



# NAACP

August 9, 2017

Bishop Charles Blake  
Presiding Bishop  
Church of God in Christ  
3045 Crenshaw Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90016

Dear Bishop Blake:

It's been brought to my attention that some of the delegates have expressed concern about bringing your convocation to St. Louis as a result of the travel advisory issued by the Missouri Branch of the NAACP. We are in agreement with the Missouri Branch that the legislation referenced, Senate Bill 43, is bad for Missouri and for the people of our community. It requires a employee to meet a higher standard: The worker would have to show that race explicitly "motivated" mistreatment through, for example, written documentation of racist comments. It also scales back protections in cases of housing or public accommodation discrimination, such as a restaurant manager refusing to seat a family on the basis of race, age, sex or disability. In addition, routine traffic violations in Missouri has resulted in an trend that shows African-Americans are 75% more likely to be stooped than Caucasians.

However, it's important to note that currently this advisory is not a ban on travel to the State of Missouri and that it is only in effect until August 28, when the referenced bill becomes law. In addition, the NAACP stands at the ready to assist anyone traveling to our State if any of the above issues arise. The St. Louis City NAACP is dedicated to ensuring that conference registrants are informed and safe.

The hospitality workers, many of whom are people of color, need the jobs that are supported by travelers to our state and our city. Without you and your members, we will lose employment opportunities in hotels, transportation companies, restaurants and the many businesses that your meeting attendees will support when they attend your meeting in our community. The Church of God in Christ has blessed our community and our city with your Convocation for many years, and we look forward to your continued presence. Thank you for selecting St. Louis for this important, impressive event

I'm at your disposal if you'd like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Adolphus M. Pruitt, President  
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