



Congressional Black Caucus of the 110th Congress

Change Course, Confront Crises, Continue the Legacy

2007 Year End Report

February 2008

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of the 110th Congress

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The first session of the 110th Congress was a year of transition, a year of growth, a year of confrontation, and a year of change for the **Congressional Black Caucus (CBC)**. Under the leadership of its Chairwoman, **Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (MI)**, the CBC presents the following report as the highlight of our Member's work and movement in 2007 and a forecast of what's at stake in 2008. Included you will find:

- The TRANSITIONS to a Democratic Congress have opened the doors to leadership;
- The CBC continues to GROW and introduces its Freshman class;
- The CBC brings Congress to the people through the CHAIRWOMAN'S AGENDA; and
- The CBC Taskforces CONFRONT CRISES to strengthen American families.

TRANSITIONS: Opening the Doors of Congress

When Democrats gained control of the United States Senate and House of Representatives following the 2006 elections, the threshold of hope for building a stronger and healthier America was increased. Charged with helping navigate the new direction were key Members of the CBC, including:

- **Congressman James E. Clyburn (SC)** – Majority Whip, the third highest ranking Member of House;
- **Congressman John Conyers, Jr. (MI)** – Chair, Committee on the Judiciary;
- **Congressman Charles B. Rangel (NY)** – Chair, Committee on Ways and Means;
- **Congressman Bennie G. Thompson (MS)** – Chair, Committee on Homeland Security; and

- **Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones (OH)** – Chair, Committee on Standards of Official Conduct

An additional 17 CBC Members earned positions as subcommittee chairs with jurisdiction over issues ranging from the federal budget and crime to housing and the environment.

GROWTH: The CBC Welcomes Four New Members

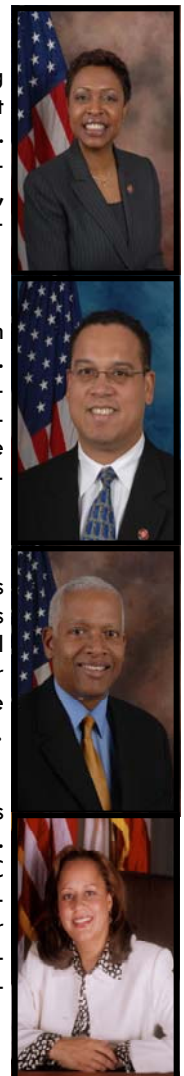
Since its founding in 1971, the CBC continues to expand its reach throughout the nation. Originating with **13 Founding Members**, the CBC now boasts a **membership of 43**; 42 in the House of Representatives (40 voting members, 2 delegates) and one Senator (**Senator Barack Obama (IL)**). The 43 Members represent 21 states, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands. The 110th Session brought a strong freshman class to the CBC - four Members from four corners of the country who are blazing new trails in Congress and continuing the legacy of the CBC:

Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, representing Brooklyn, NY, brings with her a savvy East Coast style that is turning heads on Capitol Hill. A former member of the New York City Council, Clarke serves on the Education & Labor, Homeland Security and Small Business Committees.

Congressman Keith Ellison joins the CBC from the Midwest, representing Minneapolis, MN. Serving on both the Financial Services and Judiciary Committees, Congressman Ellison recently submitted an *amicus brief* to a Supreme Court voter ID case. This brief was co-sponsored by every Member of the CBC.

Congressman Henry "Hank" Johnson joins the CBC from DeKalb County, GA and serves on the Armed Services, Judiciary, and Small Business Committees. Experience as a former County Commissioner and 12 years as a judge will undoubtedly benefit the efforts of the CBC.

Congresswoman Laura Richardson from Los Angeles, CA is the CBC's most recent addition. Richardson won the seat vacated by CBC Member Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald (CA) upon her sudden death earlier in the year. She comes to the CBC with experience in the Long Beach City Council and California State Assembly.



In this time of growth, the CBC continues to pay homage to our two colleagues and two founding Members who were lost this year;

- **Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald (CA);**
- **Congresswoman Julia Carson (IN);**
- **Congressman Gus Hawkins (CA); and**
- **Congressman Parren Mitchell (MD).**

THE CHAIRWOMAN'S AGENDA: Bringing Congress to the People

Congresswoman Kilpatrick (MI) set forth a rigorous agenda for the CBC in the 110th Congress. Here is our update.

EMPOWER AND MOBILIZE AMERICA'S YOUTH

- In June, the CBC hosted a symposium on Capitol Hill with various **youth leaders and networks** to begin a dialogue on **"What's at Stake in 08."** The young leaders presented issues relevant to their generation, shared models for organizing around those issues throughout the nation, and made recommendations to the CBC concerning legislation important to young African Americans.
- Congresswoman Kilpatrick continues to engage young leaders through alerts and legislative updates.

STRENGTHEN ONLINE TOOLS AND CAPABILITIES

- In March, the CBC launched its new website: **www.thecongressionalblackcaucus.com**. The website has received over 1 million hits to date!
- The website serves as a valuable resource for information about the CBC and its Members (contact information, committee assignments and CBC Taskforce Leadership) and houses an interactive blog, press statements and materials.
- The **CBC Movement Newsletter** is a bi-weekly compilation of CBC summaries and activities. Newsletter registration can be found on the website.

BROADEN THE CBC OUTREACH EFFORTS

- In conjunction with the **CBC Political Education & Leadership Institute**, the **CBC Outreach Taskforce** travels around the country to visit community leaders and engage in dialogue. In October, **Congresswoman Barbara Lee (CA) and Congressman Bobby Rush (IL)** joined **Congresswoman**

Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX) and Congressman Al Green (TX) in Dallas to host a series of events on innovative education and curriculum. The Taskforce will continue to **"Bring Congress to the People"** in 2008.

- CBC Members also participated in the **CBC Foundation's 37th Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) entitled "Unleashing Our Power"** in Washington, DC. Members hosted various Issue Forums and Braintrusts to address CBC efforts, issues of the day, and legislation. The ALC was co-chaired by **Congresswoman Donna Christensen (VI) and Congressman G.K. Butterfield (NC)**.
- The CBC is committed to supporting and utilizing the **Black press** to keep the American public informed about CBC work. In conjunction with the **American Urban Radio Networks**, the nation's only African American owned network radio, the CBC hosts weekly **Message to America** segments on current events. Messages air every Friday afternoon in major radio markets. Additionally, the CBC publishes weekly opinion editorials in **National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA)** publications. NNPA is also known as the **Black Press of America**.
- In an effort to share information and commentary on issues of the day on Capitol Hill, **Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones** has led the CBC in hosting the **CBC Monday Message Hours** on the House floor. CBC Message Hours can be viewed on C-SPAN and have covered topics such as the Second Chance Act; Healthcare; SCHIP; Black History Month; Jena 6; Southwick Nomination; Darfur; and a recap of the first half of the 110th Session.

CONFRONTING CRISIS: Addressing the Needs of America's Families

At the beginning of the session, **Chairwoman Kilpatrick** charged the CBC to **Change Course, Confront Crises and Continue the Legacy** of African Americans in Congress. Members divided themselves into Taskforces to address the needs of American interests domestically and abroad.

The Taskforces include:

Federal Budget	Gulf Coast Recovery
Defense & Veterans	Economic Security
Education	Emerging Leaders
Energy	Agriculture
Environmental Justice	Gaming
Health	Housing
Immigration	International Relations
Judicial Appointments	Civil Rights & Elections
Labor	Ministerial
Re-Entry & Restoration	Small Business
Multimedia	

Here are the highlights of our CBC Taskforce efforts in 2007:

The CBC's first action of the year was to address the U.S. budget under the leadership of the **CBC's Federal Budget Taskforce**. On behalf of the CBC, **Chairwoman Kilpatrick and Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA)** offered an **alternative budget** to counter those of the President's and Democratic leadership. Although it did not pass the House of Representatives, the CBC budget attracted the support of 115 members of Congress, including nearly half of the Democratic Caucus. Most notably,

CBC "[Our] budget is fiscally and socially responsible. [It] reflects the values of the people, restores accountability, and rebuilds our communities."

March 2007 Statement on the CBC Budget

the budget repealed tax cuts for the rich introduced by President Bush and generated additional funds for education, job training, veteran and children's healthcare, Gulf Coast recovery, and global efforts

to fight AIDS/HIV, while also significantly reducing the deficit and saving interest on the national debt.

The **Judiciary, Civil Rights, and Elections Taskforce** of the CBC addressed a plethora of issues in 2007. **Chairman John Conyers (MI)** led the CBC in supporting the **Jena 6** and **Genarlow Wilson**. Members of the CBC, supported the mass march in **Jena, LA** and called for the intervention of the U.S. Attorney General and Governor of Louisiana. **Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (TX)** led the CBC in participating in the march on the Department of Justice. Led by the **Georgia delegation (Congressmen Lewis, Bishop, D. Scott and H. Johnson)**, the CBC later hosted a press conference to urge the Georgia Supreme Court to overturn the



Congressman John Conyers (MI) leads press conference for Jena 6 with CBC Members. CBC Members Jackson-Lee (TX), Cummings (MD), Kilpatrick (MI) are shown here.

'mandatory minimum sentence' of 10 years in the consensual sex case of **Genarlow Wilson**. The Caucus deemed this sentence 'cruel and unusual' punishment, called for the Georgia state Constitution to be modified, and later applauded his release.

Legislative accomplishments of the Taskforce include:

- **Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007;**
- **Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act; and**
- **Naming the new Congressional Visitors Center "Emancipation Hall."**



Congressman John Lewis (GA) leads the CBC in addressing the case of Genarlow Wilson in Georgia. CBC Members H. Johnson (GA), Ellison (MN), Lee (CA), D. Scott (GA), Kilpatrick (MI), Green (TX) and Payne (NJ) are shown here.

Chaired by **Congressman Charles Rangel (NY)**, the **CBC's Economic Security Taskforce** worked with the **Committee on Ways & Means** on the following legislation:

- **Temporary Tax Relief Act of 2007** (provides tax relief for working families);
- **Heroes Earning Assistance and Tax Relief Act** (provides tax relief for members of the military);
- **Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007** (generates revenue for children's health insurance);
- **Farm, Nutrition and Bioenergy Act of 2007** (generates revenue for food stamp program);
- **Trade and Globalization Assistance Act** (empowers American workers by improving services and support for workers who are affected by globalization);
- **Unemployment Modernization Act** (modernized the unemployment insurance program by expanding eligibility to low-income and part-time disclosure workers); and
- **Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act** (prohibits insurers or employers from discriminating based on genetic information).

The **CBC Labor Taskforce** served as a liaison between the CBC and labor advocates. The Taskforce's primary activities included assisting labor advocates in coordinating Hill visits and CBC briefings, circulating information

regarding legislation and policy positions to CBC offices and highlighting legislation of interest to the labor community. The CBC also celebrated the passage of the **minimum wage increase**. The federal minimum wage was increased to \$7.25 an hour over the next two years. Nearly 13 million Americans will benefit. The Taskforce is chaired by **Congressman John Lewis (GA)**.



CBC Members met with President Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania. CBC Members Lee (CA), Jackson Lee (TX), Payne (NJ), Fattah (PA), D. Davis (IL), Kilpatrick (MI), Watson (CA), Cleaver (MO), and Meeks (NY) are shown here.

The CBC provided leadership in the global arena through the **CBC International Relations Taskforce**. Chaired by **Congressman Donald Payne (NJ)**, who also Chairs the **House Subcommittee on Africa & Global Health**, and with the support of **Congresswoman Diane Watson (CA)**, the Taskforce primarily focused on issues pertaining to the **African Diaspora**. The Taskforce met with several African heads-of-state concerning **U.S.-African relations**, and hosted numerous staff briefings and meetings, including the United Nations Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance. The CBC also provided leadership in efforts to urge the U.S. intervention in the **genocide in Darfur**, including the introduction of multiple pieces of legislation and a meeting with Chinese Ambassadors regarding their influence in the region.

To address the nominations of judges in our nation, **Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC)** Chaired the **CBC Judicial Nominations Taskforce** in an effort to ensure that fair and equal judges preside over America's courts of law. This year's efforts focused primarily on the Senate's controversial nomination of **Judge Leslie Southwick to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals (LA, MS, TX)**. The CBC joined the civil rights community in unanimously opposing Judge Southwick's appointment due to his unwillingness to apply equal justice under the law and his history of ruling in favor of big business and insurance interests rather than workers and consumers. Despite CBC opposition, Senator Diane Feinstein (D-CA) joined Republicans to approve the Southwick nomination. The CBC also successfully fought the nomination of

the controversial Hans von Spakovsky to the Federal Election Commission (FEC).

Since the devastation of **Hurricanes Katrina and Rita** in the Gulf Coast Region in 2005, the CBC has encouraged Congressional Leadership to prioritize recovery efforts. In early 2007, the CBC met with President Bush and expressed that Gulf Coast Recovery was among the top three priorities for the CBC during the 110th Session. CBC Members have worked on various pieces of legislation, secured billions of dollars in appropriations and held meetings, briefings and hearings with local Gulf Coast leadership to assist in recovery efforts. Chaired by **Congressman William Jefferson (LA)**, and supported by **Congressman James E. Clyburn (SC)**, the **CBC's Gulf Coast Recovery Taskforce** has been influential in shaping the following legislation:

- **Small Disadvantaged Business Disaster Eligibility Act**
- **Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Federal Match Relief Act of 2007**
- **Gulf Coast Hurricane Housing Recovery Act of 2007**
- **Federal Housing Finance Reform Act**
- **RECOVER Act of 2007 (Relief for Entrepreneurs: Coordination of Objectives and Values for Effective Recovery Act)**
- **Disaster Surety Bond Enhancement Act**
- **Disaster Voting Reform Act of 2007**
- **GO Zone Extenders**



Majority Whip James E. Clyburn (SC) and Speaker Nancy Pelosi (CA) led a Congressional delegation to New Orleans to discuss Gulf Coast development. CBC Members Watson (CA), Jefferson (LA), and Watt (NC) are shown here.

To address the nation's housing crisis **Congresswoman Maxine Waters (CA)** and **Congressman Wm. Lacy**

CBC *"This case and the culture of intolerance in the town of Jena, Louisiana should be thoroughly examined and redressed. Our society cannot thrive when communities, in particular schools, do not foster healthy race relations and teach the importance of sensitivity."*

Statement on Louisiana Court of Appeals Overturning Adult Convictions.

Clay (MO) led the **CBC Housing Taskforce** in facilitating housing solutions for various populations. The Housing Taskforce held a major forum on the foreclosure crisis in California, which included witness testimony from major banks, consumer groups, real estate trade associations, regulators, and elected officials. Homeowners also testified regarding the impact of this growing problem on individual families, neighborhoods, and entire communities. Gulf Coast recovery, Section 8 Housing Voucher Reform, families facing foreclosures in the mortgage market, and vulnerable populations (the elderly, homeless and Native American populations) were among the Taskforce's priorities. The Taskforce focused on the following legislation:

- **Gulf Coast Hurricane Housing Recovery Act of 2007;**
- **Section 8 Voucher Reform Act (SEVRA);**
- **Supportive Housing for Elderly Act of 2007;**
- **Native American Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 2007; and**
- **HUD McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Grants Reauthorization.**



Congressman Bennie Thompson (MS) speaks at a CBC press conference.

The Majority Whip, Congressman **James E. Clyburn (SC)**, and Congressmen **Bennie G. Thompson (MS)** and **G.K. Butterfield** co-chaired the **CBC Agriculture Taskforce**, which pushed for sweeping improvements in the **Farm, Nutrition and Bioenergy Act of 2007**. **Senator Barack Obama (IL)** played a key role in ensuring the CBC's priorities remained in the Senate version; the bill awaits conference committee and final passage. Among the victories in the bill, the CBC supports:

- Increasing funding for 1890's Land Grant Institutions (Historically Black Institutions);
- Including new language for consideration that seeks to address outstanding claims resulting in *Pigford v. Veneman* for socially disadvantaged Black farmers and ranchers;
- Boosting the budget for nutrition programs (especially impacting urban areas) by 46% over the previous 2002 Farm Bill; and
- Increasing the minimum benefit for the Food Stamp Program and raising the minimum standard deduction.

With the support of the **CBC Multimedia Taskforce**, **Congressman Edolphus Towns (NY)** introduced and

passed the **Minority Serving Institution Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Act of 2007**. This legislation establishes a new grant program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, providing up to \$250 million in 2008 for Minority Serving Institutions, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Grants are designed to address the instrumentation and technology infrastructure gap that exists. The Taskforce also joined national efforts to educate African American communities on the **2009 DTV transition**, which will switch current analog broadcast television to an all-digital system and impact millions of American households. The Multimedia Taskforce is co-chaired by **Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX)** and **Congressman G.K. Butterfield (NC)**.

The **CBC's Education Taskforce**, co-chaired by **Congressman Bobby Scott (VA)** and **Congressman Danny K. Davis (IL)**, addressed the nation's crises in education by working with the House Education & Labor Committee to reauthorize key programs such as **Head Start**, **TRIO** and **GEAR UP**, **No Child Left Behind**, and the **Higher Education Act Reauthorization**. CBC Members on the **House Education & Labor Committee**:

- Championed the inclusion of **Upward Bound** programs at Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs);
- Worked diligently to improve the **Head Start** program by strengthening the focus on school readiness and parental input and to increase funding to expand the program;
- Gave testimony at a Committee hearing to present the CBC's priorities in the **No Child Left Behind** legislation;
- Hosted a forum with key educators, experts and community leaders to develop recommendations for early education, K-12 education, alternative education, job training and higher education;
- Worked on the **College Opportunity and Affordability Act (the Higher Education Act Reauthorization)**, increasing the Pell Grant, simplifying the federal student aid application process, improving HBCU funding (including Gulf Coast recovery efforts) and implementing a study to determine whether standardized admissions tests are inherently racially biased; and
- Fought to establish the classification of **Predominantly Black Institutions (PBI)** for the first time in our nation's history.



"Instead of an increase in the troop level, Members of the CBC believe we must increase the truth level from the Bush Administration. The Caucus requests that President Bush immediately outline his plan, mission and strategy on Iraq for the American people."

Statement on Troop Escalation in Iraq



Congressmen Mel Watt (NC) and Bobby Scott (VA) in a House Judiciary Committee hearing.

The **CBC Small Business Taskforce**, co-chaired by **Congressmen Albert Wynn (MD) and David Scott (GA)**, focused on expanding and improving opportunities for **small and minority-owned businesses**, particularly in the areas of government contracting and media access and ownership.

- In May, the entire 10 Member Taskforce coauthored a letter to Kevin Martin, Chairman of the FCC, urging the FCC to adopt balanced rules (as mandated by Congress), so that small businesses are provided a meaningful opportunity to participate in airwaves auctions.
- In October, the Small Business Taskforce hosted a meeting titled, **“GSA Schedule – Key to Government Procurement Contracting.”** Members of the Taskforce were invited to hear Brenda Pollock of Federal Acquisition Service (FAS) speak about the GSA schedule process, whether being on the GSA schedule guarantees Federal contracts, and ways to provide your constituents with assistance to get on the GSA schedule to obtain government contracts.

The **CBC Gaming Task Force**, under the leadership on **Congressman Bennie G. Thompson (MS)** continues to monitor the gaming industry in an effort to keep CBC Members and constituents informed on actions under consideration or actually taken by the industry. The Taskforce specifically monitors industry actions which may have an impact (negative or positive) on legislative, economic and/or quality of life issues. The Taskforce also seeks parity in business and upper level management employment opportunities for minorities. Lastly, the Taskforce held several meetings with representatives of the American Gaming Association and individual casino operators to remain informed and aware of any issues that require specific attention from the task force.

The leadership of **Congressman Elijah Cummings (MD) and Congressman Emanuel Cleaver (MO)** led to the creation of the **CBC Ministerial Taskforce**. This

Taskforce was started to provide the nation’s religious leaders with a view of the public policy initiatives advanced by the CBC and serve as a conduit for religious leaders to voice their opinions on the major issues facing the Congress and the Federal Government. Some accomplishments of the ministerial task force for 2007 include the CBC Ministerial Brunch hosted during the CBC Founda-

CBC “Members of the CBC are disappointed that President Bush did not mention, or address, the continuing catastrophic situation in the Gulf Coast... Relief and recovery at home should take precedence over reconstruction overseas.”

Response to President’s State of the Union Address

tion’s Annual Legislative Conference and the creation of the CBC National Database of Ministers. Additionally, the Congressional Black Caucus, which since its creation has been referred to a “the Conscience of the Congress,” helped to take the lead in securing the passage of the **Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007** and in allaying the fears of the religious community that the measure would restrict the sermons delivered in places of worship throughout our nation.

Congresswoman Donna Christensen (VI) chaired the **CBC’s Health Braintrust** in addressing the health and wellness of African American communities. During the 110th Congress, the **CBC Health Braintrust** has continued to be a leader in and an authority on minority health policy. Highlights include:

- Assumed a leadership role in the development and movement of the **Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2007 (HR 3014)**;
- Played an instrumental role to ensure that the reauthorization of the **State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)** included provisions that would cover the maximum number of eligible, uninsured children with comprehensive and culturally appropriate health care services and treatments;
- Assumed a leadership role in raising awareness about the minority health repercussions of legislation to improve **Medicare**;
- Organized and sponsored **three national health forums**, all of which raised awareness about pressing health and health policy issues of particular relevance to the African American community;
- Reinigorated efforts to expand the **President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)** and other health funding to the larger Caribbean community;
- Had a leadership role in the **National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, National Black Clergy Conclave on HIV/AIDS**; and
- Sponsored and co-sponsored a myriad of **briefings on current and rising health and health care issues**.

The **CBC Re-Entry & Restoration Taskforce** pioneered and celebrated passage of the **Second Chance Act of 2007** to address the needs of the 1,700 individuals released from state and federal prisons each day throughout the nation. **Congressman Danny K. Davis (IL) and Congresswoman Yvette Clarke (NY)** co-chaired the Taskforce as it worked to reduce recidivism, increase public safety and help states and communities better address the growing populations returning to our communities. The legislation includes demonstration grants, a national offender re-entry resource center, a federal task force, offender re-entry research, and mentoring grants to nonprofit organizations. The CBC, which has also been fighting the disparities between **crack vs. cocaine sentencing** and working actively to address the issue this session, joined long time activists in celebrating both the **Supreme Court and U.S. Sentencing Commission's decisions** to apply new sentencing guidelines retroactively (for those previously convicted).

In June, the **CBC Emerging Leaders Taskforce**, chaired by **Congressman Kendrick Meek (FL) and Congresswoman Yvette Clarke (NY)**, hosted a dialogue with some of our nation's African American youth activists to discuss "What's At Stake in 08." The meeting, which took place on Capitol Hill, served as an opportunity for the young leaders to share the issues facing their communities and make recommendations on moving African American communities forward. The Taskforce also continues to show support for **Congressman Bobby Scott's Youth Promise Act**, which provides resources to communities committed to addressing issues of gang violence. The Taskforce will continue to engage young community leaders on the subject of rehabilitation versus incarceration programs.



CBC Members meet with Black Youth Vote during their annual Capitol Hill visit. CBC Members Payne (NJ), Richardson (CA) and Kilpatrick (MI) are shown here.

Joined by Armed Services Committee Member **Congressman Kendrick B. Meek (FL)**, the **CBC Defense & Veterans Taskforce** addressed issues of diversity in the military. Since the complete integration of the U.S. armed forces 58 years ago, particularly since the advent of the all-volunteer force, the Department of Defense has been a leader in the integration of talented women and minorities into management and leadership ranks. However, minorities continue to be overrep-



CBC Members address the press on Capitol Hill regarding diversity in the military. CBC Members Meek (FL), Tubbs Jones (OH), Jackson Lee (TX), H. Johnson (GA), Clarke (NY), B. Scott (VA) are shown here.

resented in the enlisted ranks and underrepresented in the officer ranks. Members of the CBC met with the Joint Chiefs to begin dialogue on how to buttress minority and female representation among senior military officers. **Congresswoman Corrine Brown (FL)** also continues to champion support services and funding for Veterans. The Taskforce is co-chaired by **Congressmen Elijah Cummings (MD) and Hank Johnson (GA)**.

The **CBC Environmental Justice Taskforce**, chaired by **Congressman Albert Wynn (MD)**, contributed significantly to raising awareness about the disproportionate impact of environmental burdens on communities of color. This year's efforts included:

- A hearing in the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials to consider legislation to codify federal mandates to achieve environmental justice.
- Supporting the "Take Back Black Health Toxics Tour," was conducted to highlight environmental racism. The tour was represented by a coalition of national leaders, representing environmental justice, civil rights, scientists, women's health, academia, faith-based and religious groups, legal, and elected officials, including congressional staffers, from around the country who met at Nashville's Fisk University and participated in the tour and press conference.
- Significant contributions to the development of key environmental justice legislation including H.R. 4652, the Environmental Justice Access and Implementation Act; H.R. 1103, the Environmental Justice act of 2007; and H.R. 1602, the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Environmental Justice Act of 2007;

A full listing of **CBC Taskforces** and more information about Taskforce efforts can be found on the CBC website, www.thecongressionalblackcaucus.com. For information on the status of legislation, please visit www.congress.gov.