

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE  
PENNSYLVANIA STATE CONFERENCE

484- 636-9308

P O Box 181, Glen Mills, PA 19342

Website: [www.pastatenaacp.org](http://www.pastatenaacp.org) Email: [naacppastate@gmail.com](mailto:naacppastate@gmail.com)



**President: Joan Evelyn Duvall- Flynn Ed. D.**  
[duvallflynn@yahoo.com](mailto:duvallflynn@yahoo.com)

**Contact: Brandon Flood**  
**Chair: NAACP PA Political Action Chair**  
**Phone: 717-623-2432**  
**Email: [bflood22@live.com](mailto:bflood22@live.com)**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PA NAACP Rescinds Support of Recently Amended Redistricting Reform Bill**

**June 1, 2018** - Today the Pennsylvania NAACP State Conference and its 10,000 members, comprised of forty-three local units across the commonwealth issued a statement expressing its opposition to the recently amended Senate Bill 22. Originally the bill proposed to establish an Independent Citizens Commission for Redistricting.

On Tuesday, May 22, 2018, the Senate State Government Committee held a voting meeting to consider Senate Bill 22, Printer's Number 397. During this meeting, Majority Chairman Mike Folmer offered an amendment to the bill, which was adopted and reported as amended from the committee.

“The NAACP is not alone in its feeling that the ‘Folmer amendment’ completely undermines the very integrity of the original version of Senator Boscola’s legislation,” **said Dr. Joan Duvall Flynn, President of the Pennsylvania NAACP State Conference.** “Specifically, the ‘Folmer amendment’ resulted in the removal of three central components that were included in the original version of the bill. The amendment eliminates: randomized applicant selection protocols, diversity and inclusion goals for commissioners (e.g., race, gender and geography) and an authorized judicial backstop which would serve as a check and balance to the commission.”

“Simply put, our membership contends that any redistricting bill that does not incorporate these three elements constitutes an abject failure in the goal to reform the redistricting process in Pennsylvania by making it less partisan and less susceptible to political influence,” **said Flynn.**

“While we greatly appreciate the dogged efforts of Fair Districts PA and Senator Boscola and have been proud to stand beside them as an advocacy partner, our membership believes that both Senate Republicans and Democrats need to do a better job at engaging all interested stakeholders prior to advancing this legislation. Until which time that a more inclusive level of discussion and stakeholder engagement occurs, our membership will remain staunchly opposed to Senate Bill 22 as drafted. The NAACP PA stands ready to assist such an effort,” **said Flynn.**

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The **mission** of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination.