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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NAACP PA STATEMENT ON MEETING WITH
PENNSYLVANIA SENATE EDUCATION CHAIR EICHELBERGER**

Media, PA – On March 22, leaders of the NAACP Pennsylvania State Conference joined by the Director of Education Voters met with Senator John Eichelberger, Chair of the Pennsylvania Senate Education Committee. Dr. Joan Duvall-Flynn, State President and Education Chair for NAACP PA along with Rev. Frank Allen, President of the Harrisburg Branch, Minister Rodney Muhammad, President of the Philadelphia Branch and Mrs. Susan Spika, Director of Education Voters attended the meeting.

“NAACP PA’s purpose for requesting the meeting was to understand the directions the Senate Education Committee intends to take,” said Dr. Duvall-Flynn, “so as to inform us of the direction appropriate for NAACP PA advocacy for education over the next years”.

A range of issues were discussed. Among these were the impact funding has on resources and curriculum such as guidance counselors and advanced courses that prepare students for higher education, the impact of poverty and trauma on student achievement, and the relationship between the disparate disciplinary action for minority students and their underrepresentation in vocational-technical high schools.

“The need for hearings to examine why Pennsylvania has the largest gap in education funding in the United States between the well funded school districts and the underfunded school districts was also put on the table,” said Susan Spika.

In addition, NAACP PA spoke with the Senator about the NAACP call for a moratorium on charter school development until such time that it is clear through research and investigation that there is sufficient regulation to protect the children who attend them.

“It was a substantive meeting,” said Duvall-Flynn. “As the Senator does not have a background in education, NAACP PA was able to provide significant input into areas where he has yet to become informed. We will continue to monitor and respond to directions taken by the Committee to insure the best education outcomes for the children of Pennsylvania,”

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Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation’s oldest and largest nonpartisan civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities.