

Congressional Black Caucus 1st Quarter Activity

January

- Congresswoman Kilpatrick (D-MI) sworn in as the 20th Chair of the CBC and announces the CBC theme for the 110th Congress; Change Course, Confront Crises, Continue the Legacy;
- CBC requests Select Committee on Katrina;
- CBC holds Annual Member Retreat;
- CBC votes 100% for Minimum Wage, Stem Cell Research and Student Loans.



CBC Honors Lorraine Miller, Clerk of the House of Representatives

May

- CBC Introduces Farm Bill priorities;
- Cong. Kilpatrick, Cong. Holmes-Norton, Cong. Thompson & Cong. Al Green lead CBC in opposing judicial nominee Leslie Southwick to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals;
- CBC votes 100% on Hate Crimes bill;
- CBC International Relations Taskforce hosts meeting with Haitian President Rene Preval;
- CBC Launches *CBC Movement* Newsletter.

June

- Cong. Kilpatrick participate in civil rights community press conference to address Supreme Court integration cases of Seattle and Kentucky;
- Georgia Members led CBC in hosting press conference denouncing the imprisonment of Genarlow Wilson in Georgia;
- CBC hosts "What's At Stake In 08" discussion with Emerging Leaders;
- CBC introduces No Child Left Behind recommendations and priorities;
- CBC introduces SCHIP priorities (children's health care);
- CBC International Relations Taskforce hosts meeting with Columbian President Aldaro Uribe;
- CBC authors letter opposing nomination of Hans Von Spakovsky to the Federal Election Commission;
- CBC hosts meeting with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM);
- CBC authors letter supporting DC Voting Rights Act of 2007;
- CBC authors letter requesting that the new Capitol Visitors Center be named "Emancipation Hall."

July

- CBC Education Taskforce hosts Education Summit, speakers include Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings and various education leaders;
- CBC issues statement on Jena Six case in Louisiana;
- CBC celebrates 100% vote in support of Farm Bill and SCHIP Reauthorization;
- CBC hosts media outreach meeting with CNN;
- CBC participates in Tri-Caucus Health Summit in San Diego, CA;
- CBC authors letter in support of Second Chance Act.

February

- CBC Members meet with President Bush to discuss the war in Iraq, Hurricane Katrina & 2008 Budget;
- CBC hosts Black History Month Celebration.



CBC Attends Judge Southwick Senate Hearing

March

- Cong. Kilpatrick led 10 Member CBC Delegation to Ghana for the 50th Anniversary of Independence;
- CBC Members are instrumental in Iraq Supplemental, securing \$6.4 Billion for Katrina/Rita recovery;
- Cong. Kilpatrick & Cong. Robert "Bobby" Scott (D-VA) introduce CBC Alternative Budget;
- CBC launches new interactive website: www.thecongressionalblackcaucus.com;
- CBC announces partnership with Black Press of America at the National Newspaper Publishers Association Black Press Week;
- CBC Labor Taskforce hosts briefing on SEIU security worker campaign.



CBC Meets with Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf

April

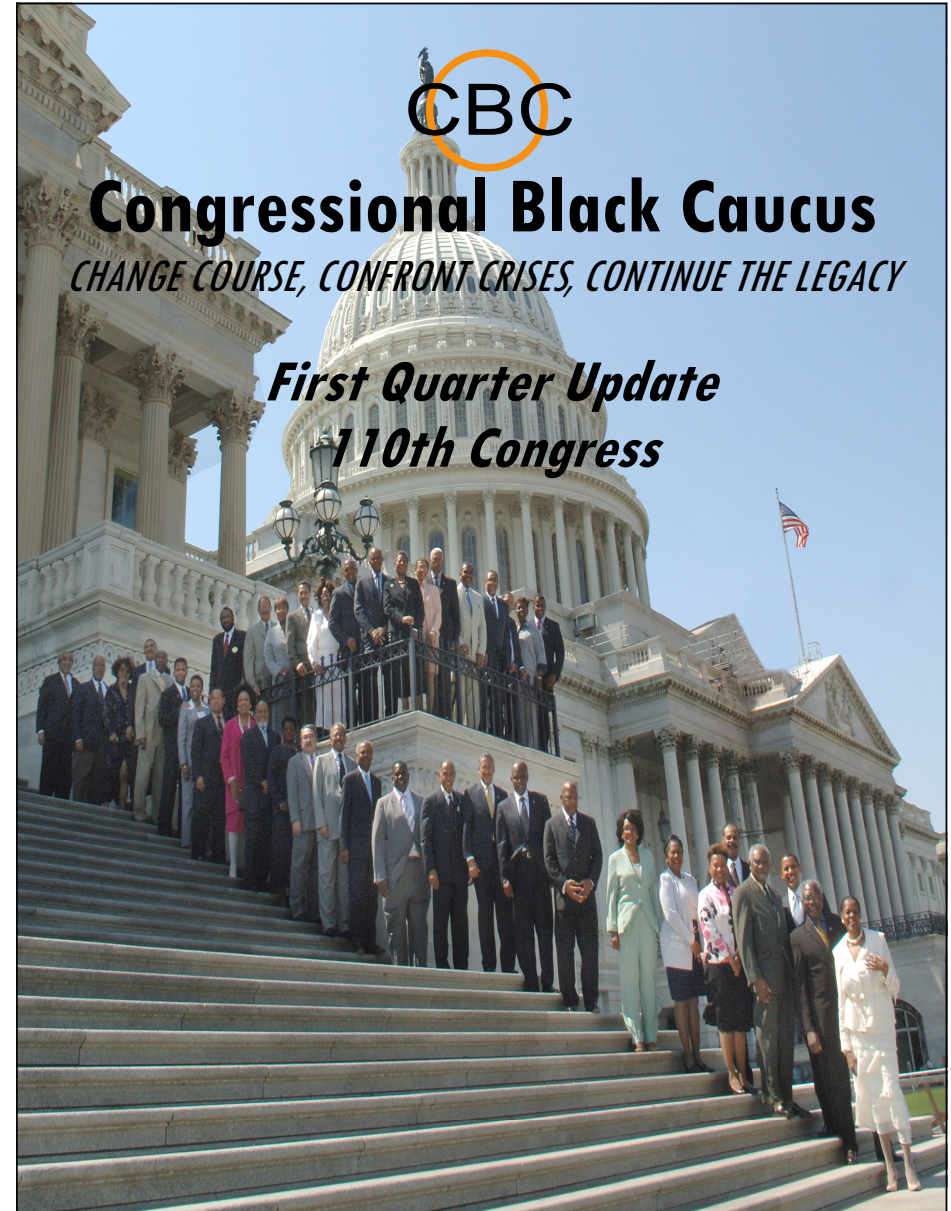
- CBC Members & Civil Rights leaders confront media insensitivity and support community request for Congressional Hearing addressing diversity in media following Don Imus debacle;
- CBC authors letter requesting Texas Southern University avoid conservatorship;
- CBC introduces immigration priorities;
- CBC International Relations Taskforce meet with Chinese Ambassador Wenzhong to discuss Darfur;
- CBC Labor Taskforce hosts meeting with organized labor community;
- CBC Health Braintrust hosts Annual Spring Health Summit.



CBC Addresses Genarlow Wilson Case



"What's At Stake In 08" CBC Youth Outreach Session



CBC

Congressional Black Caucus
CHANGE COURSE, CONFRONT CRISES, CONTINUE THE LEGACY

First Quarter Update
110th Congress

September 2007



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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
- 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
- Louie Richardson, CA '07

Honoring Our Commitment to America

Dear Colleagues & Friends:

I am privileged to present the Congressional Black Caucus 1st Quarter Session Report for the 110th Congress. Within this summary, you will find a composite of CBC Movement over the past six months, summarizing our efforts to afford every American access to the American dream. From hosting international delegations and promoting cultural enrichment to improving children's and senior health coverage and protecting Black farmers, our caucus is delivering on the promise to **change course, confront crises and continue the legacy.**

As legislators and appropriators our fingerprints are on meaningful pieces of legislation designed to build stronger and healthier families by:

- Raising the Minimum Wage
- Securing Disaster Relief Funds for the Gulf Region
- Strengthening Rural Communities, HBCU's, Nutrition, and Black Farmers in the Farm Bill
- Increasing Children's Health Care Coverage in SCHIP, Reducing Co-Payments for Seniors, Dental and Mental Health for Children, and Enriching the Coverage for End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) in the CHAMP Act

Looking ahead to the next six months, we will continue to galvanize America's youth and frame the alternative energy discussion. With your assistance, we can unleash our collective power and advance our agenda. I invite you to share this document with your associates and visit our new interactive website at www.thecongressionalblackcaucus.com, to participate in our blog discussions and track the CBC's Commitment to America.

Sincerely,

Carolyn C. Kilpatrick
 Chairwoman Carolyn C. Kilpatrick
 Congressional Black Caucus



Legislative Highlights

Below you will find highlights of key legislation passed during the 1st quarter of the 110th Congress. Through roles as House Leadership, Committee/Subcommittee Chairmanships and strength in numbers, CBC Members have been able to influence not only passage but content and language of legislation. On all of these votes, at least 35 of the 40 voting Members of the CBC voted for passage.

Legislation	We Are Impacting America's Families
Minimum Wage	• Increases the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour over the next two years. Nearly 13 million American's will benefit;
Stem Cell Research	• Provides federal funding for stem cell research which has the potential to treat and possibly cure Sickle Cell Anemia, Diabetes, Paralysis, Multiple Sclerosis, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases;
Student Loans	• Boosts college financial aid by \$18 billion over the next five years, while reducing the federal deficit by nearly \$1 billion; increases the purchasing power of the Pell Grant by \$500 over the next five years to \$5,200 by 2011;
Disadvantaged Business Disaster Eligibility Act	• Provides disaster relief assistance to small businesses participating in the 8(a) business development program in areas affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Extends eligibility for such assistance for an additional 18 months;
Katrina Housing Tax Relief Act of 2007	• Extends Low Income Housing Tax Credits until 2010; enhances & extends Section 143 mortgage revenue bond provisions; requires a GAO study of practices employed by state and local governments in allocating and utilizing tax incentives;
United States Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act, 2007	• Provides \$4.3 billion for FEMA disaster recovery grants and waivers; \$260 million for agriculture and fisheries disaster assistance; \$1.3 billion for east and west bank levee protection and coastal restoration; \$30 million for K-12 education assistance; extension of FEMA utility subsidy program and community Disaster Loan forgiveness; provide \$6.4 billion to Hurricane Katrina and Rita impacted areas;
Gulf Coast Hurricane Housing Recovery Act of 2007	• Provides increased funding to assist displaced renters and public housing residents; provides flexibility for \$1.2 billion in Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds to meet housing needs in Louisiana;
Hurricane Katrina and Rita Federal Match Relief Act of 2007	• Provides Community Disaster Loan forgiveness, \$4.3 billion for FEMA disaster recovery grants and waives the Stafford Act state matching requirements;
Accountability in Contracting Act	• Makes several changes to federal acquisition laws to increase transparency and accountability in federal contracting, to require agencies to limit the use of certain types of abuse-prone contracts, and to promote integrity in the acquisition workforce;
Supplemental II	• Provides extension of FEMA utility subsidy program for government employees affected by Hurricane Katrina and Rita; pays for the utility bills of those essential government employees still working and living in temporary FEMA trailers;
Hate Crimes Act	• Provides legal protection for churches, synagogues, and mosques against hate crimes; establishes funds to local police departments to prosecute hate crimes; protects the First Amendment so that speeches and sermons are not included as hate crimes; includes hate crimes based on disability, gender or sexual orientation;
The Farm, Nutrition and Bioenergy Act of 2007	• Allows Black farmer claimants in <i>Piggford</i> an opportunity to have their cases on civil rights abuses heard; establishes mandatory funding for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Outreach Program; increases research opportunities for 1890 Land Grant institutions, raises the standard deduction and minimum benefit for Food Stamps for the first time in over 20 years, bringing them to a TRUE cost of living; lists the \$175 dependant child care cap in Food Stamps, allowing families to deduct ALL of their child expenses;
The Children's Health Insurance and Medicare Protection Act (CHAMP) of 2007	• Increased health insurance coverage, including dental and mental health care for up to 11.8 million low-income children; enriches coverage for End Stage Renal Disease; reduces health care co-payments for senior citizens.
Improving Head Start Act of 2007	• Expands and improves Head Start funding, proving funding for an additional 10,000 children, with priority on expanding Early Head Start.
Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act	• Allows state and local governments to adopt divestment measures involving federally identified persons with investments and business in the Sudanese energy and military equipment sectors or persons having direct investment in or carrying trade or business with Sudan or the Government of Sudan.
The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act	• Establishes an Unsolved Crimes Section in the Department of Justice and an Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Investigation office in the FBI to investigate violations of criminal rights statutes that occurred before January 1970 and resulted in death.