



**CENTER FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN
PUBLIC POLICY (CAAMPP)**

700 Park Avenue, Norfolk, Virginia 23504
P: 757-823-2286/8999 | nsu.edu/caampp

From the desk of

Dr. Olusoji Akomolafe

Executive Director, Center for African American Public Policy (CAAMPP)

Sharing with you every month the good, the bad and the ugly side of public policy.

I would like to reintroduce you to the Center for African American Public Policy (CAAMPP). Some of you already know us and have been following some of our work. Others are probably learning about us for the first time. If you belong to the former group, on behalf of the entire staff of CAAMPP, I would like to thank you for your patronage. And, if you are just joining us for the first time, we welcome you to our family as well.

We are part think tank group and part advocacy group. Although we strive to address issues of equity and justice systemically, our core constituency is primarily the African American community together with other communities of color. We conduct empirical research to help shape public policies with the intention of enhancing the wellbeing of this sometimes underserved, sometimes neglected constituency. We collaborate with elected officials, grassroots organizations, as well as other advocacy groups and engage the community at large to support and strengthen policies that impact their lives. In a nutshell, a great part of our work consists of making the political process more responsive to the demands of these communities, many of whom have been traditionally underserved and/or overlooked, in their quest to strive for a more equitable, just and fair society. Essentially, our work is to assist lawmakers with data-based evidence in the formulation of public policies while helping the community understand better the consequences of their actions (or inaction). We also organize forums and other events to educate the community on their rights and more importantly, to remind them of their civic engagement responsibilities with respect to the political process. This approach is borne out of our conviction that an informed citizenry is central to building and maintaining a vibrant democracy.

In order to complement the work we already do, I would like to introduce you to yet another new initiative of the Center. Every month, I will be sharing with you trending hot button public issues that need your attention. I will try in as much as possible to break them down into soluble pieces with the hope of provoking maximum response and positive action from lawmakers and especially from you, our core constituents. These briefs will be based on facts, they will be fair and non-partisan and for the most part, hopefully, very interactive. More often than not, we expect others to do for us what we can or should do for ourselves. This is your platform and your opportunity to express yourself, demand and claim your rights, and for Pete's sake, make your voices heard. While we have a highly dedicated staff, we cannot do it alone; your support is indispensable to our mission. So, I will encourage you to share your reactions with us, let us know what you think, if you agree or disagree with expressed opinions and most importantly, dare to share with us your suggestions and opinions. You can email CAAMPP at caamppinfo@nsu.edu.