



SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

THE FEDERAL CITY ALUMNAE CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY.

April 2010 Political and Legislative Updates

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

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



Committee Co-Chairs:

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Soror Michelle Rose

To join the Social Action
Committee and receive our emails,
contact us at:
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THIS MONTH IN BLACK HISTORY:

April 2, 1984 - Georgetown coach John Thompson becomes first Black coach to win NCAA basketball tournament.

April 4, 1968 - Martin Luther King assassinated.

April 5, 1951 - Washington, D.C. Municipal Court of Appeals outlawed segregation in restaurants.

April 7, 1885 - [Granville T. Woods](#) patents apparatus for transmission of messages by electricity.

April 9, 1898 - [Paul Robeson](#), actor, singer, activist, born.

April 12, 1983 - [Harold Washington](#) becomes first African American mayor of Chicago.

April 14, 1775 - First abolitionist society in U.S. is founded in Philadelphia.

April 16, 1862 - Slavery abolished in the District of Columbia.

April 18, 1864 - More than 200 Black Union troops massacred by Confederate forces at Ft. Pillow, Tennessee.

April 19, 1972 - Stationed in Germany, Major Gen. Frederic E. Davidson becomes first Black to lead an army division.

April 28, 1839 - Cinque leads mutiny off the coast of Long Island, NY.
(www.theblackmarket.com)

SOROR ACTION ALERT:

April 1st marked 2010 Census Day! 10 minutes, 10 questions, 10 years. Please fill out and return your form today.

FEDERAL

Health Care Reform—On March 23, 2010 President Barack Obama signed into law the **Affordable Health Care Act**, overhauling the American health care system. Elements of the legislation include:

- **Lower costs for Families**—Institutes insurance industry reforms that save money, financial relief, thousands in savings by closing Medicare “donut hole,” reduces unwarranted subsidies to private health plans, strengthens financial health of Medicare, affordable long-term care.
- **Provide Greater Choices**—Eliminates insurance company discrimination, provides more affordable competition, one-stop shopping, industry security, extends health coverage for young adults.
- **Strong Focus on Minority Health**—Strengthens the National Institute of Minority Health.
- **Quality, Affordable Health Care**—Supports preventative care for better health, controls chronic disease, promotes primary care, fights health disparities, strengthens quality care for American children, controls chronic disease, promotes better care after hospital discharge.

Education—The **Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010** delivered a significant down payment on the President's ambitious agenda to make higher education more affordable and help more American's earn a college degree. The law raises the maximum Pell Grant, makes loan payments more affordable for students with unmanageable debt, increases investment in community colleges, and extends support for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other Minority Serving Institutions, all at no additional cost to taxpayers according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office. The education initiatives funded by the law are fully paid for by ending government subsidies that were being given to financial institutions making guaranteed federal student loans.

Jobs—On April 2nd the Department of Labor released it's monthly jobs report which noted that the national unemployment rates remained unchanged at 9.7 percent, but unemployment among African American's grew from 15.8 to 16.5 percent and among Latinos from 12.4 to 12.6 percent. As a result of ongoing trends, the Congressional Black Caucus recently hosted a hearing titled “Out of Work but Note Out of Hope: Addressing the Crisis of the Chronically Unemployed” and the Joint Economic Committee released a report addressing high unemployment rates in African American communities. This month the following legislation was introduced to address these ongoing issues:

- **Disaster Relief and Summer Jobs Act**, including \$2.5 billion to direct job creation to help people transition out of poverty and \$600 million to create 300,000 summer youth jobs.
- **Local Jobs for America Act**, to target chronic unemployment by creating local public and private sector jobs.



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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Elections— D.C. Council Chairman Vincent C. Gray officially launched his campaign for mayor casting himself as a true Washingtonian who is ready take on incumbent Adrian M. Fenty in an intense sprint to the September primary. Gray, who is banking on being able to capitalize on residents' frustration with Fenty's leadership style, has assembled a support base of labor and civic leaders who encouraged him to run. (Washington Post, 3.31.10)

MARYLAND

Child Protection – SB 559 and HB 811 – authorizes individuals to notify the local department of social services or law enforcement agency if an individual believes that the child lives with or is in the regular home and presence of a individual or person, other than the child's parent or guardian that is a registered child sexual offender and poses a substantial risk of sexual abuse to the child or children. The bill requires that the investigation of the allegation be completed no later than 30 days. Both bill passed in their chambers.

Juvenile Facilities – SB 330 – This bill requires all Private providers that contract with the Dept of Juvenile Services (DJS) place children in need of services in facilitates that are not operated by DJS that meet all State licensing criteria be limited to serving no more than 48 children in a facility. The bill passed in a preliminary floor vote.

Family Child Care Providers – SB 284/HB 465 – These bills codifies a 2007 Executive Order that authorizes collective bargaining negotiations for providers that participate in the Child Care Subsidy Program. The bill will protect and provide provisions related to service fees for nonmembers and establish funding to protect providers against hardship or loss resulting from late payments. The SB passed in a preliminary vote. Currently the HB is on the House floor.

Education Reform Act of 2010 - Race to the TOP (RTTT) is a federal funded \$4 billion competitive grant program authorized under the direction of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The program will provide encouragement and reward states that are implementing significant changes and reform in specific areas, two of which are rewarding, recruiting, developing, and retaining effective school administrators and educators, especially where they are most needed, and improving the lowest-achieving schools.

SB 106 – Labor and Employment – Job Creation and Recovery – This bill creates a tax credit against the State income tax for employers to hire qualified individuals. The bill goes into effect between March 25 and Dec 31, 2010. The tax credit is equal to \$5000 per employee and not to exceed \$250,000 per taxpayer or \$20 million statewide and is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

SB 107 – Unemployment Insurance – This bill provides savings to the State's Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund and will offset the costs of modernization efforts necessary for eligible for a one-time payment in the amount of \$126 million in federal incentive funding.