



National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc.

A Public Advocacy Newsletter

Public Policy Committee 2018-2019

NCBW ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women Inc. (NCBW) is a non-profit organization that advocates on behalf of black women and girls. Our mission is to advocate on behalf of Black Women and Girls for Leadership Development and Gender Equity in the areas of Health, Education and Economic Empowerment.

Through numerous program initiatives, NCBW Bergen/Passaic Chapter has focused on the core values which include racial & social justice, integrity and accountability, inclusion, respect, and collaboration. We aim to fulfill our purpose which includes fostering principles of equal rights and opportunities. NCBW100 Bergen/Passaic Chapter members include a diverse group of women who are unwavering in effectuating change, and are committed to the mission, core values, and purpose of our organization.

HEALTH

- Support Health Initiatives (Heart Disease, Stroke, Breast Cancer, Childhood Obesity, HIV/AIDS)
- Eliminate Health Disparities
 - Increase Prevention/Decrease Mortality
 - Access to Affordable HealthCare
 - Improve Health Outcomes/Quality of Life

EDUCATION

- Eliminate Educational Disparities
- Vocational/College Preparation
- STEM/STEAM Education
- HBCU Awareness and Support
- Mentor young ladies
- College Scholarships and Support

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

- Pay Equity
- African-American Owned Business Growth
- Housing and Real Estate
- Financial Freedom

STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

- Government
- Corporate
- Non-Profit
- Faith Based Institutions

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT/ADVOCACY

- Voter: Education/Regulations/Rights
- Increase Women Candidates running for Office
- Issue Timely Policy Alerts
- Issues Position Papers on Public Policy Issues

ARTS & CULTURE

- Promote Cultural Enrichment Programs

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Children's Health Promotion Fund

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Bergen/Passaic Chapter wholeheartedly and enthusiastically supports Assembly Bill No. 3567 (2018), which is a bill that establishes the Children's Health Promotion Fund and is an act concerning healthy eating for low income children.¹

Background

One of the fundamental goals of parents is to provide the best things that life has to offer to their children. Parents want to see their children thrive and advance to become positive contributors to the world. However, one of the top challenges that parents may face is getting their children to eat healthy. In order to prevent various health conditions, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that healthy eating in childhood and adolescence is vital.²

According to research, one's preference for food is established when they are young. Communities of color, especially youth, are a target for the marketing of unhealthy foods.³ A recent NBC Health News report detailed appalling findings that food companies spent billions of dollars on TV advertisements, with 80 percent of the ads spent on unhealthy foods and beverages that disproportionately targeted minority youth.⁴ Assembly Bill No 3567 (2018) is a conscious-raising legislation with a purpose of focusing much needed

attention on childhood obesity and educating low-income families on the benefits of healthy eating.

Assembly Bill No. 3567 (2018) establishes the Children's Health Promotion Fund which would place monies towards programs that would:¹

- Improve access to and encourage the consumption of healthy, safe and affordable foods and beverages by low-income children
- Educate low-income children and their families on the importance of proper diet and physical activity in preventing childhood obesity
- Raise public awareness about programs that promote sound nutritional choices.

One of the advocacy priorities of NCBW is to support health initiatives that target childhood obesity. To that end, we support Assembly Bill No3567 (2018).

Citations

1. Establishes Children's Health Promotion Fund. A No 3567. 218th Legislative District, (2018)
2. Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d) *CDC Healthy Schools. Childhood Nutrition Facts*. Retrieved from www.cdc.gov
3. Berkley Media Studies Group, (2017, November). *Health equity & junk food marketing: talking about targeting kids of color*. Retrieved from <http://www.bmsg.org/resources/publications/health-equity-junk-food-marketing-talking-about-targeting-kids-color/>
4. Shamard, C., (2019, January 16) *Junk food ads disproportionately target black and Hispanic kids, study finds*. NBC Health News. Retrieved from <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/junk-food-ads-disproportionately-target-black-hispanic-kids-study-finds-n959111>

Voter Disenfranchisement

United States history shows decades of battles surrounding a fundamental human right and civic duty, the right to vote. Although we have come a long way since the State's 1844 Constitution, the current New Jersey law still disqualifies people from voting if they are currently serving a sentence, probation, or parole because of a felony conviction.² According to an article written in the Huffington Post, there are at least 19 million people in America with a felony conviction. This includes 6 million people who are barred from voting under State laws.³ In New Jersey, approximately 94,000 people were denied access to voting in 2016.⁴

New Jersey's current law on voting has devastating consequences on black communities, as black adults are 12 times more likely to be imprisoned than white adults.⁴ Similarly, according to an article written by the Equal Justice Initiative, black youth are more likely than white youth to be incarcerated, but not because the black youth are guilty of committing crimes, rather it is because they are presumed to be guilty and dangerous.⁵ The American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey reported that in 2016, Blacks made up about 15% of New Jersey's population, but 60% of individuals incarcerated in New Jersey were Black, and about 76% were people of color.⁶ Furthermore, the current state law on voting has racist origins, as it was adopted during the Civil War era with plans to keep African Americans from voting.³

To this end, the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Bergen/Passaic chapter opposes any laws with racist origins and intentions. We do not believe that disenfranchising citizens with past felony convictions is productive, constructive or rehabilitating. The National Coalition of 100 Black Women Inc, Bergen/Passaic Chapter, staunchly supports Senate Bill No. 2100 and Assembly Bill No. 3456, which is an act concerning the right to vote by persons convicted of an indictable offense.⁷

"...there are at least 19 million people in America with a felony conviction. This includes 6 million people who are barred from voting under State laws."

Citations

1. Mission and History, National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Bergen/Passaic Chapter Retrieved from <http://www.ncbwbergenpassaic.org>
2. Voter Rights and Accessibility Information, State of New Jersey, Department of State. Retrieved from <http://www.state.nj.us>
3. Levine, S. (2018, October 2). *Here's why one wrong voting move can be catastrophic for former felons*. Huffington Post. Retrieved from https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/felon-disenfranchisement-voting-rights_us_5bb3cd60e4b028e1fe38a253
4. 1844 No More, NJISJ Do Social Justice. Retrieved from <http://www.njisj.org/1844nomorereport2017>
5. Equal Justice Initiative, (2017 September). Black Children Five Times More Likely Than White Youth to Be Incarcerated. Retrieved from <https://eji.org/news/black-children-five-times-more-likely-than-whites-to-be-incarcerated>
6. American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey (2017 December) A Vision to End Mass Incarceration in New Jersey. Retrieved from <http://www.aclu-nj.org>
7. Removes prohibition on voting by persons convicted of indictable offense who are on parole, probation, or serving a sentence. A No 3456. 218th Legislative District, (2018)

**"In the end anti-black, anti-female, and all forms of discrimination are equivalent to the same thing: anti-humanism."
– Shirley Chisholm**

Our Children...

Our Greatest Asset

It has been stated that education is the key to success. It has been stated that education is the great equalizer. It has been stated that education is the most powerful weapon. It has been stated that education is the passport to the future.

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women Bergen/Passaic believe all of these statements. And we also believe that education, specifically Civics Education, can lay the foundation to youth knowing their roles as citizens in America.

“Our children are the rock on which our future will be built, our greatest asset as a nation.”

~Nelson Mandela~

Civics Education for Middle School Students

New Jersey Senate Bill No. 2762 requires the provision of civics instruction to middle school students in public schools.¹ Civics education is essential to sustain our constitutional democracy. It is critical now more than ever than citizens understand their rights and responsibilities; essentially, it is imperative that youth are prepared and understand how to contribute to civic responsibility.

Under Senate Bill 2762:¹

- Each board of education is required to provide a course of study about the values and principles underlying the American system of constitutional democracy.
- All middle school students will be required to take a minimum of one semester of civics education.

According to an article published in CNN politics, a poll from the University of Pennsylvania’s Annenberg Public Policy Center reports that Americans lack basic knowledge about the US government and the Constitution that formed it.²

Citations

1. Requires the board of education to provide civics instruction in middle schools...Senate Bill No 2762. 218th Legislative District, (2018)
2. Cillizza, C. (2017 September 13) Americans know literally nothing about the constitution. CNN Politics. Retrieved <https://www.cnn.com/2017/09/13/politics/poll-constitution/index.html>

Increase New Jersey's Minimum Wage

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women Bergen/Passaic Chapter staunchly supports the increase of New Jersey's minimum wage to \$15.00 an hour. Economic empowerment is strongly held as one of our core values, and we believe that the increase of minimum wage in New Jersey can have positive ripple effects on struggling families including health and social aspects.

Background

In 2018, New Jersey was listed on CNBC's top ten most expensive places to live in the United States.¹ Equally, in 2018, more people moved out of New Jersey than any other state due to factors such as the high cost of living, according to an article published by the New York Post.² Additionally, New Jersey ranks 7th in the nation in income inequality.³ Although the state's minimum wage increased from \$8.60 to \$8.85 on January 1st, 2019, it is not enough given New Jersey's high cost of living.

If low-income workers are not meeting basic needs such as rent and food, saving for retirement and access to basic health needs is highly unlikely. Furthermore, the academic journal, Children and Youth Services Review completed a research study and found that increasing the minimum wage improves child welfare.⁴ Additionally, research conducted at Rutgers University revealed that women who left abusive relationships would consider returning to their abusers for financial support.⁴ We believe it is absolutely necessary to take the steps that will ultimately empower and strengthen women and their families, and create financial security and stability.

Citations

1. The Most Expensive Places to Live in America, (2018 July). CNBC. Retrieved from www.CNBC.com
2. Steinbuch, Y. (2019, January 2). *More people moved out of this state than any other in America*. New York Post. <https://nypost.com/2019/01/02/more-people-moved-out-of-this-state-than-any-other-in-america/>

3. McKoy, Brandon. (2018, February). *A \$15 minimum wage would help over 1 million workers and boost New Jersey's economy*. New Jersey Policy Perspective. Retrieved from <https://www.njpp.org/reports/a-15-minimum-wage-would-help-over-1-million-workers-and-boost-new-jerseys-economy>
4. Hetling, A., Lancaster, D., (2019, January 25) *Opinion: Higher wage will make NJ's low-income households safe, healthier*. Retrieved from <https://www.northjersey.com/story/opinion/contributors/2019/01/25/nj-minimum-wage-2019-improve-low-income-family-life-opinion-opinion/2677997002/>

SAVE THE DATE NCBW EVENTS

- January 31, 2019 - Girl's Career Networking Forum
 - February 1, 2019 - Heart Healthy "Go RED" event
 - February 21, 2019 - HBCU Panel Discussion
 - February-June - Role Model's Mentoring Program
 - March 16, 2019 - Adopt a School Education Symposium
 - April 3, 2019 - Women's Day STEM Event
 - April 15-17, 2019 - National Legislative Day in Washington, D.C.
 - April 27th- Affordable Housing Forum
 - April 2019 - Entrepreneurial Forum
 - May 2019 - Family Health and Fun Day
 - June 1, 2019 - Annual Fundraising Gala
 - November 14, 2019 - Teaneck International Film Festival
- For more information on upcoming events please visit:
ncbwbergenpassaic.org