



**CALIFORNIA STATE
CONFERENCE OF THE
N A A C P**

1215 K Street, Suite 1609, Sacramento, CA 95814

Alice A. Huffman, President

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 10, 2009

Contact: Malaki Seku-Amen

916.498.1898

916.505.9715

**GOVERNOR SIGNS
CALIFORNIA NAACP-SPONSORED BILL TO BAN
TERROR WITH A NOOSE**

SACRAMENTO – After being passed by the State Legislature with no opposition, Governor Schwarzenegger has signed into law the California State NAACP’s sponsored bill prohibiting the act of terrorizing and threatening a person’s life, by hanging a noose.

Authored by Assemblywoman Wilmer Amina Carter, AB 412 applies the same principles that have prohibited cross burning in 20 states, to noose hanging. Although thousands of African Americans were murdered with nooses, the NAACP’s position is that, regardless of race, the bill challenges the very idea that it is acceptable to carry out the act for which nooses were designed.

“100 years after the NAACP was founded in response to lynching, it is unimaginable that hanging a noose would be acceptable to any human being,” said California State NAACP president Alice Huffman.

“We are elated that Governor Schwarzenegger has signed AB 412, and as a result, he has reaffirmed every Californians right to obtain an education, earn an income and live in peace without the terror of a threat to his or her life and personal safety,” said California State NAACP president Alice Huffman.

In making a case for the bill, the NAACP pointed out that AB 412 will not infringe on freedom of speech.

AB 412 stems from a State NAACP Youth & College Division response to recent California noose hangings that were reminiscent of the institutional practice of lynching, employed to maintain white supremacy against blacks, spanning from the late 1800’s well into the 20th Century.

###

916.498.1898 Phone ☐ 916.498.1895 Fax ☐ www.ca-naACP.org