

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EEOC LOCALS No 216, AFGE, AFL-CIO**  
**Office of the President**  
**c/o Denver District Office, EEOC**  
**303 East 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 510, Denver, Colorado 80203**  
**Tele: (303) 866-1337 Fax: (303) 866-1900**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**July 10, 2007**

Contact: Gabrielle Martin  
(303) 725-9079  
Rachel Shonfield  
(305) 496-7939

**SENATOR MIKULSKI LEADS EFFORT TO RESTORE WEAKENED EEOC  
TO HELP AMERICAN WORKERS**

Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), who heads the Appropriations Subcommittee which oversees the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), recently described her position, "My job as Chairwoman is to make sure the EEOC is fighting to keep the playing field level and ending discrimination at the workplace." Senate report budget language released late Friday proved that the long time civil rights champion was good to her word. The Senate report calls for a \$50 million increase to EEOC's budget. The report also strips funding from an ineffectual outsourced call center experiment that Senator Mikulski referred to at a May oversight hearing as just an "answering machine."

The EEOC badly needed this infusion of resources after four years of frozen budgets, ignoring the loss of over 20% of its workforce, rising backlogs and processing times, and a field restructuring plan that led to office downsizings. Gabrielle Martin, President of the National Council of EEOC Locals, No. 216, which represents EEOC's employees, praised Senator Mikulski, "EEOC's workers and this nation's workers have Senator Mikulski to thank for ensuring the promise of the American dream. In recent years EEOC has become a toothless tiger, but with the restoration of adequate resources the agency will be able to enforce laws which protect workers from discrimination on the job."

The Senate report promises resources to the field to tackle the agency's backlog, which EEOC estimates will grow to 50,000 by 2008. The budget language also provides oversight of EEOC's Headquarters' restructuring.

According to Martin, "This budget hits all the right marks. EEOC has lost its way in recent years. Instead of focusing on enforcing civil rights laws, the agency has focused on adding more layers and red-tape, such as the call center or field restructuring. When workers have been fired for their race, or paid less because of their sex, or not been hired because of their disability or age, they have had to fight not only their employers but also EEOC's bureaucracy. With this budget, Senator Mikulski is helping to ensure that EEOC gets back to the basics of simply helping, rather than hindering, workers."

###