



National
Urban League

***Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.***

November 13, 2006

Honorable Frank Wolf
Chair, House Science, State, Justice
& Commerce Appropriations
Subcommittee
VIA FAX: 202-225-1808

Honorable Alan Mollohan
Ranking Member, House Science,
State, Justice & Commerce,
Appropriations Subcommittee
VIA FAX: 202-225-9476

Honorable Richard Shelby
Chair, Senate Commerce, Justice, Science
Appropriations Subcommittee
VIA FAX: 202-224-2698

Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Senate Commerce, Justice, Science
Appropriations Subcommittee
VIA FAX: 202-228-1624

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

As President and CEO of the National Urban League, I am calling upon Congress to reinvigorate the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Congress can take immediate action by adopting the Senate version of the EEOC's FY07 budget.

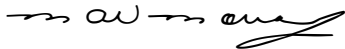
The Senate approach would provide an important first step in securing an effective EEOC by: saving it from a proposed \$4 million cut; eliminating the controversial privatized Call Center that is wasting millions of dollars on 36 ineffective script reading telemarketers; calling for the hiring of investigators and attorneys; acknowledging the EEOC's rising backlog of cases; requiring the Inspector General to evaluate the impact of EEOC's controversial nationwide restructuring; and restoring the EEOC Baltimore District Office.

As you know, the EEOC was created in 1964 to end discrimination in the workplace. It is charged with enforcing our Federal laws that prohibit job discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age and disability. Unfortunately, job applicant and workplace discrimination are still common occurrences in our society. According to the EEOC's own statistics, more than 75,000 discrimination charges were filed with the EEOC in 2005. Additionally, a 2005 Gallup poll found that 15 percent of all workers perceived that they had been subjected to some sort of discriminatory or unfair treatment.

Under the current Administration, the EEOC has been severely weakened in its ability to respond to discrimination complaints. The agency has been under a hiring freeze since 2001 and has lost 20 percent of its workforce. The EEOC's rising backlog of discrimination complaints is expected to reach almost 50,000 by 2007. Despite the need for additional staff and other resources, the President's FY07 budget and the House FY07 appropriations bill call for cutting EEOC's funding by \$4 million.

As you prepare to finalize EEOC's appropriations for FY07, the National Urban League strongly urges that you adopt the Senate version of EEOC's budget and looks forward to its swift enactment this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Morial", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Marc H. Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

Cc: Honorable Jerry Lewis
Honorable David R. Obey
Honorable Thad Cochran
Honorable Robert C. Byrd