

Social Action Committee

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



Political and Legislative Updates December 2008

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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@thefcacdst.org**

This month in Black history:

1863, Former slave Phillip Reid's "Freedom" statue placed atop the U.S. Capitol

1865, The 13th Amendment, which abolishes slavery in the United States, was ratified.

1870, Congressman Joseph H. Rainey sworn in as the first Black in U.S. House of Representatives

1929, "Don't Buy Where You Can't Work" campaign began in Chicago's South Side

1950, Dr. Ralph J. Bunche became the first African-American awarded the Nobel Peace Prize

1966, Kwanzaa originated by Dr. Maulana Karenga

D/M/V Legislative Tracking Report

District of Columbia

DC Public Schools: "Public Schools Hearing Amendment Act of 2008," Bill 17-0942 includes the regulation of salaries for teachers, school officers, and other employees of the board of education; requires the Mayor to conduct a public hearing on public school funding at least 15 days prior to the Mayor's submission of the District's budget and financial plan to the Council, and to establish Public Schools Funding Advisory Commission, and to delineate the allocations of monies required in the District of Columbia Public Schools budget submitted by the Chancellor. This bill was approved at December 2, Legislative Meeting.

Emergency Medical Assistance: "Emergency Medical Services Act of 2008", Bill 17-0596 looks to establish a District-wide Emergency Medical Services system. It will include emergency medical services provider entities, emergency medical response vehicles, emergency medical services personnel, and emergency medical services training facilities and instructors to be licensed or certified by the Mayor. This bill received its First Reading at December 2, Legislative Meeting. A final vote is expected a the December 16, Legislative Meeting.

Domestic Violence: "Emergency Care for Sexual Assault Victims Act of 2008", Bill 17-0323. To establish a law that would provide emergency contraception to victims of sexual assault who request such treatment, and to require that hospitals inform sexual assault victims of their option to be provided emergency contraception. This bill received its First Reading at December 2, Legislative Meeting. A final vote is expected a the December 16, Legislative Meeting.

Small Business: "Anacostia BID Amendment Act of 2008", Bill 17-0660." To amend the Business Improvement Districts Act of 1996 to approve the establishment of the Anacostia business district. A hearing was held on this bill on November 24, 2008.

Youth: Chairman Vincent Gray will hold of his monthly hearings on "Youth Issues" on Saturday, December 13 at 10 am, in the Council Chamber, Room 500. This hearing is held to give our youth an opportunity to present and discuss the issues that are important to them.

Maryland

Slot Machines: In the November 2008 election, Marylanders approved a state constitutional amendment allowing 15,000 video lottery slot machines terminals in Maryland.

Early Voting: In the November 2008 election, Marylanders approved a state constitutional amendment permitting early voting that would start 10 days (during a two-week period) before Election Day.

Underage Drinking: In the 2008 Legislative Session, the General Assembly passed both Senate Bill 166 and House Bill 76 increasing the monetary penalties for knowingly providing alcoholic beverages to individuals under the age of 21.

Housing: In the 2008 Legislative Session, the General Assembly passed House Bill 975 authorizing the Department of Housing & Community Development to sell any mortgages they own to obtain additional sources of funding to offset the slow-down in repayments on State funded housing loans.

Virginia

Payday Loans: A payday lender will be prohibited from making a payday loan if the loan would cause the borrower to have more than one payday loan outstanding at the same time. Additionally, a payday lender may not charge a fee of more than 20% of the loan amount or an annual interest rate more than 36%.

Home Ownership Protection: The State Corporation Commission is authorized to impose a fine of not more than \$2,500 upon a mortgage lender or broker for violating any law or regulation regarding the lender's or broker's business conduct. Also all mortgage lenders and brokers must submit to criminal background checks.

Access to Credit Reports: A consumer has the right to freeze access to his/her credit report and prohibits a consumer reporting agency from releasing the report, or any information in it, without the consumer's express authorization.

Unemployment Benefits: The amount an employee must have earned in his two highest earnings quarters to qualify for unemployment benefits increased to being between \$2,700 and \$3,000. Additionally, the maximum weekly unemployment benefit increased from \$363 to \$378.

National News



* On November 19th Soror and Past

National President Marcia L. Fudge was sworn into the United States House of Representatives to represent the 11th District of Ohio. She assumes the seat of Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones who passed away on August 20th.

* On November 4th Senator Barack

Obama was elected to be the 44th President of the United States. Current cabinet appointees include: Gov. Bill Richardson—Sec. of Commerce; Louis Caldera—Director of White House Military Office; Rep. Raum Emanuel—Chief of Staff; Sen. Hillary Clinton— Secretary of State; Defense Secretary Robert Gates.

* **The Child Safe Viewing Act of 2007**

(S. 602) was passed and became law. It requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to research advanced blocking technologies that would improve parents' ability to prevent children from accessing inappropriate media. It also requires the FCC to investigate ways to promote the production of such technology.

* **H.R. 6867, the Unemployment Compensation** was passed into law to provide additional emergency unemployment compensation.