



FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Sheriff Dallas Baldwin

April 9, 2019

Chairman Carfagna, Ranking Member Sweeney, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

My name is Jose Morales-Crispin and I am the Hispanic Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator at the Franklin County Sherriff's Office, as well as a former educator at Whitehall Yearling High School.

I have taken the time to submit my testimony in support of the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs (OCHLA). The Commission has extended its hand to create an impact inside of the Ohio Hispanic community. I urge you to maintain the governor's proposed budget for OCHLA as their outreach throughout the state, as well as various organizations they work with, has been critical to the development of the Hispanic community, thus helping our community become an integral and productive segment of Ohio's society.

As a law enforcement professional in the Franklin County Sherriff's Office, I understand the concerns that the Hispanic community of Ohio faces daily which is why we have formed a partnership with OCHLA since they are constantly developing strategies to reduce the growing concerns. The Agenda Latina is an exceptional example of how the commission has brought Latino organizations to build capacity, share best practices, and learn about government programs that impact Latinos, while educating participants on the 2020 Census and the importance of the Latino Vote. Project PIPEline: Pathway to Industry Preparation & Education is another program I work very closely with OCHLA to improve the educational outcome, increase the exposure to professional trades, and enrich the leadership skills of our diverse youth.

As an educator, I also appreciate their desire to promote civic engagement not just for the adult Hispanic population but also in preparing the youth population which is the future of Ohio. On the 2018 Legislative Visit Day at the Ohio Statehouse, I had the privilege to take my students and have them take part in the conversation and even present their agendas for consideration to different elected officials. These are the events that make an imprint in the Latino youth that would not be able to take place if it wasn't for the hard work and dedication OCHLA invests for the well-being of Ohio. I find the resources that the Commission provides to the community



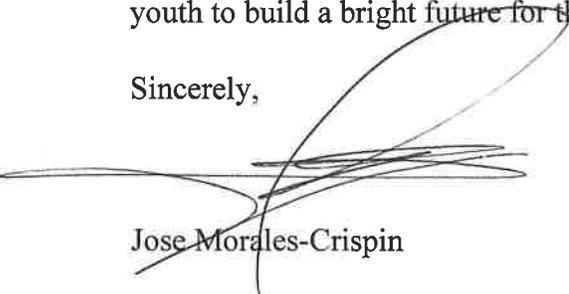
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helps to inform our Hispanic community on areas of education, employment, economic development, health, and housing to make them vital partakers of the great state of Ohio.

Demographic growth in Ohio has been impacted by Latinos. This shift presents an opportunity to build the Latino community's civic engagement acumen, as well as to nurture relationships with elected officials. It is my hope to have the opportunity to continue to work with the Commission to create these bridges of collaboration and communication. The Community needs to know that they have someone they can trust, and someone who is going to advocate for them.

These are only a fragment of the reasons why I fully support the funding for the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs. Their work is an essential part to preparing the Latino youth to build a bright future for the State of Ohio.

Sincerely,



Jose Morales-Crispin