



State of Connecticut

Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission

18-20 Trinity Street
Hartford, CT 06106
Tel. (860) 240-8330
Fax (860) 240-0315

E-Mail: lprac@cga.ct.gov
Web Site: www.cga.ct.gov/lprac

Chairperson

Richard A. Cruz

Vice Chair

Elena Trueworthy, M.S.

Secretary

Emanuela Palmares-Leaf

Treasurer

Yolanda Castillo

Commissioners:

Ramón L. Arroyo

Migdalia Castro

Ana Gonzalez

Jay Gonzalez

George Hernández

Dr. Agnes Quiñones

Ruben Rodriguez

Dr. Eugene M. Salorio

Pablo Soto

Feny Taylor

Danny Torres

Executive Director

Werner Oyanadel

Special Projects Director

Lucia Goicoechea-Hernández

Associate Legislative Analyst

Orlando Rodríguez

Senior Legislative Secretary

Clarisa Cardone

Testimony on House Bills [5056](#), [5576](#), [5578](#), and [5580](#)

Orlando J. Rodriguez

Associate Legislative Analyst, Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission

Housing Committee, February 5th, 2015
New Haven, CT

Senator Holder-Winfield, Representative Butler, and distinguished members of the Housing Committee; my name is Orlando Rodriguez and I am an Associate Legislative Analyst with the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission (LPRAC). LPRAC, for the record, has concerns regarding house bills 5056, 5576, 5578, and 5580.

LPRAC strongly supports the increase of affordable housing for all state residents (particularly in non-urban areas) who meets income requirements ([C.G.S. § 8-30g](#)). These bills could have unintended consequences that incentivize the availability of age-restricted housing (age 65+) while reducing the availability of low-cost housing for families with children.

Latinos in Connecticut are disproportionately young and low-income. The poverty rate for people age 18-64 is **10.2** percent, compared to a lower **7.4** percent for the population age 65 and over.¹ If “affordable” housing is meant as subsidized housing for low-income households, then we should keep in mind the needs of our young families with children.

Furthermore, in Connecticut housing is highly segregated by race as shown by the following glaring facts:

- Housing in CT is among the “top 5” most segregated for Hispanics
- Hispanics in CT are more residentially segregated than in Texas
- Nationwide in 2010, metro-Bridgeport was the 6th most residentially segregated metropolitan area for Hispanics and metro-Hartford ranked 7th

This situation will be more difficult to remediate where we restrict 8-30g housing with age-restricted eligibility.

While Connecticut should make investments for its rapidly aging population, we must be certain that legislation is laser-focused on the target population, without detrimental consequences to others. We do not support an increase in subsidized housing targeted exclusively to a specific age group and without means testing. Going forward, LPRAC would like to take an active role in research and data analysis to improve access to affordable housing in high opportunity areas for all Connecticut residents.

¹ ACS 2013 1yr table S0201