



STATE OF CONNECTICUT



ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Address:

18-20 Trinity Street
Room 202
Hartford, CT 06106
Tel: 860-240-0080
Fax: 860-240-0315
Email: apaac@cga.ct.gov
Website:
<http://ctapaac.com>

Chair

Trung Le

Vice-Chair

Sylvia Ho, Esq.

Secretary

Uswah Khan

Treasurer

Alan Tan

Commissioners

Arlene Avery
Theodore Feng
Theodore Hsu
George Mathanool
M. Angela Rola
Arvind Shaw
An-Ming Truxes

Executive Director

Mui Mui Hin-McCormick

Legislative Analyst

Alok Bhatt

Dear Senator Bye, Representative Walker, and members of the Appropriations Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Sylvia Ho. I am a resident of Simsbury. I currently serve as Vice-Chair of the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission and write to urge you to consider the importance of proper funding of the Commission, to the Asian Pacific American ("APA") population of State of Connecticut as well as to Connecticut itself.

The APA population in Connecticut grew 65% from 2000 to 2010. APAs now represent 4% of Connecticut's population. 70% of APAs are foreign born immigrants. Many APAs who have immigrated to Connecticut are here as refugees. Many endure poor housing conditions and are generally unfamiliar with our society. APAs represent the majority minority in 40% of Connecticut school districts. Nearly one-third of Connecticut APAs identify as Limited English Proficient. Language access is a major issue.

Yet, APAs are resilient and yearn to join American society and to contribute to their new home. As of 2012, there were almost 14,000 Asian owned businesses in the State of Connecticut generating tax revenue for Connecticut and employing over 26,000 people, each generating income tax revenue to the state.

While APAs have limited resources and language barriers, they prove to be resilient people who adapt and contribute to our society and economy given an opportunity. APAs are a worthy investment for Connecticut.

APAAC, with its small staff and volunteer Commissioners are committed to our legislative mandate to ensuring access for in Connecticut for these newest Americans. Continued funding of APAAC is critical to ensuring access to this growing population.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sylvia Ho".

Sylvia Ho

*18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106
Tel. (860) 240-0080, Fax (860) 240-0315
E-Mail: apaac@cga.ct.gov
Web Site – <http://ctapaac.com/>*