

THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS



Solutions for Underserved American
Communities

January 2017 | Chairman, Representative Cedric Richmond

ACTION, MORAL CLARITY, & PERMANENT INTEREST



As we celebrate the life and legacy of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., it is appropriate to consider his life-long devotion to the advancement of the interests of the poor and underserved across America. He understood that our struggle for equality would not be complete if we forgot those who faced some of the most intractable challenges on a daily basis. Dr. King's moral leadership continues to inspire the efforts of his successor soldiers in the movement and those lawmakers that work with them to enshrine these priorities into statute.

The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) would like to remind the incoming administration and the public that our Members have always been about actions infused with moral clarity and a desire to honestly and forthrightly represent the interests of our constituents. We present but a small sampling of legislative solutions, many of them bipartisan, authored by CBC Members to help underserved communities. Unfortunately, most of our offered solutions were stymied by the leadership in the House and Senate during the 114th Congress. Our new Members have also been leading on these efforts in their previous roles.

WE ARE UNITED. WE ARE STRONG.

WE ARE NOT ABOUT WORDS. WE ARE ABOUT DEEDS.



I. VOTING RIGHTS

The CBC has worked to ensure that all American citizens, regardless of their race, income or location, can participate in this great democracy.

H.R. 12: Voter Empowerment Act of 2015

H.R. 2867: Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015

H.R. 3276: Same Day Registration Act of 2015

H.R. 934: Redistricting and Voter Protection Act of 2015

H.R. 6073: Election Infrastructure and Security Promotion Act of 2016

As leaders of this country, we have a moral obligation to repair the Voting Rights Act. It is our duty in a democratic society to open up the political process and let every citizen have a say in their own future.

... We must do this now, and we must do it on our watch. –Rep. John Lewis



II. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING AND JOBS:

The CBC has supported numerous policies aimed at increasing investment, incomes and sustainable wealth creation in underserved communities.

H.R. 6492: Tax Benefit for Homeownership Clarification Act

H.R. 5783: Small Business Startup Savings Account Act of 2016

H.R. 1781: Workforce Development Tax Credit Act of 2015

H.R. 4888: The Ending Homelessness Act of 2016

H.R. 5282: the Comprehensive Consumer Credit Reporting Reform Act

H.R. 2234: Emerging Business Encouragement Act

H.R. 4994: Veterans Pensions Protection Act of 2016

H.R. 3470: Fair Chance Act

H.R. 6030: Pay Equity for All Act of 2016

H.R. 4821: Promoting National Service and Reducing Unemployment Act

H.R. 3700: The Housing Opportunities Through Modernization Act

H.R. 4788: SCORE for Small Business Act of 2016

H.R. 4039: Veteran Small Business Tax Credit Act of 2015

H.R. 333: Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act

H.R. 2150: Raise the Wage Act

H.R. 4005: Local Hire Act of 2016

H.R. 5163: Territorial Economic Growth and Recovery Act of 2016

H.R. 6493: Service Members Financial Planning Assistance Act of 2016

H.R. 4330: Improving Contract Procurement for Small Businesses through More Accurate Reporting Act of 2016

H.R. 2987: Community Bank Capital Clarification Act

H.R. 797: Disaster Assistance Recoupment Fairness Act of 2015

H.R. 2473: Preserving Capital Access and Mortgage Liquidity Act of 2015

H.R. 4972: Expanding Penalty Free Withdrawal Act of 2016

S. 3426: Homeowner Foreclosure Reduction Act of 2016

S. 1934: Scale-up Manufacturing Investment Company Act of 2015

S. 2255: Stop Debt Collection Abuse Act of 2015

III. CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND POLICING REFORM:

The CBC continues its decades long leadership to create a more just and equitable approach to policing and the administration of our criminal justice system.

H.R. 2944: SAFE Justice Act

H.R. 2806: Recidivism Reduction Act

H.R. 1933: End Racial Profiling Act of 2015

H.R. 4316: Gun Violence Reduction Resources Act of 2016

H.R. 2052: Excessive Use of Force Prevention Act of 2015

H.R. 2197: Youth PROMISE Act

H.R. 2470: Private Prison Information Act of 2015

H.R. 5795: Forensic Science and Standards Act of 2016

H.R. 4278: Safer Neighborhoods Gun Buyback Act of 2015

H.R. 5080: Hadiya Pendleton and Nyasia Pryor-Yard Gun Trafficking and Crime Prevention Act

H.R. 5221: Preventing Tragedies Between Police and Communities Act of 2016

H.R. 2326: Protecting Communities and Police Act of 2015

H.R. 4324: Effective Assistance of Counsel in the Digital Era Act of 2016

H.R. 6486: Laquan McDonald Camera Act of 2016

H.R. 6499: Second Chance for Ex-Offenders Act of 2016

H.R. 6113: End For Profit Prisons Act

S. 3144: Equal Justice Under Law Act of 2016



IV. HEALTHCARE:

The CBC continues to lead in efforts to eliminate the disparity in healthcare outcomes for those in underserved communities.

H.R. 5133: Rural Hospital Enhancement and Long-term Health Act of 2016

H.R. 5475: Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2016

H.R. 3513: Prescription Drug Affordability Act

H.R. 2646: Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2016

H.R. 379: National Nurse Act of 2015

H.R. 3944: Physician Assistant Higher Education Modernization Act of 2015

H.R. 1988: Breaking Addiction Act of 2015

H.R. 539: Action for Dental Health Act

H.R. 224: Recognizing Gun Violence As a Public Health Emergency Act

H.R. 1345: Health IT Modernization for Underserved Communities Act of 2015

H.R. 6224: Enhancing Minority and Women Representation in NIH Medical Research Act

H.R. 5020: Synthetic Drug Awareness Act of 2016

H.R. 2730: National Prostate Cancer Plan Act

H.R. 2866: Healthy MOM Act

H.R. 4571: Reducing Unexpected Deaths in Infants and Children Act of 2016

H.R. 1537: Advancing Hope Act of 2015

H.R. 6185: Ellie's Law

H.R. 3889: Safer Prescribing of Controlled Substances Act



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V. POVERTY REDUCTION AND NUTRITION:

The CBC supports lending a helping hand to those in communities that have struggled to achieve broadly shared economic growth.

10-20-30 Formula to Fight Persistent Poverty

H.R. 258: Half in Ten Act of 2015

H.R. 5671: Urban Progress Act of 2016

H.R. 2721: Pathways Out of Poverty Act of 2015

H.R. 6458: Help our Neediest Families Act of 2016

H.R. 1061: Farm to School Act of 2015

H.R. 483: Food Deserts Act

H.R. 5699: Serve More Kids Act

H.R. 6343: Farmers Markets for Food Deserts Act of 2016

H.R. 5215: Closing the Meal Gap Act of 2016

H.R. 161: Services for Ending Long-Term Homelessness Act

H.R. 6046: Homeless Veterans Legal Services Act

H.R. 6163: Federal Benefits Fairness and Restoration Act of 2016



VI. EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:

The CBC believes that sustained and increased investment in educational and job training opportunities for all will yield a massive return for families and communities nationwide.

H.R. 1898: America Competes Reauthorization Act of 2015

H.R. 6117: Opening Doors for Youth Act of 2016

H.R. 5784: File Once FAFSA Act of 2016

H.R. 3512: Pell Grant Restoration Act of 2015

H.R. 4661: Parent PLUS Loan Improvement Act of 2016

H.R. 5530: HBCU Capital Financing Improvement Act

H.R. 6210: Raising Accountability to Improve School Excellence Act

H.R. 193: Core Opportunity Resources for Equity and Excellence Act of 2015

H.R. 3458: Connected Transportation Research and Innovation Act of 2015

H.R. 467: STEM Opportunities Act of 2015

H.R. 4415: Early Pell Promise Act

H.R. 6525: Lead-Free Students Act

H.R. 591: Engineering Biology Research and Development Act of 2015

H.R. 2797: Student Disciplinary Fairness Act of 2015

H.R. 5487: Student Loan Fairness Act of 2016

H.R. 2268: Ending Corporal Punishment in Schools Act of 2015

H.R. 6095: Computer Science for All Act of 2016

H.R.4191: United States Virgin Islands College Access Act of 2015

H.R. 5574: Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act

H.R. 6021: Jobs, On-the-Job 'Earn While You Learn' Training, and Apprenticeships for African-American Young Men Act

H.R. 6020: Funding for Student Scholarships for the 1890s Land-Grant African-American Colleges and Universities Act

H.R. 4488: Rights for Transportation Security Officers Act of 2016

VII. STRONG COMMUNITIES AND FAMILIES:

The CBC supports wrap around services that provide resources to communities and families as they confront challenging circumstances.

H.R. 2449: Every Child Deserves a Family Act

H.R. 541: Transition-to-Success Mentoring Act

H.R. 5930: Federal Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys Act

H.R. 1780: Helping Working Families Afford Child Care Act

H.R. 3156: Fair Chance for Youth Act of 2015

H.R. 2882: Promise Neighborhoods Act of 2015

H.R. 469: Strengthening Child Welfare Response to Trafficking Act of 2015

H.R. 5737: Protecting Foster Youth Resources to Promote Self-Sufficiency Act

H.R. 5473: Partnership Grants to Strengthen Families Affected by Parental Substance Abuse Act

H.R. 3005: Julia Carson Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families Act of 2015

S. 3194: Reducing Obesity in Youth Act of 2016

VIII. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

The CBC supports robust protections for communities from the actions of all entities that threaten the public health of those in underserved areas.

H.R. 4694: Lead-Safe Housing for Kids Act of 2016

H.R. 5543: Environmental Health Workforce Act of 2016

H.R. 4827: Coal Ash Landfill Safety Act

S. 2776: TEST for Lead Act

H.R. 5630: SAFER Pipelines Act of 2016

S. 2400: Superfund Polluter Pays Restoration Act of 2015



115TH CONGRESS

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