



State of Connecticut
African-American Affairs Commission
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue – Room 509
Hartford, CT 06106
860-240-8555

July 20, 2011

Testimony to the Connecticut General Assembly
Reapportionment Committee
LOB 2C

Honorable Senator Donald Williams and Honorable Representative Lawrence Cafero, Co-Chairmen, my name is Glenn Cassis and I am the Executive Director of the African-American Affairs Commission, a non-partisan state commission. I want to offer testimony on the very important task facing your committee on Reapportionment.

The African-American population in Connecticut increased during the past decade by almost 17%. Currently African-Americans comprise 9.4% of Connecticut's population. Nearly 65% of the African-American population in Connecticut resides in the eight largest urban communities. When you deliberate and determine the voting districts, the African-American Affairs Commission urges you to take this into consideration. These districts where African-Americans reside should be designed to reflect the growth of the population. The level of representation should be preserved or increased when mapping is determined.

Further the Reapportionment Committee needs to examine how inmates in the state's correctional institutions are counted. Of the 17,631 Connecticut inmates, 41.7% (7,355) are African-Americans¹. These inmates are not considered residents of the communities where they come from or are expected to return to when released. This skews the population data for the districts and can reflect an underrepresentation. This needs to be addressed when maps are drawn.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Glenn A. Cassis
Executive Director
State of Connecticut African-American
Affairs Commission

¹ Connecticut Department of Corrections July 1, 2011 Report
Our Mission