

CBC MONITOR REPORT CARD, SEPTEMBER 2006

Commentary

The following legislation was used by CBC Monitor to evaluate Congressional Black Caucus Members and it is legislation that was acted upon from January – September 2006:

- COPE/Net Neutrality Bill
- Estate Tax Repeal
- Permanent Estate Tax Repeal
- Energy & Good Jobs Act
- Credit Duology Protection Bill
- Immigration/Border Protection Bill
- Pension Protection Act
- Oman Free Trade Agreement
- Renewal of Voting Rights Act Provisions
- Line Item Veto

Key Findings

There was an increase in members' evaluations that increased their grades to Honor Society status, from 16 members to 22 members receiving scores of 90% or better and giving them "Honor Society" Status. The increase was from Honor Society members accounting for 37.2% of the Caucus to 51.1% on this Report Card. Overall averages of members receiving consistent "Honor Society" evaluations were 46.5% of the Caucus overall, from September 2005 to September 2006. At least 17 members with scores of 90% would have had perfect scores but lost ten points because their voting in favor of the COPE bill. Other members normally in the "Honor Society" with scores of 95% or better lost 5 points for each vote missed on the Floor. Currently, our group is debating whether or not to continue this penalty of subtracting points for absences from key votes because our goal is to facilitate accountability on the part

of CBC members in objective and accurate fashion. While we haven't decided to request feedback from CBC members prior to preparing our evaluations, it would be most helpful to ensure that we are not arbitrarily penalizing members if their absence from voting on key legislation is for just cause. Those members in "Consensus" evaluations decreased to 11.6% of the Caucus members on the current Report Card. Those who averaged scores of 80% up to 89% during the same period of evaluation (September 2005 – September 2006) 27.9% of the Caucus.

Members evaluated as "Underachievers" increased during the current rating, from 5% to 11.6% of the Caucus with scores of 60% to 75%. At least five of the seven members (71.4%) were formerly rated as "Derelict" increased their scores to 60% or better and became "Underachievers" on this current rating; however, their overall rating from September 2005 – September 2006 still ranks them as "Derelict".

One member consistently rated as "Derelict" on all three Report Cards issued.

We decided to color shade the chart over the periods of evaluation to highlight fluctuations and changes in CBC Members' legislative voting. While we believe that the fluctuations and changes indicate that CBC members are aware of our project, the only way to determine the effectiveness of facilitating accountability on the part of the lawmakers is to perform a direct survey and obtain responses and feedback from the members, as to whether or not they are voting their district's best interests, or voting to obtain more favorable evaluations from our group.

Over the rating period, eight congressional members sent emails, telephoned or sent mailings and flyers to CBC Monitor to notify them of their legislative activities and extend invitations to Capitol Hill briefings and hearings (18.6%). Most of these members were either rated as "Consensus" or "Honor Society" members, which led us to conclude that these members were willing to be held accountable for their legislative activity, their voting records, and making their legislative activities open and available to the public and their constituencies. Regarding re-election efforts, we found that as a result of the report card, at least three CBC members are now facing heated re-election primaries, in particular, Rep. Albert Wynn (D-Maryland). His opponent, attorney Donna Edwards, particularly used information from the CBC Monitor Report cards in her debate with Rep. Wynn in August 2006. Rep. Wynn did not fare well in the debates because his opponent utilized the information our group produced to ask him to explain his

position on the votes which earned him a failing grade, and indicated that he voted on behalf of his constituents' interests 30% of the time or less.

Report Card

CBC Member	9/2006 Score	9/2006 Grade	9/2006 Current Category	Feb/2006 Score	Feb/2006 Grade	September 2005 Scores/Grade	Overall Average Score/Grade	Comments
Lee, Barbara (D-California)	100%	A+	Honor Society	100%	A+	100% (A)	100% (A+)	Honor Society
Millender-McDonald, Juanita (D-California)	100%	A+	Honor Society	100%	A+	90% (A)	96.6% (A)	Honor Society
Moore, Gwendolyn (D-Wisconsin)	100%	A+	Honor Society	80%	B	90% (A)	90% (A)	Honor Society
Scott, Robert C. “Bobby” (D-Virginia)	100%	A+	Honor Society	100%	A+	100% (A+)	100% (A+)	Honor Society
Watt, Melvin C. (D-North Carolina)	90%	A	Honor Society	100%	A+	90% (A)	93.3% (A)	Honor Society
Fattah, Chaka (D-Pennsylvania)	95%	A	Honor Society	100%	A+	90% (A)	95% (A)	Honor Society
Waters, Maxine (D-California)	95%	A	Honor Society	100%	A+	100% (A+)	98.3% (A)	Honor Society
Watson, Diane (D-California)	95%	A	Honor Society	100%	A+	90% (A)	95% (A)	Honor Society
Brown, Corrine (D-Florida)	90%	A	Honor Society	90%	A	90% (A)	90% (A)	Honor Society
Cleaver, Emanuel (D-Missouri)	90%	A	Honor Society	90%	A	90% (A)	90% (A)	Honor Society
Conyers, John (D-Michigan)	90%	A	Honor Society	100%	A+	100% (A)	96.6% (A)	Honor Society
Hastings, Alcee (D-Florida)	90%	A	Honor Society	80%	B	90% (A)	86.6% (B+)	Consensus
Cummings, Elijah (D-Maryland)	90%	A	Honor Society	80%	B	90% (A)	86.6% (B+)	Consensus
Davis, Danny (D-Illinois)	90%	A	Honor Society	80%	B	85% (B+)	85% (B+)	Consensus

Green, Al (D-Texas)	80%	B	Consensus	100%	A+	90% (A)	93.3% (A)	Honor Society
Jackson, Jesse Jr. (D-Illinois)	90%	A	Honor Society	80%	B	85% (B+)	85% (B+)	Consensus
Jackson-Lee, Sheila (D-Texas)	90%	A	Honor Society	100%	A+	70% (C+)	86.6% (B+)	Consensus
Johnson, Eddie B. (D-Texas)	90%	A	Honor Society	100%	A+	90% (A)	93.3% (A)	Honor Society
Tubbs-Jones, Stephanie (D-Ohio)	90%	A	Honor Society	100%	A+	90% (A)	93.3% (A)	Honor Society
Kilpatrick, Carolyn (D-Michigan)	90%	A	Honor Society	100%	A+	85% (B+)	91.6% (A)	Honor Society
Lewis, John (D-Georgia)	90%	A	Honor Society	100%	A+	100% (A+)	96.6% (A)	Honor Society
Payne, Donald (D-New Jersey)	90%	A	Honor Society	80%	B	90% (A)	86.6% (B+)	Consensus
Rangel, Charles (D-New York)	90%	A	Honor Society	100%	A+	100% (A+)	96.6% (A)	Honor Society
Rush, Bobby (D-Illinois)	70%	C	Underachiever	80%	B	85% (B+)	85% (B+)	Consensus
Carson, Julia (D-Indiana)	85%	B	Consensus	100%	A+	85% (B+)	90% (A)	Honor Society
McKinney, Cynthia (D-Georgia)	85%	B	Consensus	100%	A+	100% (A+)	95% (A)	Honor Society
Owens, Major (D-New York)	85%	B	Consensus	100%	A+	90% (A)	91.6% (A)	Honor Society
Butterfield, G. K. (D-North Carolina)	70%	C	Underachiever	60%	D	90% (A)	73.3% (C)	Underachiever
Meek, Kendrick (D-Florida)	80%	B	Consensus	100%	A+	75% (C+)	85% (B+)	Consensus
Clyburn, James (D-South Carolina)	80%	B	Consensus	85%	B	100% (A+)	88.3% (B+)	Consensus

Clay, Wm. “Lacy” (D-Missouri)	70%	C	Underachiever	100%	A+	85% (B+)	85% (B+)	Consensus
Davis, Artur (D-Alabama)	70%	C	Underachiever	40%	F	40% (F)	50% (F)	Derelict
Meeks, Gregory (D-New York)	70%	C	Underachiever	100%	A+	30% (F)	66.6% (D+)	Underachiever
Scott, David (D-Georgia)	80%	B	Consensus	60%	D	10% (F)	50.0%(F)	Derelict
Towns, Edolphus (D-New York)	70%	C	Underachiever	100%	A+	70% (C)	80% (B)	Consensus
Wynn, Albert (D-Maryland)	70%	C	Underachiever	80%	B	30% (F)	60% (D+)	Underachiever
Thompson, Bennie (D-Mississippi)	70%	C	Underachiever	80%	B	90% (A)	80% (B)	Consensus
Bishop, Sanford (D-Georgia)	60%	D	Underachiever	40%	F	25% (F)	41.6% (F)	Derelict
Jefferson, William (D-Louisiana)	35%	F	Derelict	100%	A+	40% (F)	58.3% (F)	Derelict
Ford, Harold Jr. (D-Tennessee)	30%	F	Derelict	60%	D	5% (F)	31.6% (F)	Derelict
Obama, Barack (Senator) D-Illinois	70%	C	Underachiever	No score	No grade	70% (C)	70% (C)	Underachiever