

The Connecticut General Assembly

House Democrats



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLACK AND PUERTO RICAN CAUCUS OUTLINES PRIORITIES

The legislature's Black and Puerto Rican Caucus (BPRC), led by Chair and Vice Chair, State Representatives Christopher Rosario (D-Bridgeport) and Brandon McGee (D-Hartford/Windsor), held a press conference to announce the group's 2018 legislative priorities.

In February, the BPRC hosted a public forum where members of the public participated by bringing their ideas and concerns relating to minority communities.

"This year our Democratic leadership has put out an aggressive agenda that address various critical issues that our caucus embraces," said **Rep. Rosario**. "Supporting our middle class families and creating opportunities for everyone is something we fully support as a group. Pay equity, earning a livable wage and protecting women's healthcare are all priorities we champion. Additionally, securing the support that displaced families from Puerto Rico need is extremely critical to many of our members. We cannot turn our backs on these fellow American citizens."

"These priorities build on work we've previously done and reflect issues raised by our constituents. From criminal justice reform to economic justice measures like earned family and medical leave, these issues disproportionately affect Black and Latino communities," **Rep. McGee** said. "We hope our fellow legislators share many of these priorities and that we can work together to lift up all of our communities."

The group has been working with advocates, local officials and legislative leadership to prioritize and advance the most critical issues through the legislative process.

Other priorities include:

- Restoring funding to Hispanic agencies to help relocated families from Puerto Rico and providing disaster assistance to United States citizens who have relocated to the state and who are victims of natural disasters (HB 5323)
- Criminal Justice Reform: Addressing mistreatment of inmates and providing quality healthcare for inmates
- Facilitating the recruitment and retention of minority teachers (SB 455)
- Workforce Development

The Connecticut Legislative Black and Puerto Rican Caucus was formed in 1976 to promote and assist minorities in becoming more actively involved in the political process, and in attaining political office, and to raise the economic potential for minorities and empower the minority community in the state.

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