



**State of Connecticut**  
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**Affairs Commission**

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Testimony for

Dr. Agnes Quiñones, Commissioner  
Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission

Appropriations Committee, March 5, 2015  
Hartford, CT

Good Evening Senator Bye, Representative Walker, Ranking and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Dr. Agnes Quinones and I am a LPRAC Commissioner. I come before you to share my concern regarding HB 6824-An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium ending June 30, 2017.

Connecticut has been one of the first states in the country to establish commissions such as the LPRAC. We have come a long way to ensure that our communities have a seat at the table, are no longer invisible and have a voice. Testimony provided by my fellow Commissioners and LPRAC's staff have highlighted the impact that potential cuts will have in the Commission's ability to carry out our mission.

As you may know, the number of Latinos living in the state has grown tremendously in the past decade. The number of emergent bilingual students attending K-12 schools continues to increase-this school year over 34,000 students are represented. Every dollar cut from our budget has a name; a student's name; a parent's name; a community name. As a Commission, we have done our due diligence by creating and populating report cards in the areas of education, health, housing, public safety and self-sufficiency. We have turned the curve in our efforts to demonstrate the needs of our community but, most importantly, creating a pathway to accessing resources.

We work for legislative changes so that we can achieve equity and parity. Latinos in our state view LPRAC as their vehicle to climb a mountain, to aspire, to dream, to achieve. We are the DREAMERS, the undocumented, the emergent bilingual, the struggling family, the poor community, the small business owners, the young professionals, the homeowners, the elected officials, the grandparents, the FAMILIA. As you engage in difficult and challenging discussions, I hope you remember our testimony and continue your support.

Thank you.