



State of Connecticut

Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission

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Testimony on Bills [HB-6461](#), [HB-6462](#), and [HB-6640](#)

Orlando J. Rodriguez

Associate Legislative Analyst, Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission

Housing Committee, February 17th, 2015

Hartford, CT

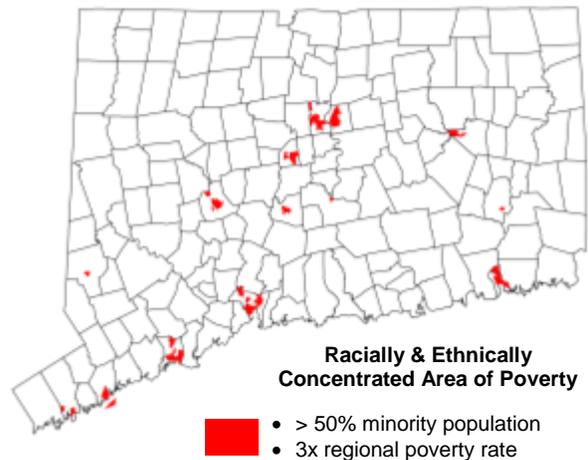
Senator Holder-Winfield, Representative Butler, Senator Hwang, Representative Kupchick, and distinguished members of the Housing Committee; my name is Orlando Rodriguez and I am an Associate Legislative Analyst with the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission (LPRAC). LPRAC supports house bills 6461, 6462, and 6640.

Latinos in Connecticut are disproportionately low-income. The overall poverty rate in Connecticut is **10.7** percent; however, **25.7** percent of Hispanics live in poverty.¹ 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

Even more alarming is the fact that nearly one-third (**30 percent**) of Hispanics in Connecticut live in a Racially and Ethnically Concentrated Area of Poverty (RECAP), as defined by HUD.

House bill 6461 provides for the collection and analysis of information from the myriad of housing programs throughout the state that have led to this unacceptable concentration of poverty and race. Bills HB-6462 and HB-6640 would increase the availability of housing for low-income families in communities with low crime and high performing schools.



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 tables B17001 and B170011