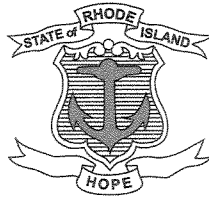


State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

SENATOR
DANIEL Da PONTE
Deputy Majority Whip
116 Ivy Street
East Providence, Rhode Island 02914
District 14

Room 220, State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Res.: 401-434-6701
Bus.: 401-222-1730
Email: sen-daponte@rllin.state.ri.us



Senate Chamber

Vice Chair,
Committee on Financial Services,
Technology and Regulatory Issues

Committee on Constitutional and
Gaming Issues

Committee on Government
Oversight

May 2, 2006

Dear Friends:

I am honored to provide my endorsement of the Portuguese American Citizenship Project in its admirable mission to promote citizenship and civic participation among the Portuguese American community.

In 1999, the Luso-American Development Foundation began the Citizenship Project. I became aware of the Project shortly after its inception and have been an avid supporter of ever since. A great deal has been accomplished, but there is still more work to be done.

Rhode Island has a very large Portuguese population because of the hundreds of legal Portuguese immigrants who have recently become citizens and registered to vote. Becoming a citizen of the United States is one of the most valuable privileges that can be bestowed upon an individual. Voting is an important civil right. As a state elected official, I wholeheartedly support the fundamental principles of freedom and opportunity and endorse the efforts of this very important endeavor.

The contributions of organizations like this are extremely important to the cultural and civic fabric of our nation. The results achieved thus far serve as an example of what can be accomplished through hard work and dedication.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel Da Ponte".

Senator Daniel Da Ponte
Senate District 14