Senator Toni Harp, John Gerdgosian, and members of the Committee, My name is Michael Alberto and I am an Industrial radiographer. I am a supporter of the Asian Pacific American Coalition. It is a group of various Asian communities each with representatives who volunteer their time and resources for Asian Pacific Americans in Connecticut.

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 but a small part of the overall budget, so the Asian Pacific American community can finally have a voice in their respective communities.

From the healthcare aspect, Asian Americans suffer from the highest rates of Tuberculosis in the U.S.. In the western world TB is a completely curable disease, but so many Asian Americans are dying needless deaths. With proper education and advocate in the community, sick individuals would have help finding proper care before it is too late.

APAC would support various communities by educating individuals who can then teach their affiliated groups the benefits of healthcare.

It is important for individuals to have an understanding of preventative care. It would then ease the financial burden of tax payers who, in turn, pay for emergency room visits and other costly care avors.

Again, I thank the Committee's support and request it to fund the Commission in order to serve the needs of the unvoiced APA communities. Thank you for allowing me to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL ALBERTO