



March 3, 2011

To: Senator Harp, State Representative Walker and members of the Committee:

Re: Elimination of HRD and HHD funding for Hispanic Organizations

My name is Ingrid Alvarez-DiMarzo and I am the Executive Director of the Hispanic Center of Greater Danbury; a Latino community based organization funded under the Hispanic Human Resource Development Program.

I am testifying today with regard to the proposed budget cuts which include elimination of an already minuscule HHRD line item.

We all understand the difficult decisions facing Connecticut and our budget, but economic decisions have human consequences.

The Latino community in Connecticut is the fastest growing yet marginalized, under-represented and almost non-existent in state appropriations. I will re-emphasize, our community demographics have changed and will continue to change in our state, but our budgeting decisions do not reflect our changing state.

The budget considerations include elimination to basic human services-children, seniors, those living in poverty, experiencing extended periods of unemployment or homelessness. In your deliberations, I urge you to ensure that our state does not eliminate and allocate sufficient revenue to meet the needs of the residents of Connecticut, especially those among us who during this country's worst economic climate are the most vulnerable and will be directly impacted by your decisions.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Ingrid Alvarez-DiMarzo*

Respectfully,

Ingrid Alvarez-DiMarzo, M.A.

Executive Director