



**NAACP**  
*Connecticut*

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

The Connecticut NAACP is in support of H.B. 6659 An Act Concerning the Establishment of the Connecticut Baby Bonds Trust.

The bill, which would provide a savings account at birth for children born into poverty, would be an important step forward in helping close the racial wealth gap here in Connecticut. Here at the NAACP, we have seen first-hand, how the insidious nature of inequality and discriminatory practices in housing, healthcare, education, and so much more, has placed a cyclical burden of poverty on the shoulders of far too many families throughout our state.

With this Baby Bonds legislation, the Appropriations Committee, and the General Assembly more broadly, have an opportunity to begin to address the history of injustice. With the COVID-19 pandemic ravaging our cities and communities, and people of color taking the brunt of the resulting economic downturn, the veil has been pulled back once more to show how inequality and systemic racism is a question of life and death in America.

People in this state and across this country are tired of being told to wait, and that bold legislation that addresses systemic inequality is too ambitious or will simply cost too much money. The reality is that the state budget is a document of priorities and values, and what we see year after year is that helping impoverished children and some of the most vulnerable among us simply doesn't make the cut.

That is why we are providing testimony today to implore you to act favorably on HB 6659. The time to act is now, and we hope that you will join us, and Treasurer Wooden, in making history by passing this necessary piece of legislation.

Yours in Service,

**Scot X. Esdaile**  
President,  
Connecticut State Conference NAACP

**Akia S. Callum**  
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