02-11-09

SENATOR TONI HARP, JOHN GERAGOSIAN, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Brooke Smith. I am currently a student and am a full time employee with the South Windsor Recreation Department. I am writing this letter in support of the Asian Pacific American Coalition. The Asian Pacific American Coalition, also known as APAC, is a non-partisan group of concerned citizens who are leaders in their respective Asian communities by selflessly volunteer their time and resources to educate on the behalf of the Connecticut Asian Pacific Americans.

Establishing an Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission will be very beneficial to this community. I would like to extend my gratitude to all that supported this decision. It is my understanding that the State Legislation is to take effect on July 1st, 2009. The Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission is in need of adequate funding to have sufficient representation to represent the Asian community.

As an individual that works in a school System I can attest to how important proper

funds to educate the Asian Community. In my program I work with a first American generation South Asian. He is six years old and English was not his first language. Upon entering the South Windsor school system he was unable to speak and understand English. Unfortunately, this scenario is extremely common amongst the Asian Community. The need for proper education and the demand for language assistance is indispensable to creating a positive learning experience for the Asian Community.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for taking the time to read my testimony. I am requesting that the Commission is equally supported in order to service the basic human rights and needs of the Asian community.

With respect,

Brooke E. Smith