NBCSL National Black Caucus of State Legislators

The National Black Caucus of State Legislators

SEEING BEYOND

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Rep. Barbara W. Ballard, KS
President

Rep. Joe Armstrong, TN
President-Elect

Rep. Thaddeus Kirkland, PA
Vice President

Sen. Constance Johnson, OK
Secretary

Sen. Catherine Pugh, MD
Financial Secretary

Rep. Howard Mosby, GA
Treasurer

Sen. Hillman Terome Frazier, MS
Parliamentarian

Rep. Helen Miller, IA
Chaplain

Rep. Calvin Smyre, GA
Past President

REGIONAL CHAIRPERSONS

Rep. Ernest Hewett, CT
Region 1

Assem. Nick Perry, NY
Region 2

Del. Nathaniel T. Oaks, MD
Region 3

Sen. Yvonne Miller, VA
Region 4

Rep. Larry Womble, NC
Region 5

Rep. Mia Jones, FL
Region 6

Rep. John Rogers, AL
Region 7

Rep. Bill Crawford, IN
Region 8

Sen. Shirley Smith, OH
Region 9

Rep. Tracy Steele, AR
Region 10

Sen. David Haley, KS
Region 11

Sen. Bettye Davis, AK
Region 12

LaKimba B. DeSadier
NBCSL Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 26, 2012

NBCSL Applauds President Barack Obama's State of the Union Address

Representative Barbara W. Ballard (KS), President of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, (NBCSL) issues the following statement regarding the State of the Union Address:

In last night's State of the Union Address, President Barack Obama addressed the events that occurred over the past year and laid out a compelling vision to move the Nation forward.

NBCSL stands by the President's commitment to assist the Nation's middle class and poor, asserting the need for economic fairness. Our members wholeheartedly agree with the President's call to action to increase educational and employment opportunities; to incentivize small businesses to create American jobs; to build the necessary infrastructure; and to become energy independent.

As our Nation continues to recover from the economic crisis, it is critical to enact reforms that benefit the American people on a more tangible level. Even though the economy shows signs of improvement, additional work remains to ensure all Americans have an equal opportunity to achieve economic self-sufficiency. In times of budget constraints we, and other lawmakers, must make wise policy choices that protect our most vulnerable populations. It is imperative our laws promote growth and innovation, and invest in our human capital. Our youth must have the tools and resources available so they can obtain the skills and education to participate successfully in the workforce.

We support the President's plea for the restoration of bipartisanship in the political process. Now is the time to put America first, and place political, ideological, and even economic differences aside. We must work together to end the gridlock and revive the American spirit, thereby allowing the citizens in this great Nation to regain confidence in their government. The difficulties facing this Nation cannot be resolved in a climate of cynicism and intransigence. We must unite behind the President to foster solutions that address the crises facing our states, cities, and all citizens.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL BLACK CAUCUS OF STATE LEGISLATORS (NBCSL)
The National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) is a membership association representing more than 600 African American state legislators from 42 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. NBCSL members represent more than 50 million Americans of various racial backgrounds. NBCSL monitors federal and state legislation and initiatives and provides this information to its members. Each year, NBCSL members pass policy resolutions that directly impact federal and state policy. The organization focuses on U.S. domestic policy and is committed to policies that positively affect all Americans. Learn more at www.nbcsl.org.

444 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NW, SUITE 622, WASHINGTON, DC 20001 202.624.5457 202.508.3826 WWW.NBCSL.ORG