

A Brief Overview of African-American Affairs Commission Accomplishments

Education

- Implemented and administered KnowHowToGo-CT the national program to increase the percentage of adults with college degrees in Connecticut to 60% by 2025 by increasing access to higher education to first generation and low income students
- Implemented and administered College Goal Sunday – CT. For six years more than 4,000 high school students and their families have completed their FAFSA forms thus becoming eligible for post-secondary financial aid and scholarships
- Provided voice to educational issues including graduation requirements, recruitment and hiring of minority teacher, review of inter-district grants, educational reform and STEM enrichment.

Health Equity

- Chairs the Public Voice Committee for the Commission on Health Equity. This has been essential in addressing issues in health equity through community and faith based organizations
- Member of American Red Cross Diversity and Inclusion that actively supports increasing participation of African-Americans as blood donors
- Actively involved with addressing health disparities (hypertension, cancer, obesity, low birth weight, diabetes, sickle cell, organ and tissue donation and mental illness) in the African-American community

Civil and Judicial Rights

- Serves on the Commission for Racial Disparities in the Criminal Justice System
- Had a pivotal role in amending the Penn Act – Racial Profiling Prohibition in Traffic Stop

Employment/Economic Development

- Participant in the DAS Disparities Study with the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering
- Assisted in the establishment of the United States And Africa Development Organizations which has led to the establishment of international relations with African nations including the Nigerian National Assembly Service Commission

Recognition of African-American Heritage

- Coordinated the 150 Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation at the Capitol
- Annual Classic Awards celebrating and recognizing the accomplishment of African-Americans and providing more than \$30,000 in scholarship awards to deserving students for post-secondary education

Submit written testimony to at appropriationtestimo@cga.ct.gov by Tuesday, February 19, 2013