



State of Connecticut

Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission

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Testimony Supporting SB 156

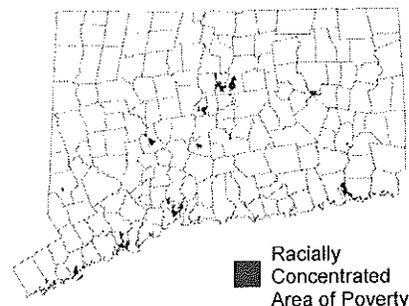
Orlando J. Rodríguez

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Housing Committee, 2:00 pm, February 23rd, 2016, Hartford, CT

Good afternoon Senator Winfield, Representative Butler, and distinguished members of the Housing Committee. My name is Orlando Rodríguez and I am an Associate Commission Analyst with the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission (LPRAC). LPRAC **supports SB 156: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING.**

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 Stunningly, these areas make up less than 1 percent of the land area of the state. 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 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 ...". One of the contributing factors to this social isolation is that the *Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford* metro area ranks 1st in having the most restrictive zoning among the country's 100 largest metropolitan areas.

I was responsible for much of the data analysis in the CT DoH report *Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice 2015*. I speak from personal and professional experience when I say that the state has not properly managed the data it has for affordable housing. If this data had been managed properly, the state could have prevented the hyper segregation that exists in Connecticut today by prioritizing more diverse subsidized housing investments throughout the state and addressing exclusionary zoning.

If Connecticut is going to remediate housing segregation, as is now required by last year's U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs v. Inclusive Communities Project*, there must be adequate investment in *professional* data management staff and industry standard data management software in the state's Department of Housing.

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.

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