

# Social Action Committee

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



## Political and Legislative Updates February 2009

**Social Action Committee**  
The Federal City Alumnae  
Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta  
Sorority, Incorporated



**Committee Co-Chairs:**

*Soror Pia Miller*

*Soror Michelle Rose*

To join the Social Action  
Committee and receive our  
emails, contact us at:  
[socialaction@thefcadcst.org](mailto:socialaction@thefcadcst.org)

### This month in Black history:

**February 2, 1807** - Congress bans foreign slave trade.

**February 8, 1968** - Three South Carolina State students killed during segregation protest in Orangeburg, S.C.

**February 10, 1989** - [Ronald H. Brown](#) is elected chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

**February 11, 1990** - [Nelson Mandela](#) is released from prison after 27 years.

**February 12, 1909** - [NAACP](#) founded in New York City.

**February 14, 1879** - B.K. Bruce of Mississippi becomes first African American to preside over U.S. Senate.

**February 21, 1965** - Malcolm X is assassinated in New York.

**February 22, 1989** - [Col. Frederick Gregory](#) was the first African American to command a space shuttle mission.

**February 26, 1965** - Civil rights activist Jimmie Lee Jackson died after being shot by state police in Marion, Ala.

### D/M/V Legislative Tracking Report

#### Maryland

**Termination of Employment – Wage Payment for Accrued Leave** - Senate Bill 797 (passed), an emergency bill, requires an employer to provide to an employee at the time of hiring, notice of the leave benefits available to the employee. Further, the bill also exempts an employer from the requirement of paying accrued leave to an employee upon termination of employment. Senate Bill 797 applies retroactively so that an employee whose employment terminated on or after November 1, 2007, is entitled to payment of accrued leave only if the employee is eligible under the terms of the employer's written policy, as communicated to the employee prior to the termination of employment.

**Employee Data – Reporting Employee Racial and Gender Classification** - House Bill 1156 (Ch. 114) expands the type of employee data that an employer may need to maintain. Specifically, the bill authorizes the commissioner to require that employers maintain a record on the racial classification and gender of each employee. Under the measure, the commissioner may analyze employee records on wages, job classification, racial classification, gender, and other conditions of employment maintained by the employer in accordance with the commissioner's authority for the purpose of studying pay disparity issues. The commissioner must report to the General Assembly by October 1, 2013, on the pay disparity analysis conducted under the provisions of the Act; and on December 31, 2013, the provisions of the Act will terminate.

**Family Law – Protective Orders – Surrender of Firearms:** Senate Bill 144 was introduced on January 19, 2009, requiring respondents to surrender all/any firearms to law enforcement authorities for the duration of the temporary protective order. Failure to comply, with this aspect of a final protective order is a misdemeanor and shall result in the respondent's arrest.

**Minority Business Enterprise Program – Participation by Race or Gender:** Senate Bill 211 was introduced on January 23, 2009 authorizing a woman-owned business or a business owned member of an ethnic or racial minority group to participate in individual procurement contracts with specified purposed within the Minority Business Enterprise Program. This bill will alter the definition under the Minority Business Enterprise Program.

#### Virginia

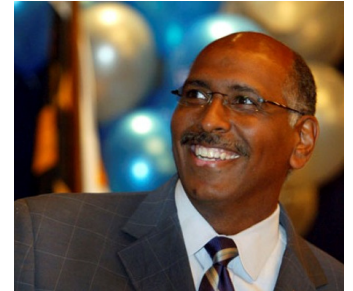
**No-Excuse Absentee Voting-** The Virginia Senate passed legislation (SB 810) allowing Virginians to vote absentee in person without providing an excuse or reason for not being able to vote in person on election day. Currently, those who want to vote absentee must meet one of 17 criteria such as being out of state on election day. A similar bill already died in the House of Delegates.

**Election Recount Concluded-** After a close special election, Alexandria lawyer, Charniele Herring, was sworn into the Virginia House of Delegates, two weeks after winning a special election by 16 votes.

**Concealed handguns-** The Virginia Senate voted to repeal a law that prohibited anyone from carrying concealed weapons into a club or restaurant where alcohol is served. However, the bill (SB 1035) does prohibit a person from consuming alcohol in the venue. The person is required to inform an employee about the concealed weapon and can be charged with a misdemeanor if the person consumes alcohol.

**Budget Cuts-** In an effort to close a \$3 billion budget gap, Gov. Kaine has ordered the closing of the only facility in Virginia for troubled children with serious psychiatric problems. Many private hospitals will not accept children referred by the court system causing concern amongst mental health experts, advocates and lawmakers for future placement of this population.

### National News



- **Michael Steele, former Lt. Governor of Maryland, was named the first African-American to head the Republican National Committee.**
- **S. 181 Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 became law.** This bill makes it easier for employees to challenge unfair compensation practices. Each pay period an employee is paid based on discriminatory pay decisions, the Law is violated.
- **H.R. 1 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 passed the House of Representatives and is awaiting Senate approval.** This bill would provide appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency, assistance to the unemployed, and state & local financial stabilization.
- **H. R. 2 Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 passed Congress and should soon be signed into law.** This bill would improve the Children's Health Insurance Program and extend coverage to 4 million more children.
- **The White House established a task force to focus on the middle class to be headed by Vice President Joe Biden.** This group will assess policies to determine whether they help or hinder citizens in this demographic. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/strongmiddleclass>