



Congressional Black Caucus

CHANGE COURSE, CONFRONT CRISES, CONTINUE THE LEGACY



CBC Agenda for the 110th Congress



Rep. Carolyn C. Kilpatrick
Chairwoman



Karen Clark Sheard performs at CBC Leadership
Swearing In Ceremony



CBC Members Visit Ghana for 50th Anniversary Celebration

Dear Friends;

I bring you greetings on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) of the 110th Congress. I am proud to serve as the 20th Chair of the CBC and look forward to working with you to mobilize America around this year's theme:

Change Course, Confront Crises, Continue the Legacy.

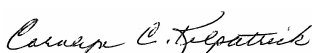
Since the formation of the CBC in 1971, our core mission has been to **Change Course for African Americans and others** by working to close, and ultimately eliminate, disparities that exist for all Americans. These disparities continue to exist from generation to generation. We feel **it is time to Confront Crises** in order to strengthen and maximize the potential and security of our communities. Finally, we would be remiss if we did not strive to **Continue the Legacy of the CBC**, whose position has always been "the CBC has no permanent friends, no permanent enemies; just permanent interests."

In the following pages you will find the CBC Agenda for the 110th Congress, as well as a sample of our permanent interests that will take priority this session. The four areas of interest in our **CBC Agenda** are:

- Empower and Mobilize America's Youth**
- Build an International Internet Based Communications Portal**
- CBC Outreach Program**
- Impact the Alternative Energy Discussion**

The CBC acknowledges that we cannot do this work in isolation. We encourage your participation in the political process and look forward to working with you as we stay focused on our theme.

Sincerely,



Carolyn C. Kilpatrick
Chairwoman, Congressional Black Caucus



Rep. Carolyn C. Kilpatrick (MI), Chairwoman, addresses the audience at the CBC Swearing-In Ceremony.



Members visit Ghana's Parliament for Re-enactment of the Parliamentary event at which Dr. Kwame Nkrumah received the scroll of independence.



Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX), Rep. Carolyn C. Kilpatrick (MI), & Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones (OH) honor Lorraine Miller, the first African American Clerk of the House of Representatives, at the 2007 CBC Black History Month Program

CBC AGENDA FOR THE 110th CONGRESS

Throughout the duration of the 110th Session of Congress, the CBC will prioritize four agenda items: Empower and Mobilize America's Youth, Build an International Internet Based Communications Portal, Continue the CBC Outreach Program and Impact the Alternative Energy Discussion. Outlined here is the plan for the agenda implementation.

Empower & Mobilize America's Youth

Empower through Development

- Strengthen the pipelines of leadership for young people of color on Capitol Hill
- Connect young people of color to the legislative process and civic engagement trainings

Empower through Action

- Prioritize legislation and funding fundamental to the quality of life of America's youth (education, job training, health care, etc)
- Engage young leaders in the 2008 elections by connecting them to voter registration, education and campaign opportunities

Empower through Dialogue

- Host inter-generational dialogues via the Internet and symposia on youth centered policies

Build an International Internet Based Communications Portal

Build International Web Presence

- Utilize web portal as means of disseminating information in the CBC and Black America
- Develop partnerships to build exposure and presence

Build Interactive Dialogues through Use of New Technologies

- Utilize CBC Blogs as virtual issue forums
- Podcast CBC Members' messages and updates on CBC priorities

Build Constant Communications through CBC Updates

- Disseminate information on CBC issues, events and news

CBC Outreach Program

Outreach through Education

- Host six 1 1/2 day issue based sessions throughout the country and eight CBC Symposia on Capitol Hill focused on CBC issue priorities
- Utilize Black media outlets in Outreach efforts

Outreach through Civic Engagement

- Work with progressive Civil Rights organizations to register 100,000 new voters by October 2008
- Promote progressive public policy legislation with progressive civil rights organizations

Outreach through Celebrating Black History

- Host annual CBC Black History Month Program
- Lead CBC International CODEL's & cultural missions throughout the African Diaspora

Impact the Alternative Energy Discussion

Support African American Role in Major Alternative Fuel Sources

- Empower Black farmers in alternative fuel dialogues
- Initiate use of beans, corn, sugar cane, etc. as possible fuel sources

Support Renewable Energy Solutions

- Reduce dependence on coal burning power through the development and use of wind and solar power solutions
- Support research, education and training for people of color in renewable energy solutions

Support Climate Stabilization and Community Cleanup Efforts

- Stabilize greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere to a level that would prevent dangerous interference with the world climate system (Kyoto Treaty)
- Assist in reducing the number of Brownfield's (site with hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants) in the United States

In pursuing our charge to *Change Course, Confront Crises and Continue the Legacy*, the CBC recognizes that there are many disparities facing the American people. It is our commitment that we will continue to *Confront* the issues facing Americans, which include but are not limited to:

Katrina/Rita Recovery

- Enable the return home efforts of evacuees through Federal initiatives
- Request the U.S. House of Representatives appoint a Select Committee on Katrina/Rita Recovery
- Strengthen State, County/Parish and Municipal Infrastructures of affected areas
- Rebuild community infrastructure, focused on facilities & programs for youth, seniors and people with disabilities (child care, K-12 public schools, colleges & universities, healthcare and hospital networks)

Strengthen the American Labor Force

- Eradicate employment discrimination and ensure the employment of a diverse work force in the government and private sectors
- Strengthen and secure a living wage and work-force benefits including child care, health care and job training
- Protect the rights and working conditions of all employees
- Support the right to organize and establish unions

Health Care

- Work towards long term planning for universal healthcare and short term expansion of access to comprehensive medical and prescription coverage
- Reauthorize and fully fund the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)
- Provide full funding and adequate implementation of the Ryan White CARE Act, especially the Minority AIDS initiative and the AIDS Drug Assistance Program
- Increase the presence of African American health care professionals

Business Wealth & Development

- Increase Minority business in private and public sector
- Provide greater access to capital for individuals and businesses through expanding bank credit
- Promote the advancement of African Americans in management, director and executive positions

Secure Civil Rights Protections

- Equal access to voting; ensure that every vote is counted; reinstatement of ex-offenders voting rights
- End racial & ethnic profiling

- Ensure the appointment of fair & impartial Judges
- Preservation of Affirmative Action programs
- Strengthen Hate Crimes legislation
- Advocate for Criminal & Juvenile Justice

Retirement Security

- Preserve Social Security as a safety net for senior Americans and guarantee that Social Security benefits continue to be paid
- Make it possible for Americans of all income levels to accumulate assets and save for retirement as a means of supplementing their Social Security income

Foreign Policy & Relations

- End the War in Iraq
- Reprioritize U.S. interest in the United Nations and regional organizations efforts to promote and protect civil society, global health, fair trade, and peace throughout the world
- Implement a series of legislative sanctions against Sudanese government officials and others supporting the genocide in the Darfur Region
- Support initiatives that seek to eliminate HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis in Africa and the Caribbean

Closing the Achievement Gap in Education

- Support early childhood nutrition, Head Start and universal pre-school programs
- Increase student success of No Child Left Behind, dropout prevention, after-school programs, school modernization, infrastructure & equipment enhancement
- Increase availability of Pell Grants, scholarships, loan assistance and pre-entrance preparedness for college, graduate and professional degrees and training
- Preserve and strengthen Historically Black Colleges & Universities

Immigration

- Support earned access to lawful permanent resident status for persons currently in the U.S.
- Assure education and job training, non-discriminatory employment and livable wages for legal workers
- Support immigration criteria that will increase diverse immigration from historically underrepresented regions, such as the Caribbean & Africa
- Support border security and comprehensive immigration reform



"Progress in addressing racial and ethnic health disparities, and other pressing minority health issues, has resulted from the complicated, and often sensitive interplay of research, policy and political action. With a new political climate, and with a renewed sense of urgency to address and reduce the health inequities that exist in this nation, the CBC will continue to be on the front lines of ascertaining the minority health repercussions of all health, social and public policy proposals."

Rep. Donna M. Christensen (VI)



"The up-and-coming generation can look to the CBC Members as one source of inspiration in their pursuit of leadership opportunities. The dialogue, however, is a two-way street. We must engage our young people, listen to their goals and help implement their priorities. Youth empowerment is an intergenerational obligation that is the responsibility of the entire community."

Rep. Kendrick B. Meek (FL)





Congressional Black Caucus Leadership for the 110th Congress

Congressional Black Caucus
2264 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202.226.9776
Fax: 202.225.5730
congressionalblackcaucus@mail.house.gov
www.thecongressionalblackcaucus.com

CBC Members by Seniority:

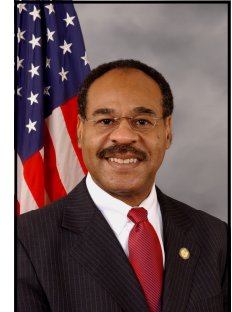
- John Conyers, Jr., MI '65
- Charles B. Rangel, NY '71
- Edolphus Towns, NY '83
- John Lewis, GA '87
- Donald M. Payne, NJ '89
- William J. Jefferson, LA '91
- Eleanor Holmes Norton, DC '91
- Maxine Waters, CA '91
- Sanford D. Bishop, Jr., GA '93
- Corrine Brown, FL '93
- James E. Clyburn, SC '93
- Alcee L. Hastings, FL '93
- Eddie Bernice Johnson, TX '93
- Bobby L. Rush, IL '93
- Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, VA '93
- Melvin L. Watt, NC '93
- Albert R. Wynn, MD '93
- Bennie G. Thompson, MS '93
- Chaka Fattah, PA '95
- Sheila Jackson Lee, TX '95
- Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., IL '95
- Juanita Millender-McDonald, CA '96
- Elijah E. Cummings, MD '96
- Julia M. Carson, IN '97
- Donna M. Christensen, VI '97
- Danny K. Davis, IL '97
- Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, MI '97
- Gregory W. Meeks, NY '98
- Barbara Lee, CA '98
- Stephanie Tubbs Jones, OH '99
- Wm. Lacy Clay, Jr., MO '01
- Diane E. Watson, CA '01
- Artur Davis, AL '03
- Kendrick B. Meek, FL '03
- David Scott, GA '03
- G.K. Butterfield, Jr., NC '04
- Barack Obama, IL '05
- Emanuel Cleaver II, MO '05
- Al Green, TX '05
- Gwen Moore, WI '05
- Yvette D. Clarke, NY '07
- Keith Ellison, MN '07
- Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr., GA '07



Rep. Barbara Lee (CA)
First Vice Chair



Rep. Carolyn C. Kilpatrick (MI)
Chairwoman



Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II
Second Vice Chair



Rep. Danny K. Davis (IL)
Secretary



Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (TX)
Whip

Since 1971, the Members of the Congressional Black Caucus (at times referred to herein as the "CBC" or "Caucus") have joined together to strengthen their efforts to empower America's neglected citizens—including but not limited to Americans of color—by more effectively addressing our legislative concerns. The Congressional Black Caucus is committed to utilizing the full constitutional power, statutory authority, and financial resources of the Government of the United States of America to ensure, insofar as possible, that everyone in the United States has an opportunity to live out the American Dream. The legislative agenda of universal empowerment that the Members of the Caucus shall collectively pursue shall 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 or expansion of UA 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 from time to time may support.

Statement of Purpose of the Congressional Black Caucus, 1971