

State of Connecticut

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
ATTORNEY GENERAL



Hartford

December 9, 2009

Lucia Goicoechea-Hernandez
Connecticut Latino Puerto Rican Affairs Commission
18-20 Trinity Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Ms. Goicoechea-Hernandez:

I am disappointed to hear of the proposed elimination of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission and the other legislative commissions.

As I have stated consistently, the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission is a key advocate for a significant community with unique and profoundly meaningful needs. The Commission is also a critical forum for bringing together the diverse elements of that community and articulating public issues of special importance to Latinos.

For the past 13 years, the Commission has championed many causes -- including Spanish interpreters for courts, tougher regulations for predatory lending and improved health services. The Commission compiles a comprehensive socio-economic study on the Latinos residing in the state.

The Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission, along with the African-American Affairs Commission, the Asian Pacific Americans Commission, the Commission on Aging, the Commission on Children and the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, provide an extraordinarily valuable public service in shaping public policy affecting their communities. The General Assembly makes better policy decisions because of their input.

I hope the General Assembly finds solutions to the budget crisis that preserve these important agencies.

Very truly yours,

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL

RB/pas