

## Kane, Brittany

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**From:** Aaronsohn, Elizabeth (Emeritus) <aaronsohn@mail.ccsu.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 11:37 AM  
**To:** AppropriationTestimony  
**Subject:** FW: Don't consolidate the commissions!

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To the Appropriations Committee:

I'm writing to urge you not to let the legislature consolidate into one lump the African American Commission, Asian American Commission, Commission on Women, one on children, and who knows what else. WRONG MOVE!!

Lumping them all together may look on the surface like money will be saved. But as I understand from my involvement with several of them, each one has brought in considerably more money from the federal government and from foundations than the state would ever save.

Taking that wrong step would totally water down the sometimes amazing good work each has been able to do in their respective communities. I've attended meetings and other events sponsored by each, and I can testify to the impressive work they're doing in empowering their respective communities, and educating the rest of us.

To take away their autonomy would send the message to those communities that they just don't count. I definitely don't want that to be the message my government sends to people who've generally been dismissed as "minorities," meaning "less valued than..." the white power males who've always run things. Time for that is over!

Thanks for listening, and I hope for taking strong action to make sure this blunder doesn't happen.

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former professor of Multicultural Education, CCSU