

Testimony in Opposition to Senate Concurrent Resolution 1601
Proposing to Change the Method of Selecting Appellate Judges

January 17, 2013

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thanks for the opportunity to give testimony in opposition to Senate Concurrent Resolution 1601.

I am a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and I am extremely concerned about the impact Resolution 1601 would have on minorities' representation as well as participation in the appellate court process or as part of those bodies.

The dynamics of our society has changed. Diversity should be welcomed rather than marginalized.

With the House, Senate and the Governor's Office dominated by one party, I can only wonder the possibility of seeing a Judge that looks like me.

Therefore, as we consider Resolution 1601, it is important that a sincere and diligent effort be made to ensure diversity in thought and action.

It is recommended that the creation of committees included ethnically diverse representation in alignment with the State population.

It is strongly encouraged that diverse representation is provided by citizen organizations such as the NAACP and similar citizen led groups represented by minorities.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and the Committee for this opportunity to share my testimony.

Sincerely,

Rev. Ben J. Scott, Sr