

## General Testimony for

### Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission Budget

Appropriations Committee, March 5, 2015  
Hartford, CT

Good Evening Senator Bye, Representative Walker and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee --my name is Sandra Trevino. I'm writing today in support of all the Legislative Commissions and, particularly, on behalf of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission's (LPRAC) budget.

Please oppose our Governor's recommendations of decreasing our funding. I use "our funding" because LPRAC is a part of our community. They continue to work for the community and these cuts would be detrimental. I've outlined a few, out of the many, projects when the LPRAC assisted in the past couples of years.

- They have supported recent legislation to assist the community in obtaining drivers only licenses for undocumented Hispanic residents.
- They were at the forefront of a complaint filed against the East Haven Police Department for profiling the Hispanic community in their town and working with the Federal Department of Justice to ensure that the incidents were investigated and changes occurred within the Department to benefit the community overall.
- They continue to assist the DREAMERS in realizing their goal of attaining higher education.
- They have hosted turn the curve sessions to identify barriers to Hispanic small businesses obtaining state contracts.
- They are working to find a legislative solution to the lack of affordable housing in areas that would open access to better employment opportunities for our community and for a more fair access to quality schools and a better education for Hispanic children as a result.
- They have also identified, through their RBA work that the ELL formula as it is currently implemented within CT school systems, is ineffective for

children trying to learn the English language without enough time to prepare for testing and as a result not getting a passing grade. The LPRAC is working jointly with legislative and community partners to pass a law that would allow for more time for them to garner proficiency in the language prior to testing their subject knowledge.

As stated above, these are but a few of the many projects that LPRAC is working on behalf of our community. I urge you to oppose our Governor's proposed lapses in 2016-17 for the LPRAC as well as all Latino Serving Agencies.

Thank you for your time and please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your leadership and all you do.

Sincerely,  
Sandra Trevino  
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