Solutions for Underserved American Communities

January 2017 | Chairman, Representative Cedric Richmond
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.*
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
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. 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. 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. 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. 2987: Community Bank Capital Clarification Act
H.R. 797: Disaster Assistance Recoupment Fairness 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
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. 4316: Gun Violence Reduction Resources Act of 2016
H.R. 2197: Youth PROMISE Act

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. 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
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. 3944: Physician Assistant Higher Education Modernization 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. 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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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. 2721: Pathways Out of Poverty Act of 2015
H.R. 1061: Farm to School Act of 2015
H.R. 483: Food Deserts Act

H.R. 5699: Serve More Kids Act
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
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. 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. 2797: Student Disciplinary Fairness Act of 2015
H.R. 5487: Student Loan Fairness Act of 2016
H.R. 6095: Computer Science for All Act of 2016
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
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. 2882: Promise Neighborhoods 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. 543: Environmental Health Workforce Act of 2016

H.R. 4827: Coal Ash Landfill Safety Act

S. 2776: TEST for Lead Act


S. 2400: Superfund Polluter Pays Restoration Act of 2015
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https://cbc-richmond.house.gov/
420 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C.
202.226.9776

@OFFICIALCBC

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