



State of Connecticut
Latino and Puerto Rican
Affairs Commission

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Testimony in Support of House Bills
6136, 6137, 6138, and 6143

Orlando J. Rodriguez

Associate Legislative Analyst, Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission

Housing Committee, February 3rd, 2015

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). With direction from its board, LPRAC supports house bills 6136, 6137, 6138, and 6143.

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

Furthermore, in 2013 the Connecticut Fair Housing Center reported, “State housing regulations are not in compliance with current fair housing laws.”¹

In Connecticut, Hispanics are disproportionately low-income resulting in a higher need for low-cost housing than the overall population. The current over concentration of affordable housing in urban areas in the state has resulted in the high levels of residential segregation listed above, as well as a lack of income diversity in municipalities. Low-income households are socially isolated in communities comprised almost exclusively of other low-income households.

Consequently, it should not be surprising that Connecticut has among the highest education achievement gaps in the country, between whites and Hispanics, with low-income Hispanic families able to afford housing only in the state’s most struggling school districts. Furthermore, the state’s urban areas have a high number of children with high levels of lead in their blood resulting from old housing stock that needs renovation ([HB-6136](#)).

LPRAC supports legislation to increase the availability of low-cost family housing throughout the state, and especially outside of urban areas and in high performing school districts ([HB-6137](#), [HB-6138](#), [HB-6143](#),). A no cost measure to further this goal would be a statewide **ban** on the requirement that households must be current town residents to be eligible for subsidized housing. 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.

¹ [Overcoming Impediments to Fair Housing](http://cga.ct.gov/pd/tfs/20131030_Impediments%20to%20Fair%20Housing%20Choice%20Task%20Force/20131218/Overcoming%20Impediments%20to%20Fair%20Housing.pdf) presented to Task Force to Study Impediments to Fair Housing Choice on 18dec2013 at: http://cga.ct.gov/pd/tfs/20131030_Impediments%20to%20Fair%20Housing%20Choice%20Task%20Force/20131218/Overcoming%20Impediments%20to%20Fair%20Housing.pdf