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CONNECTICUT STATE CONFERENCE OF NAACP BRANCHES ANNOUNCE UPCOMING COVID-19 ACTION PLAN

HARTFORD, CONN - July 28, 2020 - The Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches has announced that they will be releasing their CT COVID-19 Action Plan. The purpose of this action plan is to suggest ways to ensure that black and brown communities receive resources during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and improve the inequalities they may face during future crises. The Action Plan provides guidance and recommendations to policymakers such as the Governor and State legislators regarding the effects of COVID-19 in Communities of Color.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches partnered up with the Connecticut Black & Puerto Rican Caucus to take part in a dialogue with the CT COVID-19 Urban Strategic Plan Advisory Committee to speak about issues within urban communities and ways to fix the disparities that exist for black and brown individuals throughout the state of Connecticut. The Action Plan focuses on the following areas: Public Health, Police Accountability, Education and Voting.

“Connecticut must ensure that testing, care and treatment for COVID-19 doesn’t occur merely in communities of convenience, but also throughout the vulnerable, lower socioeconomic communities that obviously need resources most,” Scot X. Esdaile, President of the Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches.

Connecticut’s population is 67 percent White, 17 percent Hispanic/Latinx, 12 percent Black, 5 percent Asian, and 0.6 percent American Indian/Alaska Native. According to data from Johns Hopkins University, due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Fairfield, New Haven, and Hartford counties all rank among the top 25 in counties with the most coronavirus-linked deaths. The state currently has more than 25,000 reported COVID-19 cases, with more than 22,000 of those cases in Fairfield, Hartford, and New Haven counties.

"These health disparities have been linked to 'social determinants of health' such as socioeconomic status and education level, as well as to "health inequities" such as neighborhood stress, pollution, poor quality housing, and other social and environmental factors that prevent residents from achieving their full health potential," said Jim Rawlings, the State Health Chair for the CT NAACP.

The Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches has been working diligently with community leaders to create their COVID-19 Action Plan. The attached report will be shared with the Governor's Office, the entire State Legislature including both the House and Senate, along with all the State Commissioners and Top Officials statewide.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded in 1909 and has since become the oldest, largest and most widely recognized grassroots-based civil rights entity in the country. It's nearly 500,000 members and supporters in the United States and around the world serve as their communities' premier advocates for civil rights, equal opportunity and civic engagement.

For additional information regarding the Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches' upcoming COVID-19 Action Plan contact Scot X. Esdaile at scotxe@gmail.com or go onto ctnaacp.org.