



SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

THE FEDERAL CITY ALUMNAE CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY.

March 2011 Political and Legislative Updates

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The Federal City Alumnae Chapter of
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority,
Incorporated



Committee Co-Chairs:

Soror Courtney Anderson
Soror Renee Crews

To join the Social Action
Committee and receive our emails,
contact us at:
socialaction@thefcacadst.org

THIS MONTH IN BLACK HISTORY:

March 3, 1865 - Congress banned the slave trade, prohibiting "the importation of slaves into the United States or the territories thereof" after January 1, 1808.

March 5, 1770 - Crispus Attucks, an escaped slave became the first man killed in the cause of America's freedom in an event better known as the Boston Massacre.

March 6, 1857 - The Supreme Court ruled against citizenship for Blacks in the "Dred Scott Decision".

March 7, 1927 - The Supreme Court in Nixon v. Herndon struck down a Texas law banning blacks from voting in the "whites primary".

March 10, 1913 - Death of Harriet Tubman, Auburn, New York.

March 24, 1912 - Dr. Dorothy Irene Height, civil rights visionary and 10th National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was born.

March 26, 1937 - William H. Hastie confirmed as judge of Federal District Court in Virgin Islands and became the first Black federal judge.

March 28, 1966 - Bill Russell named head coach of the Boston Celtics, becoming the first African American to coach an NBA team.

SOROR ACTION ALERT:

*Delta Day at the D.C. Council is scheduled for
March 22, 2010 !!*

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Self-Determination for the District

PR 19-0020, "Sense of the Council on Calling on Congress to Admit the District of Columbia as the 51st State of the Union Resolution of 2011". As part of the Council and the Mayor's commitment to take a more active role in achieving full self-determination for the District passed this resolution in January. It calls on Congresswoman Norton to introduce legislation that asks Congress to use its powers as outlined in the Constitution to admit the District of Columbia as the 51st state. Congresswoman Norton has introduced this legislation along with others asking only for voting representation.

Elections

Bill 19-0090, "District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics Primary Date Alteration Act of 2011." To amend the District of Columbia Election Code of 1955 to alter the date of District of Columbia primary and presidential preference primary elections. The primary election for local positions would be held on the first Tuesday after the second Monday in June instead of in September. The primary for the presidential election would be on the first Tuesday after the second Monday in June instead of in January of each presidential year. The purpose of the legislation is to make the District's primary for the presidential election earlier in the country's primary selection period. In addition, it would allow for one primary election in years when there are local and national elections, thus saving the District money. This bill was introduced by Councilmember May Cheh on February 2, 2011.

Employment

B19-0050, "District of Columbia Workforce Intermediary Establishment and Reform of First Source and Living Wage Amendment Act of 2011." This bill would amend the First Source Employment Agreement Act of 1984 to require that for each government-assisted project or contract, totaling \$300,000 or more, 20% of all non-construction hours, at least 25% of all journey workers hours by trade worked, at least 50% of all apprentice hours by trade, at least 60% of the skilled laborer hours by trade, and at least 70% of common laborer hours shall be performed by District residents. The bill would also require documentation evidencing best efforts by the employer to comply with First Source requirements prior to obtaining a waiver from the First Source Act. The bill would increase fines for willful breach of First Source agreements from 5% to 10% of the total amount of the direct and indirect labor costs of the contract. The bill provides for modernizing First Source recordkeeping, improving controls and procedures, and for the provision of online public access to executed First Source Employment Agreements. This bill was introduced by Chairman Brown, Councilmember Michael Brown and Councilmember Thomas on January 18, 2011.



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Employment

Bill 19-0079, "D.C. Health Corps Act of 2011." To establish a D.C. Health Corps to provide 11th and 12th grade D.C. public, private and charter school students with a practical vocational educational program in the allied health professions. The bill was introduced by Councilmember Marion Barry.

Bill 19-0081, "Sunshine Employable Skills Act of 2011." To require the Mayor to prepare and publish a monthly report listing the experience and skills of District residents receiving Unemployment Compensation and/or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families benefits in the District in order to share with the public and provide to potential employers a current list of available skilled and experienced workers from this pool of potential employees. The bill was introduced by Councilmembers Biddle and Michael Brown, and Chairman Kwame Brown on February 1, 2011.

VIRGINIA

The following legislative updates for the State of Virginia are as follows:

Driving

SB762: Requires that emergency vehicles driving past signals at intersections stop or sound a siren before proceeding. Inspired by the death of a Fairfax woman in a collision with a police cruiser.

Education

HB1644/SB966: Requires all children in elementary and middle schools to participate in at least 150 minutes of physical activity a week to help fight the growing problem of childhood obesity.

HB2510/SB1459: Begins to provide a stable funding source for colleges to avoid dramatic tuition increases. Schools would be provided financial incentives to fulfill education goals, including graduating students in four years and awarding degrees in high-demand science and technology fields.

Health

HB2467/SB1062: Requires health-insurance plans in businesses that employ at least 50 people to offer coverage for autism for 2- to 6-year-olds.

Public Safety

SB1222/HB2422: Reforms the process for getting a protective order, making it easier for people in dating relationships to get a restraining order against their partners.

Transportation

HB2527/SB1446: Authorizes borrowing \$2.9 billion over the next three years for transportation.

INTERNATIONAL

Several Middle Eastern countries have experienced mass protests, revolts, and government upheaval over the past few months. Opposition groups have garnered power and forced the resignations of Tunisia's and Egypt's presidents. The president of Yemen is under similar pressure and will soon follow suit.

In Egypt, President Obama offered continued support to the people of Egypt as they pursue democracy. He charged the military to begin "protecting the rights of Egypt's citizens, lifting the emergency law, revising the Constitution and other laws to make this change irreversible, and laying out a clear path to elections that are fair and free", he said. "Above all, this transition must bring all of Egypt's voices to the table"