

**Testimony for public hearing, Wednesday, February 11, 2009  
Appropriations Committee  
In behalf of the CT African-American Affairs Commission**

**My name is Robert E. Burgess and I reside at 37 Brooklawn Avenue, South Norwalk, CT. I was formerly the Director of Norwalk Economic Opportunity Now, Inc. for 32 years.**

**I speak, not as a very grateful former Annual Classic Award recipient but, as an advocate for our brothers and sisters who toil daily to end the disparity that still exists through programs such as day care, Headstart, job training, community health, DOC programs and many others earning very low wages and with little or no hope of recognition for their efforts.**

**The AAAC has given our people access to assistance with the continuing problems which impact my neighbors, such as urban pollution, sickle cell awareness, lead poisoning, hate crimes and lowered educational opportunities through outreach and information sharing.**

**I plead with the Committee to support continued funding for the CT African-American Affairs Commission since I believe that the concerns of Connecticut's African-Americans must be a part of all legislative deliberations.**

**Thank you**

**Robert E. Burgess**



