



**AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591
(860) 240-8555
FAX (860) 240-8444**

Testimony before the General Administrative and Elections Committee

Friday, March 16th, 2007

11:00 AM in Room 2B of the LOB

Good morning/afternoon Senator Slossberg, Representative Carusso and members of this Committee. My name is Glenn Cassis and I serve as the Executive Director of the African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC), a non partisan state agency, committed to advocating on policies aimed at improving the status of African-Americans in the state. I am speaking in support of ***House Bill (HB)6002 – An act establishing an Asian Pacific American Commission.***

The AAAC recognizes the state's growing population diversity and the need for people from different backgrounds and ethnicities to be represented at all levels of state government. On March 6th the AAAC hosted the Ghanaian community at the State Capitol marking Ghana's 50th Independence Anniversary. However it also provided the Commission an opportunity to share information about the Commission and involve this growing community into the discussion on state

policies that affect their lives. The Asian community is no different with its own unique needs and challenges. The U.S. Census reports that during the first three years of this decade the Asian population in the state topped 100, 000 for the first time. While a significant number of Asians are well represented in the legal and medical fields, enjoying incomes above the state median income other sub groups within the Asian community have incomes below the state median income. In addition some face language and cultural barriers and substance abuse problems. As a result they are not able to assimilate and enjoy the full benefits this state has to offer. In view of these findings the Commission urges this Committee to consider this bill aimed at improving the well being of the Asian community in Connecticut.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.