



SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

THE FEDERAL CITY ALUMNAE CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED

January 2010 Political and Legislative Updates

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

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



Committee Co-Chairs:

Soror Pia J. Miller, Esq.
Soror Michelle Rose

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

THIS MONTH IN BLACK HISTORY:

January 1, 1863 - President Abraham Lincoln issues Emancipation Proclamation.

January 2, 1965 - Martin Luther King, Jr. calls for non-violent protests if Alabama Blacks are not allowed to register and vote.

January 3, 1624 - William Tucker first African American child born in America.

January 4, 1971 - Congressional Black Caucus formed.

January 11, 1985 - Reuben V. Anderson, first African American to be appointed to Mississippi Supreme Court.

January 13, 1913 - Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated founded on the campus of Howard University.

January 13, 1990 - L. Douglas Wilder becomes first African American U.S. governor (Virginia) since Reconstruction.

January 20, 1977 - Patricia Roberts Harris becomes U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the first black woman to hold a Cabinet position.

January 29, 1926 - Violette Nealy Anderson becomes the first Black woman lawyer to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

(www.theblackmarket.com)

SOROR LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

ADVOCACY FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM FOR CHILDREN

This is a critical time in America to ensure that our most vulnerable and in my opinion, our most important, citizens—children—all receive adequate, affordable and comprehensive health care this year. The Declaration of Independence states that “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.” Unfortunately, this does not seem the case when it comes to access to health care. Over 45 million Americans are uninsured and about 8 million children are uninsured. To bring everyone on to equal footing and to ensure a healthier nation, Americans must take a stand and advocate for Congress to pass health care reform today.

As a child advocate speaking on behalf of America’s most vulnerable children and youth, it is not only right but necessary to ensure that America’s health care system is reformed so that all children and youth have equal access to affordable and comprehensive health care coverage. In a country as prosperous as ours, no parent or guardian should have to debate whether or not they can afford to take their child to the hospital because they either have no health care coverage or are underinsured. It is particularly important to ensure meaningful access to treatment for children and youth who come in contact with the child welfare system and those receiving in home services and out of home placement, as statistics show that this population experiences a disproportionate amount of physical and mental health issues.

I agree that the health care bills are not perfect, but they represent significant steps forward and will do much to increase access to health care services for vulnerable children and families. For example, the bills will: extend Medicaid coverage to many more low income children and individuals, provide subsidies for families to purchase health coverage, protect access to foster care and Medicaid services by extending the Recovery Act’s increased Medicaid and Title IV-E match; provide funding for home visitation programs, and most important of all—protect therapeutic foster care programs.

Because of the challenges we face as a country, there is no better time than the present to pursue the passage of health care reform in America. I urge all Americans to call your representative and senators today and tell him/her to support and pass health care reform and to not leave our children behind. It is time that America stands together and do what is right for our nations’ children and their health.

Soror Roberta Berry, Waldorf, MD

CALLING ALL SORORS!!!

The FCAC Social Action Committee and the Mu Beta Chapter invites you to join us for a documentary and discussion about Darfur.

Event: NOT ON OUR WATCH!

When: January 27, 2010 at 7:00 pm.

**Where: George Washington University Marvin Center 3rd Floor Amphitheater, 800 21st ST NW
Washington DC 20052**

Logistics: Street & Lot Parking, Foggy Bottom Metro Station (Orange & Blue Lines)

Attire: Business Casual



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International News

Travel & Security—The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is increasing security measures in United States airports, and the federal government is requiring heightened security in 14 countries for airline passengers flying into the United States.

Under the new rules, all citizens of Afghanistan, Algeria, Lebanon, Libya, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Yemen must receive a pat down and an extra check of their carry-on bags before boarding a plane bound for the United States, officials said. Citizens of Cuba, Iran, Sudan and Syria — nations considered “state sponsors of terrorism” — face the same requirement. (nytimes.com) Other passengers will be subject to random searches.

These changes went into immediate effect after Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab from Nigeria smuggled explosives onto a Northwest Airlines plane traveling from Amsterdam to Detroit on December 25, 2009. Abdulmutallab has since been indicted by the Michigan Grand Jury and charged with attempted murder, among other counts.

Obama told his staff in the situation room on January 5, 2010 that he wasn't pleased with the breach in security on Christmas day and that he is determined to implement corrective action and procedural reform to prevent future incidents like this.

This terror attempt will undoubtedly hinder Obama's plan to close the Guantanamo Bay prison and relocate all its detainees, mostly terror suspects, to a U.S. facility. There is strong reason to believe that Al-Qaeda was involved in the Christmas day terrorist attempt—particularly the branch in Yemen—and over one-third of the Guantanamo detainees are from Yemen.

Federal Legislative Update

Health Care: The Senate passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, H.R. 3590. This is the Senate version of the bill to provide health benefits to the uninsured and assist qualified employers with the cost of providing health care for their employees and retirees.

Economic Security: The House passed the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, H.R. 4173 would establish the Consumer Financial Protection Agency to regulate consumer financial products such as mortgages, car loans, and credit cards.

Census Jobs

Census Jobs are available both for full and part-time positions. For employment opportunities, please call toll-free 1-866-861-2010, where you will be prompted to enter your five-digit zip code. You will then be connected to the Census job site which governs your residence. For the District, this would be DC East: 301-244-1060 and DC West: 202-507-4560.

Some of the current positions available are as Office Clerks and Recruitment Assistants. There will be a larger hiring in the spring from Enumerators, who are responsible for going door-to-door to residents who did not submit their census questionnaire. Further information can be obtained at www.2010censusjobs.gov.

Comparative Ethnographic Studies of Census Enumeration Methods and Coverage in Race/Ethnic Groups

The U.S. Census Bureau is seeking 18 ethnographers to do short-term research in nine race/ethnic research sites during Census 2010 field data collection operations as contractors or short-term, temporary employees for 4-6 months. Past research has shown that race/ethnic minority subpopulations are differentially miscounted, with implications for possible imbalances in congressional representation and allocation of federal funds. Examples of miscounts include persons not included on the census form who should be counted as part of the household, persons counted in more than one place or in the wrong place, and missed housing units. This study aims to document how and why miscounts happen, who is affected, and what can be improved to reduce census miscounting in the future.

If You are Interested and Would Like to Learn More: Compile the following:

Cover letter, including:

- Any experience with past censuses and/or surveys
- Experience with unobtrusive observation and debriefings
- Identification of the race/ethnic subpopulation with which you have done past research, and the specific US locations of that research
- Any foreign language fluency, with level of fluency in conversation

Attachments:

- Current resume or CV
- Brief summary of your past research with the race/ethnic group you have chosen, including research design and methods employed. Identify the specific US location(s) where you have conducted your past research
- Please specify if you are/are not of the same race/ethnicity as the group you wish to study
- Representative paper or report showing methodology and/or results relevant to this proposed study (less than 25 pages)
- Dates of observation in this study: State which of the three observation time period(s) listed above when you will be available to spend 7-9 continuous days of observation at the site (you will need to commit to one of these time periods in writing in order to be selected for this study.)

Send by February 1, 2010: by e-mail or regular mail to all contact people below. If you send by regular mail, send to just one: Laurel Schwede, Matt Clifton, or Rodney Terry. Laurel.K.Schwede@census.gov<<mailto:Laurel.K.Schwede@census.gov>> 301-763-2611

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