



**ROBERT CORREIA**  
CHAIRMAN

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ROOM 167

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*House of Representatives*  
*Committee on Elder Affairs*  
*State House, Boston 02133-1054*

July 6, 2006

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
1290 PLYMOUTH AVENUE  
FALL RIVER, MA 02721  
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Dear Friends:

It is with great honor that I write in support of The Portuguese-American Citizenship Project initiated by the Luso-American Development Foundation in 1999, which I have supported since its inception.

In seven years this project with international support and rapport has successfully launched a movement at the grassroots level to educate and promote civic involvement of Portuguese-Americans from the East to the West coasts of the United States.

This citizenship initiative is one of the most important programs currently in existence because of its positive impact on the democratic process. It encourages people to sustain this process with the only nutrient that can keep it alive – a vote. Without a vote the democratic process is useless. It is like a machine without power, a heart without blood and a brain without intelligence.

I want to encourage all Portuguese-American citizens of the Commonwealth to show the pride they have for their heritage by exercising one of the most fundamental civic rights granted to them by their adopted motherland – to become naturalized citizens, to become registered voters and to exercise their right to vote. If the power of one has the ability to unite and strengthen a community one vote at a time, start now and make your community a part of the democratic process.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for this project. I look forward to future collaboration opportunities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Correia".

ROBERT CORREIA  
CHAIRMAN