



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION



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March 22, 2013

Senator Eric Coleman
Representative Gerald Fox, III
Joint Committee on Judiciary
Legislative Office Building Room 2500
Hartford CT, 06106

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RE: Testimony in Support of Raised Bill No. 6659 An Act Concerning Civil Immigration Detainers

Dear Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and members of the Judiciary Committee

My name is Mui Mui Hin-McCormick, Executive Director of Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission (APAAC). On behalf of the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission I submit testimony supporting Raised Bill No. 6659.

Our Commission represents one of the fastest growing minority populations. U. S. Census reported Asian Pacific American (APA) population grew in Connecticut from 95,368 in 2000 to 157,088 in 2010, which is remarkable as this is a 65% increase in just ten years. APAAC represents almost fifty countries and numerous Asian languages. APAAC makes recommendations to the Governor, General Assembly, state agencies, service providers, etc. on health, safety, education, economic self-sufficiency and efforts to remain free from discrimination within the APA community in Connecticut. APAAC focuses on APA issues; partnering with various agencies, groups, and communities to address the multiple issues such as immigration. APAAC participates on the Connecticut Immigration Rights Alliance (CIRA) which is a statewide alliance representing our diverse populations in Connecticut. Additionally 24% of the state's population is immigrant or children of immigrants, who contribute to Connecticut's overall wellbeing at all levels such as economically, socially, culturally, academically, etc. CIRA members will be testifying in support of Raised Bill No. 6659 and discussing the following points in detail.

- This bill is another important step towards rolling back the entanglement between local law enforcement and civil immigration that is destroying our communities.
- Collaboration between local law enforcement and ICE jeopardizes public safety for ALL of us. It is bad public policy.
- This legislation is yet another expression of Connecticut's condemnation of the federal government's mass deportation programs. The DOC already has protocols in place that have proven very effective but they do not reach all law enforcement. This bill is an expansion of an already existing policy.
- Despite its name, Secure Communities undermines public safety: Under S-Comm, many believe that local police officers are acting as ICE agents. As

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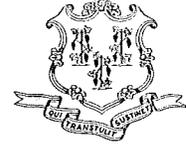
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a result, immigrant residents, including victims and witnesses of a crime, are afraid to cooperate with the police out of fear of deportation.

- This bill will set a standard that brings participation in S-Comm back in line with the program's original goals of targeting individuals with violent convictions.
- This bill will minimize the horrendous effects that senseless deportations have on our communities. Each time somebody's children are left without parents, employers are left with uncompleted work, landlords are left without rent checks, and communities are left to pick up the pieces.
- Several jurisdictions have passed or proposed similar legislation to remedy the detrimental effects of their state's participation in S-Comm, including California, Washington D.C., Massachusetts, Washington, and New York City.

I urge you to support Raised Bill No. 6659 as this legislation will improve our current system, commit to the importance of keeping families together, and help protect all of our communities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mui Mui Hin-McCormick

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