



## State of Connecticut

African-American Affairs Commission

State Capitol

210 Capitol Avenue – Room 509

Hartford, CT 06106

860-240-8555

March 11, 2015

Good Afternoon Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, Ranking Members and other members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Glenn Cassis, Executive Director of the African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC). I am submitting this testimony in support of the Governor's Bill No. **6848 AN ACT PROTECTING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**. The AAAC's mission is to improve and promote the economic development, education, health and political well-being of the African-American community in the State of Connecticut. This bill serves to help protect a vulnerable segment of the population.

Although victims of domestic violence are generally women and children this issue cuts across racial and socio-economic lines. Domestic violence is a serious problem in white, black and brown neighborhoods. The Commission believes that it is improve to reduce all opportunities of domestic violence from escalating. The government must put in place laws that will take lethal weapons out of the hands of suspected abusers. **Bill 6848** will require any person subject to a restraining or protective order to turn in any pistol, revolver or other firearm to a federally licensed firearm dealer or to the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection. The AAAC believes that the Judiciary Committee should consider reducing the time from 24 hours to 12 hours when firearms need to be turned in. These firearms should be taken out of harm's way as quickly as possible especially in incidents of domestic violence. This would help victims gain a sense of security and comfort in knowing that a shield of protection will be in place in a reasonable period of time.

Thank you for accepting my testimony.

*Glenn A. Cassis*

Glenn A. Cassis  
Executive Director

### *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*