

CONNECTICUT COUNCIL on
PROBLEM
GAMBLING

16 West Main Street
Clinton, CT 06413

02/16/2016

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

My name is Tamara Petro, Executive Director of the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling.

Our Council is working currently on cultural programming with the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services-Problem Gambling Services. We are training specifically various representatives of Asian Pacific American communities to deliver important information on problem gambling in their communities.

Out of this program, we are learning much about the disparities and the barriers within a traditionally "Euro-centric" system that sees everyone as equal, but to a fault. It is the cultural differences that make us unique as individuals and groups, but also provides unique needs for services, programs and resources.

In order to be effective for access, utilization and positive impact, we must make sure the voices of those being served are heard, and that the messages of the communities they represent are understood and integrated at the fullest level possible.

Our Council supports the Commission and encourages continued support. No one else exists in the state to do their work. It is a need that is unmet in any other way. It would be unconscionable that we would leave the Asian Pacific Americans in Connecticut to be unheard or un-serviced.

I thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Tamara Petro

Tamara L. Petro, MPH

Executive Director of the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling 860-664-3996 tamarap@ccpg.org