



Society of Latin American Firefighters
120 Spruce Street
Manchester, Connecticut 06040

February 10, 2009

Honorable Toni Harp, Co-Chair
Senator
Honorable Juan Candelaria, Co-Chair
State Representative
Appropriations Committee
State Legislature
State of Connecticut
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Sen. Harp & Rep. Candelaria:

The Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission has been a vital part of the Hispanic community for the past 14 years. It was the Legislature, in keeping with current trends of addressing the issues of a growing community, who had the foresight to establish this Commission in the first place. It behooves the Legislature to continue to recognize how vital it is for this agency to continue serving the needs of the Hispanic population in Connecticut.

The Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission has been the voice of the Hispanic community in many areas including health, education, immigrant issues and youth to just name a few. They have been instrumental in working with many partners in the community and we have supported their efforts at their annual leadership and student recognition for many years.

The Hispanic community has been hurting for many more years than the current harsh economic times. It would be so detrimental to do away with an agency that can bring those major concerns to the table of those with the power and influence to be able to make the situation just a little better for those under-served in areas of employment, housing, health and education.

We implore the Appropriations and, through it, the Legislature to recognize the value of this organization and ensure that it remains a part of the State budget. We are sure that they can agree to institute any and all measures that will assist with this hard economic downturn but to remove them now would be to silence a huge population that is in dire need of services at this time.

We can be reached at 860-836-3987 should you have any questions and stand ready to provide testimony if it would help their cause.

Sincerely,

Joey Huertas

Joey Huertas, President