Bill No.: SB-898
Title: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE HISPANIC AND FELLOW COMMUNITIES OF COLOR NONPROFIT STABILIZATION AND GROWTH FUND.
Vote Date: 3/7/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 2/28/2019

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SPONSORS OF BILL:
Human Services Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:
The intent of this bill is to remedy disparate financial issues that have caused the declining of funds within non-profit organizations that serves the communities of color.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:
Roderick L. Bremby, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Social Services; is in opposition of this bill. The department reiterates the mission statement of the Department of Social Services and advises that this bill does not align with DSS’s mission. The concern is that this bill will redirect funds from the support of direct client programs and serves to instead be used to improve operational efficiencies for “eligible community based organizations”.

Steven Hernandez, Executive Director, Commission on Women, Children and Seniors & Commission on Equity & Opportunity; is in support of this bill and suggests the redirection of state funds towards non-profit organizations of Hispanics and of color. It is mentioned that quality and affordable early care and education, after school programs and other community based services are contributions towards economic security that are led by these community centered non-profit organizations.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:
Juan Candelaria, State Representative 95th District, Connecticut General Assembly; supports this bill in order to ensure that nonprofits within the communities of color will be granted funds
to expand their capabilities to better serve members of their community. He expresses the importance of non-profit organizations and how the Color Nonprofit Stabilization and Growth Fund can create a sense of equity in the state of Connecticut in areas of healthcare, education, immigration and economic empowerment.

Ingrid Alvarez, Connecticut State Director, Hispanic Federation; is in support of this legislation for all non-profit organizations that serve members within the communities of color in Connecticut. She recognizes that this bill would be the first of its kind in the state. She emphasizes that this legislation will contribute towards securing equitable economic vitality and security for all residents in Connecticut.

Asher Delerme, Executive Director, Chemical Abuse Services Agency, Inc.; is in support of this bill. The context of this legislation can improve the quality of life amongst residents within the community of color, in which, research provides the social and economic disadvantages of these communities.

Fernando Betancourt, Executive Director, San Juan Center Inc.; is in support of this bill. Yanil Teron, Executive Director, Center for Latino Progress; is in support of this legislation. Daniel Reyes, Executive Director, Junta for Progressive Action; is in support of this legislation. Bernard Thomas, Executive Director, Hartford Knights Corporation; is in support of this legislation. Nichelle A. Mullins, President and CEO, Charter Oak Health Center; is in support of this legislation. Jennifer Little-Greer, Executive Director, Minority Construction Council; is in support of this legislation. Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut; is in support of this legislation. Ashley Amaro, Student, University of Connecticut; is in support of this legislation.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Roderick L. Bremby, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Social Services; is in opposition of this bill for reasons listed above.

Reported by: Noemi Hammonds          Date: March 12, 2019