



The Office Of State Treasurer  
Denise L. Nappier

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# Statement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 20, 2014

**STATEMENT ON THE NATIONAL COMMEMORATION OF THE  
BIRTHDAY OF THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

*Treasurer Nappier Urges Greater Effort  
To Achieve King's Dream of Economic Opportunity For All*

HARTFORD, CT – As we observe the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., let us rededicate ourselves to achieve his cherished ideals by elevating economic opportunity - not just for a few, but for all people.

After more than half a century, Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech remains one of our brightest beacons of inspiration. From the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, he eloquently expressed his enduring optimism: "We refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation."

As Treasurer, I have always found it fascinating that Dr. King used a financial analogy to highlight the urgency of equal opportunity. It falls upon each of us to act on his inspiring words and to ensure the inheritance of social equality and economic justice in ways small and large, miniscule and mighty.

We have made some real progress throughout the years, but so much more remains to be done. Dr. King said, "There is nothing more dangerous than to build a society with a large segment of people in that society who feel they have no stake in it."

To be sure, these are tough economic times when our state, our country and our strength are being tested. I know we are up to the challenge. But can we truly commit to Dr. King's clarion call? Can we, once and for all, rectify the growing economic disparity between those who have and those who don't within the confines of our state -- especially along racial lines -- and in our urban and rural areas? Can we help to promote the sustainable health of our investments, our economy, our people and indeed our planet?

In many respects, our state's financial health is inextricably linked to the well-being of its citizens. We cannot and should not, therefore, turn our backs or shut our eyes to human needs. Rather, we should seek ways to help to create opportunity, each of us in our own sphere of influence. If we are united in common purpose that we all deserve the

opportunity to reach our economic potential, Dr. King's message will live on, and our state's economic revival will be that much more certain and sustainable.

As Treasurer, I will keep doing my part with renewed dedication to seeking prudent and smart investments in our state, promoting inclusive and viable economic growth and job opportunities, serving as a catalyst for financial education and asset building strategies, helping families save for college, encouraging the companies we do business with to be responsible corporate citizens in every sense of the word, and balancing long-term interests with near-term imperatives.

I firmly believe that true, sustainable progress will be achieved when our collective voice backed by action moves us further on the path of economic justice. Let us all work together to come within striking distance of realizing Dr. King's dream, and to ensure gains on the horizon that will benefit all and make our state what it ought to be.

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