

Sheff Movement



Quality Integrated Education for All Children

February 18, 2016

Senator Beth Bye and Representative Toni Walker
Appropriations Committee Co-Chairs
Legislative Office Building, Room 2700
Hartford, CT 06106

Senator Bye and Representative Walker:

We are writing in response to House Bill No. 5044 (“An act making adjustments to state expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017”), which would reduce funding for the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission (LPRAC). We urge you to maintain funding for LPRAC, a group we believe plays a vital role in ensuring that policymakers adequately understand, consider, and address the needs of the state’s rapidly growing Latino population.

The Sheff Movement is a diverse, intergenerational coalition of parents, educators, students, and community members that works to educate families and policymakers about the history and achievements of the region’s voluntary, two-way integration system. This year, LPRAC has been a critical partner in our efforts to raise awareness about, and build support for, two-way bilingual immersion schools in Greater Hartford. We have been impressed with LPRAC’s willingness to listen to our ideas and offer constructive feedback; share research and other pertinent information; and connect us with key organizations and community leaders working to expand educational opportunity for Latino/a students, many of whom are English Learners. They have been powerful, inclusive collaborators. We have benefitted from their expertise and commitment.

LPRAC’s work shines much-needed light on the issues that are facing Connecticut’s Latino/a population, and they also play an important role as a liaison between policymakers and communities during the policy formation stage. Their well-attended Latino Policy Day, we think, demonstrates a thirst for focused attention on—and meaningful, purposeful engagement with—Connecticut’s Latino/a population.

We hope that you will continue to sustain LPRAC’s funding, to help ensure that Connecticut’s Latino/a population has a voice in the policymaking process. In the long term, our state will be stronger for committing itself to this continued investment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip Tegeler', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Philip Tegeler
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