



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR
THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
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Good morning/afternoon,

My name is Abdul-Shahid Muhammad Ansari and I am the Hartford Branch NAACP President and the Political Action Chair for the Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches.

I would like to begin my testimony by thanking the Connecticut General Assembly for allowing the Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches the opportunity to testify in support of Bill Number 6402, "An Act Modernizing the State's Telecommunications Laws."

The mission of the NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination.

We strongly believe that one of the predominant civil rights of the 21st century is the right of equal access to all new technologies that have resulted from the technological revolution.

For our youth to succeed in school, graduate and enter the work force, it is essential that they have access to the latest and fastest technology. This is especially true of African American youths who, in the past, have not enjoyed many of the same educational resources their peers in wealthier communities did.

The technological revolution is helping to change that by eliminating the digital divide and opening access to the Internet for everyone, all the time.

That is why I am here today.

The Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches understands that access to new technologies for all depends on continued new investment in wireless and wireline broadband networks

Unfortunately, Connecticut has not updated its telecommunications laws in nearly 20 years and you don't need me to tell you that a lot has happened to telecommunications services since then.

Today in Connecticut, traditional phone providers are still forced to allocate resources to support outdated rules and technology. That's needed money that would be far better invested in the technology of the 21st century. Other states have updated their laws and, as a result, have seen new investment and job growth.

It's time Connecticut moves forward, as well.

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