



AMERICA'S
CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS
ESTABLISHED 1971

2013 YEAR IN REVIEW





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MISSION

Since its establishment in 1971, Members of the Congressional Black Caucus have joined together to empower America's neglected citizens and to address their legislative concerns. For more than 40 years, the CBC has consistently been the voice for people of color and vulnerable communities in Congress and has been committed to utilizing the full Constitutional power, statutory authority, and financial resources of the Government of the United States of America to ensure that everyone in the United States has an opportunity to achieve their version of the American Dream.

The legislative agenda of universal empowerment that Members of the Congressional Black Caucus collectively pursue include but are not limited to: the creation of universal access to a world-class education from birth through post secondary level; the creation of universal access to quality, affordable health care and the elimination of racially based health disparities; the creation of universal access to modern technology, capital and full, fairly-compensated employment; the creation and expansion of U.S. foreign policy initiatives that will contribute to the survival, health, education and general welfare of all peoples of the world in a manner consistent with universal human dignity, tolerance and respect and such other legislative action as a majority of the entire CBC Membership may support.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friend,

During the first session of the 113th Congress, the Congressional Black Caucus wasted no time developing and proposing policy solutions we believed were in the best interest of the people we represent. By leading critical conversations and engaging in every major debate before Congress, CBC Members ensured that the voices of people of color and vulnerable populations in this country were heard.

In 2013, one of the least productive years for this Congress, the Congressional Black Caucus realized a number of legislative and political victories, many of which you will see reflected in this document. We also continued our tradition of bringing our messages and our work home through initiatives like the “Making Good Health MY Reality” tour that helped Americans in seven CBC districts understand how the Affordable Care Act can help improve their quality of life, and the Emergency Summit on Gun Violence in Chicago where the public joined us to discuss strategies that will end the violence taking so many lives in our communities. We are also proud to report that each Congressional conference committee included at least one Member from the CBC.

Sustaining our decades-long history of proposing a budget alternative, the Congressional Black Caucus once again introduced a fiscally sound and morally responsible budget that would cancel the sequester and invest in our nation, while protecting vital programs like HeadStart, Medicare and Social Security on which so many vulnerable communities rely. Through our advocacy efforts, we were successful in having the CBC’s

10-20-30 plan, which would help strategically end poverty, included in the House Democratic Budget.

As the Immigration Reform debate reached a fever pitch, the CBC worked to make sure the unique experiences and needs of immigrants of African descent were not ignored or overlooked. Through our efforts, legislative amendments were added to the Senate Immigration Reform Bill and in the draft bill proposed by House Democrats. Among other provisions, these amendments included a set number of visas that would ensure the future flow of Africans to the U.S. from all social and economic backgrounds, billions of dollars for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to promote STEM education and an expedited pathway to citizenship for immigrants within the African Diaspora.

Members of the CBC also ardently fought against House Republicans in the battle to make an estimated \$40 billion in cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). We encouraged President Obama to publicly issue a veto threat and filibustered the legislation on the House Floor to send a clear message that these harmful cuts would never make it to the President’s desk.

This year, the Congressional Black Caucus also worked hard on behalf of our young people. Through numerous conversations with the Department of Education and Presidents at HBCUs around the country, we continued our work in eliminating unnecessary barriers preventing students from accessing higher education and achieving their personal and professional goals. Our efforts resulted in students who had previously been awarded Parent



PLUS Loans, but denied under a new, more stringent policy, to be grandfathered or provided the opportunity to reapply for a loan product. We also were able to ensure students from the Caribbean are able to access PLUS Loans. The CBC also was successful in preventing the American Bar Association from increasing bar passage rate requirements that would disproportionately affect law students of color.

As our world continues to become more interconnected and interdependent, Members of the Congressional Black Caucus work to increase our engagement with international leaders. Eleven CBC Members joined me on our first Congressional delegation to China that will result in scholarships for 400 students from CBC Districts to study abroad over the next four years.

There is much more to share about the CBC’s work this year, so I hope you enjoy reading through the highlights, stories and accomplishments included in this report.

Most importantly, I appreciate the opportunity to lead and serve with you in such historic times and I look forward to the work we’ll continue to do together.

Sincerely,

Marcia L. Fudge

Rep. Marcia L. Fudge (OH-11)
Chair, Congressional Black Caucus

OFFICERS OF THE 113TH CONGRESS

CHAIR

Congresswoman Marcia Fudge (OH-11)



FIRST VICE CHAIR

Congressman G.K. Butterfield (NC-11)



SECOND VICE CHAIR

Congresswoman Yvette Clarke (NY-09)



SECRETARY

Congressman André Carson (IN -07)



WHIP

Congresswoman Karen Bass (CA-37)



MEMBERS OF THE 113TH CONGRESS

Hon. John Conyers, Jr. MI – ‘65

Hon. Charles B. Rangel, NY – ‘71

Hon. John Lewis, GA – ‘87

Hon. Eleanor Holmes Norton, DC – ‘91

Hon. Maxine Waters, CA – ‘91

Hon. Sanford D. Bishop, Jr., GA – ‘93

Hon. Corrine Brown, FL – ‘93

Hon. James E. Clyburn, SC – ‘93

Hon. Alcee L. Hastings, FL – ‘93

Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson, TX – ‘93

Hon. Bobby L. Rush, IL – ‘93

Hon. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott, VA – ‘93

Hon. Melvin L. Watt, NC – ‘93

Hon. Bennie G. Thompson, MS – ‘93

Hon. Chaka Fattah, PA – ‘95

Hon. Sheila Jackson Lee, TX – ‘95

Hon. Elijah Cummings, MD – ‘96

Hon. Donna M. Christensen, VI – ‘97

Hon. Danny K. Davis, IL – ‘97

Hon. Gregory W. Meeks, NY – ‘98

Hon. Barbara Lee, CA – ‘98

Hon. William Lacy Clay, Jr., MO – ‘01

Hon. David Scott, GA – ‘03

Hon. G.K. Butterfield, Jr., NC – ‘04

Hon. Emanuel Cleaver II, MO – ‘05

Hon. Al Green, TX – ‘05

Hon. Gwen Moore, WI – ‘05

Hon. Yvette D. Clarke, NY – ‘07

Hon. Keith Ellison, MN – ‘07

Hon. Hank Johnson, GA – ‘07

Hon. André Carson, IN – ‘08

Hon. Donna F. Edwards, MD – ‘08

Hon. Marcia L. Fudge, OH – ‘08

Hon. Karen Bass, CA – ‘11

Hon. Cedric Richmond, LA – ‘11

Hon. Terri Sewell, AL – ‘11

Hon. Frederica Wilson, FL – ‘11

Hon. Donald M. Payne, Jr., NJ – ‘12

Hon. Joyce Beatty, OH – ‘13

Hon. Steven Horsford, NV – ‘13

Hon. Hakeem Jeffries, NY – ‘13

Hon. Robin Kelly, IL – ‘13

Hon. Marc Veasey, TX – ‘13

Hon. Mo Cowan, MA – ‘13

Sen. Cory Booker, NJ – ‘13

CBC 2013 HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH ON WASHINGTON

“ The scars and stains of racism still remain deeply embedded in American society, whether it is stop and frisk in New York or injustice in Trayvon Martin case in Florida, the mass incarceration of millions of Americans, immigrants hiding in fear in the shadow of our society, unemployment, homelessness, poverty, hunger or the renewed struggle for voting rights. So I say to each of us today, we must never, ever give up. We must, never give in. We must keep the faith and keep our eyes on the prize.”

— Rep. John Lewis, August 28, 2013



Please click the images to view videos.

CONGRESSIONAL CEREMONIES

Congress Celebrates Nelson Mandela's 95th Birthday — *H.Con.Res.43*

“ President Mandela taught the world invaluable lessons about determination, leadership, and unity. I regard President Mandela as a personal hero, and I am among the many that have been profoundly moved by both him and the people of South Africa.”

— Rep. Maxine Waters (CA-43), July 18, 2013



Please click the image to read the full article.

CONGRESSIONAL CEREMONIES

Frederick Douglass statue unveiled in the Capitol — *S.CON.RES.16*

“There is no better figure to represent our city than Frederick Douglass, who made the city his home and was deeply involved in D.C. government and in the civic affairs of the city. Douglass is not only one of the great international icons of human rights, he is remembered in the District also for his outspoken dedication to democratic self-government and congressional representation for the city.”

— Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), May 21, 2013



Please click the image to read the full article.

CONGRESSIONAL CEREMONIES

Congress honors Birmingham's 'four little girls' — *H.R. 360*

“I not only question where I would be today without the influence of the ‘Four Little Girls’ but more importantly, I question where America would be. The premature and senseless deaths of these girls awakened the slumbering conscience of America and galvanized the Civil Rights Movement.”

— Rep. Terri Sewell (AL-07), September 11, 2013



Please click the image to read the full article.

CBC 2013 HIGHLIGHTS

CONGRESSIONAL CEREMONIES

Statue of Rosa Parks Is Unveiled at the Capitol

“ It’s been often remarked that Rosa Parks’s activism didn’t begin on that bus. Long before she made headlines, she had stood up for freedom, stood up for equality -- fighting for voting rights, rallying against discrimination in the criminal justice system, serving in the local chapter of the NAACP. Her quiet leadership would continue long after she became an icon of the civil rights movement, working with Congressman Conyers to find homes for the homeless, preparing disadvantaged youth for a path to success, striving each day to right some wrong somewhere in this world.”

— President Barack Obama, February 27, 2013



Please click the image to read the full article.

CBC MEMBERS PROTEST THE FARM BILL

“ Today was a very sad day for America. I am sorely disappointed by repeated attempts by the Republican Majority to further disenfranchise poor and minority communities. The American people deserve better.”

— Rep. G.K. Butterfield (NC-01), July 11, 2013



Please click the image to view video.

HONORING OUR LEADERS

Congresswoman Cardiss Collins (*September 24, 1931 – February 3, 2013*)

“As the fourth African American woman to serve in the House and the second African American woman to lead the CBC, Mrs. Collins never hesitated to speak on the needs of urban communities. Through her work, Mrs. Collins also helped break down barriers for women to pursue and achieve any goal they set out to accomplish. Because of her commitment and her courage, I and many other women in this Congress are able to follow in her footsteps and be leaders among our peers. I appreciate and am grateful for the legacy of service Mrs. Collins has left behind.”

— CBC Chair Marcia L. Fudge, February 6, 2013



HONORING OUR LEADERS

Congressman Bill Gray (*August 20, 1941 – July 1, 2013*)

“As a Representative of the 2nd Congressional District of Pennsylvania, Mr. Gray championed policies that protected the most vulnerable individuals in his community, in our country and around the world, including H.R. 1460, the first that employed sanctions against South Africa’s apartheid regime. Mr. Gray used his position of leadership within the halls of Congress and in the community to ensure that the people of Philadelphia and around the globe were able to live a better life.”

— CBC Chair Marcia L. Fudge, July 2, 2013



CBC 2013 HIGHLIGHTS

HONORING OUR LEADERS

Julius Chambers (*October 6, 1936 – August 2, 2013*)

“ On August 2, this nation lost one of the most revered educators and respected civil rights advocates of our time. Julius Chambers dedicated his life to ending racial and economic discrimination through successful litigation and advocacy at the local, state and federal levels. Through his work and often in the face of violent opposition, Mr. Chambers helped restructure our laws and our society in ways that increased access to a quality education and to economic opportunity for all people, no matter their race or socioeconomic background. Mr. Chambers worked to ensure that no person be denied their rights to live freely in and contribute to the communities of which they are a part. His legacy is one of courage and commitment



to equity and equality, while also building interracial cooperation and trust.”

— CBC Chair Marcia L. Fudge,
August 5, 2013

HONORING OUR LEADERS

Congressman Major Owens (*June 28, 1936 – October 21, 2013*)

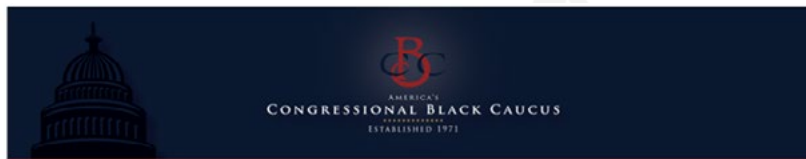
“ During his tenure in Congress, Congressman Owens was critical in drafting and passing the Americans with Disabilities Act that prohibited discrimination against millions living and working with disabilities. Through his leadership of New York City's Community Development Agency and as a New York State Senator, Mr. Owens worked to promote education reform that would increase access to a quality public school education. He was also an ardent advocate for workforce development and community programs that helped individuals lift themselves out of poverty.”



— CBC Chair Marcia L. Fudge, October 22, 2013

CBC 2013 HIGHLIGHTS

CBC WHIPLINE



THE CBC WHIPLINE
FROM WHIP KAREN BASS

FIRST/LAST VOTES PREDICTED: 6:30 PM

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2013

Considered under a Rule:

1. **H.J.Res. 77 – Food and Drug Safety Act - Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-AL)**
CHAIRWOMAN VOTING RECOMMENDATION: VOTE NO

Summary: The bill provides funding for the Food and Drug Administration through Dec. 15, 2013, at the sequester-reduced funding levels effective at the end of FY 2013.

Background: Both the President and the Senate have been clear that they won't accept this kind of game-playing, that only funds certain parts of government while keeping the rest of the government shut down. Democratic leadership urges Members to oppose this piecemeal approach and support the Senate-passed "clean" CR.

Democratic Leadership Input: Oppose, VOTE NO

CBC MONTHLY ECONOMIC REPORT

MEMORANDUM

To: Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge
From: Erin McIntire, Hassan Christian
Re: July 2013 Jobs Report and Employment Situation for Minorities in America
Date: August 2nd, 2013

The Department of Labor released the [July 2013 Jobs Report](#). The unemployment rate has significantly decreased from 7.5 percent last month to **7.4 percent** this month. Approximately 11.8 million people were unemployed last month; **11.5 million individuals were unemployed this month**. In July, businesses hired **162,000 new employees** in the areas of retail trade; food services and drinking places; financial activities; and wholesale trade. The number of long-term unemployed individuals in June, those who have been jobless for more than 27 weeks, decreased from 4.3 million to 4.2 million. Long-term unemployment accounts for 37 percent of the unemployed. **African-American unemployment drastically decreased this month, from 13.5 percent to 12.6 percent; African-American female adult unemployment dropped from 12 percent to 10.5 percent.** Asian-Americans experienced an increase in unemployment, from 5.0 percent to 5.7 percent. Latinos' unemployment increased from 9.1 percent last month to 9.4 percent this month.

Note: The following totals for nonfarm payroll employment have been revised: May from 195,000 to 176,000 and June from 195,000 to 188,000. Employment gains for these months was less than 26,000 jobs. Here's a summary for minority unemployment in America.

Unemployment Situation, December 2012 to July 2013

	Dec. 2012 Unemployment Rate	Jan. 2013 Unemployment Rate	Dec. 2012 Number of Unemployed	Jan. 2013 Number of Unemployed	July 2013 Unemployment Rate	July 2013 Number of Unemployed
National	7.8%	7.9%	12.2 Million	12 Million	7.4%	11.5 Million
African American	14%	13.8%	2.5 Million	2.5 Million	12.6%	2.4 Million
Asian American	6.6%	6.5%	N/A	548 Thousand	5.7%	466 Thousand
Latino	9.6%	9.7%	2.3 Million	2.3 Million	9.4%	2.4 Million

Marcia L. Fudge
Erin McIntire, Hassan Christian
Jobs Report and Employment Situation for Minorities in America

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African American	13.8%	2.5 Million	2.5 Million	12.6%	2.4 Million
Asian American	6.6%	6.5%	N/A	5.7%	466 Thousand
Latino	9.7%	9.7%	2.3 Million	9.4%	2.4 Million

CBC FRESHMAN MEMBERS



Rep. Joyce Beatty (OH-03)

“ I have had the opportunity to make sure that individuals are working together to enhance and improve the 3rd Congressional District of Ohio. Together, we have worked together on behalf of children, veterans, women, and the entire district and it is my pleasure and honor to serve each of you.”



Senator Cory Booker (NJ)

“ I will bring more voices to the voiceless, and I will be dogged, determined, relentless and unfaltering in my sense of service to all of New Jersey. My dad and my mom taught me, “You can’t have extraordinary success without personally putting forward extraordinary effort.”



Senator William “Mo” Cowan (MA)

“ I get to sit up there three times a week for an hour at a time and sit and listen to some of the greatest orators, political thinkers of various ideologies opine and argue about the issue of the day, the things that matter most to them, the things that matter most to their constituents, things that are relevant to my constituents and me.”



Rep. Steven Horsford (NV-04)

“ What I find as consequential as me being the first in Nevada is the historic first in Congress: This is the first majority-minority House of Representatives ever elected. Fifty-six percent of the people that will be in the 113th Congress are women and people of color. And so to be the first African-American from Nevada, joining the most historic, diverse caucus ever to be elected to the Congress, I think speaks to the diversity of the constituents we serve.”

CBC FRESHMAN MEMBERS



Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (OH-08)

“ The Congressional Black Caucus continues to serve as the conscience of the Congress and a voice for the voiceless in America. Throughout the year, we have worked hard to protect the voting rights of all Americans, eliminate income inequality, save the SNAP program, advance comprehensive immigration reform and address the gun violence problem in our country. We have made significant progress, but there is much work that needs to be done moving forward.”



Rep. Robin Kelly (IL-02)

“ It has been an honor to represent Illinois’ 2nd District. I take great pride in serving my constituents and in working to create the safe communities and economic opportunities that will make the district an even better place to live and work.”



Rep. Donald Payne (NJ-10)

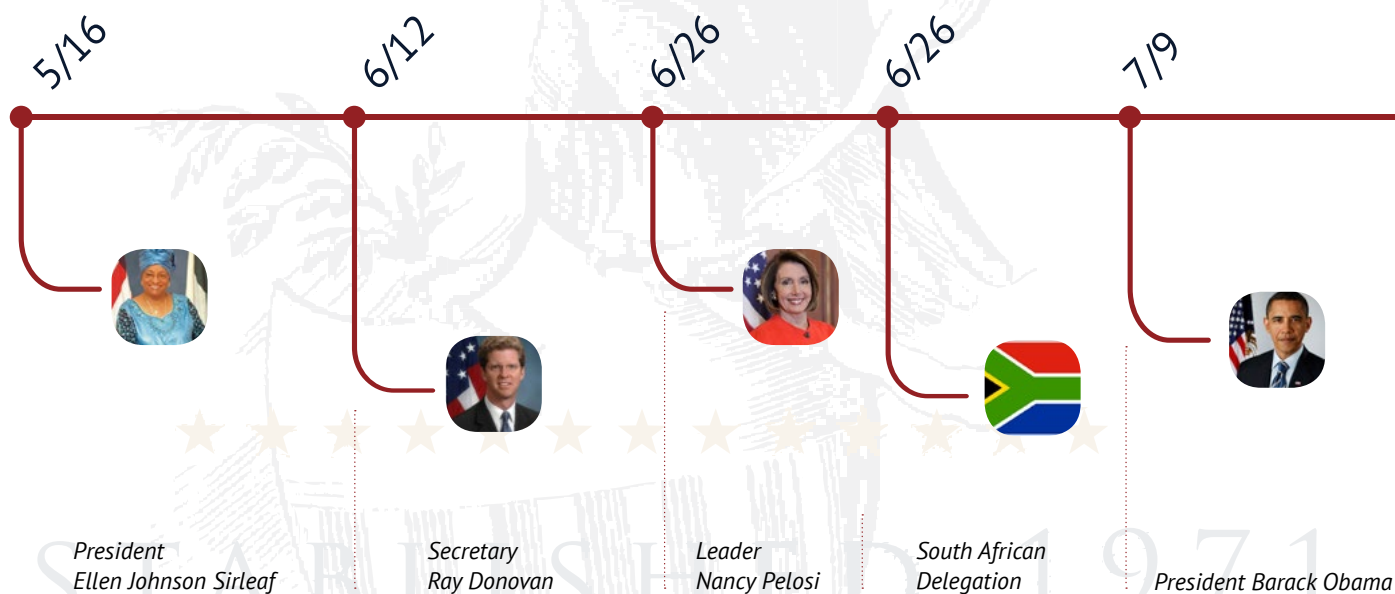
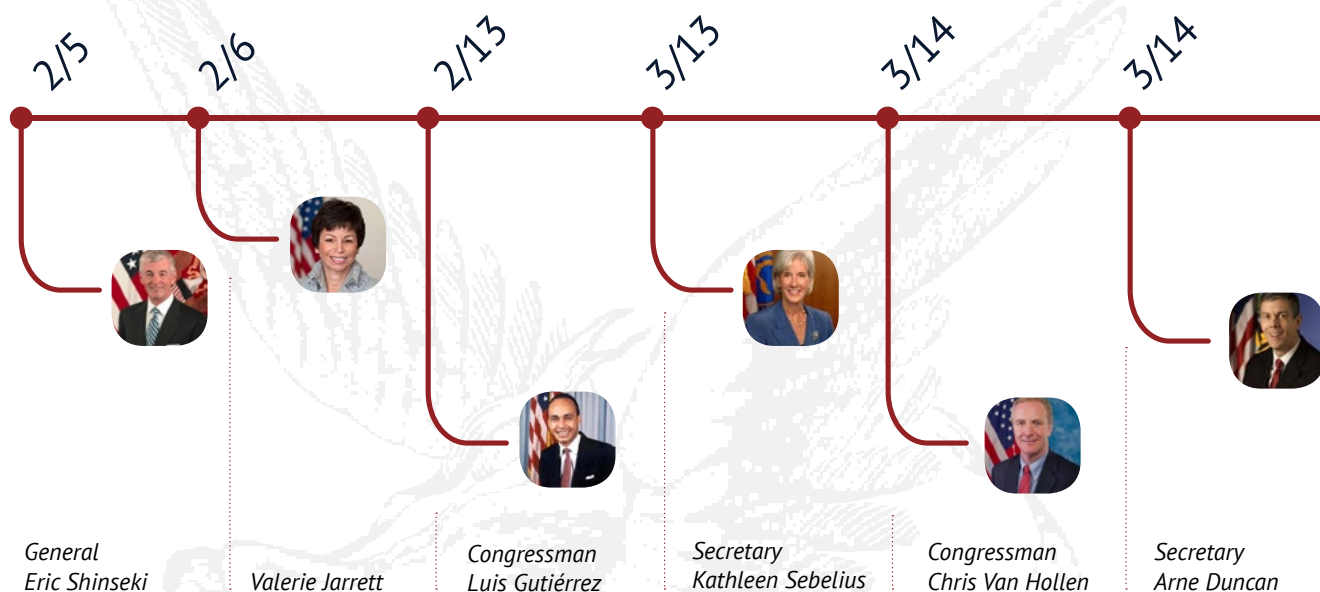
“ It has been a pleasure and an honor to carry on my father’s legacy and represent the people of New Jersey’s Tenth Congressional District. From fighting to preserve SNAP and ensuring New Jerseyans receive much-needed Hurricane Sandy relief, to working to eliminate health disparities and creating the jobs of the future, it has been a challenging and rewarding first year. Every day, I am driven by the struggles of the people that I represent and am inspired by their relentlessly positive outlook as they work to build a better life for themselves and their families. As we begin a New Year, I will continue to carry these motivations with me as we work together to achieve a safer, stronger, and more thriving community.”



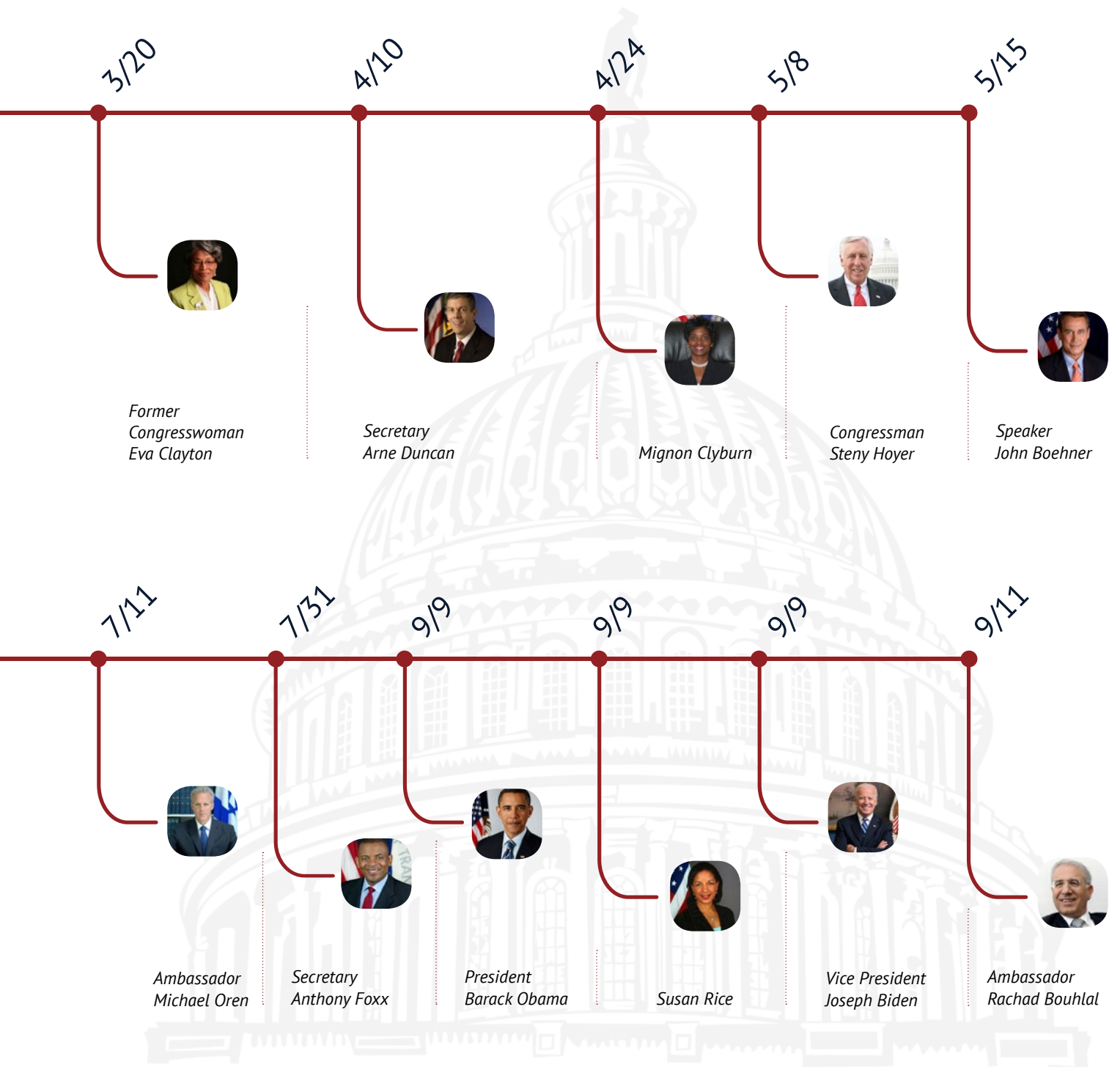
Rep. Marc Veasey (TX-33)

“ My first year in Congress has been both rewarding and challenging. We witnessed significant setbacks in ensuring equal access to the voting booth when the Supreme Court ruled part of the 1964 Voting Rights Act as unconstitutional and Texas subsequently enforced discriminatory Voter ID laws. As the lead plaintiff in the Texas Voter ID lawsuit, I will continue to fight against Voter ID laws in 2014. From job creation and the economy to access to healthcare and immigration reform, I will continue to ensure that my constituents’ voices are heard in Washington.”

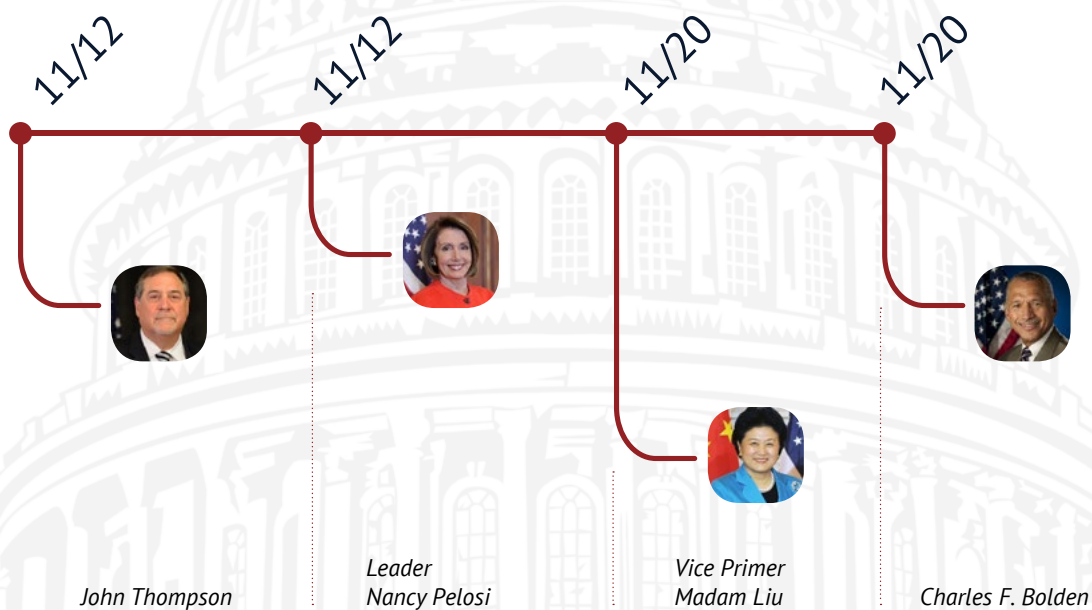
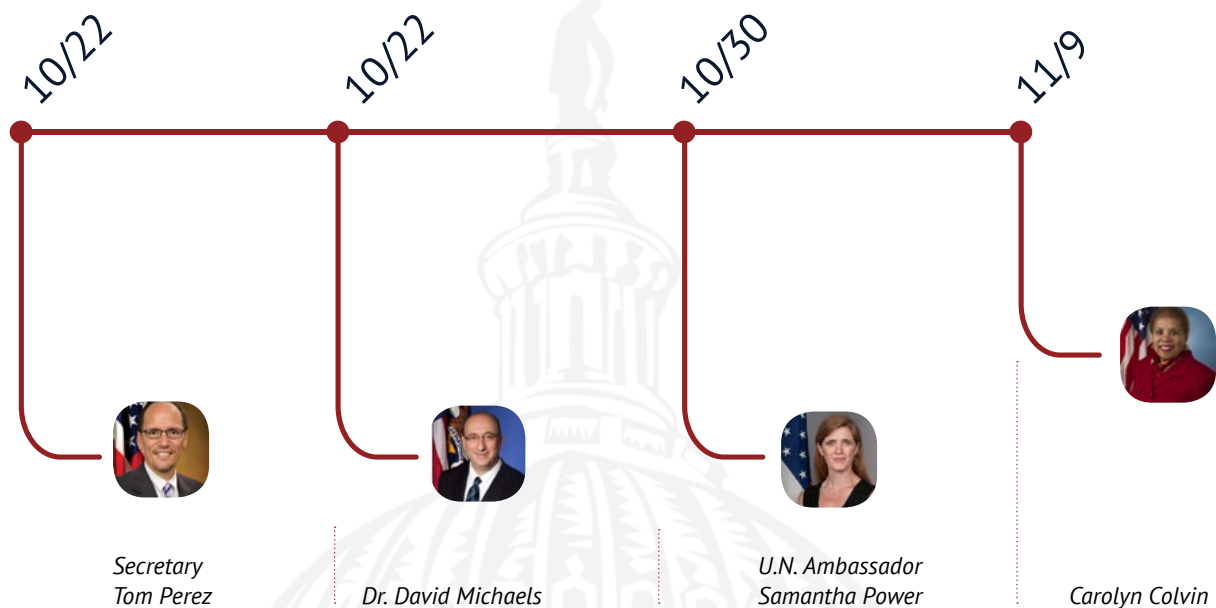
CBC MEETINGS



CBC MEETINGS



CBC MEETINGS



CBC POLICY AGENDA

With the start of each new Congress and under the leadership of its new Chair, the Congressional Black Caucus commits to focusing on a slate of issues that guide its legislative work. In 2013, the CBC continued to advocate for changes to policies that adversely impact communities of color and CBC constituencies, with a specific focus on:

The Voting Rights Act



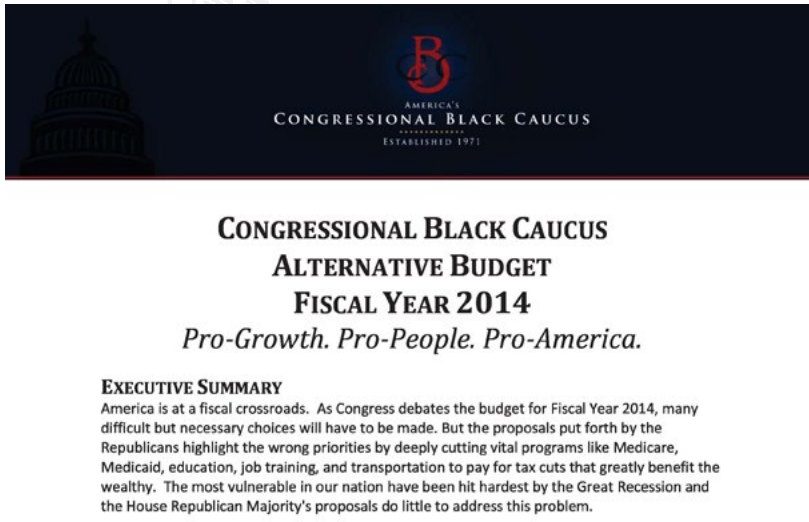
In the case of *Shelby v. Holder*, the Supreme Court struck down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which defines which states and localities are subject to preclearance when making changes to voting laws. On the date of the hearing, Members of the Congressional Black Caucus stood with leaders in Congress

and of the civil rights community to express the importance of the Supreme Court upholding the fundamental principle of ensuring every individual has the unobstructed right to vote. Members of the CBC also helped to write an amicus brief in favor of protecting Section 5 of the VRA. Though the Supreme Court Ruling was a blow to the VRA, Members of the Congressional Black Caucus' Voting Rights Working Group immediately began working on legislative text to fix the VRA in a way that will be ruled constitutional. In fall 2013, Members of the VRA working group presented their recommendations to leaders of the Democratic Caucus.



CBC POLICY AGENDA

Poverty and the Economy



Alternative that ends the sequester, closes tax loopholes, and invests in programs that create opportunities for individuals and families. We also spoke out against harmful cuts and advocated for policies including:

- Opposed Chained Consumer 10-20-30 targeted plan to strategically end poverty. CBC Members successfully advocated for this policy to be included in the House Democratic Budget.
- The Farm Bill – The CBC was able to include priorities as the Farm Bill was being written. A majority of these priorities were included in the final bill.

The Congressional Black Caucus has a long history of championing policies that support individuals lifting themselves out of poverty and provide that parity in access to economic opportunity. In 2013, the CBC continued its rich history of proposing an annual Budget

Immigration Reform

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus unanimously support Comprehensive Immigration Reform legislation that provides a path to citizenship for millions of immigrants currently living in America and particularly for the more than 3 million immigrants of African descent. As Members of the House and Senate worked towards a comprehensive immigration reform plan, the CBC was able to secure the inclusion of language favorable for Black immigrants and the African American population in both the Senate and House comprehensive immigration bills. The CBC also hosted a number of outreach efforts to immigrants of African descent including its first interactive conversation at Howard University where panelists answered questions from participants watching the conversation online.



LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ACTION

This year, in addition to significant progress on our policy agenda, CBC Members worked collectively and in their individual capacity on a number of critical issues facing our nation. Through the work of the CBC taskforces and due to tremendous leadership from our Members, the CBC secured the following legislative and political victories in 2013:

Health Care

- As the Chair of the CBCF Health Braintrust, Rep. Donna Christensen led the CBC in coordinated Affordable Care Act outreach events around the country. The “Making Good Health MY Reality” Tour provided information about the new health resources that were available, had federal, state and local officials available to answer questions and included numerous opportunities for CBC Members to interact with constituents on the benefits of the ACA.
- The CBC provided ACA toolkits to help offices host ACA fairs in their districts.

Education

Parent PLUS Loans (PPL)

- The Department of Education modified eligibility debt levels for the Parent PLUS Loan program in 2012. This change had a disproportionately negative impact on low-income students and institutions (such as HBCUs) that often accept larger numbers of low-income students.
- Under the urging of the CBC, the Department of Education increased the de minimis amounts acceptable to secure a PPL. This increase allowed applicants with reasonable but higher amounts of debt to qualify for the loan.
- The CBC facilitated the re-writing of the PPL denial letter to ensure applicants understood their ability to appeal their denial.
- Due to the impact this rule change had on HBCUs, the CBC was able to secure a negotiated rulemaking hearing at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. At this hearing, HBCU students, parents, administrators and presidents were able to share the negative impact of the PPL changes.
- In December, the CBC hosted a meeting with Secretary Arne Duncan and a group of HBCU Presidents to decide how to move forward in the best interest of students.

Tri-Caucus Education Policy Coordination

This year Congress attempted to reauthorize the Early Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The Education Reform Working Group led CBC efforts to ensure the inclusion of measures that would improve outcomes for low-income students, schools and districts.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ACTION

Tri-Caucus Education Policy Coordination (Cont.)

- Helped facilitate development of ESEA Reauthorization, the CBC worked with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus to write Tri-Caucus ESEA Principles that would need to be met to garner the support of the Members of the Tri-Caucus.
- When the Republican led ESEA legislation was passed out of Committee, the Tri-Caucus wrote a “Dear Colleague” against the bill.

American Bar Association (ABA) Law School Accreditation Issue

CBC Members along with the CHC, CAPAC, and the Congressional Progressive Caucus have been actively involved in stopping the passage of the ABA's proposed standard 316 which would require law schools to have an 80% bar passage rate for its graduates to maintain accreditation. If passed, this standard would disproportionately affect minority law schools and students who historically have lower bar passage rates.

- June 26, 2013- The Tri-Caucus sent a three page letter to the Dean Emeritus Jeffrey E. Lewis (Chair of the ABA Standards Review Committee) outlining concerns about the proposed standard and requesting the ABA to undertake a careful and comprehensive study of current and proposed pass rates as they would be calculated under the proposed standard before moving forward.
- September/October 2013- CBC Members hosted conference calls with the National Bar Association, Paulette Brown (President-Elect of the ABA) and Kurt Schmoke (Interim Provost, Chief Academic Officer, VP, General Counsel of Howard University/Member of the ABA Standards Review Committee).
- October 9, 2013- The CBC sent a follow-up letter to Dean Lewis to ensure that he understood how important this issue was to historically Black law schools.
- October 11, 2013 The efforts of the CBC helped influence the ABA to delay the final decision until February, when they could gather more information about the impact of this proposed rule on law schools and minority students.

Diversity and Minority Contracting

- Historically, State DOT Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) programs are not given proper oversight which often leads to fraud and abuse. The CBC was concerned that this lack of oversight meant lost opportunities for small minority contractors. The CBC engaged the DOT and the DOT Office of the Inspector General to push the DOT to implement the necessary oversight and protocol to ensure the program works effectively and efficiently.

Diversity and Minority Contracting (Cont.)

- The CBC engaged the Department of Transportation resulting in:
 - Consolidating oversight to one office that has the responsibility of ensuring that state level DBE programs were properly implemented and run.
 - Putting forth a plan to help States increase oversight over their DBE programs.
- The CBC worked with various energy companies to develop strategies to increase the hiring of minority workers and contractors. Together, the group discussed what could be done to increase and improve education resources to help prepare students for a career in the energy industry.
- In 2013, the CBC engaged the following agencies and organizations on diversity and minority contracting issues:



Nominations and Appointments

The CBC has been instrumental in a number of Presidential nominations and appointments including:



Carol Waller Pope
appointed to the
Federal Labor
Relations Authority



Mignon Clyburn
to the Federal
Communications
Commission



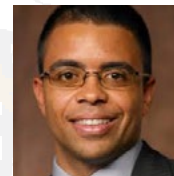
Robert Wilkins
nominated to
the U.S. Court
of Appeals for
the District of
Columbia Circuit



B. Todd Jones as
Administrator of the
Bureau of Alcohol,
Tobacco, Firearms
and Explosives



Rep. Mel Watt
nominated for the
Federal Housing
Finance Agency



Debo Adegbile
to serve as the
Assistant Attorney
General for the
Civil Rights
Division of the
U.S. Department
of Justice



Anthony Foxx
confirmed as
Secretary of
Transportation



Jeh Johnson
as Secretary of
Homeland Security

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ACTION

Filibuster Reform

With the encouragement support of the CBC, the Senate changed cloture rules for Administration nominees. This allowed the Senate to end the filibustered appointment of Rep. Mel Watt for the Federal Housing Finance Agency and proceed to fill other judicial and Administration posts, especially in the DC circuit.

DOJ Investigation of the Kendrick Johnson Case

The CBC wrote Attorney General Holder asking for a DOJ investigation into the death of Johnson after the circumstances surrounding Johnson's death became increasingly suspicious. This request was honored by the DOJ.

Prison Count for 2020 Census

The CBC expressed concern regarding how prison populations are counted as a part of local populations in the county where the prisons are located. The Census Bureau Director, John H. Thompson, committed to working with the CBC on Census issues for 2020, including considering proposals from the CBC on how inmates should be counted.

Prison Phones Rates

- For several years, there has been an effort to reduce the cost of the inmate calling services (ICS) due to the heavy burden it places on families and friends who want to keep in touch with inmates. This familial support has been proven to reduce recidivism.
- The CBC urged the FCC to finally address the issue of ICS' price gouging. The CBC held a press conference on the financial harm ICS prices causes to families of inmates.
- On November 21, the FCC set limits on inmate calling services per call charge.

Foreign Policy

- After the Dominican Republic Constitutional Court released a ruling that individuals of Haitian descent were not legal citizens of the Dominican Republic due to not having a Dominican ancestor, the CBC successfully encouraged the Dominican Republic (DR) to publicly agree to not deport individuals of Haitian descent who were born and raised in the DR. The CBC will continue to advocate for a peaceful and humane solution to this escalating humanitarian crisis.
- Members of the CBC were first to withhold support for Syria strikes and urged diplomacy over military force.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ACTION

Women's Rights

VAWA

CBC Members led an effort to defeat a Republican version of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The Republican bill had fewer protections for Native Americans, immigrants, and others. With CBC support, a more comprehensive VAWA bill was brought to the House floor and passed with bi-partisan support.

Veterans

Veteran Administration Backlog

Members of the CBC successfully urged Secretary Shinseki to commit more resources to eliminate the backlog of veteran benefit claims pending for more than 125 days by the end of 2015.

Presidential/Veto Threats

Nutrition Reform and Work Opportunity Act of 2013 (H.R. 3102)

- The CBC sent a letter to the President asking for a strong veto threat in his Statement of Administration Policy for the legislation.
- The CBC was fought against the passage of the bill because it cut \$40 billion from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) resulting in millions of Americans losing SNAP benefits.

Pigford I and II

After a history of discrimination by the Department of Agriculture and years of litigation, the Pigford farmers finally received payment. Members of the CBC supported and advocated for the Pigford farmers throughout the litigation process.

Poultry Workers and the USDA

The CBC is working to ensure a rule that would allow poultry plants to increase the speed of lines to not go into effect. Line speeds are currently causing worker safety issues with deaths reported. Most of those affected by the current rule and the proposed increase are older African American and Hispanic women.

CONGRESSIONAL CONFEREES

Rep. James Clyburn

Budget



Rep. Marcia L. Fudge

Farm Bill



Rep. Corrine Brown

WRRDA



Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson

WRRDA



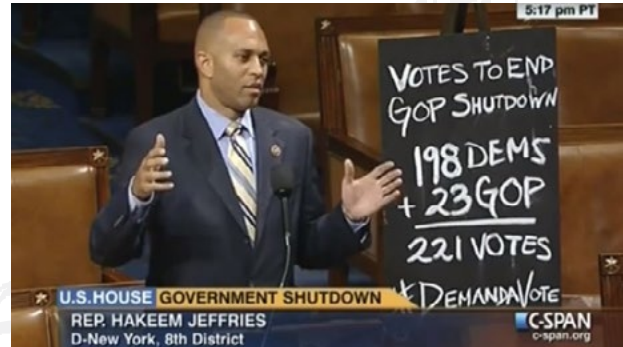
Rep. Donna Edwards

WRRDA



SPECIAL ORDER HOURS

Every Monday while the House was in session, Members of the Congressional Black Caucus commanded the House floor to lead interactive conversations on the most pressing issues facing our nation.



Led by Rep. Steven Horsford (NV-04) and Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (NY-08), Members discussed a wide range of topics including ending hunger, the cost of higher education, the culture of violence in America while taking questions via Twitter online using the "hashtag", #cbctalks.

- "Ending Hunger in America"
- "Closing Health Disparities"
- "The Impact of Sequestration"
- "Building a Better Budget"
- "The Debt Ceiling: The Dangers of Brinkmanship as a Political Tool"
- "The Continuing Resolution: Gambling with America's Future"
- "ACA – Making Good Health My Reality"
- "Achieving Economic Security Through the Labor Movement"
- "Student Loans"
- "Race and Justice in America"
- "The Life and Legacy of Rep. Bill Gray"
- "A Culture of Violence"
- "The Voting Rights Act"
- "Entrepreneurship and Black America"
- "Lifting Americans Out of Poverty"
- "Improving Access to a Quality Education"
- "The Importance of Comprehensive Immigration Reform"
- "The CBC Budget – A People's Budget"



COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

“Making Good Health MY Reality” Regional Townhalls

The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) along with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Health Braintrust hosted a series of educational Townhall and Health Fairs from July through September in US Virgin Islands, Chicago, IL, Oakland, CA, Dallas, TX, Brooklyn, NY, Las Vegas, NV, and Baltimore, MD. These Townhalls provided timely, clear, and user-friendly information about important dates and local resources that individuals should have as they prepare to enroll in Medicaid and/ or the Health Insurance Exchanges.



Emergency Gun Violence Summit

Held in conjunction with the “Making Good Health MY Reality” Regional Townhall in Chicago, we addressed the increasing senseless gun, gang and youth violence that plagued many of the nation’s urban cities. The CBC along with state officials, field experts, and the community discussed viable solutions to end gun violence in our communities.



Stand Your Ground Hearing/Race and Justice in America

In the wake of the death of Trayvon Martin and the acquittal of George Zimmerman, the Congressional Black Caucus worked with Members of the Democratic Steering committee to hold a hearing on “Race and Justice in America” where Moris Dees, co-founder and chief trial counsel for the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), Eugene Robinson, Columnist for the Washington Post, and Maya Wiley, Founder & President of the Center for Social Inclusion, provided testimony to the Caucus about the state of race relations in America, and the impact of an inequitable justice system on African Americans of all ages. Chairwoman Fudge also provided testimony during the Senate hearing on Stand Your Ground Laws with Sabrina Fulton, mother of Trayvon Martin and Lucia Holman McBath, mother of Jordan Davis. CBC Members also held community conversations around race and justice in their districts using a toolkit provided by the CBC.



CULTURAL EXCHANGES

As our world continues to become more interconnected and interdependent, Members of the Congressional Black Caucus worked to increase our engagement with international leaders. In 2013, CBC Members embarked on the first CBC Congressional Delegation to China. As a result of our visit, scholarships for 400 students from CBC Districts to study abroad over the next four years will be funded by the Chinese government. By the end of the 2014, CBC Members will have also built and strengthened relationships with the Moroccan, Israeli and Turkish governments among others through direct people-to-people exchanges.



CBC MEDIA COVERAGE

In 2013, the Congressional Black Caucus received extensive coverage and interview invitations on all major news networks, including newly launched and developing channels targeting African-American audiences. Chairwoman Fudge and CBC Members had personal meetings with executives from CNN and NBC to discuss the need for increased diversity in front of and behind the camera and met with executives from African-American themed stations TVOne, Soul of the South and Aspire to discuss ways the CBC can support an increase in quality news programming for the African American community. In 2014, the Chair along with five CBC Members will attend the first CBC Editorial Board meeting in New York City with NBC news and programming executives, and will host its first one-on-one interview with online news site “The Grio” and round robin interviews with Toure, host of “The Cycle”.

Network Meetings



Sunday News Show Appearances



CBC MEDIA COVERAGE

CBC Kicks off 113th Congress

Marcia Fudge Assumes Helm as New Chair

THE WASHINGTON
*Inform*er

African-American members of the U.S. House of Representatives recently held its special inauguration ceremony with new members, a new chairman and a renewed sense of commitment to continue the fight to ensure equality for blacks.

More than 300 people packed the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center's Congressional Auditorium to witness the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's biannual "A Ceremonial Swearing-In" on January 3. The two-hour event attracted spouses and family members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), leaders of national think tanks and corporate leaders, as well.

[Read More](#)

Black Caucus, Marcia Fudge press White House on high-level appointments

wp **POLITICS**

Rep. Marcia L. Fudge didn't sugarcoat her feelings about the fact that President Obama has not yet chosen any African Americans to fill high-level positions in his second term.

"The people you have chosen to appoint in this new term have hardly been reflective of this country's diversity," the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus wrote to Obama this month. "Their ire is compounded by the overwhelming support you've received from the African-American community."



[Read More](#)

Vote Ratings: Black Caucus May Flex More Influence

National Journal

As Democrats prepare to flex what may be reinvigorated muscle this congressional session, the Congressional Black Caucus could be positioned to gain increased attention both from President Obama and congressional leaders.

Passage of any significant legislation in the House may need as much support from Democrats—120 votes or so—as it does from Republicans. The CBC—a bloc of 42 votes with a decidedly liberal bent—is a group that the president and congressional leaders cannot afford to ignore.



[Read More](#)

Why we still need the Voting Rights Act

wp **OPINIONS**

John Lewis, a Democrat, represents Georgia's 5th District in the U.S. House.

On "Bloody Sunday," nearly 50 years ago, Hosea Williams and I led 600 peaceful, nonviolent protesters attempting to march from Selma to Montgomery to dramatize the need for voting rights protection in Alabama. As we crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge, we were attacked by state troopers who tear-gassed, clubbed and whipped us and trampled us with horses. I was hit in the head with a nightstick and suffered a concussion on the bridge. Seventeen marchers were hospitalized that day.

[Read More](#)

Black Caucus troubled by Senate plan to replace 'diversity' visas



Black lawmakers and civil rights groups are concerned by a proposal in the Senate's immigration reform bill that would do away with "diversity" visas that are often a pathway for African and Caribbean immigrants to enter the United States.

Advocates said they haven't seen evidence yet that a new merit-based program is an acceptable replacement for the diversity visas, which total 55,000 each year and are granted via a lottery.

Hilary Shelton, director of the NAACP Washington bureau, said he is telling lawmakers not to eliminate the diversity program when comprehensive immigration reform moves forward.

"At this point, we are urging lawmakers not to eliminate the diversity visa program," Shelton told The Hill. "This is one of the places in the bill that needs to be addressed. We will work with our friends in the Senate, and we have started working with our friends in the House as well."

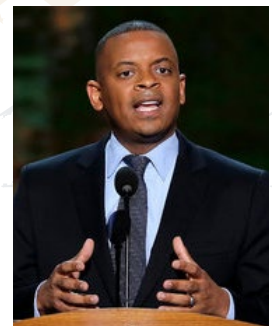
[Read More](#)

Obama to Nominate Charlotte Mayor to Transportation Post

The New York Times

President Obama on Monday plans to nominate Anthony R. Foxx, the mayor of Charlotte, N.C., to be the next secretary of transportation, choosing a rising young African-American from the South to balance out a cabinet criticized for a lack of diversity.

Mr. Obama also appeared close to nominating Penny Pritzker, a hotel magnate, longtime friend and fund-raiser, as the next commerce secretary, and Michael Froman, his international economics adviser, as the United States trade representative, although neither nomination was scheduled to be announced on Monday.



[Read More](#)

House Democrats, Civil Rights Groups Urge FCC to Regulate Prison Phone Rates



Democratic lawmakers and civil rights groups are pressuring the Federal Communications Commission to regulate the rates that state inmates pay to make phone calls.

A host of civil rights and minority advocacy groups — including the NAACP, the National Urban League and the National Council of La Raza — filed comments last week urging the FCC to act on a 2003 petition recommending the agency cap the often excessive rates paid by state prisoners who call friends and family. That same day, Rep. Bobby L. Rush, D-Ill., offered legislation (HR 1403) directing the FCC to issue rules regulating inmate phone rates.

“By placing a cap on these predatory prison phone rates, the FCC has a chance to help millions of families build stronger relationships with their loved ones in prison, which can help rehabilitate prisoners and better prepare them for productive lives in society,” said Wade Henderson, president and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

The groups argue that prisoners who stay in contact with the outside world are less likely to return to prison once released. They also frame the high phone rates as a hardship on the friends and family of prisoners, who must shoulder the expense in order to maintain contact with loved ones.

The federal prison system caps the rates prisoners pay for long distance calling at 23 cents per minute for collect calls and 7 cents per minute for debit-based calling, according to Clarissa Ramon, a government affairs associate at the media advocacy group Public Knowledge. By contrast, state prisons negotiate their phone rates separately, with rates above \$1 a minute common and some prisoners paying as much as \$15 for 15 minutes of calling, Ramon said.

“The biggest point is that prisoners’ families and friends are footing the bill,” she said. “It’s unfair for a parent who has a child in prison to surrender their right to communication because they can’t pay for these phone calls.”

Following the breakup of Ma Bell in the 1980s, many carriers elected to get out of the business of providing communications to inmates. That left the market to a few national companies such as Securus, based almost completely around inmate communications. Prisoners typically either call their friends and family collect, or rely upon them to deposit money into a debit account with the prison phone carrier.

Ramon said that apart from the companies that provide phone service to prisons, there hasn’t been substantive opposition to instituting a cap on the rates. She noted the petition calls for state rates that

would still exceed the federal cap. However, Ramon said the issue has struggled to gain traction at the FCC, with only Commissioner Mignon Clyburn expressing strong views in favor of regulation.

Clyburn issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking three months ago, for which the comment period ended last week. House Energy and Commerce ranking member Henry A. Waxman, D-Calif., has praised the proposed rules.

“The FCC has taken an important step toward reducing exorbitant prison phone rates that prevent families from staying connected to their incarcerated loved ones,” Waxman said in a statement at the time. “The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking released by the FCC today is a welcome sign of progress for the families of the incarcerated who have been waiting nearly a decade for relief.”

Some critics argue that the FCC’s slow movement on the prison phone rate issue is evidence of a larger trend of the commission ignoring issues of particular concern to minorities. Ramon said African-American and Hispanic households are more likely to include an incarcerated family member. But she also noted that criminal justice issues are typically politically sensitive and are new to the FCC.

CBC MEDIA COVERAGE

Girls killed in 1963 bombing given congressional medal

Fifty years after they were killed in a racist bombing that stunned the nation, four girls were honored Tuesday with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Four girls whose deaths in an Alabama church bombing 50 years ago played a major role in moving the nation closer to racial equality were honored Tuesday with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Family members of the girls, who were killed when Ku Klux Klan members bombed the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham in 1963, were at the U.S. Capitol for a bipartisan ceremony commemorating their sacrifice.

[Read More](#)



Mignon Clyburn becomes first woman to lead FCC

Clyburn is the daughter of Rep. James Clyburn (D-S.C.), the third ranking House Democrat, and has been an FCC commissioner since 2009. Prior to the FCC, she spent 11 years on the South Carolina Public Service Commission, a state telecommunications regulatory agency.

She was also the publisher and general manager of The Coastal Times, a Charleston-based weekly newspaper aimed at the area's African-American community.

Clyburn is known as a liberal on the five-member commission and is a vocal advocate for media diversity and the commission's social welfare programs.

[Read More](#)



Passionate Conversation Between the CBC and President Obama

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus meets with President Obama 11 am Wednesday morning, 24 hours after the full membership of the Congressional Black Caucus met with the President. A CHC written statement says members plan to discuss the path forward to fix our broken immigration system.

Meanwhile, we are finding out a lot more about that 90-minute CBC meeting Tuesday morning with President Obama. Chairwoman Marcia Fudge said it was an "excellent conversation" where every member had a chance to talk.

[Read More](#)



Obama taps N.C. Rep. Watt for housing agency

He would head the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the government regulator that oversees lending giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Republicans have signaled opposition to Watt's nomination, saying proposals to reduce principals are likely to lead to more mortgage defaults and cost taxpayers money.

Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., a member of the Senate banking committee, said, "I could not be more disappointed in this nomination. This gives new meaning to the adage that the fox is guarding the hen house. The debate around his nomination will illuminate for all Americans why Fannie and Freddie failed so miserably."

[Read More](#)



Supreme Court Invalidates Key Part of Voting Rights Act The New York Times

The Supreme Court on Tuesday effectively struck down the heart of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by a 5-to-4 vote, freeing nine states, mostly in the South, to change their election laws without advance federal approval.

The court divided along ideological lines, and the two sides drew sharply different lessons from the history of the civil rights movement and the nation's progress in rooting out racial discrimination in voting. At the core of the disagreement was whether racial minorities continued to face barriers to voting in states with a history of discrimination.

[Read More](#)



Caucus On Black Men And Boys Seeks To Prevent Another Trayvon Martin Tragedy

Emotions ran high at the inaugural meeting of the Congressional Caucus on Black Men and Boys on Wednesday, as participants discussed ways to protect and invest in black males amid a renewed focus on race and racial profiling in the United States following the trial of George Zimmerman.

[Read More](#)



CBC MEDIA COVERAGE

CBC Members Push President to Embrace Causes

ROLL CALL

About one month into her new position leading the Congressional Black Caucus, Rep. Marcia L. Fudge already has shown a willingness to push the nation's first African-American president aggressively behind the scenes to embrace her group's priorities.

The Ohio Democrat moved quickly to promote three CBC members for open Cabinet positions, highlighting a long-standing sore spot in the relationship between the CBC and President Barack Obama.

[Read More](#)



Still Marching on Washington, 50 Years Later

The New York Times

John Lewis was the 23-year-old son of Alabama sharecroppers and already a veteran of the civil rights movement when he came to the capital 50 years ago this month to deliver a fiery call for justice on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

Mr. Lewis's urgent cry — “We want our freedom, and we want it now!” — was eclipsed on the steps that day by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s “I Have A Dream” speech. But two years later, after Alabama State Police officers beat him and fractured his skull while he led a march in Selma, he was back in Washington to witness President Lyndon B. Johnson sign the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

[Read More](#)



Private Prisons Equal Big Business

THE WASHINGTON
Informant

High Incarceration Rates Boosts Income for Operators and Government Officials

CCA is currently trading on the Big Board at \$38.90 a share while stocks for GEO are listed at \$38.81.

“The emergence of CCA as a leading prison profiteer is a result of a thoughtful promulgation of laws and policies on a federal and state level,” said Seema Sadanandan, of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of the Nation's Capital in Northwest Washington, D.C.

[Read More](#)



8 Lawmakers Arrested at Immigration Protest

The New York Times

As several thousand demonstrators rallied around them, eight members of the House of Representatives were arrested on Tuesday outside the Capitol in a protest to push Congress to pass broad immigration legislation that includes a path to citizenship for immigrants in the country illegally.

The protests came as most attention in Congress was focused on the standoff over the partial government shutdown and the partisan disputes over health care and fiscal policy, pushing immigration to the side.

[Read More](#)



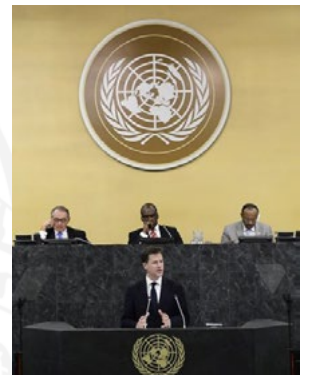
Rep. Barbara Lee working to advance U.N.'s goals

SFGate

Since 1945, the United Nations has been facilitating peace, global accountability, and fostering the commitment to a shared future, and for its 68th session of the General Assembly last week, the agenda was no different. I was pleased to attend the General Assembly as a representative of the United States.

Every year since the early days of the United Nations, two representatives have been sent from Congress to participate in the U.N. General Assembly. This is a tremendous opportunity, especially at such a pivotal time. Earlier representatives included Reps. Tom Lantos, Donald Payne, Sen. Bill Frist, and then-Sen. Joe Biden. As the first African American woman, and one of five women from the House to be nominated, I am deeply humbled.

[Read More](#)



Black Caucus Chair Named Farm Bill Conferee

POLITIC365

Congressional Black Caucus Chair and Agriculture Committee member Rep. Marcia has been named to the conference committee for the 2013 Farm Bill. Fudge is a watchdog of cuts to food assistance. In a country with over 50 million in poverty and a GOP running the house committed to cutting aid to the poor, Fudge is likely to focus on protecting the poor.

Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi named Fudge to the conference committee.

[Read More](#)



CBC MEDIA COVERAGE

FCC limits price of prison phone calls



The Federal Communications Commission on Friday ordered telephone companies to limit the prices they charge prisoners and their families for interstate phone calls.

The agency will also seek public comment on whether to crack down on the price of prison phone calls within states.

Mignon Clyburn, the acting chairwoman of the FCC, fought back tears as she described the hardships that many people face having to pay exorbitant rates to speak with their family members.

[Read More](#)

Congressional Black Caucus remains undecided on Syria



Members of the Congressional Black Caucus left the White House after an hour-long meeting with President Barack Obama with a clear message: They are still undecided on a vote to authorize a strike in Syria.



The CBC, which had requested its members withhold comments on Syria until after Monday's meeting, is the only rank-and-file group that has been brought to the White House for a one-on-one with the president. But the meeting apparently was not terribly persuasive — not one African-American Democrat who attended the meeting declared a position afterward.

[Read More](#)

HBCU Advocates, CBC Slam President Obama on Student Loan Problem



The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) and advocacy organizations representing Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) released the following statements after meeting and committing to working together to advocate for students harmed by a change made to the Parent PLUS Loan (PPL) program eligibility criteria:



CBC Chair Marcia L. Fudge (OH-11): Ensuring access to higher education is one of the CBC's top priorities. In this case, we are also fighting to enable students to remain in the school of their choice until they graduate. The sustainability of the institutions that serve these students is critical to maintaining a high standard of education in this country. Members of the CBC are committed to doing all we can to quickly undo the change made by this Administration that has resulted in thousands of young people being unable to pursue their education and in the economic hardship for so many HBCUs. This is no longer an issue that can be discussed. The issue must be addressed and the policy must be fixed now."

[Read More](#)

Black Caucus “Deeply Concerned” about Dominican Tribunal Ruling

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus released the following statement regarding ruling TC/0163/13 by the Dominican Constitutional Tribunal. As a result of the ruling, more than 200,000 Dominican-born people of Haitian descent will be stripped of their Dominican citizenship:

[Read More](#)

The Sentinel



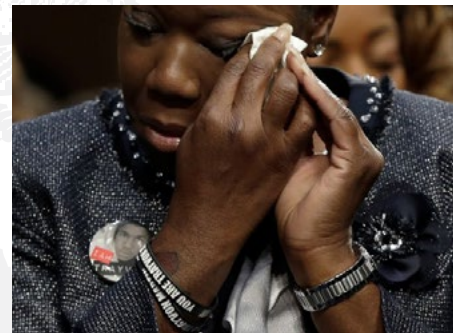
Trayvon Martin’s mother testifies at Senate hearing on ‘stand your ground’ laws

Trayvon Martin’s mother told a panel of senators Tuesday that state “stand your ground” self-defense laws do not work and must be amended, reviving the politically charged gun-control issue a year ahead of the 2014 midterm elections.

But little besides politics emerged from the session, held in the Senate’s made-for-television hearing room. Democrats, who hold majority power in the Senate and are trying to keep it, supported Sybrina Fulton’s call. Republicans, led by Sen. Ted Cruz (Tex.), said the matter should be left to the states that passed the laws.

[Read More](#)

top POLITICS



Why Aren’t There More Black Federal Judges in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia?

Why isn’t the White House doing more to nominate judges of color to sit in states like Georgia, Alabama and Florida, where minorities are severely underrepresented?

Most of the conversation about President Barack Obama’s judicial nominations these days focuses on the unprecedented Republican push to block even those candidates with meticulous professional and personal qualifications. Although there are still regrettable incidents of “false equivalence” in the reporting of now-routine GOP filibusters of these nominees, there seems to be a growing consensus that the tactic in the Senate is as nihilistic as was the House’s government shutdown: You can’t have a rule of law without enough judges.

[Read More](#)

The Atlantic



Congressional Black Caucus Cheers Senate Rules Change

ROLL CALL

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid was the man who made the call to “go nuclear” and change the chamber’s filibuster rules, but the Congressional Black Caucus gave the chamber a push with a behind-the-scenes lobbying campaign.

“We’ve been active in terms of calling our senators,” said Chairwoman Marcia L. Fudge, D-Ohio, in a phone interview with CQ Roll Call on Thursday afternoon. “We have probably spoken with just about every senator in the past few weeks and months about how this needed to change.”

[Read More](#)

Congressional Black Caucus Makes China Connection for HBCU Students



In the past several years, China has become a force to be reckoned with. It is the world’s second-largest economy and the largest single holder of U.S. debt. A growing number of American students are choosing to study Chinese and there’s actually an organization called Parents of African American Students Studying Chinese.

During a Wednesday meeting with Congressional Black Caucus members, Madame Liu Yandong, vice premier of the People’s Republic of China, announced that 400 two-week scholarships would be awarded to students in districts represented by CBC members. The Chinese government also will provide 1,000 scholarships to HBCUs for study in China for periods of three months to two years.



[Read More](#)

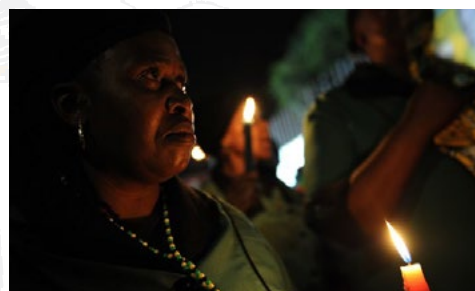
Mandela’s Death Stirs Sense of Loss Around the World

The New York Times

The mood was more festive than funereal. Outside Nelson Mandela’s former home in Soweto on Friday, crowds sang, chanted and danced. People carried posters emblazoned with his famous quotations. Children ran through the streets holding up pictures of the former president’s face torn from the morning’s newspapers.

“We love you, Papa Mandela,” they cried.

Eunice Ngakane, 40, from North West Province, said she and her friends were going to spend the whole night on Vilakazi Street, remembering the national hero who had died the night before. Then they would “freshen up” in the morning and come right back again.



[Read More](#)

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

In 2013, the Congressional Black Caucus had exponential growth in its use of digital media and online engagement. The CBC launched a new, dynamic website, hosted interactive conversations on Twitter and Facebook and led House Caucuses in numbers and in strategies to engage constituents using social media tools. This year, the CBC reached more than 600,000 people on Twitter using its “hashtag” #cbctalks. We also had more than 150,000 people visit the new CBC website within the first three months of its launch. The Caucus also experienced a dramatic increase of 140% in followers on Facebook, placing us at more than 103,000 “likes”, up from 30,000 at the beginning of 2013.

As African Americans continue to be the fastest growing population to use digital media, the CBC will continue to expand and enhance its use of available tools and to provide social media and online training for CBC Communications staff.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS
WELCOME TO THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS ONLINE
MEMBERS CONTACT NEWS

CBC TASKFORCES
THE ECONOMY
BUDGET
VOTING RIGHTS

@OBABL
"attheloop21 Tune In:
@RepJeffries is co-hosting
tonight's @OfficialCBC's
#CBCtalks Don't miss our
interview w/ him!
bit.ly/11qkhQC"

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS
Chair @RepMarciaFudge welcomes China's Vice Premier
Madame Liu Yandong.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS
"Sometimes Congress won't act unless we are forced to act.
Now is the time. We must act."

19
members
growth
followers

23%
View Rate
per mailing

9%
Click Rate
per mailing

Jacquinn Scales
@jacquinnscates
#cbctalks I'm SO feeling that
statement about children
going to school hungry. I
know when I was in foster
care that's why I used to
always

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS
103,537 likes · 1,046 talking about this

CBCF HIGHLIGHTS

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

Through the Leadership Institute for Public Service, CBCF fellows and interns worked on Capitol Hill and in federal agencies; participated in seminars led by policy experts; and gained first-hand leadership experience by working with and learning from Members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) and other leaders in Washington, D.C.

This year, seventy two undergraduate students participated in the Foundation's three internship programs: Emerging Leaders, sponsored by Walmart; Communications, sponsored by State Farm; and Congressional interns, including the first-time placement of an intern in the Democratic Cloakroom under Democratic Leader Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California.

The CBCF Fellows class of 2012-14 recently concluded work in Congressional offices. Eight fellows are now working on a variety of Senate committees and the ninth has completed three months on a Congressional committee and is seeking a third placement to complete her fellowship.

Approximately 250 students have been awarded scholarships this year totaling approximately \$550,000.



CBCF HIGHLIGHTS

HEALTH BRAINTRUST

The Health Braintrust held regional town halls on the Affordable Care Act in eight CBC member districts. These events focused on Medicaid expansion, the insurance exchanges and community-based preventive care. They were geared toward low-income, underserved populations. The events featured national and local experts and an

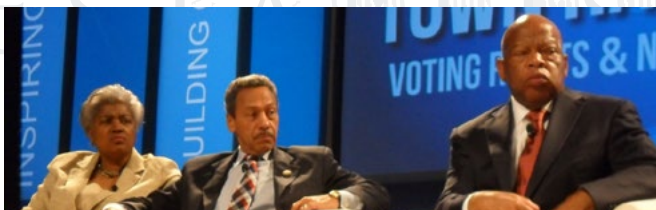
interactive town hall discussion about ACA implementation efforts and health issues of concern in the communities visited. Discussions are underway to continue outreach activities through March 2014.

In addition, CBCF released an updated guide during the Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) on

the implementation of insurance expansion under the Affordable Care Act. The guide was written by Daniel Dawes, a 2006-07 CBCF Stokes Health Policy Fellow and now executive director of Government Relations, Health Policy, and External Affairs at the Morehouse School of Medicine.

43RD ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

The 43rd Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) drew more than 10,000 people from around the world to participate in this four-day gathering and related events. This year's ALC theme, "It Starts with You," was a call to action urging individuals to champion much-needed change in public policy with a focus on economic development, voting rights and health care. In keeping with the theme, the conference included an outreach project with Thrive D.C., a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people facing the dire consequences of economic upheaval, including homelessness and housing instability. Preliminary post conference survey results revealed the issue forums and Braintrusts remain the single "most liked" element of ALC with a ranking of 60.23% (up from 54.8% in 2012).



CBCF HIGHLIGHTS

CBC CONGRATULATES THE CBCF'S HISTORIC INVESTMENT



The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. (CBCF) made a \$5 million investment in African American-owned banking institutions as part of a broader effort to increase the availability of loans for businesses and individuals in African-American communities. CBCF selected banks in four regions of the country—the North, South, East and Midwest—in an effort to achieve geographic

balance in an initiative that could prove crucial in lifting the economic fortunes of black communities. In all, five banks will receive \$1 million each: the Industrial Bank in Washington, DC; Liberty Bank & Trust Company in New Orleans, Louisiana; Mechanics & Farmers Bank in Durham, North Carolina; Seaway Bank & Trust Company in Chicago, IL; and, City National Bank of New Jersey in Newark, New Jersey.

AVOICE

Avoice (African American Voices in Congress) presented two events during ALC. The Avoice Student Workshop hosted 30 high school students to discuss the significance of the Voting Rights Act. Avoice also delivered a panel on the history of fair housing policy, examining the debate and formation of U.S. Fair Housing policy from before the Fair Housing Act of 1968 to the present. To date, the Avoice website has more than 17 million hits. In June, Avoice in Action presented a discussion with Rep. Chaka Fattah of Pennsylvania on education policy issues. Most recently, Avoice participated in a four-day workshop in partnership with the University of Washington to introduce the For Educators section of the Avoice Virtual Library. For Educators is an interactive educational curriculum, designed to bring to life the information on the history and work of African American Congressional members as featured in the Avoice Virtual Library.

ESTABLISHED 1971

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