



Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
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CT Conference NAACP Wins NCLB Suit

HARTFORD – The State NAACP won another victory Monday in their fight to ensure equity in education for Connecticut’s children.

For the second time, the U.S. District Court in New Haven rejected the State’s legal challenge to No Child Left Behind (State of CT v. Margaret Spellings), ruling that the U.S. Secretary of Education has ample legal authority to interpret, clarify and enforce the law.

“This latest decision offers further proof that Connecticut is wasting taxpayer money, state lawyers’ and education officials’ time,” State Conference NAACP President Scot X. Esdaile said. “It’s time to stop the shenanigans and focus on eliminating the achievement gap and properly educating all Connecticut’s children.”

“The Secretary did not act arbitrarily, capriciously, or contrary to law in concluding that the State’s proposed plan amendments were contrary to the dictates of the Act,” U.S. District Court Judge Mark R. Kravitz stated in his ruling. “The very clear message of Congress in the text of the Act was that States should apply the same academic standards to all students. ... The Act could not be clearer and nothing about the structure of its provisions suggests otherwise.”

State officials have challenged the No Child Left Behind Act, saying it requires expensive testing and programs with no funding attached. The CT NAACP first contested the state’s lawsuit in 2006, requesting permission to intervene in the federal lawsuit. The NAACP has been represented by William Taylor and Dianne Piche from the Citizens Commission on Civil Rights; John Brittain from the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights; and the law firm of Akin Gump.

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