



CASA BORICUA DE MERIDEN, INC.

204 Colony Street, Meriden. CT. 06451

Statement of Magali Kupfer
Before the Appropriations Committee
March 4, 2011

Senator Harp, Representative Walker and member of the committee:

We are asking the legislators' to increase funding to the HISPANIC/LATINO AGENCY OF THE STATE OF CT.

This is a population that is in need of service in all areas. It is a matter of survival also a Humanitarian on the part of the legislators to fund the agency that helps them become productive citizens of the State of Ct.

Meriden, Ct. Latino population is underserved Casa Boricua is the only Cultural Spanish Center providing services to the underserved Hispanic/Latino in the greater Meriden Area. We also house a Hispanic Elderly Nutrition Center. Cuts will close the center for the Elderly.

Casa Budget has not grown in over six years it is being cut or kept the same. We use to have six full time workers and now there is only the director and case manager. We have a part time Teacher and a part time outreach worker coordinator.

The problem with the clients is that the population continues to grown and the language and cultural barriers, transportation problems, lack of insurance, lack of work, lack of knowledge about resources and to have our Legislators belief that the problem could be handled without help. They are wrong our clients need more education, training programs and agencies that can relate to their problems.

Many of the clients hold a negative perception that the community does not want them and that they won't rent or hire them. We need funding to educate them, to service them, and help them find employment and learn English.

I have found that it is important to have Spanish-speaking capacity, cultural understanding and an agency they can understand what is expected of them. Agencies that can help them become productive citizen of Meriden, Ct. and the state of Ct. With all these cut the Hispanic/Latino communities will not be productive citizens of the state of Ct. only a burden. So before you cut the HHD/HRD funding to the Hispanic/Latino community agencies in the state of Ct. I ask you all to look at the future if you cut funding this will also hurt many communities.

Sincerely

Magali Kupfer,
Executive Director

Phone: 203-235-1082

Fax: 203-238-4866