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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PA NAACP Urges Senators to Vote Their Consciences on Redistricting Reform

June 11, 2018 – On the heels of a press conference convened this morning by redistricting reform advocates, which included **Common Cause PA, Fair Districts PA, the Committee of Seventy, the League of Women Voters PA**, the Pennsylvania NAACP State Conference urges members of the Pennsylvania State Senate to exercise the utmost degree of discernment as they consider possible floor amendments that will be offered to Senate Bill 22 this week.

“There are many lessons to be gleaned from how the legislative process has played itself out thus far,” **said Dr. Joan Duvall-Flynn, President of the Pennsylvania NAACP State Conference.** “It seems that the very partisanship that we are seeking to remove from the current redistricting process is the exact same dynamic that has placed SB 22 on shaky political ground. While we certainly appreciate the Senate leadership’s response to our concerns about the current version of SB 22, in the wake of the rancor and animus that has emerged from this debate, we find it somewhat difficult to honor the word of those who are directly charged with driving this legislation. Therefore, we have now positioned ourselves as vigilant observers at this time.”

There are several amendments that are scheduled to be offered to SB 22 on the Senate floor on Tuesday of this week, one of which includes an omnibus amendment that will be offered by Senator Mike Folmer that proposes to add back language regarding diversity and inclusion goals, further addresses the subject of commissioner qualifications, reinstates the Pennsylvania Supreme Court as a redistricting failsafe and makes other procedural improvements. “The NAACP has expressly outlined its legislative concerns and Senate leaders have responded favorably, albeit not precisely. That notwithstanding, our membership would encourage all Senate members to reserve their affirmative votes only for amendments or a final product that truly encapsulates the spirit of fairness, equity and integrity,” **said Dr. Flynn.** “Simply put, it should be your conscience -- not convenience -- that guides you in either advancing or opposing this legislation.”

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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.