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AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



2006 African American Leadership Summit Participating Co-Sponsors

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SUMMIT ISSUE SESSIONS



U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX) opens the Business Session along with Terri Whitt Bailey (IN) and Pastor Phillip Davis (PA).



U.S. Senator Norm Coleman (MN) discusses job creation during the Economic Growth Session.



Attendee Neal Boyd (MO) poses a question during the Health Care Session.



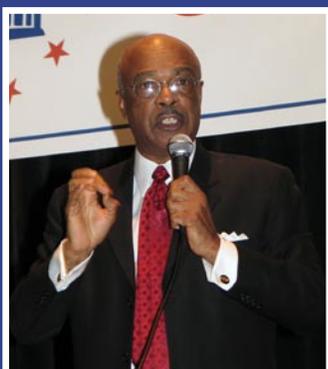
U.S. Senator Jim Talent (MO) discusses Small Business Health Plans during the Health Care Session.



U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander (TN) references a charter school during the Education Session.



Michelle Bernard, President and CEO of the Independent Women's Forum, highlights public/private partnerships during the Economic Growth Session.



Dr. Rod Paige answers an attendee's question during the Education Session.



Robert Woodson, Sr. talks with attendees after the Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Session.



Attendee Eustis J. Guillemet (LA) poses a question during the Education Session.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES UPDATE

EDUCATION

- To ensure U.S. students are the best in the world and to keep good jobs in America, a package of three bills, S. 2197, S. 2198, and S. 2199, collectively known as the **Protecting America's Competitive Edge (PACE) Act**, would strengthen U.S. science, technology, and education.
- **S. 2198, PACE-Education**, would improve K-12 science and math education through 4-year scholarships for future teachers of math and science, as well as training programs and summer academies for teachers. It includes Advanced Placement courses in math and science; support for specialty math and science high schools; and high-tech internships for middle and high school students. It improves higher education through scholarships and fellowships to future scientists.

ECONOMY/JOB

- The Commerce Department announced that the U.S. economy grew an impressive 4.8 percent annual rate in the first quarter of this year, the fastest pace of growth in two and a half years. Nearly 5.3 million net new jobs have been created since August 2003. The first quarter also saw hourly compensation rise at a 5.7 percent rate – more than twice the rate of last quarter.

- Congress recently approved legislation to make permanent the tax relief that helped spur this economic growth. On May 11, 2006, the U.S. Senate passed a final version of the **Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005, H.R. 4297**, which will protect families and small business owners from tax increases scheduled to take effect. It ensures a pro-growth environment by including small-business expensing provisions, and it will spare millions of middle-income American families from paying higher taxes under the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). The U.S. Congress is developing a second tax relief package to include deductions for tuition to help students and families afford college and deductions for state and local income taxes.



U.S. Senator George Voinovich talks with attendees during the Welcome Reception.



Joan Allard, Mary Millben, U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (CO), and Michelle Millben visit at the Welcome Reception.

GAS PRICES

- To confront high gasoline prices, the U.S. Congress and President Bush are working to ensure that U.S. consumers are treated fairly at the gas pump and to secure America's energy independence.
- A gas price relief package is being developed to protect consumers against price gouging; repeal tax incentives for oil companies; and increase our domestic energy supply, refinery capacity, and infrastructure to secure our gasoline supply. The package aims to boost U.S. supply and reduce our dependence on foreign oil by promoting environmentally-responsible oil and gas exploration, as well as diversification through alternative fuels and new technologies.

HEALTH CARE

- The week of May 8, 2006, the U.S. Senate dedicated floor time to Health Care Week to deliberate legislation to make health care more affordable and available for all Americans. Although several bills were under consideration, partisan obstruction prevented progress on the following proposals to address the high cost and lack of accessibility to quality health care:
- **S. 1955, The Small Business Health Plans (SBHPs)** bill, would allow small businesses to band together across state lines to create larger risk pools, which would let them buy insurance coverage for their employees at the same discounts that big companies receive. SBHPs would enable small firms to offer more affordable plans, giving more employees access to quality coverage.
- **S. 22, The Medical Care Access Protection Act**, and **S. 23, The Healthy Mothers and Healthy Babies Access Act**, would protect patients and their access to quality and affordable health care by reducing the adverse impact of frivolous lawsuits.



Gerald Borders (TX) and U.S. Senator John Cornyn (TX) confer during the Welcome Reception.

BORDER SECURITY/IMMIGRATION REFORM

- The U.S. Senate will resume consideration of comprehensive immigration reform and border security the week of May 15, 2006. **The Securing America's Borders Act (SABA), S. 2454**, would ensure strict enforcement of U.S. immigration laws, while other legislation under consideration would include a guest worker program. Numerous amendments are expected, including proposals to bar criminals from getting green cards or citizenship and to delay a proposed guest worker program until the Homeland Security Department declares the borders reasonably secure.

CAPITOL HILL WELCOME RECEPTION



Pennsylvania attendees meet with U.S. Senator Rick Santorum (PA).



U.S. Senator George Allen (VA) talks with attendees.



Lavoy Spooner (NC) chats with U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee (RI).



U.S. Senator John Ensign (NV) shares time with participants.



Georgia's U.S. Senators Johnny Isakson (center) and Saxby Chambliss (right) mingle with attendees.



U.S. Senator David Vitter (LA) visits with Louisiana attendee Luke Lavergne.



U.S. Senator Richard Burr (NC) greets attendee Madeline Lawson (DC).



U.S. Senator Ted Stevens (AK) confers with attendee Thomas Mensah (GA) during the Welcome Reception.



U.S. Senate Majority Leader William Frist, M.D. (TN) greets a participant.

POLICY SURVEY AND EVALUATION RESULTS

Thank you to those attendees who completed the Summit evaluation and policy questionnaire. This feedback is an invaluable tool in helping us further refine the agenda and goals for future Summits.



Former U.S. Secretary of Education Dr. Rod Paige responds to an audience question during the Education Session with Gene Haynes, Principal of Omaha North High School in Nebraska, and Carolyn Mahoney, President of Lincoln University of Missouri.

Based on evaluations completed to date, the top five issues of importance to Summit attendees are:

1. Education
2. Economic Growth/Job Creation
3. Defense/War on Terror
4. Health Care
5. Homeland Security



Robert Woodson, Sr., Founder and President, Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, interacts with attendees during the Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Session.



Attendees were seated by issue at the Networking Luncheon to facilitate more in-depth discussion.



Ronald Langston, National Director of the Minority Business Development Agency at the U.S. Department of Commerce, speaks during the Economic Growth Session.

Attendees' suggestions for addressing priority issues were:

- “Foster greater educational opportunities locally without strings [attached] from the Federal government.”
- “Return to values-based education. Need common set of values irrespective of religion. Unfortunately, schools will still have to do much not being done at home.”
- “Increase funding for education without sacrificing or competing with health care.”
- “Industry in the U.S. needs a trained workforce at the technician level. Congress should support community and technical colleges.”
- “Continue military pay raises and better health care for veterans and COLAs for retirees.”
- “Issue long term ‘War Bonds’ sold to the average citizen.”
- “Proper funding for local emergency responders and the design and construction of a “national” communication system.”
- “Decentralize Homeland Security. It is too large and all parts are not working together.”
- “Provide more assistance to local hospitals to provide health care [to immigrants]. Fix Medicaid.”
- “Establish Health and Wellness centers in all states to service a certain number of employees.”
- “Mobilize minorities to become health care providers at the entry level [to lead] into a career ladder.”
- “Create a government fund to be the health insurer of last resort. Force insurance companies to be more competitive and sell basic health coverage.”
- “Less tax, more help for small businesses. At present, there are too many [burdensome] regulations that small business can ill afford.”



AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



May 12, 2006

MESSAGE FROM THE SUMMIT CO-CHAIRS:

Thank you so much for your interest and involvement in the third African American Leadership Summit on March 27-28, 2006, in Washington, D.C. Due to the active participation of many outstanding community and business leaders, the Summit generated a constructive dialogue with nearly 500 attendees from 40 states and the District of Columbia. We were honored to have U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Alphonso Jackson as our keynote speaker.



Alphonso Jackson, U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, delivers the keynote address during the Networking Lunch.

Other noted speakers included Dr. Rod Paige, former U.S. Secretary of Education; Bob Woodson, President & Founder, Center for Neighborhood Enterprise; Ron Langston, National Director, Minority Business Development Agency; U.S. Senate Majority Leader William H. Frist, M.D.; and U.S. Senators Lamar Alexander, Norm Coleman, Jim Talent, and David Vitter.



Participants from Indiana gather at the Networking Coffee.



U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX) meets with participants during the 2006 Summit.



U.S. Senator Rick Santorum (PA) greets attendee Maggie Harris (MD) at the Welcome Reception.

During issue sessions, attendees posed questions and comments to the speakers. This interaction allowed Members of Congress and other policy experts to listen to participants' concerns and provide updates on legislative issues and accomplishments. We heard many views and suggestions, and the evaluation forms that more than 200 attendees completed will help improve our future efforts.

Listed inside this newsletter are attendees' top legislative priorities and ideas from the completed questionnaires, as well as legislative updates on key issues. Photos from the event also are included. For additional photographs from the 2006 Summit, visit <http://hutchison.senate.gov> to download pictures.

Thank you again for your feedback and for the opportunity to work together. We will keep you informed about future events and wish you continued success.

Sincerely,

Kay Bailey Hutchison
U.S. Senator
Summit Co-Chair

Rick Santorum
U.S. Senator
Summit Co-Chair