

State of Connecticut

African-American Affairs Commission

State Capitol

210 Capitol Avenue – Room 509

Hartford, CT 06106

860-240-8555

March 22, 2013

Good afternoon Senator Coleman, Rep. Fox and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Glenn A. Cassis and I am the Executive Director of the African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC). The mission of the Commission is to promote and improve the economic, educational, health, safety and political well-being of the African-American community in Connecticut. The AAAC is non-partisan and provides comment on legislation to the General Assembly. I wish to submit testimony concerning S.B. 6665 – An Act Concerning Traffic Stop Information Review of Traffic Stop Complaints and the Collection of Traffic Stop Information with Respect to Immigration Status. Fundamentally the AAAC believes that racial profiling is against the law and it should not be used as a tool to inquire the immigration status of individuals. However amending P.A. 12-74 - An Act Concerning Traffic Stop Information to address immigration may not be effective.

Since the passage of P.A. 12-74 - An Act Concerning Traffic Stop Information in June of 2012, the African-American Affairs Commission has been an active member of the Racial Profiling Prohibition Advisory Board. In addition the AAAC has been very involved with the Public Awareness and Data Methodology and Analysis Working Groups. The AAAC has hosted and organized public awareness forums around the state to inform the public and law enforcement of the statute and to receive feedback from the public on ways to address issues with the statute. The AAAC believes it has a good understanding of the statute and the views of the public.

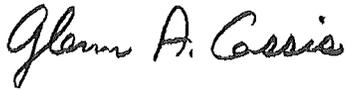
Our Mission

To improve and promote the economic development, education, health and political well-being of the African-American community in the State of Connecticut

The language as presented in S.B. 6665 does not speak to the intent of P.A. 12-74. P.A. 12-74 addresses how data is collected, what is required to be collected, where the data is sent, instructions for filing a complaint and other implementation guidelines. Section 1 (a) (2) of S.B. 6665 goes beyond collecting and analyzing traffic stop information and into immigration rights. Understanding that the rights of immigrants are important and that they too are victimized by racial profiling, the AAAC would speak in favor of examining this issue upon the recommendation of the Legislature. The AAAC would also welcome proponents of this bill to meet with the Racial Profiling Prohibition Advisory Board to help address this issue in a more effective way.

Thank you for accepting the testimony from the African-American Affairs Commission.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glenn A. Cassis".

Glenn A. Cassis
Executive Director