



State of Connecticut

Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission

18-20 Trinity Street
Hartford, CT 06106
Tel. (860) 240-8330
Fax (860) 240-0315
lprac@cga.ct.gov
www.cga.ct.gov/lprac

Chairman

Richard A. Cruz

Vice-Chair

Yolanda Castillo

Secretary

Emanuela Palmares

Treasurer

Elena Trueworthy, M.S.

Parliamentarian:

George Hernández

Commissioners:

Ramón L. Arroyo

Migdalia Castro

Jay Gonzalez

Dr. Ruby O'Neill

Dr. Agnes Quiñones

Ruben Rodríguez

Dr. Eugene M. Salorio

Pablo Soto

Christian Soto

Feny Taylor

Danny Torres

Executive Director

Werner Oyanadel

Special Projects Director

Lucia Goicoechea-Hernández

Associate Commission Analyst

Orlando Rodríguez

Administrative Assistant

Clarisa Cardone

Testimony Supporting SB 155

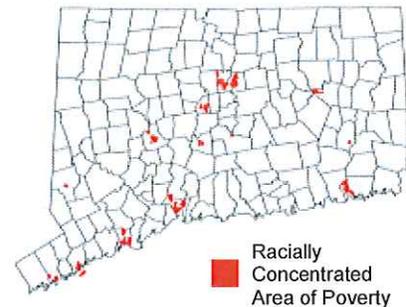
Orlando J. Rodriguez

Associate Commission Analyst, Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission

Housing Committee, March 1st, 2016, Hartford, CT

Good afternoon Senator Winfield, Representative Butler, and distinguished members of the Housing Committee. My name is Orlando Rodriguez and I am an Associate Commission Analyst with the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission (LPRAC). LPRAC supports **SB 155: AN ACT CONCERNING THE ALLOCATION OF LOW INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDITS.**

Based on criteria from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, 30 percent of Hispanics and 10 percent of *all* children in Connecticut live in a Racially Concentrated Area of Poverty (RCAP).¹ Furthermore, Connecticut is among the **top 5** most residentially segregated states for Latinos nationwide. Just as shocking, Bridgeport ranks 6th and Hartford ranks 7th for most the residentially segregated metropolitan areas for Latinos in the U.S.



In 2010, the Hartford area was one of the most **hyper segregated** areas in the U.S., which "... produces high levels of social isolation from mainstream society, but also high concentrations of poverty and disadvantage ..." In fact, the Hartford - West Hartford - East Hartford metro area ranks 1st nationwide for having the most restrictive zoning of the country's 100 largest metropolitan areas. Such exclusionary zoning has negative consequences for low-income households as reported in *The Connecticut Economy*.

"... zoning probably limits mobility, especially for poorer households. And this, in turn, may confine low-income households to towns where socioeconomic conditions impair the quality of education, further restricting their long-term mobility." *The Connecticut Economy*, summer 2004

Historically, the state has incentivized the building of low-income housing in poor neighborhoods resulting in these neighborhoods becoming even poorer. Senate bill 155 discourages this practice. Increasingly, low-income households in Connecticut are female-headed single-parent households and they should have the opportunity to raise their children in safe communities with good schools. Senate bill 155 will increase housing options for these single moms and their kids.

LPRAC is grateful to this committee for its ongoing focus on the needs of Latinos throughout Connecticut. Our board has made it clear that remediating housing segregation is a top priority for Latinos in Connecticut. Using low-income housing tax credits to create more housing in more towns for young single moms with children is one way to reverse the state's hyper segregation.

¹ Unless otherwise noted, the sources of information used in this testimony can be found in LPRAC's 2016 Legislative Policy Agenda at, https://www.cga.ct.gov/lprac/docs/2016/LPRAC_2016Agenda_Web_08Jan2016.pdf