

Finance Subcommittee On Primary And Secondary Education

Testimony for House Bill 64

March 19th, 2015

Chairman Cupp, Ranking Member Phillips and Committee Members,

I thank you for the opportunity to speak today on the proposed funding of the Ohio Hispanic Commission.

The Ohio Commission of Hispanic and Latino Affairs (OCHLA) was commissioned in 1977. After thirty-eight years and having received millions of Ohioan's tax dollars, OCHLA has out-lived any purpose it may have had. There is no longer a need for this state funded Commission as OCHLA's Redbook report to this committee stated there are 260 geographically dispersed Latino community organizations in Ohio as of February 2015 to assist the Hispanic community. Each and every state government entity represents all people in our state regardless of race, ethnicity, religion etc. Everyone has equal access to contact our state legislators and state offices.

I ask this committee to please review the resolutions the Ohio Hispanic Commission has passed in the past few years. The majority of the resolutions are in support of illegal and unlawful activity, yet the majority of Ohioans who are funding this commission with their tax dollars do not support illegal and unlawful activity.

<http://www.ochla.ohio.gov/AboutUs/BoardofCommissioners/Resolutions.aspx>

I also ask this committee to please review the request for increased funding by OCHLA two years ago. A request of an increase of "just" \$70,000 to expand two part-time staff positions to full time. (Please see below email sent out by OCHLA and attachment for the letter of request)

-----Original Message-----

From: Stevens, Nolan <Nolan.Stevens@ochla.state.oh.us>
To: Stevens, Nolan <Nolan.Stevens@ochla.state.oh.us>
Sent: Mon, Jan 21, 2013 4:52 pm
Subject: OCHLA Requests Your Support!

Community Leaders;

I'm writing to you today to ask for your support as OCHLA enters the 2013 biennial budget process. Attached to this email, you'll find a word document addressed to Governor Kasich asking him to increase OCHLA's allotment for the upcoming biennium. Ohio's Hispanic population continues to grow rapidly, and the Commission faces an inability to execute its mandates without additional support.

We're asking OCHLA's allies to print the attached document, sign it, and mail it to the Governor at the address included on the letter. Alternatively, you can contact Governor Kasich's office by phone at (614) 466-3555 or by an email message which you can type and submit [here](#). **Time is short, as Governor Kasich is expected to propose his budget to the General Assembly by Monday, February 1.**

This is only the first phase of the process. The Commission will face hearings and potential budget adjustments in both the House and Senate in the coming months, and we'll keep the community abreast of new information as it becomes available. As ever, we are both grateful for and humbled by your support. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me.

Regards,

Nolan

Nolan Stevens, J.D.

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The Ohio Hispanic Commission received the increase of \$70,000 in the last budget, but I ask where, was this additional funding spent? It certainly wasn't spent for the reason of the request, as you will see below in the salaries paid to the employees of this commission. The policy director resigned in August of 2014 and has not been replaced, the other part-time employee at the time of the request for additional funding is no longer there and not only was the replacement not given full-time employment, the new part time employee is making approximately half of the previous part-time employee.

At time of request for \$70,000 additional funding 1-13 for salary increases

01/12/2013 Spanish Speaking Affairs CAVANAUGH,LILLEANA Executive Director 1 2,786.4

01/12/2013 Spanish Speaking Affairs COS,JOSE A Administrative Staff 1,150

01/12/2013 Spanish Speaking Affairs MARIN,LAIR Administrative Staff 1,635.2

01/12/2013 Spanish Speaking Affairs STEVENS,NOLAN Administrative Staff 1,300

Salaries as of 1-15

1/10/2015 SPANISH SPEAKING AFFAIRS BLACK,BRIANA M CLERK 1 571.73

1/10/2015 SPANISH SPEAKING AFFAIRS CAVANAUGH,LILLEANA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 1 2,786.41

1/10/2015 SPANISH SPEAKING AFFAIRS MARIN,LAIR ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL 4 1,842.40

Salaries of Ohio employees...

<http://das.ohio.gov/Divisions/HumanResources/PolicyDevelopment/StateEmployeeData/StateEmployeeSalaries/tabid/445/Default.aspx>

Who can explain to the Ohio taxpayers where this money was spent? Did it also go to initiatives to promote illegal immigration in Ohio? We have cuts in funding to our vulnerable disabled citizens. I know of a young disabled Ohio citizen with Downs's syndrome. I have attended his IEP meetings and asked if he can receive more than the previous twenty minutes per week he was getting in speech, as he has such a disability with speaking. The most he was able to get at his last IEP meeting was 45 minutes per week because of the lack of funds. If he were Hispanic he may have a Commission to speak on his behalf, as it stands he has the resources that all other Ohioans receive. We must make the best use of our tax dollars and the truly vulnerable should have access to these dollars, they should not be spent to advocate for those coming here illegally.

Today, I stand before you to dispute yet another request by the Ohio Commission of Hispanic and Latino Affairs of increased funding from Ohio taxpayers. There is so much more information to give on this subject, but due to the time limits for this budget testimony I am limited. I sincerely hope this committee will take the funding of the Ohio Commission for Hispanic and Latino Affairs into consideration for the betterment of all Ohioans. We are all created equal and all deserve equal representation..

Respectfully,

Julie Aldrich
President, Ohio Citizens for Sensible Immigration