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CONGRESSIONAL  
BLACK CAUCUS

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★ ★ ★ ESTABLISHED 1971 ★ ★ ★

U.S. Representative Joyce Beatty, Chair

50th Anniversary

OUR  
POWER...  
OUR  
MESSAGE









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# Dedication



*“This book is more than an encyclopedia or yearbook of achievements for the Congressional Black Caucus. It is printed inspiration for people of all ages, and it illustrates how words can summon some of our greatest powers.” - Joyce Beatty.*

This book, ***Our Power, Our Message*** is in honor of my Congressional Black Caucus family. It represents our collective fight for justice, our voice for our people and our legacy of being living legends. I started this book with a plan and a script but I paused many times—feeling as I imagine Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., did when almost 60 years ago he gave that historic “I Have a Dream” speech, when Mahalia Jackson, a Black woman, invited as a platform guest and close friend to Dr. King, sang “How I Got Over”. As the song concluded, she bellowed out Martin, “tell them about the dream.” King put his prepared remarks away and spoke extemporaneously. In that same spirit I put my outline away, and chronicled this book by allowing the stories, photos, and writers to share their truths, legislation, and memories as our unscripted story.







Inspiration for this story began when I lifted from a drawer in the Congressional Black Caucus Office, the paper bound book published by the late Congressman Donald Payne, Sr., entitled *The Conscience of the Congress, How the Congressional Black Caucus Changed America 40 Years (1971-2011)*. The writing in this book continues that legacy, and as we usher in the next decade we lay a foundation for our children, grandchildren and those yet unborn.

This book is more than an encyclopedia or yearbook of achievements for the Congressional Black Caucus. It is printed inspiration for people of all ages, and it illustrates how words can summon some of our greatest powers. An advocate said, instead of looking at life as a narrowing funnel, look at it as ever-widening opportunities to choose the things we want to do. Throughout my life I have drawn strength from my foundation of faith, family, and fearlessness. As long as the Congressional Black Caucus has existed, we have fought for liberty, and justice for all. We remain vigilant in combating inequalities, systemic racism and protecting against marginalization.

I could not have asked two better people than my dearest friend and mentor James Clyburn to pen the foreword and my classmate and trusted friend Hakeem Jeffries to write the preface. Together they capture our powerful narrative. It is my hope this book will uplift, inspire, and reach souls of this nation as readers experience the pages of our journey. Chairing the largest, and most progressive Congressional Black Caucus in our history has been one of my greatest honors.

I dedicate this book to my entire family. And to my late husband Otto Beatty, Jr. Esq., who encouraged me to take this journey and lived to see me as the 9th Black woman to Chair the Congressional Black Caucus. To my amazing grandchildren Leah Camille and Spencer Beatty Blunt who will continue the Beatty Legacy and thrive beyond.

Nelson Mandela said... *"it always seems impossible, until it's done."*

Thank you CBC family, for helping me get it done.

*Joyce Beatty*





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Third Congressional District of Ohio

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# Foreward

“Today we are experiencing an iteration of many struggles and battles we thought were behind us. Black Americans have finally begun to regain much of what was lost during the Jim Crow that followed the end of Reconstruction.”

JAMES E. CLYBURN



C O N G R E S S M A N

James E. Clyburn



My time in Congress, devotion to the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), and reputation as a lover of all things historical made me an easy target for my good friend Chair Joyce Beatty to write this foreword. She requested that I reflect on the 50th anniversary of the CBC, and I am happy to oblige. But as any good historian would, I am not going to start with the CBC's founding in 1971. Instead, I am going to take you back to the beginning of Black Americans presence in the United States Congress.

Senator Hiram Revels of Mississippi and Representative Joseph Rainey of South Carolina became the first Black members of Congress in 1870, 80 years after the first session of Congress met in 1789. Of course, we had to wait until 1968 for the election to Congress of a Black woman, Shirley Chisholm.

According to the House historian, to date, there have been a total of 12,421 individuals to serve as Representatives, Senators, or in both capacities, in the United States Congress and only 175 have been Black. Although math is not my strong suit, I think that computes to just over one percent. There was no Black representation in Congress from 1901 to 1928, and from 1929 to 1965 there were only seven. The 1965 Voting Rights Act increased Black participation in our electoral process and by 1971, the number of African Americans in the House of Representatives had grown to 13, and they immediately became a force to be reckoned with.

When President Nixon refused their request for a meeting, the 13 boycotted his State of the Union address. The attention they garnered resulted in an invitation to the White House, which they accepted. This episode led to the founding of the CBC and the later declaration of one of its founders, William L. Clay, Sr., that; "Black people have no permanent friends, no permanent enemies . . . just permanent interests."

In 1980, the Supreme Court held that Section 2 of the 1965 Voters Rights Act required proof of intent for a challenge to an election law to succeed. Consequently, when the 1965 Voter's Rights Act was re-authorized

in 1982, Congress amended Section 2 to establish a results test. This action enhanced opportunities for minority representation from many states, for the first time since the 1890's. For instance, I am the 9th Black person to represent South Carolina in Congress. Unfortunately, there were 95 years between George Washington Murray, the 8th, and me. I often said to those students to whom I taught history back in the 1960s, "anything that has happened before can happen again."

Throughout our 50-plus years, the CBC has focused its collective efforts mainly on addressing the "permanent interests" of the Black community. Over the years, the CBC has increased in size and demographics. Today we are 58 members strong. We represent diversified communities – rural, urban, and suburban. And many of us, like me, do not represent majority-minority districts. We are not monolithic, as some seem to think.

Despite the differences in our backgrounds and experiences, we remain tethered to the "permanent interests" of those whose identities are our origin and whose plights are fundamental to our purpose. It is imperative for the CBC to continue fighting to protect voting rights

and women's reproductive rights; to reform policing and establish responsible gun policies; to expand broadband and ensure the sustainability of our Historically Black Colleges and Universities, to name just a few of the issues that require our attention.

Today we are experiencing an iteration of many struggles and battles we thought were behind us. Black Americans have finally begun to regain much of what was lost during Jim Crow that followed the end of Reconstruction. Hopefully, lessons learned from that inauspicious past will be instructive, and we will use our collective power to prevent a repeat of that sordid history and to build both a better future for our constituents and platform for those who may succeed us in the hallowed halls of Congress.

We stand on the shoulders of Hiram Revels, Joseph Rainey, Shirley Chisholm, our other 12 founders, and all the others who have served between us and them. They provided us with opportunities to move America closer to our pledge of "liberty and justice for all." Hopefully we will acquit ourselves in such a manner that those who come after us will be able to leave for their successors a navigable pathway toward "a more perfect Union."





# Preface

“The Congressional Black Caucus has now been called to stand guard for such a time as this here in America. The CBC is up to the task.”

HAKEEM JEFFRIES



C O N G R E S S M A N

Hakeem Jeffries



Today, the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) stands on the shoulders of our thirteen visionary founders and dozens of other members who subsequently made it possible for our now record-breaking group to make progress in America as the “Conscious of the Congress.”

The United States of America is a great country. We have come a long way, but still have a way to go to live up to the aspirational ideal of liberty and justice for all.

Our country originated with a glorious constitution and the imperfection of chattel slavery. Progress was made during the emancipation and reconstruction era. The 13th Amendment made slavery unconstitutional. The 14th Amendment guaranteed due process and equal protection under the law for newly freed slaves. The 15th Amendment endeavored to guarantee the right to vote regardless of race. But this progress was cut short when the North pulled out of the South. Jim Crow segregation spread like wildfire. The KKK rose up. Plessy vs. Ferguson was decided, Black codes were imposed and lynching became weaponized as an instrument of oppression and terror.

Progress followed by backlash. That’s a consistent pattern of our journey.

A new generation of liberators emerged in the 1950’s and 60’s to move America forward, with giant gains like the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the 1965 Voting Rights Act and the 1968 Fair Housing Act. Groundbreaking advancements were made as part of the Great Society era, resulting in the establishment of Medicare, Medicaid, Head Start and an expansion of educational opportunities for traditionally disadvantaged communities. But backlash lurked on the horizon.

On the heels of the civil rights movement and the Great Society legislative gains, Richard Nixon was elected in 1968 - fueled by a backlash to the progress that had just been made. President Nixon ushered in a new anti-government, anti-affirmative action and anti-bussing era. The failed war on drugs and rise of mass incarceration began in 1971. At the time, there were less than 300,000 people incarcerated in America.

Today, there are 2.3 million people, disproportionately Black and Latino. Progress followed by backlash. In the midst of this storm, the Congressional Black Caucus was founded.

When President Nixon refused to meet with the Caucus about our urgent community concerns, those 13 founding members used their collective voice to deliver a message by protesting the State of the Union and secured a historic meeting. At that meeting, the CBC presented the President with dozens of proposals to eradicate racism, provide quality housing for Black families, advance economic opportunity and promote the full engagement of African-Americans in government.

Since that time, the Congressional Black Caucus led the fight to dismantle the apartheid state in South Africa, establish empowerment zones in inner-city communities, championed the cause of Black farmers in the rural South, pushed to increase procurement opportunities for Black entrepreneurs, battled the HIV-AIDS epidemic here in America - as well as in Africa - and held the line against conservative administrations until one of our own, Barack Obama, became the 44th President of the United States.

With strong support from his CBC allies in Congress, President Obama

rescued the economy from the perils of the Great Recession, signed into law the historic Affordable Care Act to expand affordable healthcare coverage for millions of Americans, and dealt a blow against mass incarceration with passage of the Fair Sentencing Act. Some thought we were entering into a “post-racial” America. But the backlash to this progress soon emerged. The Tea Party came to power claiming they wanted their country back, the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act, Donald Trump was elected President, millions of Americans were radicalized and violent white supremacists stormed the Capitol on January 6th.

The Congressional Black Caucus has now been called to stand guard for such a time as this here in America. The CBC is up to the task. Over the last two years, we have defended our democracy, fought to achieve historic levels of funding for HBCUs, supported women and minority owned businesses during the pandemic, prevented a massive loss of home ownership in our community and have been instrumental in many of the incredibly consequential legislative achievements of the Biden administration. But our work is not done. We stand on the shoulders of the CBC giants who came before us and will continue America’s long, necessary and majestic march toward a more perfect union. Onward!





# Our Founding and Early Years

*In January of 1969, newly-elected African American representatives of the 77th Congress joined six incumbents to form the Democratic Select Committee. The committee was renamed the Congressional Black Caucus, and the CBC was born in 1971.*

*The founders' goals were to positively influence the course of events pertinent to African Americans and others of similar experience and situation, and to achieve greater equity for persons of African descent in the design and content of domestic and international programs and services. While the CBC has been primarily focused on the concerns of African Americans, the Caucus has also been at the forefront of legislative campaigns for human and civil rights for all citizens.*







## THE FOUNDERS

**Shirley Chisholm**  
*(New York 12th district)*

**Bill Clay**  
*(Missouri 1st district)*

**George W. Collins**  
*(Illinois 6th district)*

**John Conyers**  
*(Michigan 1st district)*

**Ron Dellums**  
*(California 7th district)*

**Charles Diggs**  
*(Michigan 13th district)*

**Walter Fauntroy**  
*(District of Columbia at large district)*

**Augustus F. Hawkins**  
*(California 21st district)*

**Ralph Metcalfe**  
*(Illinois 1st district)*

**Parren Mitchell**  
*(Maryland 7th district)*

**Robert N.C. Nix Sr.**  
*(Pennsylvania 2nd district)*

**Charles Rangel**  
*(New York 18th district)*

**Louis Stokes**  
*(Ohio 21st district)*











# From The Congressional Black Caucus To the White House



VICE PRESIDENT

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Kamala Harris



For 50 years, the Congressional Black Caucus has represented not just the conscience of the Congress, but the conscience of our country. Our members have always seen America as it can be, unburdened by what has been. And the work of the CBC has always been grounded in fundamental American values, including the importance of justice for all people.

That is how, every day, the members of the CBC make history: in change led, in young leaders inspired, and in an unwavering commitment to continue to move our nation forward, often one vote and one bill at a time.

I saw that leadership clearly when I first attended a Phoenix Dinner as a student at Howard University. And I had the honor of taking part in that struggle when I joined the CBC in 2017 as a United States Senator from California.

Throughout my time as a Senator, I fought alongside CBC members for critical and in many cases long overdue progress. In 2018, I introduced legislation to finally make lynching a federal hate crime, an effort which generations of CBC members had advocated for and dedicated themselves to. Thanks to tremendous partners in Congress, including Senator Cory Booker and



Congressman Bobby Rush, and to President Joe Biden, who fights alongside the CBC every day, as of this year the Emmett Till Antilynching Act is now the law of the land.

As much as anything else, the CBC taught me – and millions of Americans – how to build coalitions to advance rights and secure justice, not just on behalf of Black Americans, but on



behalf of all Americans. And I brought that lesson to the White House as Vice President of the United States.

Together with President Biden, the former CBC members and staff who serve at every level of our Administration, including our outstanding Secretary of the Housing and Urban Development Agency Marcia Fudge, and the current members of the CBC, we have accomplished so much. We kept schools and businesses open and got critical aid to communities as part of recovering from a devastating global pandemic. We are fighting to lower the cost of living for millions of Americans families, from providing tax cuts to parents, to lowering the cost of insulin and capping the cost of prescription medication for our seniors, to reducing energy costs. And by extending the Child Tax Credit, we cut child poverty by more than 40 percent, including cutting Black child poverty in half.

Together, we have led the fight to address the crisis of maternal mortality—a crisis which disproportionately impacts Black women, Native women, and women who live in rural areas. Since taking office, with your help, we have

expanded Medicaid coverage for postpartum women in more than half of all states from two months to 12 months. As a result, hundreds of thousands more women can now access essential and lifesaving care.

We are also rebuilding our nation's infrastructure while removing lead pipes and paint, and have strengthened background checks to prevent gun violence, made historic investments in our HBCUs, tackled the climate crisis, and appointed the most diverse group of judges in our nation's history, including the first Black woman to serve on the United States Supreme Court: Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. But we know there is still more work to be done.

So let us continue to uphold the legacy of this historic Caucus. Let us keep fighting for liberty, justice, and equality for all Americans. And let us never forget the words of one of my heroes, the great Coretta Scott King, who once reminded us that freedom must be earned and won in each and every generation.

That is what the CBC has done for these past 50 years, and what we must recommit to doing for the next 50 years—and many more to come.

**So let us continue to uphold the legacy of this historic Caucus. Let us keep fighting for liberty, justice, and equality for all Americans.**

KAMALA HARRIS



# The Administration



## Marcia L. Fudge

Secretary, U.S. Housing and Urban Development  
Former Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus  
Former U.S. Representative (OH-11)



I arrived in Congress under difficult circumstances, to continue the legacy of the incomparable Stephanie Tubbs Jones. It was my honor to serve the people of Northeast Ohio in that capacity. I was equally honored to serve as a member of the Congressional Black Caucus. To center the voices of those who have historically been cast-aside and disregarded is our responsibility. To stand on the shoulders of giants who recognized that we could achieve far more as a collective than we ever could as individuals is our privilege. For more than 50 years the CBC has been the Conscience of the Congress. Its policy agenda has promoted legislation to support social and economic progress, equality, and fairness for all, particularly African Americans and underserved communities. It was the CBC that called on this country to forcefully denounce the subjugation of non-white South Africans under apartheid. The CBC spearheaded their national

policy agenda to advance Black families with the Jobs and Justice Act of 2020. This comprehensive legislation aimed to increase the upward mobility of Black families in America by addressing economic development, education, health disparities, environmental justice, and criminal justice reform. Two members of the Caucus have ascended to the highest elected offices in this nation, President and Vice President of the United States. For decades, this body has kept, as Congressman Clay said, “no permanent friends, no permanent enemies. Just permanent interests.” As Chair, I was committed to ensuring every American had a fair shot at the American dream. To eradicating poverty and to protecting various social and economic programs that have lifted generations of Black Americans to the middle class and given this nation’s most vulnerable a chance to live full and productive lives. My commitment to this work did not

start when I was elected Chair, nor did it end when I handed the gavel over to Congressman Butterfield. However, my commitment to this work was fortified by my tenure as a member of the Congressional Black Caucus. I carry the determination and dedication of my CBC colleagues with me every day in my role as the 18th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Chair Beatty, I applaud your fearless leadership as the head of this Caucus. To the Caucus, I will remain forever proud of your collective strength and unity, even in the face of the most pressing challenges. The arc of our nation’s history will continue to bend toward justice thanks to the leadership and tenacity of this body. We will continue to face challenges in our work to ensure this country lives up to its ideals. Stay the course, keep fighting for what is right, and continue to build on your 50 years of outstanding leadership.





## The Honorable Cedric L. Richmond

Former Senior Advisor to the President  
of the United States, White House Director  
of the Office of Public Engagement  
Former Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus  
Former U.S. Representative (LA-02)

I am the son of a public school teacher and a small business owner from the east side of New Orleans who went on to represent my home – Louisiana’s 2nd Congressional District – for ten years in Congress. While there, I was fortunate to earn several titles, including best Congressional Baseball Player in the History of Congress, but one title, in particular, brings me a sense of great pride, Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus. Chairing the CBC was the opportunity of a lifetime. The thing I’m most proud of during my time as chairman is despite the White House and Congress that were hostile to the lives of African Americans and other marginalized communities. However, the CBC never wavered in prioritizing the needs of our communities.

We took on the Trump administration head-on when he asked what we had to lose. As the Conscience of the Congress and voice of 78 million Americans and 17 million African Americans, the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) answered Trump’s question. The answer was that we, as

African Americans, had a great deal to lose under the Trump Administration, and we still feel much of those losses today.

However, I proudly joined President Joe Biden, as his Senior Advisor, and Director of The White House Office of Public Engagement as we worked diligently to reverse the effects of racism and discrimination that resulted in disparities across a wide range of issues, from equal access to quality education to police brutality and voter suppression, that was perpetuated under the previous Administration. As a result, we saw more jobs created than ever before, more African Americans tapped to be a part of this Administration than ever before, and we saw what happens when a President keeps his promise, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson.

As we look ahead, I am proud of our collective efforts that have echoed throughout Congress for decades. Together, we will continue to stand for the many Americans

who expect the Caucus to be sound and principled leaders dedicated to progress. Our members have always been at the forefront of issues such as economic security and empowerment, community development, education, justice and civil rights, criminal justice reform, and labor and employment.

I am proud of the work the CBC has done and continues to do under the leadership of my successors, Congresswoman Karen Bass, and current-Chairwoman Joyce Beatty.







CHAIRWOMAN

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Joyce Beatty



Serving as chairwoman of this Caucus, the largest and most powerful Congressional Black Caucus in our more than 50-year history, has been the highlight of my career. The following pages will reflect on all we have accomplished together.

As the 9th Black woman to Chair this Caucus, born in the heartland of America, Ohio; a first generation HBCU graduate – who now holds four honorary doctorate degrees, and is a life member of the NAACP and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated it is my distinct honor to share our power and our message with the world.

Within our ranks, six CBC members serve as powerful full committee chairpersons. Additionally, our Caucus includes the Majority Whip, the Democratic Caucus Chairman, and a Co-Chair of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee. More women elected than ever before, more religious diversity than ever before, the first openly Black-LGBTQ members of Congress, and our power continues to resonate in our broad ideological spectrum.

Our Caucus has taken trailblazing leadership roles in the House passage of the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and the George Floyd Justice In Policing Act. I was proud to lead the negotiations of the the \$1.2 trillion dollar Infrastructure bill, in the words of President Joe Biden, “I don’t think we could’ve gotten the infrastructure bill done without Joyce. She was the final capstone.”

We also secured vital pandemic relief, critical climate change & environmental justice funding, historic funding for HBCUs, cutting child poverty in half, universal broadband for every American household, and the first gun violence legislation in more than 30 years.

**We refuse to be silent on our issues, whether it results in applause or arrest.**

Joyce Beatty





We worked from nomination to confirmation supporting the first Black woman United States Supreme Court Justice. We've shown the world what is possible.

I serve as the the first ever Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion Chair, along with more than 30 other Subcommittee Chairs serving the nation. We achieved the decades-long goal of enshrining the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act into law, and designated Juneteenth as a Federal Holiday while navigating the complexities of a global pandemic, an insurrection, two presidential impeachments, and even a constitutional attack on Roe v. Wade yet, still we rise.

During our Annual Legislative Conference, we delivered more than \$1 million in scholarships. Under my leadership we took our power and our message from Selma to Sierra Leone. As we look ahead to the 118th Congress, I have positioned our caucus to continue our fight to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act, police reform, reparations legislation, and women's rights. Make no mistake, we have no problem getting into good trouble.



I am confident our strength and unity will only continue to grow. America has taken notice. When Black Americans are united in our demands for a nation that reflects our core ideals of equality and justice, no amount of obstruction is insurmountable. That is our power and our message.

It has been the honor of my life to Chair this historic Caucus, and I appreciate each of you for your support. In keeping with my tradition, the most powerful two words I can say: Thank you. *I'm Congresswoman Joyce Beatty, and I approved this message!*







# Executive Board 117th Congress

*From Left to Right*

Congressman Hank Johnson (GA-04), Whip  
Congresswoman Frederica S. Wilson (FL-24), Secretary  
Congressman Steven Horsford (NV-04), First Vice Chair  
Congresswoman Joyce Beatty (OH-03), Chair  
Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence (MI-14), Second Vice Chair  
Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (TX-18), Parliamentarian  
Congressman Joe Neguse (CO-02), Member At Large



**The Chairs. Six Gavels. Six Icons.**



CONGRESSWOMAN

**Maxine Waters**

*Chair, Financial Services*

CONGRESSWOMAN

**Eddie Bernice Johnson**

*Chair, Science, Space and Technology*

CONGRESSMAN

**Bennie G. Thompson**

*Chair, Homeland Security*

CONGRESSMAN

**Robert C. "Bobby" Scott**

*Chair, Education and Labor*

CONGRESSMAN

**David Scott**

*Chair, Agriculture*

CONGRESSMAN

**Gregory Meeks**

*Chair, Foreign Affairs*





CHAIRWOMAN

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Maxine Waters



### **“Reclaiming My Time”**

As the first woman and the first African American to chair the powerful Financial Services Committee in the United States House of Representatives, I am proud to be an African American woman who has reached a level of influence and responsibility unexpected of a

I have been recognized for my leadership on domestic policies, but I am also a community organizer having organized the Black Women’s Forum, Project Build, Community Build, and the founder and creator of the very first “Taste of Soul” in Los Angeles. My reputation for confronting unfair police practices is legendary. I am a

to provide funding to save Jamaica from disaster.

I am a progressive legislator who chaired the Congressional Black Caucus from 1997 to 1999 and a strong supporter of the Black community, women, children, veterans, seniors, the disabled, LGBTQ, and all people

**I have served in Congress for the past 31 years holding major corporations, Wall Street, and government agencies accountable for their policies and practices with a focus on consumer protection.**

MAXINE WALTERS

Black woman who was born in poverty. I am honored to be considered an iconic figure because of the length of time I have worked on extremely important issues both nationally and internationally.

I have served in Congress for that past 31 years holding major corporations, Wall Street, and government agencies accountable for their policies and practices with a focus on consumer protection. I have focused my time in Congress on creating affordable housing and eliminating homelessness is one of my top priorities. Some of the legislative accomplishments I am most proud of include creating the very first Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion and the Center for Women Veterans.

Prior to being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, I served fourteen years in the California State Assembly where I authored numerous pieces of landmark legislation including: a law requiring state agencies to award a percentage of public contracts to minorities and women; tenants’ rights laws; a law restricting police efforts to use strip searches; and the largest divestment of state pension funds from businesses involved in apartheid South Africa.

strong and active Democrat having served on the Democratic National Committee for the past 42 years. I am responsible for the early support of Rev. Jesse Jackson for President in 1984 and 1988, opening the possibility for President Barack Obama. I have gained a reputation for my international assistance for Haiti in its struggle for a democracy, I led in the fight in the United States to help dismantle apartheid in South Africa and for the release of Nelson Mandela from prison. I am a supporter of lifting the embargo on Cuba and worked with the International Monetary Fund

of color. I am so pleased to be loved and admired by Millennials and Gen Z, who have named me “Auntie Maxine”. I consider one of the moments of courage that I pride myself on is being the first Member of Congress to call for the impeachment of former President Donald Trump.

I am married to Ambassador Sidney Williams, mother to Edward Waters and Karen Waters Titus. I have two grandsons, Mikael Moore and Cameron Titus. My legacy is **“She Fights for All of Us.”**







CHAIRWOMAN

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Eddie Bernice Johnson



My career in public service began long before I was first elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1972.

After obtaining nursing degrees from Saint Mary's College of Notre Dame and Texas Christian University, I served as the Chief Psychiatric Nurse at the Dallas VA hospital, where I oversaw and provided mental health care for our

G.K. Butterfield, and Jim Clyburn, which worked with college presidents to advocate for increased support and funding for HBCU programs.

In all, I believe my tenure as Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus will be reflected as a period when we fought to confront the most pressing and critical issues we faced.

enables the growth and maintenance of critical domestic transportation infrastructure, such as highways, bridges, airports, and waterways and reconnects minority communities.

As the first African American and female Chair of the Water Resources Subcommittee, I notably authored and secured approval of bipartisan legislation authorizing the U.S. Army

**I am proud to say that we have delivered significant progress on every one of our priorities. From transformative legislation like the CHIPS and Science Act, to recognizing and honoring NASA's hidden figures, and helping to support a strong research and development enterprise for the U.S., we have made great strides in what we set out to do.**

**EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

nation's veterans. I then served in the Texas House for two terms, becoming the first African American woman ever to hold elected office in Dallas. At the end of my second term, I was appointed by President Jimmy Carter as the Regional Director for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and eventually returned to Texas politics in 1986 and was elected to the Texas Senate. When I was later elected to Congress in 1992, I became the first Registered Nurse to win a seat in Congress and the first Member to represent Texas's 30th Congressional District.

I am one of the few Members who has had the privilege to serve as Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. During the 107th Congress, my colleagues trusted me to lead the caucus during an impactful time for the African American community and our nation. With conviction and passion, we supported initiatives and policies that advanced the caucus's mission. The opportunity to serve as chair reinforced my commitment to diversity in leadership, which is why I reached out to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and Asian Pacific Caucus to form the Tri-Caucus officially. Though diverse in background and life experience, each caucus brought to the table a common belief that we could achieve more on the issues of diversity, health disparities, immigration, and environmental justice—the same issues that disproportionately impacted our respective communities.

I also established the first bipartisan HBCU caucus with Reps. Jimmy Duncan,

I have also had the privilege of serving as the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Science Committee. I have often referred to it as the "Committee of the Future" because I know there is so much we can accomplish for the good of the nation in our capacity. When I earned the Chairmanship at the start of the 116th Congress, I laid out our three main priorities. Those included: to ensure the U.S. remains a global leader in innovation; to address the climate crisis; and to restore the credibility of the Science Committee as a place where science is respected and recognized as critical to sound policymaking.

I am proud to say that we have delivered significant progress on every one of our priorities. From transformative legislation like the CHIPS and Science Act, to recognizing and honoring NASA's hidden figures, and helping to support a strong research and development enterprise for the U.S., we have made great strides in what we set out to do. A main priority of mine throughout my entire career has been to build opportunities in STEM for all—no matter their background, race, or zip code. I am pleased to say many of our efforts to increase recognition, representation, and funding in STEM have been enacted. There is one bill in particular that I worked for 15 years to get made law, the STEM Opportunities Act, which passed as part of the CHIPS and Science Act.

As the Senior Texan on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I have prioritized and supported legislation that

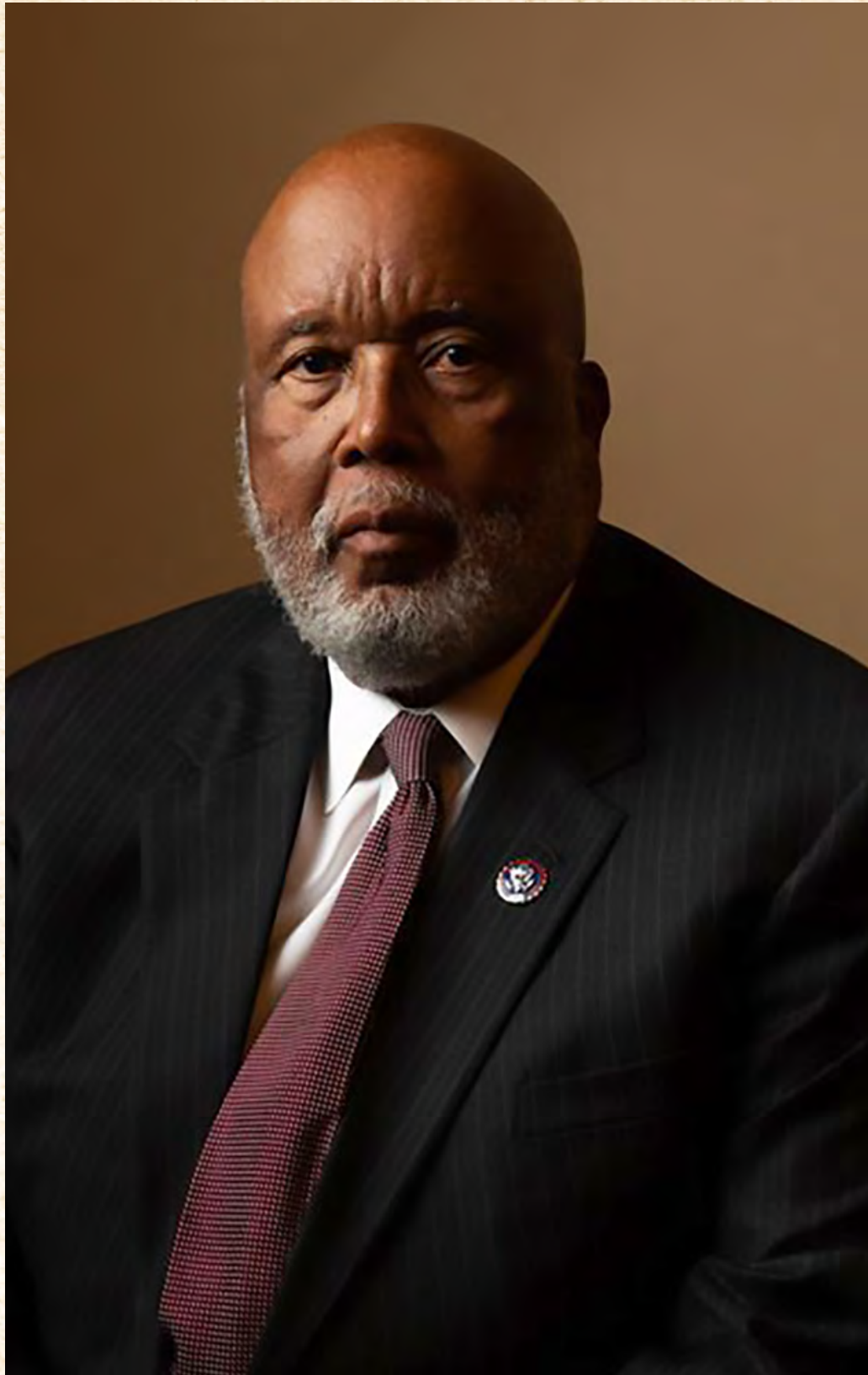
Corps of Engineers to carry out various studies, projects, and programs, relating to navigation, flood damage reduction, shoreline protection, dam safety, water supply, recreation, and environmental restoration and protection. I also led Congress in successfully overriding President George Bush's veto of this legislation, the only veto override of his presidency.

Most recently, I helped pass the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA), the most significant transportation infrastructure funding bill in our nation's history. The IIJA included several provisions of mine to improve the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program, as well as the addition of several new grant programs that focus on improving transportation mobility in traditionally disadvantaged neighborhoods.

The Congressional Black Caucus has been the foundation of my success in Congress. As we celebrate its 50th anniversary, I am proud to recognize its role in creating a more equitable, just, and prosperous future for African Americans across the nation.







C H A I R M A N

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**Bennie G. Thompson**



I was born in a state with a unique history of racial inequality and drew inspiration from the legacies of Medgar Evers, Fannie Lou Hamer, Aaron Henry, and Henry Kirksey. A Bolton, Mississippi native I consider it an honor to walk the path Mississippi civil rights icons paved decades ago. Serving in my 15th term in the United States

and engaging leader on a wide range of homeland and national security issues. Under my leadership, the Committee has been at the forefront of addressing emerging threats to our nation that today-- twenty-one years since the terrorist attacks of September 11th-- include domestic terrorist movements, cyber-attacks on critical infrastructure,

States Capitol. Under my leadership, the bipartisan group of Members on the Select Committee are charged with investigating and reporting upon the facts, circumstances, and causes relating to this historic attack upon the United States Capitol Complex. The Select Committee has begun presenting its findings

Throughout my tenure, I have—time and again—emerged as leader, willing to take on challenging and consequential oversight of issues with significant implications for the safety and wellbeing of our nation.

BENNIE THOMPSON

House of Representatives, I represent Mississippi's Second Congressional District where I have spent my entire life fighting to improve the lives of all people.

I am the longest-serving African American elected official in the State of Mississippi and the lone Democrat in the Mississippi Congressional Delegation. I began my grassroots political activism being a civil rights champion through the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) while a student at Tougaloo College – a private historically black college in Jackson, Mississippi. I organized voter registration drives for African Americans throughout the Mississippi Delta on behalf of the organization before graduating and following in the footsteps of my mother by becoming a schoolteacher. During my tenure educating the youth of Mississippi, a fire inside of me was ignited pushing me to be a voice to the voiceless through elected office. My record of effective problem solving, and coalition building served as the bedrock for my election to the Congress in 1993.

In 2008, I became the first Democratic Chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, making me the first Black Chairman from the South. In my time on the Committee, I have earned a reputation as a thoughtful

and online terrorist recruitment. I have a substantial record of legislative accomplishments, particularly in the areas of cybersecurity, transportation security, infrastructure protection, and information sharing. Additionally, I am known for my longstanding record of holding leaders accountable within the Department of Homeland Security and across the Intelligence Community for the management of their vital agencies particularly as it relates to avenues for opportunities in Federal contracting and employment and how they interact with the public.

Throughout my tenure, I have—time and again—emerged as leader, willing to take on challenging and consequential oversight of issues with significant implications for the safety and wellbeing of our nation. In the wake of Russian interference in the 2016 election, I spearheaded the Congressional Task Force on Election Security that issued a report that remains a guidepost for protecting elections. After the United States Capitol was attacked on January 6, 2021, I led negotiations aimed at establishing an independent bipartisan commission to investigate the attack. When those efforts were stymied in the Senate and Americans continuing to demand answers, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi selected me to chair the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6 attack on the United

about a multi-part effort to overturn the 2020 election, reflecting the body of evidence the committee has built through more than 1,000 interviews and the hundreds of thousands of records the committee has obtained. I continue to guide the Select Committee's investigative and reporting work.

I have served as a lifelong member of the Asbury United Methodist Church in Bolton, Mississippi. I have been married to my college sweetheart, London Johnson of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, since 1968. We have a daughter, BendaLonne; granddaughter, Jeanna; and grandson, Thomas Gordon. I am an avid outdoorsman and enjoy gardening, reading, and listening to the blues.







C H A I R M A N

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Robert "Bobby" C. Scott



My career as an elected public servant started in the Virginia General Assembly where I served on behalf of my home community in Southeastern Virginia for fifteen years. I brought my experience as a legislator to Congress in 1993 when I was elected to represent Virginia's Third Congressional District. I am the first African American elected

first time in 13 years and replaced the No Child Left Behind Act. In 2018, I also expanded funding for juvenile delinquency prevention by including core pieces of my Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education (Youth PROMISE) Act in the Juvenile Justice Reform Act.

COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee helped to deliver historic relief that provided the largest one-time federal investment in K-12 education in U.S. history, restored the pensions of over one million workers, saved the child care industry from collapse, reduced child hunger, and delivered record funding for HBCUs. Most recently, the

**Today, as the Chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, I am continuing my work to improve equity in education, address the student debt crisis, expand access to affordable health care, strengthen workers' rights and workplace safety, and guarantee seniors a secure retirement.**

**BOBBY SCOTT**

to Congress from Virginia since Reconstruction and only the second African American elected to Congress in Virginia's history.

In Congress, my goal has been to pass evidence-based legislation that helps everyone succeed—not just the wealthy few.

One of my top priorities to achieve this goal is reforming our criminal justice system. In 2000, I led passage of the Death in Custody Reporting Act, which requires state and local law enforcement agencies to report how many individuals die each year while in the custody of law enforcement or during an arrest. I also successfully led the House in passing the Fair Sentencing Act in 2010—one of the first successful reductions in a mandatory minimum sentence in decades. And, in 2015, I worked across the aisle to introduce one of the most comprehensive criminal justice reform bills in a generation—many provisions of which were signed into law in 2018.

I have also been a leading advocate in Congress for students, workers, and families. In 2015, I became the Ranking Member of what was then called the Committee on Education and the Workforce. In this capacity, I was one of the four primary authors of Every Student Succeeds Act, which reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act for the

Today, as the Chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, I am continuing my work to improve equity in education, address the student debt crisis, expand access to affordable health care, strengthen workers' rights and workplace safety, and guarantee seniors a secure retirement.

Under my leadership, the Committee has undertaken legislation to raise the federal minimum wage, secure workers' right to form a union (Protecting the Right to Organize Act), fulfill the promise of Brown v. Board of Education, rebuild crumbling school buildings, expand workforce development programs and innovations, and overhaul our higher education system. During the

Committee helped to pass the Inflation Reduction Act, which took landmark steps to reduce the cost of health care by allowing Medicare to negotiate for lower drug prices, capping the cost of insulin for Medicare patients, and expanding the Affordable Care Act's health care subsidies.

As we celebrate 50 years of the Congressional Black Caucus, I am proud to carry on the Caucus's critical mission: ensuring that African Americans and other marginalized communities have equal opportunities to achieve the American Dream.







C H A I R M A N

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David Scott



I was born on my grandparent's farm in Aynor, South Carolina. It is only by the grace of God, support of my family, and hard work that I have risen to the position I now hold: a member of the United States Congress and chairman of the House Agriculture Committee and senior member of the Financial Services Committee.

Land-Grant Colleges and Universities with \$80 million in the 2018 Farm Bill. Now, we have passed legislation to make this very important and much-needed scholarship program for the 1890s African American colleges permanent with additional funding of \$100 million so that for generations to come, this scholarship program

very pleased to be working alongside my friend, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, to accomplish these goals.

I am a very proud member of the Congressional Black Caucus for the past 20 years. Without this organization and the support of its members, I know I would not have been

**I now serve as Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, the first African American to achieve this position. Here, I have worked to create a student scholarship program for the 19 African American 1890s Land-Grant Colleges and Universities with \$80 million in the 2018 Farm Bill.**

DAVID SCOTT

After earning academic scholarships, I was able to attend Florida A&M University where I earned my Bachelor of Arts. I then received an academic scholarship to the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania for my Masters of Business Administration degree. After graduating and establishing my own business, Dayn-Mark Advertising, I created a national radio program, entitled "Coors Inside Black America," and was able to bring significant advertising dollars to our nation's Black-owned radio stations. I was subsequently appointed to the executive Board of Directors for the Wharton School of Finance, the first time an African America held this position. I moved to Atlanta, Georgia, and was elected first to the Georgia House of Representatives in 1972, where I served for 8 years, and then was elected to the Georgia State Senate, where I served for 20 years, 10 years as the Chairman of the Senate Rules Committee. I became the African American to serve as Chairman of the State Senate Rules Committee, as well. Finally, I was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2002, where I now serve as Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, the first African American to achieve this position. Here, I have worked to create a student scholarship program for the 19 African American 1890s

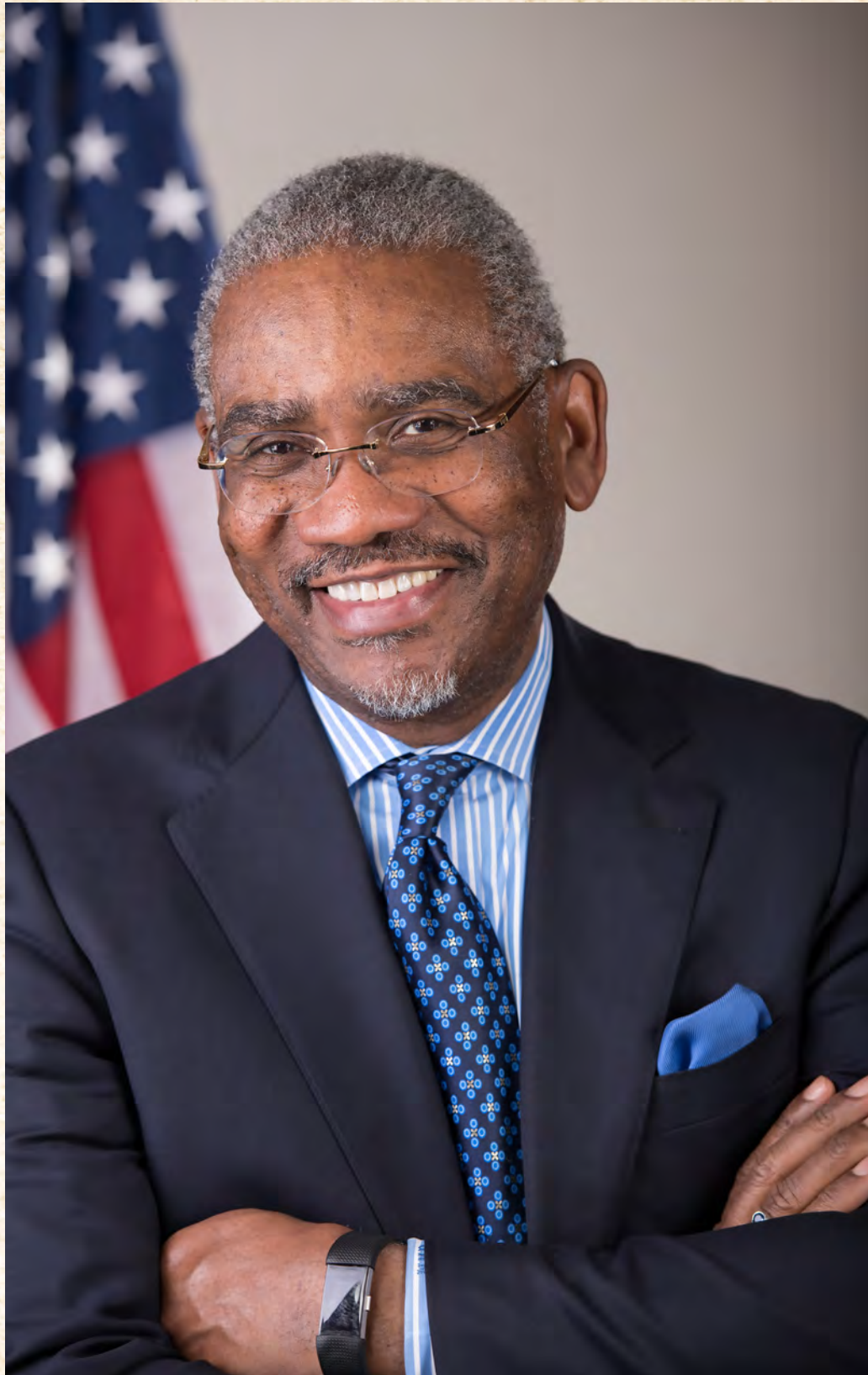
can continue to serve young African American students in the vitally important agriculture, food, and trade businesses of our great nation. This program benefits schools like Florida A&M University, Fort Valley State, Prairie View A&M, Tuskegee Institute, and North Carolina A&T, and 12 other distinguished 1890s Land Grant Colleges and Universities. This truly is one of the most significant, bipartisan bills that I have been able and honored to provide leadership on.

Once I was elected Chairman of the important House Agriculture Committee, I have broadened the committee's scope to include pursuing equity for our Black farmers, combating climate change, finally securing \$65 billion to establish rural broadband, as well as making permanent our 1890 African American colleges scholarship program and adding \$100 million to the scholarship program. I have written the Small Family Farmer and Rancher Relief Act to help our small livestock operations thrive. I am proud to have shepherded, along with President Biden's administration, the American Rescue Plan and the Inflation Reduction Act, which create USDA's equity commission, tasked with addressing discrimination within the agency, and makes historic investments in conservation programs and biofuel infrastructure. And, I am

elected as the first Black chair of the House Committee on Agriculture and the first Black chair of any Committee from Georgia. I celebrate the accomplishments the caucus has made over its 50 years, and I look forward to working with my fellow members toward greater achievements in the future. God Bless you and thank you.







C H A I R M A N

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Gregory Meeks



From Queens prosecutor to New York state legislator to now 13 terms in the House of Representatives, I've been a fierce advocate for greater equity and inclusion both at home and as part of our foreign policy.

I was born and raised in New York City public housing in East Harlem, to parents who worked hard making an honest

to address longstanding systemic issues related to retention and promotion at the mid and senior levels at the State Department.

As the world has grown smaller and more interconnected than ever, we've seen how vulnerable we are to threats that go beyond borders: global pandemics, supply chain disruptions, climate change, and

the record. As I've worked to continue the fight for racial equality at home, I have pushed for respect for minority and indigenous groups, whether they be Afro-Latinos in the Western Hemisphere or persecuted Muslim minority groups in Asia. I held the first full Committee hearing on LGBTQI+ rights globally, and have worked to address human rights abuses around the world.

## As the first African American chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I worked to successfully pass the first comprehensive authorizing bill for the State Department in nearly two decades, which was signed into law by President Biden.

GREGORY MEEKS

living to ensure that our family had the opportunities they were never afforded because of the color of their skin. I was determined to succeed academically so I could give back to communities like the one I grew up in and help ensure that people from those communities have every opportunity to succeed, or even become a public servant as I did.

As the first African American chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I worked to successfully pass the first comprehensive authorizing bill for the State Department in nearly two decades, which was signed into law by President Biden. It worked to further strengthen the management and operations of the State Department, including through the recruitment and retention of a diverse workforce. It addressed issues at the recruitment stage by authorizing a paid internship program, and funding and support for critical programs like the Thomas Pickering, Charles Rangel, and Donald Payne Fellowships, which have served as pipeline programs for historically excluded groups to enter the State Department. It also sought

international food shortages. I've worked to ensure that America is again working with our allies, while also forming new partnerships across parts of the world that have historically been overlooked by U.S. foreign policy. I've prioritized engaging with Central and South America and the Caribbean, some of our closest neighbors in our shared hemisphere. Shortly after taking the chairmanship, I held a hearing on Haiti, to learn from experts and civil society, and to shine a light on the multi-pronged crises faced by Haitians. I led the first Foreign Affairs Committee delegation to Sub Saharan Africa in nearly 10 years, comprised predominantly of CBC Members during Black History Month, and I have worked to reimagine our relationship with Africa.

In May 2021, I introduced the Ensuring American Global Leadership and Engagement (EAGLE) Act, which sought to redefine elements of U.S. engagement with China, including by expanding the State Department's presence in the region, giving protections to Hong Kong and Uyghur refugees, and encouraging a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Beijing Olympics. I am proud that the Committee voted favorably on the bill in July 2021, and key provisions were ultimately included in the CHIPS Act signed into law by President Biden in 2022.

America's greatest strength is its diversity, but also our values. In all of our engagements with foreign nations, I've fought to ensure that indigenous communities are given a voice so that their stories and experiences are part of

Just as the State Department can better serve our international interests when it looks more like the America it represents worldwide, so too are American businesses more successful when they have greater diversity. I introduced legislation – the Improving Corporate Governance through Diversity Act – that would require public companies to annually disclose the gender, race, ethnicity and veteran status of their board directors, nominees, and senior executive officers annually. I led the House passage of the “Ensuring Diversity in Community Banking Act” which preserves and promotes minority banks and credit unions, and supports community banks that serve low-income communities. I know that progress at home for all Americans strengthens our nation's standing globally. As much I have focused equality and access to opportunity around the world, I know that my focus at home on building economic security in communities of color by pursuing initiatives that bridge the racial wealth gap are the best examples we can show our international partners.

For 50 years, the Congressional Black Caucus has served as the impetus for advancing the African American community by developing leaders, informing policy, and educating the public. I stand alongside the CBC to create a society where communities of color have an equal voice in domestic public policy and foreign policy, and a world where all people, no matter their race, religion, or ideology, are respected.





# Our Agenda



The Congressional Black Caucus has fought for more than 50 years to empower the more than 82 million Americans, 25.3 percent of the total U.S. population, and more than 17 million African-Americans, 41 percent of the total U.S. African-American population we were elected to represent.

The CBC is working every day to uplift these concerns and hold both Congress and the Administration accountable. On the Hill, the CBC is hosting briefings, forums, and round tables to provide a platform for the issues most important in our communities. Off the Hill, the CBC is engaging people where they are by hosting events outside the beltway that address problems in our communities and bring resources that make them better places to live and work.

For more than 50 years, the Congressional Black Caucus has served as the Conscience of the Congress. Our mission has, and continues to be, steadfast and undeterred. We are firmly committed to exercising the full Constitutional power, statutory authority, and financial resources of the federal government to uplift and empower the African American community.

This is a more urgent task now more than ever. We've braved a global pandemic, a struggling economy, attacks on our democracy and one unprecedented crisis after another. But as we have for over 50 years, the CBC has remained dedicated to our mission -- fighting every single day to advance and empower Black families and Black communities.



# Voting Rights

by Congresswoman Terri Sewell



The United States of America was founded on the fundamental promise that as citizens, we should all have a say in the decisions that affect our lives. Since our nation's founding, generations of Americans have fought, bled, and died to make that promise a reality for all.

In 1965, John Lewis and the Foot Soldiers of the Civil Rights Movement led a march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama for the equal right of all Americans to vote. Their efforts culminated in the passage of the historic Voting Rights Act of 1965 - one of the most consequential Civil Rights laws of our time. Only six years later, the Congressional Black Caucus was formed and ever since, protecting the sacred right to vote has remained the North Star of the Caucus and its membership.

Today, our fight is far from over. Following the Supreme Court's disastrous 2013 decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, which struck down key provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, states across the nation have mounted a coordinated effort to restrict voting access and erect deliberate barriers to the ballot box. Driven by President Donald Trump's "Big Lie" of a stolen election, these anti-voter attacks accelerated following the 2020 presidential election.





Across the nation, state legislatures have resorted to implementing new administrative tactics to discourage voting including long lines, the limiting of early and absentee voting, the closure of polling stations without advanced notice, the purging of voter rolls, the limiting of non-English voting materials, and so on. While Black and minority voters no longer face literacy tests or poll taxes, these modern day barriers to voting are no less pernicious.

“The vote is precious, it is almost sacred. It is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have in a democratic society.”

CONGRESSMAN JOHN R. LEWIS

In the face of relentless voting restrictions, the Congressional Black Caucus has led the fight to safeguard access to the ballot box for all Americans. On August 17, 2021, following in the foot steps of the late John Lewis, Alabama Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell proudly stood at the foot of the Edmund Pettus Bridge in her hometown of Selma, Alabama to introduce H.R. 4, the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. This bill, named for the former Congressman and Civil Rights icon, would restore the full protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and prevent states and localities with a recent history of voter discrimination from restricting voting access.

H.R. 4 passed the House on August 24, 2021 and again in January 2022 but failed to come up for a vote in the Senate without the 60 votes needed to invoke cloture. Nevertheless, the Congressional Black Caucus has continued to call on the Senate to reform its rules and pass legislation to protect the franchise. Until every eligible American can exercise their most fundamental right freely and fairly, protecting the sacred right to vote will remain a top priority of the Congressional Black Caucus.





# The Economy

by Congresswoman Maxine Waters

As Chairwoman of the Financial Services Committee, one of my major goals has always been to help create an economy that works for everyone. As we've seen with the COVID-19 pandemic, and the resulting economic downturn, Black communities and communities of color bore the brunt of the economic consequences. I've done a lot of work to help, and here are just a few that I am incredibly proud of.

## **Supporting Minority Depository Institutions (MDIs) and Community Development Financial institutions (CDFIs):**

MDIs and CDFIs are lifelines to our communities that are far too often left behind by traditional financial institutions. For instance, we saw big banks prioritize delivering Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans to their wealthy clients instead of small and underserved small businesses. This put pressure on millions of small businesses, especially those owned by Black people and other people of color, pushing their hair salons, dry cleaners, and restaurants to the brink of permanent closure.

I responded by working with Small Business Committee Chairwoman Nydia Velazquez to secure \$60 billion in PPP funding for community financial institutions, including MDIs and CDFIs, to ensure relief quickly reached underserved small businesses, particularly those owned by people of color.

In addition, I worked across the aisle in the House and the Senate to include key provisions of my comprehensive bill, the "Promoting and Advancing Communities of Color Through Inclusive Lending Act," in the COVID-19 relief package passed into law in December 2020. Most of the \$12 billion in capital investments and grants have since been deployed to bolster many MDIs and CDFIs, allowing them to expand and provide more support to diverse and underserved communities.

That's not all, as Chairwoman of the Financial Services Committee, I've provided robust oversight of our nation's largest banks to ensure they are making good on all of their promises to promote racial equity, including by supporting MDIs and CDFIs, which is key to a thriving and more equitable economy.

We will keep fighting to ensure MDIs and CDFIs are supported so they can continue to do the work to make sure that all communities are receiving the economic opportunities they need and deserve.



## **Securing Emergency Housing Assistance for Families in Need:**

During the height of the ongoing pandemic, millions of renters and homeowners across the country lost their jobs and were at risk of losing their homes. Our country was on the verge of a massive wave of evictions and foreclosures, exacerbating our nation's already existing homelessness and affordable housing crises. The need to act was urgent.

In addition to eviction and foreclosure protections, I moved quickly to secure \$46.6 billion in emergency rental assistance and \$10 billion for the Homeowner Assistance Fund to ensure households could remain safely housed. This critical piece of funding helped communities across the country, but particularly communities of color who were most at risk of housing instability.



To further address our nation's homelessness crisis, I secured \$5 billion in the American Rescue Plan Act to provide 70,000 Emergency Housing Vouchers for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The first federal program of its kind, these flexible vouchers helped homeless service providers quickly house families and individuals experiencing homelessness during the pandemic.

We know that housing is key to fostering a robust economy. In fact, studies show that the emergency housing assistance I helped secure in the American Rescue Plan Act not only helped keep families safe and housed during the pandemic, but it also helped stymie a recession and strengthen local economies.

### **Reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank (EXIM):**

The EXIM Bank was established 85 years ago and is the official export credit agency of the United States. Its mission is to promote the export of U.S. goods and services in order to help create and sustain jobs in the U.S. Over the last ten years, the EXIM Bank has supported more than 1.5 million American jobs at no cost to the taxpayer, financed more than \$255 billion in U.S. exports, and remitted more than \$3.4 billion in deficit reducing receipts to the Treasury.

Not to mention, the Bank played a key role during our nation's financial crisis in helping small businesses – which are the engines of growth in our economy – stay afloat during those tumultuous times.

That's why when the Bank's authorization was set to expire, I passed critical legislation to reauthorize the Bank. This bill worked to ensure U.S. businesses, large and small, had financing support they needed to compete in the global markets while preserving and creating American jobs at home.

### **Codifying the Minority Business Development Agency:**

The Minority Business Development Agency is the only agency tasked with supporting the almost 9 million minority-led businesses owners to start, grow, and expand. While the agency existed since the late 1960's, it was not until 2021 that it became permanent through a key provision that I secured in partnership with Congressman Al Green, in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This piece of legislation is one of the most significant laws impacting the minority business community in the last 50 years. It assigned a presidentially appointed and Senate-confirmed Under Secretary and creates a grants program to support the next generation of minority entrepreneurs on the campuses of HBCUs and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) across the nation.

### **Supporting Diverse-Owned Small Businesses:**

In the American Rescue Plan passed into law in 2021, I successfully fought to renew the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) to provide additional support for small businesses to help them recover and grow in the aftermath of the pandemic. This program will support up to \$100 billion in new small business loans and investments, administered through various state, territory, and tribal programs with support and oversight by the Treasury Department. Additionally, this renewed version of SSBCI incentivizes jurisdictions to ensure this relief reaches Black-owned and other diverse-owned small businesses. Critically, this program also includes \$500 million in technical assistance that is being deployed through various channels, including the Minority Business Development Agency, to ensure underserved small businesses get the legal, accounting, and business planning advice they need to grow and expand as a business.





# CBC and Criminal Justice Reform

by Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee

More than two million people are currently incarcerated in the United States – a 500% increase over the last 40 years, fueled by a failed War on Drugs and the misguided reliance on mass incarceration, over-incarceration, and over-policing. Because disproportionate number of those incarcerated in America’s prisons and jails are people of color and the economically disadvantaged, mass incarceration has devastated communities of color leaving them less safe and untrusting of the criminal justice system, especially law enforcement. During the 117th Congress, the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security examined the key areas that continue to drive mass incarceration, ranging from pretrial detention and the trial penalty to existing laws and policies that promote excessive sentencing practices, which overwhelmingly impact communities of color, the Federal Bureau of Prisons’ (BOP) underutilization of its early release authorities, and the executive clemency process.



While the Subcommittee has been dedicated to addressing these issues for many years, the Subcommittee on Crime redoubled its efforts as COVID-19 was tearing through prisons and jails across the country and closing the doors of social programs meant to address the needs of individuals already on the fringes of society. The pandemic highlighted and exacerbated many of the inequities in our criminal justice system, such as pervasive racial, geographic, and socioeconomic disparities, and shined a light on the myriad challenges within the system. The Subcommittee saw fit to capture the opportunity to make well-informed and necessary changes through a range of legislation and proposed reforms to sentencing, focusing primarily on mandatory minimum sentences; the burdensome and sometimes coercive criminal pretrial process; court fines and fees that keep many people of color entrenched in poverty and tied to the criminal justice system for far too long; the increasingly punitive juvenile justice; and corrections, rehabilitation, and re-entry practices. Primarily through passage of **H.R. 1280, the “George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021,”** Subcommittee continued its efforts to examine the state of policing in America and find solutions to prevent racially tinged acts of violence by law enforcement, to hold accountable those officers who commit such acts, and to strengthen trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

The Subcommittee convened a multitude of scholars, subject-matter witnesses, impacted persons, and experienced professionals to examine, discuss, and delve deeply into various components within the criminal justice system in need of reform and to develop effective legislative solutions and policies to bring about tangible change. The hearings were as follows: **Controlled Substances: Federal Policies and Enforcement**, to examine federal policies concerning controlled substances and the enforcement of our drug laws; **From *Miranda* to *Gideon*: A Call for Pretrial Reform**, which examined the pretrial reform issues that have emerged in recent years, focusing on (1) the role coercive interrogation practices play in eliciting false confessions; (2) pretrial detention; (3) pretrial evidentiary burdens that federal and state practices place on defendants; and (4) proposed reform measures; **Juvenile Justice Pipeline and the Road Back to Integration**, which focused on issues that impact youth in the juvenile justice system, examined recent trends in law and policy and their impact on juvenile justice reform, and the prosecution, incarceration, and treatment of juveniles; **Undoing the Damage of the War on Drugs: A Renewed Call for Sentencing Reform**, which examined the rise of mass incarceration, explored the existing laws and policies fueling mass incarceration from pretrial detention, the trial penalty to mandatory minimum penalties, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) underutilization of its early release authorities, examined proposed sentencing reforms, and reviewed state-level reform efforts that might serve as a model for federal reform; **A Fine Scheme: How Court-Imposed Fees and Fines Unjustly Burden Vulnerable Communities**, which highlighted the U.S. Department of Justice’s (DOJ) investigation of Ferguson, Missouri that followed the shooting death of Michael Brown and brought the imposition of fines and fees in the justice system to the forefront and DOJ’s report, which concluded that the Ferguson Police Department, the Municipal Court’ and the City of Ferguson, depended on fines and fees to operate; **The First Step Act, The Pandemic, and Compassionate Release: What Are the Next Steps for the Federal Bureau of Prisons?** probed implementation of the First Step Act, the impact of COVID-19 on the Bureau of Prisons (BOP), BOP’s response to the pandemic, and the implementation of Compassionate Release within BOP; **Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Prisons**, which consisted of one witness, Michael Carvajal, then Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons to further probe BOP’s COVID-19 pandemic response, how the virus spread rapidly among both prisoners and staff and continued to grow at a rapid pace, and why BOP failed to use its Compassionate Release authority effectively to stem the spread of the virus; **Reimagining Public Safety in the COVID-19 Era** investigated the root causes of changes in the crime rate during the COVID-19 era, which coincided with a time of national upheaval sparked by the deaths of George Floyd and other people of color at the hands of law enforcement, following years of falling crime rates, and



the role of the Federal government in enhancing and developing strategies to ensure public safety for all communities; and **Oversight Hearing on Clemency and the Office of the Pardon Attorney**, which probed executive clemency, considered the alleged failings of the executive clemency process and reforms proposed by members of Congress, advocates, and scholars, and proposed uses of executive clemency to reform the criminal justice system and reduce mass incarceration.



With the various hearings serving as the foundation, an abundance of transformative legislation was introduced and considered by the Subcommittee, and, with substantial assistance from the Congressional Black Caucus, many of those bills passed the House.

**H.R. 1621, the “Prohibiting Punishment of Acquitted Conduct Act of 2021,”** is bipartisan legislation that would prohibit judges from increasing sentences based on conduct for which a jury found a defendant not guilty. The House considered the bill under a suspension of the rules and the bill passed by a roll call vote of 405 ayes and 12 nays. **H.R. 3617, the “Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement Act of 2021” or “MORE Act,”** would

decriminalize marijuana at the federal law while providing new funding to support communities and individuals most adversely impacted by the War on Drugs. The bill passed the House by a roll call vote of 220 ayes and 204 nays. **H.R. 1693, the “Eliminating a Quantifiably Unjust Application of the Law Act” or the “EQUAL Act of 2021,”** would eliminate the sentencing disparity between crack cocaine and powder cocaine offenses. The bill would apply to pending and past cases, allowing individuals who were convicted or sentenced for a federal offense involving crack cocaine to petition for a sentence reduction. On September 28, 2021, the House considered the bill under a suspension of the rules and the bill passed by a roll call vote of 361 ayes and 66 nays. **HR. 2694, the “Criminal Judicial Administration Act of 2021,”** would amend current law to give courts the discretion, in the interest of justice, to order the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) to furnish, when financially necessary, transportation and subsistence expenses (lodging and food) for released defendants to return home from court proceedings.

**H.R. 4035, “Real Justice for Our Veterans Act of 2021,”** would promote equity and inclusion in Veterans Treatment Courts (VTC) by recommending wider adoption of tools and data collection procedures that track disproportionate referrals and make recommendations to improve referrals for veterans of color. Additionally, the bill would authorize a pilot program to investigate promising therapeutic and treatment models that promote veterans and drug court program competition. The final element of this legislation would open up promising treatment options in drug courts to veterans who would otherwise qualify for a VTC referral, but for whom no such court exists in their jurisdiction. On October 27, 2021, the House considered the bill under a suspension of the rules and the bill passed, as amended, by voice vote. **H.R. 1924, the “Kenneth P. Thompson Begin Again Act,”** would expand eligibility for the expungement of records related to a first-time conviction for drug possession. The bill would remove the age cap on the expungement of a federal misdemeanor drug possession offense, expanding the availability of expungement to anyone who meets the remaining requirements of 18 U.S.C. § 3607. The bill was considered by the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be reported to the House as amended by a roll call vote of 28 ayes and 7 nays. **H.R. 5445, the “Terry Technical Correction Act,”** would clarify that the retroactivity provision of Section 404 of the First Step Act is available to all offenders who were sentenced for a crack cocaine offense before the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 became effective, including individuals convicted of the lowest level crack offenses. The bill was considered by the Committee on the Judiciary on September 21, 2022 and ordered reported to the House as amended by voice vote. **H.R. 2864, the “Clean Slate Act of 2021,”** is bipartisan legislation that would automatically seal the records of nonviolent federal drug offenses and create a process for individuals with other qualifying nonviolent federal drug offenses and create a process for individuals with other qualifying nonviolent federal criminal records to petition courts to have their federal records sealed-removing barriers to employment housing, education and other services that individuals need to be able to successfully rebuild their lives. The bill was considered by the Committee on the Judiciary on September 21, 2022 and ordered to be reported to the House, as amended, by a roll call vote of 20 ayes and 12 nays. **H.R. 5651, the “Fresh Start Act of 2021,”** is bipartisan legislation that would create a grant program for the states with existing eligible criminal record sealing or expungement laws to support implementation of automatic sealing or expungement processes. Eligible states must have an existing automatic sealing or expungement law on the books that does not delay sealing or expungement due to outstanding fines or fees. The bill was considered by the Committee on the Judiciary on September 21, 2022 and ordered to be reported to the House, as amended, by a roll call vote of 22 ayes and 13 nays. The Congressional Black Caucus also helped pass the **H.R. 1882, the “Violence Against Women Act”** and **H.R. 7566, the No Trafficking Zones Act-** two pieces of legislation that will help save many lives.



# Health Equity

by Congresswoman Robin L. Kelly



Racial disparities in American health care are nothing new. For decades, Black Americans have faced unique, systemic barriers to accessing quality care. Before the Civil Rights Movement, many hospitals were segregated, and Black Americans were subject to racist treatment by the medical system that ignored or exasperated their ailments.

The vestiges of this system are still acutely felt by Black communities across the country today. Black women are more than three times as likely to die in childbirth as their white counterparts and racial disparities in vaccine uptake persist due to lack of community investment. The novel coronavirus (SARS CoV-2, or COVID-19) health crisis underscored that while the nation has made significant gains in the fight against health inequities, there is even more work to be done in pursuit of a healthier and more equitable America.

The Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust has repeatedly advocated for policies that will correct these injustices and build trust between Black Americans and the medical system.

Founded by the late Congressman Louis Stokes during the latter half of the 1970s, the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Health Braintrust has long served as the premier health equity policy arm of the Congressional Black Caucus and a guide for Congress to ensure that policy makers remain dedicated to addressing health disparities and health inequities that particularly and uniquely impact the Black community. Dr. Stokes understood the significance of this commitment, as did his predecessor, former Delegate to the US Virgin Islands, Dr. Donna Christian-Christensen.

Representative Robin Kelly has carried on the legacy of these stalwart champions for health equity into the 21st century in her leadership of the CBC Health Braintrust since 2015.

It is unacceptable that one's zip code, race or ethnicity, bank balance, or access to the Internet often determines one's health. It is unacceptable that, even though pregnancy is a natural experience of birthing persons from all backgrounds, women who are Black, impoverished, and non-English speaking die from pregnancy or from pregnancy-associated complications at much higher rates than do women who are non-Black and native English speakers. Patients still lack culturally competent care in many settings. It is unacceptable that Black and Brown medical experts and healthcare professionals are missing from significant links across the healthcare chain. But it is by acknowledging these truths that the CBC Health Braintrust sets its healthcare priorities and strategies for addressing healthcare inequities this year.

During the 117th Congress, the CBC Health Braintrust worked diligently to eliminate racial health inequities by drawing attention to and investing in a host of policy priorities that meaningfully improve the lives of Black Americans.

The CBC Health Braintrust led the introduction of H.R. 7585, the Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA), a comprehensive and strategic legislative roadmap that aims to eliminate racial and ethnic health inequities. The HEAA is the only legislation that directly addresses the intersection of health inequities with race and ethnicity, as well as immigration status, age, disability, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, language, and socio-economic status. Since 2003, HEAA has been introduced by the Congressional Tri-Caucus, comprised of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC).

The CBC Health Braintrust takes a holistic approach to public health that does not only look at improving health outcomes through medical care. Public health crises can take many forms, and the epidemic of gun violence is a stark example of this fact. Each year, more than 30,000 Americans die from gun violence. Black Americans account for over half of gun murder victims and are twice as likely to die from gun violence than white Americans. Some studies suggest that repeated exposure to shootings is akin to the trauma suffered by soldiers in war zones. The CBC Health Braintrust continues to advocate for more studies about the impact of gun violence on communities, especially marginalized communities, in order to target increased investment in prevention measures most effectively.



It is also vital to improve the economic infrastructure that often controls access to lifesaving care. Congresswoman Kelly has been a leader in the fight to eliminate gaps in health care coverage, particularly for people who receive their coverage through Medicaid and Medicare. The Congresswoman has also advocated for greater economic investments in historically marginalized communities to improve and sustain quality of life. The CBC Health Braintrust also remains dedicated to reducing stigma and to reimagining policy solutions toward reducing stigma and expanding access to high quality mental health services within Black communities. Increasing diversity in both the medical profession and clinical trials was also a top priority to build trust with the medical system among Black patients. This initiative also aimed to increase vaccine uptake among Black patients who are skeptical that the healthcare system has their best interest in mind.

After a CDC study showed that more than 80% of maternal mortality deaths are preventable, Congresswoman Robin Kelly led a coalition of 25 CBC members calling for extended Medicaid coverage for postpartum care in the 2022 year-end funding bill. At present, people who give birth receive only 60 days of postpartum Medicaid coverage, giving very little time to recover from pregnancy and any complications or healthcare needs after giving birth. That’s why it is so important that this period be extended to a year of postpartum Medicaid coverage, and that every state is mandated to grant this extension.

In the wake of the Dobbs decision, it is clear that the crisis in maternal care cannot go unaddressed any longer. As more women and girls are forced to give birth, especially Black women who disproportionately lack access to quality reproductive care, Congress must do everything in its power to prevent more mothers from dying.

The CBC Health Braintrust will continue to fight for the communities that suffer most from the lack of adequate healthcare. Black communities are still facing disproportionate rates of mortality that could be prevented by increased investments in care infrastructure. The CBC Health Braintrust has made strides in building and sustaining this infrastructure, but there is still much more to be done. For America to achieve true health equity, lawmakers, community leaders, and industry stakeholders must come together to reduce disparities and improve health outcomes nationwide.





# Foreign Policy

by Congressman Gregory W. Meeks



The power of the United States lies in its story and the strength of its example – a nation established on the principle that every man is born with inalienable rights and inspired by a drive for autonomy, democracy, and the pursuit of liberty.

However, our nation, in the over two hundred years since the establishment of the United States, has had to face the great hypocrisy of our founding. It took over one hundred years to extend those inalienable rights to women, and nearly one hundred years between the abolition of slavery and the passage of the Civil Rights Act.

When the United States criticizes autocrats for bringing the blunt force of repression to hold onto power, for disenfranchising indigenous groups from the systems of power, for attacks on human rights and freedom of the press, those in power point to that hypocrisy. They question the American example when our own domestic politics are still mired in institutional racism, in political disenfranchisement, and in autocratic efforts to undermine the rule of law.

But that is the strength of the United States – that despite those real and present dangers, we acknowledge our shortcomings and work to build a more perfect union. Under the Biden Administration and through the support of the Democratic Congress, America has made clear that we are not only back at the table on the world stage, but we are once again leading the fight for democracy and human rights, uniting coalitions—both new and old—to uphold the international rules-based system and democratic values.

During the 117th Congress, we have not only led on the values we champion, but also refocused U.S. foreign policy on regions historically overlooked or treated through the prism of U.S. interests alone. Relations with Africa, the Caribbean, and South and Central America, including through their diasporas, have become a top priority for the United States. These often-overlooked regions are ripe with opportunities for the United States to catalyze change, establish peace and security, and develop strong economic and investment opportunities.

As we engage in different parts of the world, we must also engage in different ways. For example, in the Biden Administration’s August 2022 Strategy on Sub-Saharan Africa, we are reframing the conversation from “helping” developing regions to working with them as equal partners to invest, grow, and stabilize. The Strategy seeks to bolster programs such as Prosper Africa and Power Africa to strengthen access to traditional and emerging markets. In the Caribbean, PAC 2030 and other initiatives will foster cooperation on climate resilience, investment, and restructuring of finance tools.

As we seek to tackle global challenges, we must realize that America’s interests are best served—and our national security strengthened—when diplomacy is at the forefront. Under the 117th Congress, the House Foreign Affairs Committee—Chaired by Congressman Gregory W. Meeks, the first African American Chair in the Committee’s history—succeeded in passing the first comprehensive State Department reauthorization bill in nearly two decades, providing our diplomatic and development professionals the tools they need to remain the world’s premier foreign affairs agency.



Within that reauthorization, the Committee succeeded in including provisions that would address the historical lack of diversity in the agency, including at the mid and senior levels. Data from September 2022 shows that African Americans make up only 4.5% and Hispanics only 6.8% of the the State Department’s senior ranks.

Building upon the significant progress critical State Department-pipeline programs Congress has authorized, like the Thomas Pickering, Charles Rangel, and Donald Payne Fellowships, the State bill authorized a paid internship program, which will make the possibility of a foreign affairs career more accessible to a greater pool of Americans. It is critical to our national security to ensure that our State Department reflects the America it represents.

The provisions in the State reauthorization would not only help ensure greater recruitment of diverse candidates at the entry-level but greater recruitment and retention of diverse candidates at mid-and-senior levels across the department.

Overcoming the threats we face as a nation in a global community that is smaller and more interconnected than ever before will require a strong diplomatic effort. As COVID-19 has shown, the United States’ greatest challenges are global in nature and know no borders. An outbreak halfway across the world poses an immediate danger to global health and economic stability everywhere. Addressing climate change will require global cooperation to reign in carbon emissions and promote climate resilience, particularly for developing nations on the frontlines of climate change’s disastrous effects. The United States, under the Biden Administration, has worked to galvanize that global response and led by example through passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, the most significant investment in green energy in this nation’s history.

A global coalition to preserve our planet is not only being built with our allies, but even our competitors, who we must work with to address shared challenges. We must work with China—the leading source of CO2 emissions—to address climate change, but we must also continue to address the human rights atrocities committed in Xinjiang. We must work with Russia to address climate change, but we have and will continue to rally the world against Russia’s war of choice on Ukraine, its atrocities committed on the Ukrainian people, and the global food insecurity crisis it has exacerbated.

Just as the late, great John Lewis was called the “conscience of Congress”, so too will the Congressional Black Caucus work to uphold his memory and continue serving as that conscience, understanding that, as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”





# Science and Technology

by Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson

The United States has always been the pinnacle of cutting-edge science and technology to the world. From our premiere national labs spread across the country and the collaborative nature of our research universities, to our scientific agencies working to advance science and protect the public every day.

It is a testament of the American spirit that we can achieve the goals we set for our nation in science, technology, and innovation. We were the first to put humans on the Moon. Just last year, we launched the James Webb Space Telescope which is changing the way we understand the universe as we witness the birth and death of stars. We are supporting innovations to fight the climate crisis, create a clean energy future, enhance the health of Americans, and so much more.



Our thirst for advancing what we know about the world around us knows no boundaries. Research takes place in space aboard the International Space Station as we work with fifteen other nations and inspire the masses daily with regular downlinks to students across the nation. Our work in the Arctic will help us to understand its warming, support Arctic communities, and cultivate our international collaboration there. Cross-agency satellites from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) observe the earth from space sending important data to scientists and researchers on the ground to map weather and climate patterns, keeping Americans safe and informed. Efforts to preserve and protect our ocean, coasts, and blue economy by addressing ocean acidification and ocean plastics are ongoing with support from Congress.

With science at the forefront, we are working to build a bright future for Americans everywhere. We are addressing the many great challenges we face, from the climate crisis to building diversity in STEM. And we do it all while working to advance representation, equity, inclusion, safety, and equality for all.

As Chairwoman of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, I have been committed to increasing opportunities for all in STEM. We simply cannot lead if we do not tap into all the talent our nation has to offer. Everyone deserves a chance to pursue STEM—no matter their race, background, gender, or zip-code. And we must do all we can to foster and support a STEM workforce that represents the rich diversity of our nation, and create safe workplaces for STEM professionals. If we don't continue to work to advance our efforts in this space, we cannot be competitive, and we will not succeed. This has been a major priority of mine for my entire career, and I hope for the progress we have made to remain my legacy for years to come.

We are a nation of many firsts, especially when it comes to science and technology. We will be the first to land a woman and person of color on the Moon with the Artemis mission. Americans invented the airplane, the internet, and lasers. We were the first to manufacture the semiconductor chip, and after years of its production moving overseas, we're bringing chip manufacturing back to the United States. In fact, we're bringing the manufacturing of many goods back to the U.S. and this is thanks to the recently enacted CHIPS and Science Act.

The CHIPS and Science Act became law in August of 2022 and is a once in a generation effort that will shape the future of American science and technology for decades to come. It was built upon rigorous input from the scientific community, academia, and stakeholders on what they need most to succeed in the 21st century.

The Science part of CHIPS and Science Act is the culmination of many years of bipartisan work by the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. Some of those provisions go back a decade or more. With this law, we are ushering in a new era for our world-class scientific agencies with funding for NIST, NSF, DOE, and NASA.

The CHIPS and Science Act will create many well-paying and high-skill jobs at all levels across the country. It invests hundreds of millions of dollars specifically for chips workforce development, with specific priority given to partnerships with HBCUs. This law requires the creation of an MSI liaison at every research agency, it creates a Chief Diversity Officer at NSF, it requires better data collection on the career trajectory of Black and Brown scientists and the systemic barriers they face, it creates a program to support Black and Brown STEM faculty, and it includes an initiative at NSF now known as the "Eddie Bernice Johnson INCLUDES Initiative." The INCLUDES Initiative charges the NSF Director to make awards to facilitate the development of networks and to build and scale effective practices in broadening participation in STEM studies and careers





of groups historically underrepresented in such studies and careers.

With this law, we are supporting researchers, engineers, students, and technicians and their work here in the U.S. We're working to ensure technologies can make it to market and make an impact. We're uniting the middle of America with its coasts and everything in between to boost innovation. We are building the workforce of tomorrow with historic action to support diversity in STEM careers.

Science and technology can make a difference, we have seen it, and we have lived it. As Members of the Congressional Black Caucus, we are here to make sure that the benefits of good policy can be enjoyed by each and every American. I am confident that we have done that, especially in science.

I have had the pleasure of being the Democratic leader of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology for twelve years. Just recently, we celebrated the unveiling of my portrait on the wall of the Committee's room, the first portrait of a woman and the first portrait of a person of color. It's an incredible honor to know that my portrait will now be displayed on these walls for years to come. I hope that all who come across it receive its triumphant message that everyone has a place in leadership and science.

We have made great strides over the last year, and we have opened the door to a revitalized and stronger American innovation enterprise. The future of American science and technology is bright, and we're making sure everyone can be a part of it.



# Appropriations

by Congresswoman Barbara Lee



As one of five Congressional Black Caucus Members (chairman Sanford Bishop, Chair of the Appropriations committee on Agriculture, Georgia; Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, New Jersey; Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence, Vice Chair, Michigan; and Congresswoman Lauren Underwood, Illinois) out of 59 Members of Congress serving on the House Appropriations Committee (our official title is "appropriators ") we are responsible for recommending spending levels and prioritizing federal dollars based on our constituents needs, and our domestic and international federal agencies and departments. Our full committee Chair is Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro (Connecticut) There are 12 subcommittees with the responsibility to fund federal agencies, departments, community projects, operations, and many more activities of the federal government.

As the first African American Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations and a member of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Agriculture Subcommittees, I made the priorities of CBC members representing diverse constituencies a significant part of my work. Black communities, communities of color, and low-income communities deserve a fair share of federal

dollars to create jobs, provide services, and to empower nonprofits and public institutions to repair the damage and injustices of the past and to build communities based on justice, fairness, and equality of opportunities which have been neglected due to systemic and structural racism. I also serve on the House Budget Committee, which provides the framework for our funding priorities which I fight to ensure are consistent with CBC priorities.



The Appropriations Subcommittee on the State Department and Foreign Operations funds foreign assistance, our development and diplomacy efforts throughout the world, humanitarian and food security investments, USAID, the State Department, and other agencies devoted to US engagement with the world. As Chair of this Subcommittee, I have reshaped many of the committee's priorities to align with those of the Congressional Black Caucus. This includes investing more resources and a higher priority on our Caribbean neighbors and countries on the African continent. I work closely with the dynamic Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Chairman Gregory Meeks (New York), to ensure that we are aligned in our authorizing and appropriations strategies. This historic alignment cannot be overlooked because this is the first time in American History that two African Americans chair committees that are responsible for global peace and security and foreign policy.

The Congressional Black caucus recognizes the need to provide increased investments in Historically Black Colleges and Universities and predominately Black institutions. I am pleased that our subcommittee has increased funding by 7%. As a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human Services, I championed significant increases for TRIO, Head Start, and the Office of Minority Health among the many priorities of the Congressional Black Caucus. We also increased funding for school-based health centers by 83%.

Additionally, during the height of the COVID pandemic Black, brown and indigenous people were disproportionately dying and impacted by this devastating pandemic. The lack of health care, as well as the historically racist medical practices, such as the Tuskegee experiments, have led to hesitancy in the Black community regarding public health strategies.

Recognizing COVID as a CBC priority, I championed the Community Care Act, designed to invest in "trusted messengers" by training and hiring community members as healthcare messengers and advocates. This led to the inclusion of a \$250 million investment in the American Rescue Plan to develop and support a community-based workforce and funding for community health centers in medically underserved communities.

The CBC has historically fought to close health disparities in the Black community, and I am proud that I was able to help increase funding for the national institute of health, specifically the National Institute of minority health and health disparities. Also, increasing funding for research, cures and treatments that specifically impact African Americans disproportionately, such as diabetes, kidney disease, sickle cell anemia, lupus, and many more, as a priority of the Congressional Black Caucus, has been another priority that I have fought for in our appropriations process.

The right to vote is central to our democracy. The CBC has supported increases to our Election Assistance Commission and for the highest level of funding for the Help America Vote Act, and the election security and local jurisdictions funding.

As a member of the Subcommittee on Agriculture, chaired by our effective CBC Member, Chairman Sanford Bishop (Georgia), we increased SNAP and food and nutrition Programs by 18 percent and child nutrition programs by almost 7 percent. We also secured a historic investment in the Healthy Food Financing Initiative via the American Rescue Plan.

The housing crisis has impacted Black and brown communities disproportionately as we continue to combat immoral policies that have led to thousands of people being left unsheltered and unsafe. We increased tenant-based rental assistance by 6 percent and section 8 renewals by 4 percent. We increased investments in the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, the Fair Housing Initiative Program, and the public housing capital formula grant program.

I was pleased that we won significant increases in our environmental justice programs, our national Underground Railroad Network to Freedom initiative, our Urban and Community Forestry for urban and community forestry to help improve air quality, reduced energy demands and capture greenhouse gas emissions, our minority business development agency and for the first step recidivism reduction program. I am proud that we increased grant funding to assist small and disadvantaged communities to meet the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements. Black and brown, low-income, and poor communities are paying a huge price because of the climate crises and environmental degradation, and racism, and I am determined to continue to fight on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus for increased funding to turn this around.



It is an honor to use my position on the Appropriations and Budget committees to not only be an advocate for my wonderful constituents of the 13th Congressional district but also for the bold, visionary, brilliant champions of the Congressional Black Caucus, who came to Congress to fight for justice for all. Through the federal budget, we are reshaping the funding priorities of our country through the lens of equity, repairing the damage, and moving forward toward a more perfect union.



# Historically Black Colleges and Universities

by Congresswoman Alma Adams

W.E.B. DuBois famously told us that, “Of all the civil rights for which the world has struggled and fought for 5,000 years, the right to learn is undoubtedly the most fundamental.” The right to learn is our most fundamental civil right. But for those Americans who look like us— those whose ancestors were brought here in 1619, or those whose roots run deep in the black soil of the Black Belt— our right to education has been systemically denied and abridged.

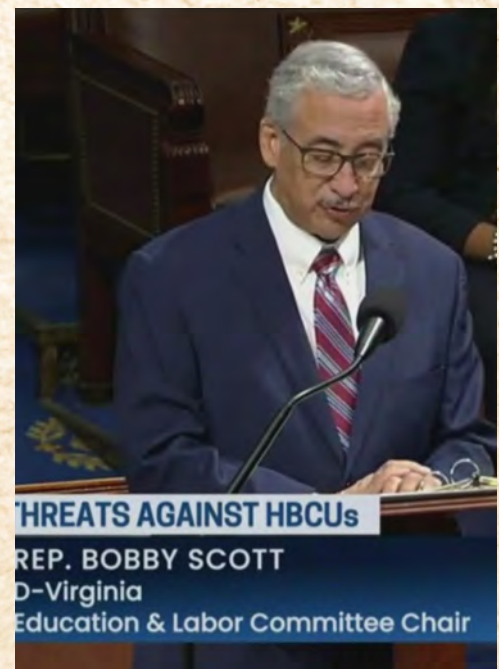
Since their inception, our Historically Black Colleges and Universities, HBCUs, have provided quality education to Black students looking to better themselves when, for so long, no one else would give them that opportunity. If there was ever an American story of a group of people that has consistently overcome, it was us in 1837, when Cheyney University was founded; it was us in 1890 when the Second Morrill Land Grant Act established public HBCUs across our Nation; it was us in 1965 when the term ‘HBCU’ was codified in the Higher Education Act as part of President Johnson’s Great Society legislation; and it was us in 2021 when we celebrated the first Black woman— and first HBCU graduate— to assume the office of Vice President of the United States of America.

While HBCUs comprise just 3% of all colleges and universities in our Nation, our schools have produced 40% of African American members of Congress, 40% of black engineers, and 50% of Black lawyers. Despite these truths, HBCUs have been systemically overlooked, underfunded, and left out of America’s national education discourse. In Congress, nothing happens without the bipartisan, bicameral consensus. That’s why CBC Member, Congresswoman Alma S. Adams, Ph.D. founded the Bipartisan HBCU Caucus, which brings together Representatives and Senators, Democrats and Republicans alike to craft legislation that will uplift HBCUs. In 2019, the HBCU Caucus, with the endorsement of the Congressional Black Caucus, secured the enactment of the FUTURE Act— \$255 million in annual funding for HBCUs and MSI. Through the advocacy of the CBC, we also secured millions of dollars in the annual defense funding package for HBCU research infrastructure.

The first Black woman elected to Congress— Shirley Chisholm— told us that if you don’t have a seat at the table, bring a folding chair. The Congressional Black Caucus and our Chairwoman, Joyce Beatty of Ohio, have done that and so much more— we’ve shifted the national dialogue and have made the work we do now possible. For example, Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee secured \$1.2 billion in research and development infrastructure funding for our HBCUs in the CHIPS and Science Act that President Biden just recently signed into law. And Chair Bobby Scott of the Education Committee secured billions and billions of dollars in HEERF— Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund— for our HBCUs, which is one of the largest appropriations for our schools in history. Men and women like Chair Beatty, Chair Eddie Bernice Johnson, and Chair Scott truly embody the character of the CBC, the ‘Conscience of the Congress.’

Now the CBC, is working in tandem with the HBCU Caucus to spearhead bipartisan, bicameral legislation that will fulfill President Biden’s promise to create a new program to improve the infrastructure on HBCU and MSI campuses. We call it the IGNITE Act— because we know it’s going to be the spark that sets our next generation of HBCU achievements ablaze.

At its core, the dedicated work of CBC members has directed the public discourse to our beloved HBCUs and their talented students. And we’ll look forward to continuing to lift these voices for decades to come.

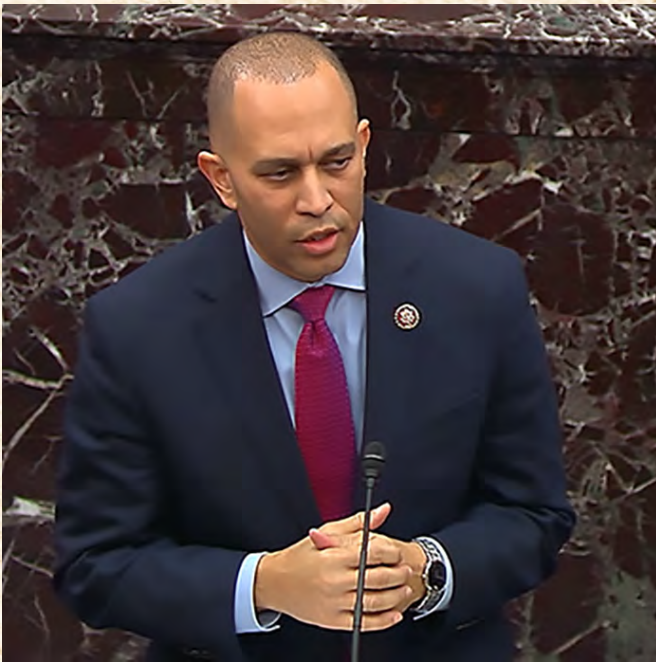




# Defending Our Democracy

*Impeachment and January 6, 2021*





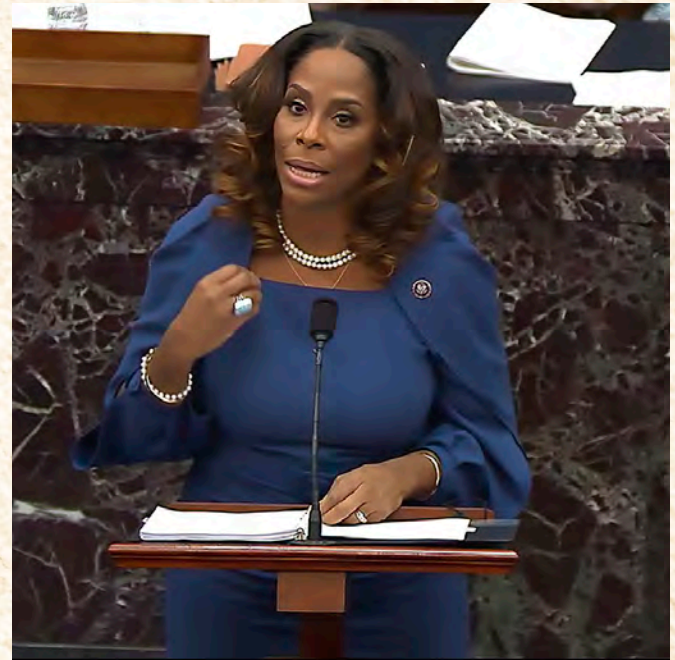
*Congressman Hakeem Jeffries*



*Congresswoman Val Demings*



*Congressman Joe Neguse*



*Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett*

# CBC Members as House Impeachment Managers



## **January 6, 2021**

We watched in horror as armed insurrectionists laid siege to the seat of our democracy. We feared for our lives and the lives of our staff. We bunkered down and sent prayers up – despite this, the former President refused to call off his sea of sycophantic supporters hoping to dismantle democracy as we know it. That infamous day is a painful stain that will resonate for years to come.

January 6, 2021, is just one of the reasons why it is paramount we remain committed to ensuring voting rights are a priority. Passing the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act will fortify our democratic process, combat barriers to the ballot box, and targeted gerrymandering of our districts. We are proud of our members who took the charge and worked as Impeachment Managers to bring those involved at the highest levels to justice.

## **Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack**

The Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack, Chaired by Congressman Bennie G. Thompson has worked diligently to reveal the truth about the insurrection and the American people will see the mob's action as nothing more or less than an attempt to overturn a free and fair election.



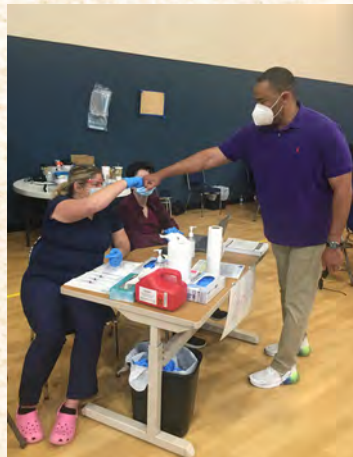




# COVID-19 Pandemic



# Get Out The Vaccination (GOTV)





# COVID Report

by Congressman James Clyburn

## **Key Accomplishments of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, Chaired by Majority Whip James E. Clyburn,**

During the 117th Congress, the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, under the leadership of Chairman James E. Clyburn, has held more than 25 hearings and formal briefings, conducted 25 transcribed interviews, received and reviewed hundreds of thousands of pages of documents, and released 15 staff reports, with more planned before the end of this Congress. Significant findings from the Select Subcommittee's investigations include the following:

### **The Trump Administration Political Interference in the Pandemic Response**

For more than two years, the Select Subcommittee investigated the Trump Administration's political interference in the public health response during the crucial early months of the coronavirus pandemic, finding that the Trump Administration compromised the scientific integrity of the nation's leading public health agencies in an attempt to serve the former President's political goals. The Select Subcommittee documented its findings in a series of reports released in 2022:

On June 21, 2022, the Select Subcommittee released a report detailing the Trump Administration's embrace of a strategy that called for increasing the spread of coronavirus among the public before coronavirus vaccines were available.

On August 24, 2022, a second report revealed new evidence of the of the Trump Administration's efforts to influence the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) scientific decision-making on the coronavirus, including efforts to pressure officials to authorize dangerous and discredited coronavirus treatments. The report included findings from an interview with the former FDA Commissioner, who confirmed that he faced pressure from White House officials during the first year of the pandemic.

On October 17, 2022, a third report detailed how the Trump Administration interfered with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) coronavirus response, including that senior officials in the Trump Administration blocked CDC from telling Americans the truth about the virus, directed CDC to make changes to its coronavirus guidance that did not advance public health interests, and used CDC's public health authorities for political purposes.

### **Effectiveness and Efficiency of Federal Lending Programs During Economic Crisis**

The Select Subcommittee conducted several investigations into federal lending programs designed to respond to the economic crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic:

The Select Subcommittee continued an investigation opened during the 116th Congress into the Trump Administration's handling of the COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program. A June 2022 staff report detailed the Trump Administration's failure to implement basic fraud controls in the EIDL program, leading to avoidable losses, and its decision to rely on a small contractor, RER, that received a windfall \$750 million contract while doing little of its own work.

In June 2021, the Select Subcommittee initiated an investigation into the Trump Administration's implementation of the CARES Act national security loan program, in which 95% of funds disbursed went to a single trucking company. The program was authorized by the CARES Act and was intended to provide "liquidity" to companies that were "critical to maintaining national security" related to "losses incurred as a result of the coronavirus" crisis. In April 2022, the Select Subcommittee released findings from its investigation showing that Trump Administration political appointees, with the apparent involvement of the Trump White House, certified that the company was eligible for a national security loan despite the assessment of career DOD officials that the company should not be certified as eligible for a national security loan. The Select Subcommittee further found that the Trump Administration made the loans on terms that violated the CARES Act requirements.

### **Investigations Related to the Manufacturing and Distribution of Coronavirus Vaccines**

The Select Subcommittee conducted several investigations related to the development and distribution of coronavirus vaccines:

On April 19, 2021, the Select Subcommittee launched an investigation into a single company's receipt of more than \$600 million dollars in federal contracts to manufacture coronavirus vaccines following reports contamination and problems with quality control. Preliminary findings released in a May 2021 staff report detailed how the company failed to remediate serious deficiencies in its performance, resulting in the destruction of millions of coronavirus vaccines. A second staff report released in May 2022 revealed that senior executives had promoted the company's capabilities despite being warned of and privately acknowledging severe deficiencies and that employees attempted to hide evidence of vaccine contamination from FDA inspectors. Evidence released on August 11, 2022, revealed that over 525 million coronavirus vaccine doses were ultimately wasted due to the company failure to meet or maintain quality standards.

In March 2020, the Select Subcommittee opened an investigation into a health care company's administration of coronavirus vaccinations. Findings released on December 21, 2021, showed how the company used its access to coronavirus vaccines to their personal or business advantage, including prioritizing vaccinations for friends and family of company executives and concierge clients who did not otherwise qualify under then-existing guidelines.

The Select Subcommittee also investigated reports that the Florida Governor failed to pre-order coronavirus vaccines for children under five. Findings released in June 2022 showed that Florida intentionally failed to pre-order these vaccines and blocked health care providers from placing orders for them.



### **The Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Nursing Home Residents and Workers**

The Select Subcommittee continued an investigation that began in the 116th Congress into the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on nursing home residents and staff. Findings released on September 20, 2022 illustrated how nursing home residents in for-profit nursing homes suffered devastating instances of neglect early in the pandemic, and that complex corporate structures allow for-profit nursing homes to evade oversight and accountability while providing nursing home workers with low pay and few benefits.



### **Efforts by Corporations and Trump Administration Officials to Hinder Coronavirus Protections for Meatpacking Workers**

In February 2021, the Select Subcommittee initiated an investigation of the conditions faced by meatpacking workers during the coronavirus crisis and the Trump Administration's response to coronavirus infection risks in meatpacking facilities. The investigation followed reports that meatpacking workers were particularly vulnerable during the crisis as meatpacking plants had dozens of significant coronavirus outbreaks early in the pandemic. An October 2021 staff report showed that the numbers of coronavirus infections and deaths of meatpacking workers during the crisis were significantly higher than previously reported. Another staff report released in May 2021 detailed findings that the meatpacking industry was aware of the undue coronavirus risks and that the industry coordinated with Trump Administration political appointees to keep workers on the job without adequate protection.

### **The Trump Administration's Handling of the Farmers to Families Food Box Program**

The Select Subcommittee continued its investigation into the Farmers to Families Food Box program (Food Box), which began during the 116th Congress. An October 2021 staff report detailed findings showing that, in 2020, the USDA awarded contracts to carry out the Food Box program worth tens of millions of dollars to unqualified companies that appeared to lack the capacity to adequately distribute food. USDA also failed to adequately monitor contract performance to detect possible fraud. The report also found that USDA allowed the unqualified contractors to profit excessively, and that Trump Administration officials manipulated the program for political advantage by requiring vendors to include a signed letter from the President in distributed boxes and connecting it to the Republican National Convention.

### **Private Landlords' Cooperation with Federal Rental Assistance Programs**

The Select Subcommittee worked to ensure that federal efforts to keep people in their homes during the crisis were successful and that pandemic protections were not violated. In July 2021, the Select Subcommittee launched an investigation of four large, corporate landlords that had reportedly filed to evict tenants at high rates during the pandemic, despite the CDC eviction moratorium and Congress's appropriation of tens of billions of dollars in emergency rental assistance. A July 2022 staff report revealed that the four corporate landlords had filed nearly three times as many evictions during the first three months of the pandemic than was previously known. The investigation further found that the companies had policies or practices of filing to evict tenants with pending rental assistance applications, and that two companies used very low thresholds of rent owed before filing pandemic eviction actions. The investigation also found that one company had downplayed the impact of its eviction filings to its major government-backed creditor, and that another had used harassment tactics and deception to try to force tenants from their homes.

### **Investigation into Workforce Inequities Among Major Corporations**

In December 2021, the Select Subcommittee initiated an investigation of the pandemic's impact on the American workforce by obtaining data from 12 major corporations that had reportedly laid off at least 1,000 workers during the crisis. An October 2022 staff report detailed a number of inequities, including that hourly employees were fired or quit more than salaried workers, and these inequities were compounded by racial, ethnic and gender inequities; workers without access to paid sick leave quit more than workers with paid sick leave; workers that had access to and used family and caregiving leave had better employment outcomes than workers that did not, and older workers were laid off more than younger workers. The Select Subcommittee also found that most companies were not collecting comprehensive data on their workers' benefits, sexual orientation, or gender identity.





# The U.S. Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys



**The goal of the Commission was to “interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline” and to improve the public’s understanding of those things which make it “extraordinarily difficult for black males to become upwardly mobile.**

*by Congresswoman Frederica S. Wilson*

The 2020 Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys Act (S.2163) established the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys (CSSBMB) within the United States Commission on Civil Rights’ (USCCR) Office of the Staff Director and is tasked with recommending policies to improve upon, or augment, current government programs. Introduced in the House by Congresswoman Frederica S. Wilson (D-FL), and led by Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) in the Senate, the bill was unanimously passed on June 25.

The CSSBMB will investigate potential civil rights violations affecting black males and study the disparities they experience in education, criminal justice, health, employment, fatherhood, mentorship, and violence. The CSSBMB will be responsible for producing an annual report to address the current conditions affecting black men and boys and make recommendations to improve the social conditions and provide vital guidance for Congress on effective strategies to reduce the racial disparities in education, criminal justice, health, and employment.

The bipartisan, 19-member Commission will include congressional lawmakers, executive branch appointees, issue experts, activists, and other stakeholders who will examine social disparities affecting black men and boys in America. Based on its findings, the commission will issue policy recommendations to Congress, the White House, and federal agencies. The bipartisan, bicameral Caucus on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, which Congresswoman Wilson founded and co-chairs, will craft legislation to implement those recommendations.

The goal of the Commission was to “interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline” and to improve the public’s understanding of those things which make it “extraordinarily difficult for black males to become upwardly mobile,” the congresswoman said. According to the press release issued by Rubio’s office, the commission will prepare an annual report which will be made available on a website provided by the federal government.



# Our Congressional Black Caucus Members

*“The Conscience of the Congress”*





**Eleanor Holmes Norton**

District of Columbia  
*Serving since 1991*



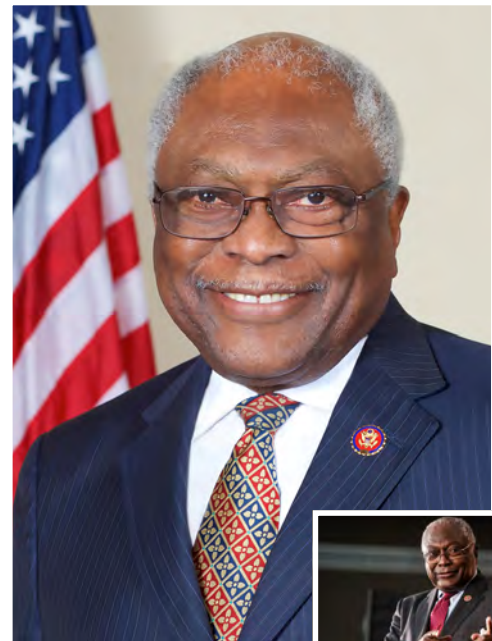
**Maxine Waters**

California - 43  
*Serving since 1991*



**Sanford Bishop**

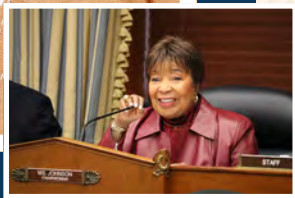
Georgia - 02  
*Serving since 1993*



**James Clyburn**

South Carolina - 06  
*Serving since 1993*





**Eddie Bernice Johnson**

Texas - 30  
*Serving since 1993*



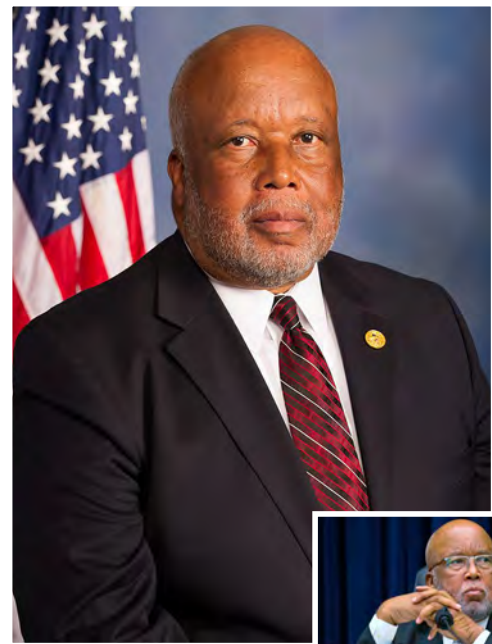
**Bobby Rush**

Illinois - 01  
*Serving since 1993*



**Robert "Bobby" Scott**

Virginia - 03  
*Serving since 1993*



**Bennie Thompson**

Mississippi - 02  
*Serving since 1993*





**Sheila Jackson Lee**

Texas - 18  
*Serving since 1995*



**Danny Davis**

Illinois - 07  
*Serving since 1997*



**Gregory Meeks**

New York - 05  
*Serving since 1998*



**Barbara Lee**

California - 13  
*Serving since 1998*





**David Scott**

Georgia - 13  
*Serving since 2003*



**G.K. Butterfield**

North Carolina - 01  
*Serving since 2004*



**Emanuel Cleaver**

Missouri - 05  
*Serving since 2005*



**Al Green**

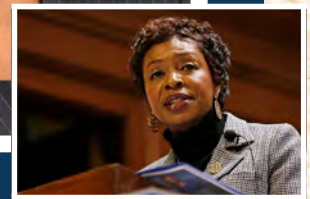
Texas - 09  
*Serving since 2005*





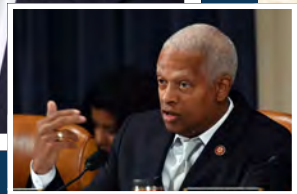
**Gwen Moore**

Wisconsin - 04  
*Serving since 2005*



**Yvette Clarke**

North York - 09  
*Serving since 2007*



**Hank Johnson**

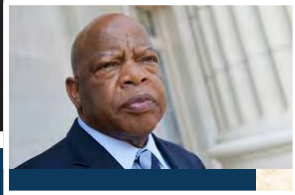
Georgia - 04  
*Serving since 2007*



**Kweisi Mfume**

Maryland - 07  
*Serving since 1987- 96 & 2020*





**Andre Carson**

Indiana - 07  
*Serving since 2007*



**Karen Bass**

California - 37  
*Serving since 2011*



**Terri Sewell**

Alabama - 07  
*Serving since 2011*



**Frederica Wilson**

Florida - 24  
*Serving since 2011*





**Donald Payne, Jr.**

New Jersey - 10  
*Serving since 2012*



**Joyce Beatty**

Ohio - 03  
*Serving since 2013*



**Hakeem Jeffries**

New York - 08  
*Serving since 2013*



**Marc Veasey**

Texas - 33  
*Serving since 2013*





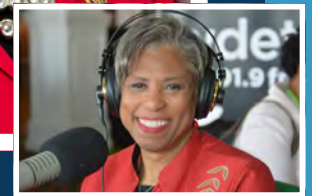
**Robin Kelly**  
Illinois - 02  
*Serving since 2013*



**Cory Booker**  
New Jersey  
*Serving since 2013*



**Alma Adams**  
North Carolina - 12  
*Serving since 2014*

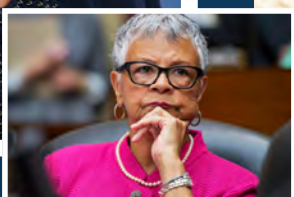


**Brenda Lawrence**  
Michigan - 14  
*Serving since 2015*

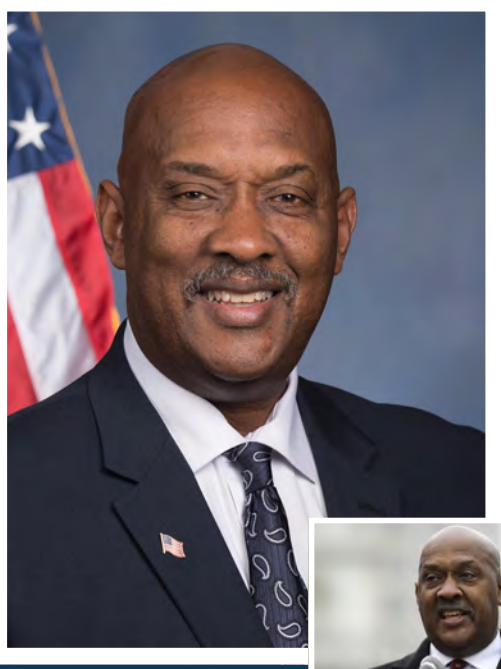




**Stacey Plaskett**  
Virgin Islands  
*Serving since 2015*



**Bonnie Watson Coleman**  
New Jersey - 12  
*Serving since 2015*



**Dwight Evans**  
Pennsylvania - 02  
*Serving since 2016*



**Lisa Blunt Rochester**  
Delegate Delaware  
*Serving since 2017*





**Anthony Brown**

Maryland - 04  
*Serving since 2017*



**Val Demings**

Florida - 10  
*Serving since 2017*



**Al Lawson**

Florida - 05  
*Serving since 2017*



**Donald McEachin**

Virginia - 04  
*Serving since 2017*





**Steven Horsford**

Nevada - 04  
*Serving since 2013 - 15 & 2019*



**Colin Allred**

Texas - 32  
*Serving since 2019*



**Antonio Delgado**

New York - 19  
*Serving since 2019*



**Jahana Hayes**

Connecticut - 05  
*Serving since 2019*





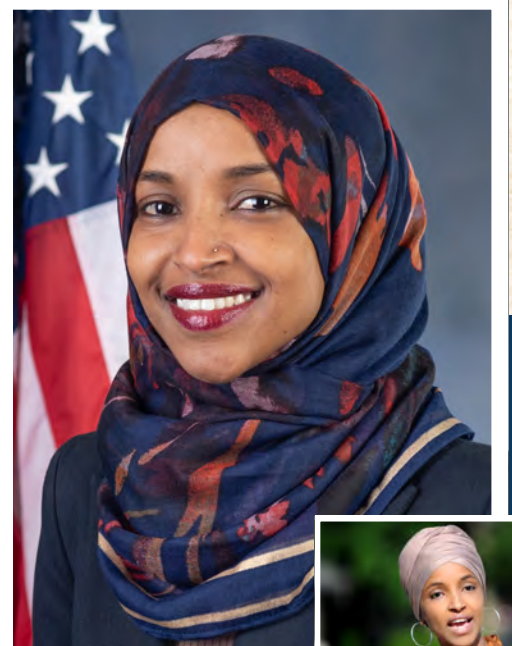
**Lucy McBath**

Georgia - 06  
*Serving since 2019*



**Joe Neguse**

Colorado - 02  
*Serving since 2019*



**Ilhan Omar**

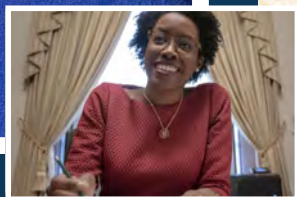
Minnesota - 05  
*Serving since 2019*



**Ayanna Pressley**

Massachusetts - 07  
*Serving since 2019*





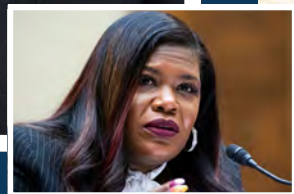
**Lauren Underwood**

Michigan - 14  
*Serving since 2019*



**Nikema Williams**

Georgia - 05  
*Serving since 2021*



**Cori Bush**

Missouri - 01  
*Serving since 2021*



**Jamaal Bowman**

New York- 16  
*Serving since 2021*





**Ritchie Torres**

New York - 15  
*Serving since 2021*



**Marilyn Strickland**

Washington - 10  
*Serving since 2021*



**Raphael Warnock**

Georgia  
*Serving since 2021*



**Mondaire Jones**

New York- 17  
*Serving since 2021*





**Troy Carter**  
Louisiana - 02  
*Serving since 2021*



**Shontel Brown**  
Ohio - 11  
*Serving since 2021*



**Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick**  
Florida - 20  
*Serving since 2022*



# **Our Members In Action**







































































# The Youngest Black Woman Ever Elected To Congress

*Congresswoman*  
**Lauren Underwood**



I first learned about the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's summer internship program at a holiday meetup in 2005 hosted by the Jackie Robinson Foundation. I was a sophomore at the University of Michigan, and an upperclassman had completed her internship with Rep. Danny Davis that summer and came back buzzing about the experience. I was just beginning my journey into the intersection of nursing and policy, so I didn't have your typical background for Capitol Hill, but I was immediately interested and quickly submitted my application. I had a memorable interview with a friendly intern coordinator, and to my surprise, I got a call a few weeks later offering me a position with my Senator, Barack Obama!

My 2006 summer internship was life changing. I worked on health care issues, attended hearings and briefings, and even caught a glimpse of myself on CSPAN during a Joint Session of Congress, when the President of Latvia addressed Members. I met great friends

– Tracelyn interned with Rep. Jackson Lee, James interned with Rep. Fattah, Shaun interned with Rep. Owens, and Chance interned with Rep. Butterfield. I staffed Senator Obama at an event and had the opportunity to ask him questions about health care policy. He was kind, patient, smart, and demanded excellence. I met many members of the CBC who inspired me – including giants like Rep. John Lewis, and Founding Member of the CBC, Charlie Rangel. I also came to understand what being a representative truly means.

Of course, back then I had no idea that I would have the chance to work for President Obama again, eight years later, as a member of his Administration working to keep our country safe from public health emergencies and disasters. And I definitely did not know that 11 years after finishing my CBCF internship, I would be running for Congress myself.

In the spring of 2017, I attended a town hall hosted by my Republican

congressman, the conversation was focused on his efforts to repeal Obamacare. When he broke his word about protecting health care for people like me with pre-existing conditions, I decided to run against him. I won a competitive Democratic primary election, beating six men and earning 57% of the vote. In November the following year, I beat our four-term, Tea-Party Republican congressman by 5 points, becoming at age 32 the youngest Black woman ever elected to Congress!

I wouldn't be a member of Congress today had I not come to Washington in the summer of 2006 and soaked up all of that wisdom from Senator Obama and his great health care team (led by the venerable Dr. Dora Hughes) and been inspired by the impact and achievements of the Congressional Black Caucus. I am so honored to be part of the CBC legacy.



A large portrait of Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. She is a Black woman with long, dark, curly hair, wearing glasses and a dark blue, textured blazer. She is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a gentle smile. Her hands are clasped in front of her.

# THE FIRST BLACK FEMALE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

*Justice*  
**Ketanji Brown Jackson**

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson is a groundbreaking, visionary, highly capable legal mind who has dedicated her career to ensuring that the rights and protections afforded by our Constitution apply equally to those who need them the most. Her time as a public defender, on the U.S. Sentencing Commission and as a federal judge, combined with her life experience as a Black woman, has provided her with unique knowledge and perspective to strengthen the high court and balance the scales of justice. Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Joyce Beatty said this of Justice Jackson during her testimony of Jackson's Senate Confirmation Hearings: "Justice Jackson's life experience, education and reverence for the rule of law clearly demonstrates that she has been preparing for this role her entire life."





# Black Women in Statuary Hall



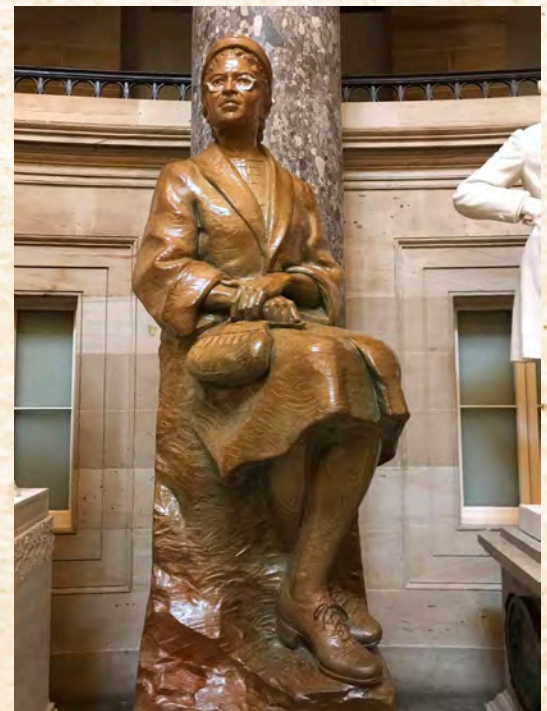
Authorized by the Congress in 2005, the statue of Rosa Parks is historically significant as being the first full-length statue of an African American person in the U.S. Capitol. Rosa Parks' statue was unveiled in National Statuary Hall of the United States Capitol, approximately 100 years after her birth on February 4, 1913.

It is also the first statue commissioned by the Congress since 1873. It follows the bust of Martin Luther King Jr., also commissioned by the Congress, that was unveiled in 1986 and the bust of Sojourner Truth placed in 2009. Despite its location in the U.S. Capitol, the Rosa Parks statue is not a part of the National Statuary Hall Collection.

The statue depicts Rosa Parks wearing the same clothes she wore on the day she was arrested. Based on photographic research into what she was wearing the day on the bus, she is shown wearing a round brimless hat, glasses, a cloth coat over her dress, laced shoes and she holds the handle of her purse. She is seated on a rock-like formation of which she seems almost a part, symbolizing her famous refusal to give up her bus seat. Her upper body is slightly turned to the right. Her head is erect, her back is straight and both her hands and her ankles are crossed; this posture, along with the expression on her face, suggests inner strength, dignity, resolve and determination, all characteristic of her long-time commitment to working for civil rights.

Rosa Parks  
1913-2005

*"You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right."*





Through extensive work on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus and the Florida Delegation this statue of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune was given to the National Statuary Hall Collection in 2022. The three bands on each sleeve of her robe indicate doctoral status: Bethune was awarded nine honorary doctorates. Bethune believed that learning—especially literacy—was the key to a better life for African Americans. She founded the Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute for Negro Girls in Daytona in 1904. In just two years, Bethune expanded her school from five to 250 students. That school eventually became Bethune-Cookman College (since 2007, Bethune-Cookman University); Bethune served as its president until 1942. She co-founded the United Negro College Fund in 1944. According to the Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Statuary Project, the black marble rose in Bethune’s left hand “symbolizes her belief that ‘loving thy neighbor’ means interracial, inter-religious and international brotherhood.”

Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune  
1875-1955

*“Invest in the human soul. Who knows, it might be a diamond in the rough.”*





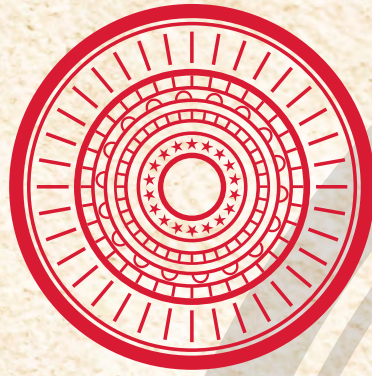
# Our Partnerships



Congressional  
Black Caucus  
**Foundation**







# Congressional Black Caucus **Foundation**

## **Vision**

We envision a world in which all communities have an equal voice in public policy through leadership cultivation, economic empowerment, and civic engagement.

## **Mission**

Our mission of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. (CBCF) is to advance the global Black community by developing leaders, informing policy, and educating the public.

Nicole Austin-Hillery, President and CEO





With an ever-changing representative form of democracy, we stand ready to prepare the next generation of political leaders. The Congressional Black Caucus Political Education and Leadership Institute (“CBC Institute”) was incorporated in 2000, as a 501 (c) (4), nonprofit, nonpartisan, social welfare organization. While our primary mission is to “Educate today’s voters and train tomorrow’s leaders,” we also inform, inspire and ignite our communities into action on issues that affect them the most.

Vanessa Griddine-Jones, Executive Director





# CBCPAC

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The Congressional Black Caucus PAC works tirelessly to increase the number of Black Members of the US Congress. We also strive to support Non-Black Candidates who will champion the needs and interests of the Black Community. Most importantly, the CBCPAC promotes participation of Black Americans in the political process. We support candidates and members who will serve their communities with passion, dignity and above all else integrity.

We are committed to advancing the issues that matter to all members of the communities we are privileged to serve, regardless of race, color or creed. There are currently 58 Black members of Congress comprising the largest Congressional Black Caucus in history. Through your continued support we are working every day to ensure that the needs of every American are being met by the representatives that serve them. We will use our influence to amplify key issues and ensure that our voice is heard in the conversations that will shape the future of our nation.

Yolonda Addison, Executive Director



# Our Legacy Past & Present

## Past CBC Chairs

1971–1972:	Charles Diggs (MI–13)
1972–1974:	Louis Stokes (OH–21)
1974–1976:	Charles Rangel (NY–19)
1976–1977:	Yvonne Brathwaite Burke (CA–28)
1977–1979:	Parren Mitchell (MD–7)
1979–1981:	Cardiss Collins (IL–7)
1981–1983:	Walter Fauntroy (DC at-large)
1983–1985:	Julian C. Dixon (CA–28)
1985–1987:	Mickey Leland (TX–18)
1987–1989:	Mervyn M. Dymally (CA–31)
1989–1991:	Ron Dellums (CA–8)
1991–1993:	Edolphus Towns (NY–11)
1993–1995:	Kweisi Mfume (MD–7)
1995–1997:	Donald Payne (NJ–10)
1997–1999:	Maxine Waters (CA–35)
1999–2001:	Jim Clyburn (SC–6)
2001–2003:	Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX–30)
2003–2005:	Elijah Cummings (MD–7)
2005–2007:	Mel Watt (NC–12)
2007–2009:	Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (MI–13)
2009–2011:	Barbara Lee (CA–9)
2011–2013:	Emanuel Cleaver (MO–5)
2013–2015:	Marcia Fudge (OH–11)
2015–2017:	G. K. Butterfield (NC–1)
2017–2019:	Cedric Richmond (LA–2)
2019–2021:	Karen Bass (CA–37)
2021–present:	Joyce Beatty (OH–3)



# 1870-Present

## Black Members of Congress

Alma Adams D-NC	2014-Present
Colin Allred D-TX	2019-Present
Frank W. Ballance, Jr. D-NC	2003-2004
Karen Bass D-CA	2011-2022
Joyce Beatty D-OH	2013-Present
Sanford Bishop D-GA	1993-Present
Lucien E. Blackwell D-PA	1991-1995
Lisa Blunt Rochester D-DE	2017-Present
Cory Booker D-NJ	2013-Present
Jamaal Bowman D-NY	2021-Present
Edward Brooke R-MA	1967-1979 1919
Anthony G. Brown D-MD	2017-2022
Corrine Brown D-FL	1993-2017
Shontel M. Brown D-OH	2021-Present
Blanche K. Bruce R-MS	1875-1881
Yvonne B. Burke D-CA	1973-1979
Roland Burris D-IL	2009-2010
Cori Bush D-MO	2021-Present
G.K. Butterfield D-NC	2004-2022
Richard H. Cain R-SC	1873-1875, 1877-1879
Andre Carson D-IN	2007 & 2008-Present
Julia M. Carson D-IN	1997-2007
Troy Carter D-LA	2021-Present
Henry P. Cheatham R-NC	1889-1893
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick D-FL	2022-Present
Shirley A. Chisholm D-NY	1969-1983
Donna M. Christensen D-VI	1997-2015
Hansen H. Clarke D-MI	2011-2013
Yvette D. Clarke D-NY	2007-Present
William (Billy) Clay, Sr. D-MO	1969-2001
William L. Clay, Jr. D-MO	2001-2021
Eva M. Clayton D-NC	1992-2003
Emanuel Cleaver, II D-MO	2005-Present
James E. Clyburn D-SC	1993-Present

\*alphabetical order



Barbara-Rose Collins D-MI	1991-1997
Cardiss Collins D-IL	1973-1997
George Washington Collins D-IL	1970-1972
John Conyers, Jr. D-MI	1965-2017
William (Mo) Cowan D-MA	1865-1869
George William Crockett, Jr. D-MI	1980-1991
Elijah Eugene Cummings D-MD	1996-2019
Arthur Davis D-AI	2003-2011
Danny K. Davis D-IL	1997-Present
William Levi Dawson D-IL	1943-1970
Robert Carlos De Large R-SC	1871-1873
Oscar Stanton De Priest R-IL	1929-1935
Antonio Delgado D-NY	2019-2022
Ronald V. Dellums D-CA	1971-1998
Val Demings D-FL	2017-2022
Charles Coles Diggs, Jr. D-MI	1937-1944
Julian Carey Dixon D-CA	1979-2000
Byron Donalds R-FL	2021-Present
Mervyn Malcolm Dymally D-CA	1981-1993
Donna F. Edwards D-MD	2008-2017
Robert Brown Elliott R-SC	1871-1874
Keith Ellison D-MN	2007-2019
Alphonso Michael (Mike) Espy D-MS	1987-1993
Dwight Evans D-PA	2016-Present
Melvin H. Evans R-VI	1979-1981
Chaka Fattah D-PA	1995-2016
Walter E. Fauntroy D-DC	1971-1991
Cleo Fields D-LA	1993-1997
Harold Floyd Flake D-NY	1987-1997
Harold E. Ford, Sr. D-TN	1975-1997
Harold Ford, Jr. D-TN	1997-2007
Gary A. Franks R-CO	1991-1997
Victor O. Frazer I-VI	1995-1997
Marcia L. Fudge D-OH	2008-2021



William Herbert Gray, III D-PA	1979-1991
Al Green D-TX	2005-Present
Katie Beatrice Hall D-IN	1982-1985
Kwanza Hall D-GA	2020-2021
Jeremiah Haralson R-AL	1875-1877
Kamala D. Harris D-CA	2017-2021
Alcee L. Hastings D-FL	1993-2021
Augustus Freeman (Gus) Hawkins D-CA	1963-1991
Charles Arthur Hayes D-IL	1983-1993
Jahana Hayes D-CT	2019-Present
Earl Frederick Hilliard D-AL	1993-2003
Steven Horsford D-NV	2013-2015, 2019-Present
William B. Hurd R-TX	2015-2021
John Adams Hyman R-NC	1875-1877
Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. D-IL	1995-2012
Sheila Jackson Lee D-TX	1995-Present
William Jennings Jefferson D-LA	1991-2009
Hakeem Jeffries D-NY	2013-Present
Eddie Bernice Johnson D-TX	1993-2022
Hank Johnson D-GA	2007-Present
Brenda Jones D-MI	2018-2019
Mondaire Jones D-NY	2021-2022
Stephanie Tubbs Jones D-OH	1999-2008
Barbara Charline Jordan D-TX	1973-1979
Robin L. Kelly D-IL	2013-Present
Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick D-MI	1997-2011
John Mercer Langston R-VA	1890-1891
Brenda L. Lawrence D-MI	2015-2022
Alfred Lawson, Jr. D-FL	2017-Present
Barbara Lee D-CA	1998-Present
George Thomas (Mickey) Leland D-TX	1979-1989
John R. Lewis D-GA	1987-2020
Jefferson Franklin Long R-GA	1871-1871
Ludmya Bourdeau (Mia) Love R-UT	2015-2019
John Roy Lynch R-MS	1882-1883



Denise L. Majette D-GA	2003-2005
Lucy McBath D-GA	2019-Present
Donald A. McEachin D-VA	2017-Present
Cynthia Ann Mckinney D-GA	2005-2007
Carrie P. Meek D-FL	1993-2003
Kendrick B. Meek D-FL	2003-2011
Gregory W. Meeks D-NY	1998-Present
Ralph Harold Metcalfe D-IL	1971-1978
Kweisi Mfume D-MD	1987-1996, 2020-Present
Juanita Millender-McDonals D-CA	1996-2007
Thomas Ezekiel Miller R-SC	1890-1891
Arthur Wergs Mitchell D-IL	1935-1943
Parren James Mitchell D-MD	1971-1987
Gwen Moore D-WI	2005-Present
Carol Moseley Braun D-IL	1993-1999
George Washington Murray R-SC	1896-1897, 1893-1895
Charles Edmund Nash R-LA	1875-1877
Joseph Neguse D-CO	2019-Present
Robert Nelson Cornelius Nix, Sr. D-PA	1958-1979
Eleanor Holmes Norton D-DC	1991-Present
Barack Obama D-IL	2005-2008
James Edward O'Hara R-NC	1883-1887
Ilhan Omar D-MN	2019-Present
Burgess Owens R-UT	2021-Present
Major Robert Odell Owens D-NY	1983-2007
Donald M. Payne D-NJ	1989-2012
Donald Payne, Jr. D-NJ	2012-Present
Stacey E. Plaskett D-VI	2015-Present
Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. D-NY	1945-1971
Ayanna Pressley D-MA	2019-Present
Joseph H. Rainey R-SC	1870-1879
Charles B. Rangel D-NY	1971-2017
Alonzo J. Ransier R-SC	1873-1875
James Thomas Rapier R-AL	1873-1875
Hiram R. Revels R-MS	1870-1871
Mel Reynolds D-IL	1993-1995
Laura Richardson D-CA	2007-2013
Cedric Richmond D-LA	2011-2021
Bobby L. Rush D-IL	1993-2022



Gus Savage D-IL	1981-1993
David Scott D-GA	2003-Present
Robert C. Scott D-VA	1993-Present
Tim Scott R-SC	2011-Present
Terri Sewell D-AL	2011-Present
Robert Smalls D-IL	1882-1883, 1884-1887
Bennett McVey Stewart D-IL	1979-1981
Louis Stokes D-OH	1969-1999
Marilyn Strickland D-WA	2021-Present
Bennie G. Thompson D-MS	1993-Present
Ritchie Torres D-NY	2021-Present
Edolphus Towns D-NY	1983-2013
Walter R. Tucker, III D-CA	1993-1995
Benjamin S. Turner R-AL	1871-1873
Lauren Underwood D-IL	2019-Present
Marc Veasey D-TX	2013-Present
Alton R. Waldon, Jr. D-NY	1986-1987
Josiah T. Walls R-FL	1871-1873, 1873-1875, 1875-1876
Raphael G. Warnock D-GA	2021-Present
Craig A. Washington D-TX	1989-1995
Harold D. Washington D-IL	1981-1983
Maxine Waters D-CA	1991-Present
Diane E. Watson D-CA	2001-2011
Bonnie Watson Coleman D-NJ	2015-Present
Melvin L. Watt D-NC	1993-2014
J.C. Watts, Jr. R-OK	1995-2003
Allen B. West R-FL	2011-2013
Alan D. Wheat D-MO	1983-1995
George H. White R-NC	1897-1901
Nikema Williams D-GA	2021-Present
Frederica S. Wilson D-FL	2011-Present
Albert R. Wynn D-MD	1993-2008
Andrew Young D-GA	1973-1977



# In Memoriam 2011-2022





**Congressman Lou Stokes**  
1925 - 2015



**Congressman Ron Dellums**  
1935 - 2018



**Congressman John Conyers, Jr.**  
1929 - 2019



**Congressman Elijah Cummings**  
1951 - 2019



**Congressman John R. Lewis**  
1940 - 2020



**Congresswoman Carrie Meek**  
1926 - 2021



**Congressman Alcee Hastings**  
1936 - 2021



**Congressman Donald McEachin**  
1961 - 2022



# Conclusion

“God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who hast by Thy might,  
Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God,  
where we met Thee,  
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world,  
we forget Thee; Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
May we forever stand,  
True to our God,  
True to our native land.”

- James Weldon Johnson



**Vincent Evans**  
*Executive Director*  
*Congressional Black Caucus*

More than five decades after its founding, the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) finds itself the largest in its history and more powerful than ever. The Majority Whip, Democratic Caucus Chairman, and the chairpersons of six House committees—all of them are members of the CBC.

Our members now serve districts and states Black American’s had previously not represented in the halls of Congress. The youngest Black woman ever elected to serve in Congress is a member of the CBC. The first openly gay Black members of Congress are members of the CBC. And yes, this Caucus has had two of its members elected President of the United States and Vice President of the United States respectively.

The power of the CBC is quite literally unmatched in American history. Indeed, much of the achievements of Black political power in this country can be traced to the Congressional Black Caucus. Though small in numbers, the founders of the CBC had a deep understanding of their responsibility for the millions of voices they represented. That responsibility drove them to speak truth to power against injustices at any time, at any place, anyway that they could. Whether it was Apartheid in South Africa or discrimination in fair housing, whether it was assaults against the Voting Rights Act or disregard for Hurricane Katrina victims, whether it was the widening education gap or a broken criminal justice system.

The CBC has for its entire existence worked to close the gap between the idea of who America said she was on paper and who she actually is in practice. In this young century, that work continues in earnest.

The CBC has traveled a distance since 1971, and there is still a distance yet to go. Old battles have become new again. The Caucus is faced with the daunting reality that for all the progress we have made as a people, the forces of an era we thought had gone by, are still very much alive in our time.

All of this comes on the backdrop of increased racial inequality, economic anxiety, a widening education gap, social unrest and a democracy that is in peril. The stakes are high and the fight for justice is not for the faint at heart.

Where do we go from here? Who do we want to be? How do we move forward together? These questions and others persist. They may very well define this and the next generation. The CBC as it has always done, must help answer these questions and lead the way for a future yet unborn.

The fight for civil rights and women’s rights and LGBTQ rights and immigrant rights and workers’ rights and disability rights and human rights are all on the line now. Right now.

In this moment we’ve got to be clear. We’ve got to make some decisions about who we are and who we want to be. The CBC is no longer just the “Conscience of the Congress,” as it has long been referred to, but it also the conscience of the community, the conscience of the collective, the conscience of the common cause, the conscience of the constitution.

That is a heavy burden to carry. But it ours to carry. It always has been, and we are on the clock.



## Congressional Black Caucus Staff

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*The CBC wishes to thank the many staff who are responsible for assisting the Caucus in support of our members including: member personal staff, committee staff, leadership staff and the many support staff across the House of Representatives.*









