DOCTORS OR ENGINEERS THAT YOU AUTOMATICALLY THINK OF; THEY ARE ALSO THE POOR AND DESPITUTE SUFFERING IN SILENCE.

AGAIN, I THANK THE COMMITTEE'S SUPPORT AND REQUEST IF FUND THE COMMISSION IN ORDER TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE UNVOICED APA COMMUNITIES. THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO PROVIDE THIS TESTIMONY.

BRIAN CARPENTER