

ETHNIC HERITAGE CENTER  
On the campus of Southern Connecticut State University  
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Sent by email

**Re: Support for HB 6119 AAC Arts, Culture and Tourism Funding by the Ethnic Heritage Center**

Dear Members of the Commerce Committee,

Ethnic Historical Archives Center of New Haven, Inc. (EHC), founded in 1988, urges your support of HB 6119. The Ethnic Heritage Center (EHC) currently has five member societies:

- **Jewish** Historical Society of Greater New Haven, founded in 1976; website: [www.jhsqnh.org](http://www.jhsqnh.org) has information about collection and publications
- **Italian-American** Historical Society of CT, founded in 1979
- CT **Ukrainian-American** Historical Society, founded in 1983
- CT **Irish-American** Historical Society, founded in 1988
- Greater New Haven **African-American** Historical Society, founded in 2003

The EHC has been located on the campus of Southern Connecticut State University since 1992. Its mission is to preserve and share the histories of the ethnic groups that have contributed to the vitality of the Greater New Haven community, promoting the values of human dignity and social justice. Our popular programs over the years have included exhibits, talks, and walking tours of neighborhoods focusing on sites which tell the stories of our cultural histories (see [www.walknewhaven.org](http://www.walknewhaven.org)).

Securing funding is crucial to our survival. We are a small society and currently have no staff. All of our work is done by volunteers. We want to be able to expand our work and provide materials for schools to use in their history programs, focusing on local ethnic history. The model for our work was the Institute of Texan Cultures (<https://texancultures.utsa.edu/>), which has become a Smithsonian affiliate. We will need State support to accomplish this vision, and HB 6119 could potentially provide us with some of the resources we need. We have been closed since last March due to Covid and SCSU's closure and look forward to reopening with renewed energy.

Gloria Horbaty

President – Ethnic Heritage Center

