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To: California Privacy Restoration Commission
From: Dr. Will C. Wade

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Message: Response to your recent Restoration proposed

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Wil C. Wade, Ph.D.

Inglewood, California 90305

July 18, 2011

California Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Sir/Madame:

I am writing to you urging your commission to make the redistricting changes recommended by AARC, CAPAFR and MALDEF, designed to insure fair political representation of both African American and Latino citizens and to avoid pitting these two communities against each other. The current map of the CCRC creates a “divide and conquer” scenario that I have fought against, in its many forms, as a community activist for over 50 years. What your commission is currently proposing will in fact create irreparable harm to both the African American and Latino communities.

After being made aware of your most recent decisions to bypass an unbiased and transparent procedure that your commission was mandated to enact in the creation of final district maps, I am deeply troubled. Your commission’s refusal (as of this writing) to commit to the positive, recommended changes proposed by AARC, CAPAFR and MALDEF, causes a growing number of stakeholders in our communities to ask, “In whose interest are you really working?”

I believe that certain members of your commission have good intentions to protect the voting rights of African Americans and the right to be represented by committed, trusted and highly professional, political representatives who fight for the issues their constituents deem important for positive change. However, it is obvious that certain key members of your commission do not share this mandate for fairness.
The latest, proposed redistricting map that the commission has revealed, in at least three, local instances, in my opinion, smacks of the same political partisanship that your commission was created to overcome. In these instances, the proposed districts maps of the AARC, CAPAFR and MALDEF, indicate very viable alternatives which eliminates in-fighting and disempowerment of African American voters in particular.

All across the nation we are finding political and illegal strategies enacted to neutralize the voting power of African American voters (and I am certain Latino voters as well). Will your actions be seen as the “California version” of far right wing, conservative strategies designed to destroy the districts of some of our most powerful and progressive African American and Latino representatives?

In her highly acclaimed, 2010, book entitled, “The New Jim Crow”, author Michelle Alexander states, “What is completely missed in the rare public debates today about the plight of African Americans is that a huge percentage of them are not free to move up at all.” She goes on to say, “It is not just that they lack opportunity, attend poor schools, or are plagued by poverty. They are barred by law from doing so.” Commissioners, this is your opportunity to use the law rightly to empower rather than dismantle our progress.

We are fortunate to have political representatives dedicated to assisting our African American and Latino communities to move up, even in these trying times. I urge your commission to do the right thing and utilize the great work that the AARC, CAPAFR and MALDEF have proposed for your final maps.

We remain vigilant, in expectation of positive change through fair redistricting.

Sincerely yours,

Wil C. Wade, Ph.D.

Wil C. Wade is a retired educator. Chairman of a non-profit, economic development corporation, which has built over 100 million dollars of affordable housing in the Greater Los Angeles area. Executive Director, of a highly regarded parent training and empowerment organization and member/supporter of a wide range of civil and human rights organizations. The opinions expressed are those of the writer.
Don't use that term, when discussing Black Americans, stop doing that. Because Black Americans are not real Africans! You people call us some foreign name.

That's very disrespectful! You can't impose on people. By the way where you get that from? No need to exaggerate.

All Black Americans don't agree on this, are accept that. Black Americans can only speak for themselves, nobody else can.

Some Black Americans run that in the ground we're not foreigners! Our flag is red, white, blue! The United States is our mother land not Africa!

Black Americans don't know anybody there, saying that is inappropriate to us could you address us as Black Americans in the future please, thank you!

P.S. Would you recant that, reconsider.

e.g.
1. If you are completing this form for ALL of the people living at this address, start with a person living here who owns or rents this house or apartment. Otherwise, start with yourself.

What is Person 1's name? Print name below.

Last Name

First Name

2. What is Person 1's sex? Mark □ ONE box.

☐ Male  ☐ Female

3. What is Person 1's age and what is Person 1's date of birth?

Please report babies as age 0 when the child is less than 1 year old.

Print numbers in boxes.

Age on April 1, 2010

Month

Day

Year of birth

→ NOTE: Please answer BOTH Question 4 about Hispanic origin and Question 5 about race. For this census, Hispanic origins are not races.

4. Is Person 1 of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

☐ No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin

☐ Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano

☐ Yes, Puerto Rican

☐ Yes, Cuban

☐ Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin — Print origin, for example, Argentinean, Colombian, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Spaniard, and so on:

5. What is Person 1's race? Mark □ one or more boxes.

☑ White, European AM., or Blanca

☐ Black

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native — Print name of enrolled or principal tribe:

☐ Asian Indian

☐ Japanese

☐ Native Hawaiian

☐ Chinese

☐ Korean

☐ Guamanian or Chamorro

☐ Filipino

☐ Vietnamese

☐ Samoan

☐ Other Asian — Print race, for example, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on:

☐ Some other race — Print race:

→ Continue with information about the next person who has not been counted.