

Leticia Cotto
Hartford, CT

March 30, 2014

RE: SUPPORT for the Trust Act, HB 7039

Dear Senator Coleman, State Representative Tong, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

As a lifelong resident of the City of Hartford, I submit this written testimony in support of the TRUST Act Amendments, which will update the TRUST Act adopted in 2013.

Because of the present gaps in the existing TRUST Act, residents of our state have been unable to report landlord abuse, workplace abuse and crimes in our communities. In my line of work as a librarian in the Hartford Public Library, I come across many resident in the City of Hartford on a daily basis who seek just living and working conditions. Because of the fear of deportation and unconstitutional detention, many families, women and children live in deplorable conditions. A single mother trying to support her children should not fear reporting broken windows, exposed wires, roach infestations, mold, criminal activity and so on because of the possibility of being deported. A child should not live with the fear and reality, on a daily basis, of the possibility of losing their mother or father for trying to report injustices that tear down our communities. The children of the adults that we unjustly detain are the future of this state. Let CT continue to pioneer the way towards developing a strong nation in support of immigration reform and protection.

I support the proposed recommended amendments to the TRUST Act that

- Ensure consistent policies throughout state and local agencies
- Prevent unconstitutional detentions that leave our children vulnerable to experiencing loss by breaking up families
- Restore trust between the police and the community
- Address wrongful detentions
- Ensure that local agencies do not spend resources on civil immigration enforcement

Sincerely,

Leticia Cotto
Hartford Resident
Member, Hartford Commission on Refugee and Immigrant Affairs