



**State of Connecticut**  
**LEGISLATIVE BLACK AND LATINO CAUCUS**  
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**Statement of Juan Candelaria**  
**Chairman of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus**  
**State Representative for the 95th Assembly District**  
**For the Judiciary Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly**  
**February 24, 2014**  
**In support of**

**SB-54, An Act Concerning Collaboration Between Boards of Education and Law Enforcement Personnel**

Chairman Coleman, Chairman Fox, and Honorable members of the Judiciary Committee, As Chairman of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, I would like to express my strong support for SB-54, An Act Concerning Collaboration Between Boards of Education and Law Enforcement Personnel, that is currently in your committee for consideration.

I believe it is imperative for each local and regional board of education to enter into cooperative agreements with their local law enforcement agencies. In order to better provide and secure a safe and positive learning environment for all students, there should be a definitive line between student discipline and law enforcement.

Undoubtedly, clear guidelines, policies, and practices among local law enforcement and schools, will hold as a key preventative measure to reducing the number of students at risk, chiefly African American and Latino, from falling into the school-to-prison pipeline.

Finally, the passage of SB-54 would bring about remedy to longstanding negative presumptions of law enforcement, specifically in inner city areas, such as my district and of several of my caucus members.

Thank you chairmen and committee members for the opportunity to present testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Juan Candelaria".

Juan Candelaria  
Chairman of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus  
State Representative  
95<sup>th</sup> District