

February 19, 2016

Dear Senator Bye, Representative Walker and other distinguished members of the Appropriations committee.

My name is Charles Frazier and I am a commissioner for the African American Affairs Commission. The mission of the African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) is to improve and promote the economic development, education, health and political well-being of the African-American community in the State of Connecticut.

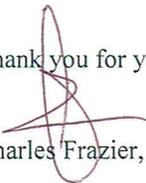
I support the governor's proposed budget for our Commission. While we would like to see more funding so we can do more work in the community we understand that these are tough budget times.

In the last year the AAAC has done great work with the legislature on student debt, criminal justice, education and housing. Some of our signature legislative measures were getting all teachers cultural competence training, creating the student loan bill of rights, working on racial disparities in suspensions and expulsions in our schools, and working on minority teacher recruitment. Despite the many strides the State of Connecticut has made to close the disparity gap; the AAAC still has significant work to do to advocate for the African American community.

In the community we have held public forums to address racial profiling and we have been a part of numerous round table discussions and have worked closely with the religious community to address disparities that continue to exist in our communities. (Insert a few of the events that you have attended representing the AAAC)

This year our legislative agenda includes working on legislation to ban the box for private employers, continuing our work to get more minority teachers into the classroom, addressing racial disparities that exist in debt collection and building upon the success of our student debt work.

Thank you for your consideration,



Charles Frazier, LCSW, CEAP

Commissioner African-American Affairs Commission