



**PEDRO E. SEGARRA**  
MAYOR

**Testimony by Mayor Pedro E. Segarra & Chief of Police James C. Rovella**  
**City of Hartford**  
**House Bill 6659**

***An Act Concerning Civil Immigration Detainers***  
**March 22, 2013, 11:30AM in Hearing Room 2B**

Co-Chairmen Coleman and Fox, Vice Chairs Doyle and Ritter, Ranking Members Kissel and Rebimbas and Distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on House Bill 6659, AAC Civil Immigration Detainers.

This bill will greatly alter, and in a positive way, how our state engages in the Secure Communities ("S-Comm") Program. Present law requires local law enforcement officials and the Department of Corrections to detain, under federal authority, and fingerprint suspected undocumented immigrants; preparing them for detention or deportation. This bill would amend that require and instead allow for discretion and only require compliance if a criminal suspect is convicted of a felony under Connecticut law. This critical modification will set a uniform standard and practice and better mirrors the original intent of S-Comm.

Hartford, your Capital City, is a welcoming community, providing opportunity to those who have been otherwise prevented from pursuing the most basic and fundamental of human rights: the pursuit of happiness. As presently designed, S-Comm divides families, undermines public safety by forcing local police officers to act as ICE (Immigration Customs Enforcement) agents, encourages racial profiling, is biased in its outcomes and lacks transparency and accountability. Passage of this bill would allow Connecticut to join other jurisdictions, including California, Washington, D.C., Massachusetts and New York City in repairing a broken system and prove that we – municipal and state leaders – understand the role, importance and influence that immigrant families have had on the development of the great State of Connecticut.

As others have no doubt indicated about this bill, when we create further separations between resident communities and the services they need – especially when public safety personnel are one of those barriers – our urban centers, suburban regions and the entire state suffers.

Thank you again for allowing us to submit testimony on this very important issue. The City of Hartford and the Hartford Police Department urges favorable passage of House Bill 6659.

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**HARTFORD**  
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