



Term Report

May - November 2020

Congressman Kweisi Mfume

DELIVERING FOR MARYLAND'S 7TH DISTRICT

A Message from Representative Kweisi Mfume...

On May 5th, I traveled to the United States Capitol, alongside my wife Tiffany, to take the oath of office as a newly-elected member of the 116th Congress. I was honored to once again represent the people of the 7th District and fill the seat left by my friend of 42 years, the late Congressman Elijah Cummings.

In May, the COVID-19 crisis had already begun to ravage the health of both our residents and the economy. That's why one of the first official actions I took in Congress was voting to pass the first coronavirus stimulus bill which would ensure testing, treatment, and tracing in our communities.

Less than two months later, and amidst the global health emergency, I watched as courageous residents of the 7th District marched into the streets to demand racial equality and an end to police brutality. I responded to the outcries on a federal level by helping to write and sponsor the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. Months later I cosponsored the Jobs and Justice Act of 2020, another step in the sustained fight against systemic racism and centuries of racial oppression in America. The comprehensive measure includes more than 200 provisions, all of which are designed to bring jobs and justice to disadvantaged Black, brown, and poor communities.

Throughout my short term, I've voted to combat the impacts of climate change and to reimagine a public education system that is equitable and built for the 21st century. I've fought to expand Obamacare and to defend Medicare and Medicaid in the federal budget. I've voted for a higher, livable minimum wage, and for protections for small businesses. I've supported community partners, local law enforcement, and faith leaders in their efforts to combat crime and gun violence in the District. I've made fixing our economy and infrastructure top priorities by ensuring federal funding for projects throughout the state.

It has always been my belief that the best ideas come from the bottom up, not the top down. That's why throughout this term, I've aimed to be the Representative that this District deserves - someone who is accessible and has a legislative agenda that is informed by the community. I've responded to hundreds of your constituent inquiries and held virtual town halls to discuss plans and ideas for addressing your most pressing issues.

There is still much more work to be done, but I'm proud of what we've already accomplished. I've taken my direction from you and am humbled by the opportunity to represent you. The following report highlights some of the progress we've made both in Maryland and Washington, DC.

I look forward to building on the progress we've made and remain committed to creating a new vision for the 7th District of Maryland, one where opportunity is available and abundant for all of those who call it home.

Yours in the movement,

Kweisi Mfume



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I am committed to listening and serving the people of MD07. My highest priority in Washington is representing you, your family, your needs, and your priorities.

”

CLIMATE CHANGE



Protecting our Environment

Voted to support the Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act which would help us transition to a low-carbon economy by investing in clean energy, distributed energy resources, energy storage systems, and microgrids. The bill authorizes grants to improve energy efficiency, including workforce training and rebates for home retrofits. It prioritizes clean energy projects located in low-income and marginalized communities and advances the development of technologies that expand access to clean energy.

Voted to support the Great American Outdoors Act, touted as the biggest land conservation legislation in a generation, this would establish a \$9 million National Park and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund and guarantee \$900 million per year in perpetuity for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

HOUSING



Housing Protection

Voted to support the Emergency Housing Protections and Relief Act which would help our communities address the needs of low-income renters, homeowners, and people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CIVIL RIGHTS



Addressing Systemic Inequality

Original cosponsor for the “George Floyd Justice in Policing Act” to foster meaningful police reform. It works to combat racial profiling, eliminates qualified immunity, mandates body & dashboard cameras, bans chokeholds & no-knock warrants. It would also establish a national standard for police department operations, mandate data collection on police encounters & reprogram existing funds to invest in transformative community-based policing programs.

Cosponsored the resolution to remove confederate memorials from the U.S. Capitol including the removal of the Roger B. Taney bust and replacing it with a bust of Thurgood Marshall to end the age of exulting individuals who sought to divide the nation and advance racism.

Cosponsored the Jobs and Justice Act of 2020 a comprehensive legislative package made up of 200+ bills & comprised of 2 key parts:

1. JOBS

These bills include key measures that aim to advance economic opportunities in underserved communities. They address issues related to infrastructure investment, workforce development, poverty alleviation, small business support, housing and wealth creation & education.

2. JUSTICE

These bills include measures pertaining to social justice, including criminal justice, health care justice, environmental justice, and provisions to address the high rates of Black & Latino Americans affected by COVID-19.

Voted to support the "Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys Act" which creates a commission to conduct a systemic study of the conditions affecting Black men and boys. The commission will review police brutality, gun violence, fatherhood, and recruiting/training Black male teachers. The commission will also review the impacts of welfare reform and the 1994 crime bill, which includes the controversial three-strikes provision and harsh sentencing guidelines.

EDUCATION



PROTECTING STUDENT RIGHTS

Voted to nullify a Trump Administration rule that makes it more difficult for students with student loans to obtain a discharge in cases where there were material misrepresentations by the educational institution.

Voted to support the Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act which holds schools accountable for providing all students with an equal shot at a quality education. It ensures every school district and institution of higher education has at least one employee who is responsible for investigating complaints of discrimination based on race, color, or national origin. It enables students and parents to bring private lawsuits against public schools (& and federally funded entities) for discriminatory practices.

Voted to support the Strength in Diversity Act which provides federal funding to support local efforts to increase diversity in schools. Grants may fund a range of efforts, including:

- Expanding equitable access to transportation for students
- Establishing public school choice zones
- Creating or expanding innovative school programs that can attract students from outside the local areas
- Recruiting, hiring & training new teachers to support specialized schools
- Evaluating current policies, and developing plans to address socioeconomic & racial isolation

Participated in the Congressional App Challenge which encouraged middle and high school students across the district to compete with peers by creating an app. Winning students will have their creative talents showcased by the United States Congress.

WOMEN & CHILDREN

Access to Childcare



Introduced the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Safe Schools Act to provide \$17 billion to school districts to pay for PPE, cleaning supplies, technical training, and additional staff support needed to keep students, educators, and communities safe.

Voted to support the "Child Care Is Essential Act" which provides grant funding to child care providers to stabilize the child care sector and support providers to safely reopen and operate throughout the pandemic. It also provides ongoing federal investments and tax subsidies for working families, helping to bring quality child care within their reach to support ongoing employment amid COVID-19 shutdowns.



Cosponsored the "Child Care for Economic Recovery Act" which increases the child and dependent care tax credit and authorizes payroll tax credits for certain fixed expenses of child care facilities closed due to the COVID-19 coronavirus.

Protecting Pregnant Workers

Voted to support the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act which requires private sector employers with 15+ employees, as well as public sector employers, to make reasonable accommodations for pregnant workers. It ensures pregnant workers can't be denied employment opportunities, retaliated against for requesting a reasonable accommodation, or forced to take paid or unpaid leave if another reasonable accommodation is available.



VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Protecting our neighborhoods



Supported local efforts for building police-community relations such as Baltimore County’s SMART Policing Act. The measure addresses key issues affecting police and community relations. This proposed legislation bans chokeholds and excessive physical force; establishes a police hearing board; eliminates no-knock warrants; intervenes to halt improper use of force by a fellow officer; promotes training and hiring that emphasize progressive police practices; fosters data collection, reporting, and transparency; and stresses the importance of de-escalation as an effective policing technique.

SMALL BUSINESS

Strengthening our economy



Voted in favor of the “Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act” to provide small businesses with additional tools to maintain jobs and stay afloat during this unprecedented economic downturn

As a member of the Small Business Committee, held the Treasury Department and Small Business Administration accountable for equitable access to funds and support services through the “Paycheck Protection Program” and “Economic Injury Disaster Loan” Program.

VOTING RIGHTS

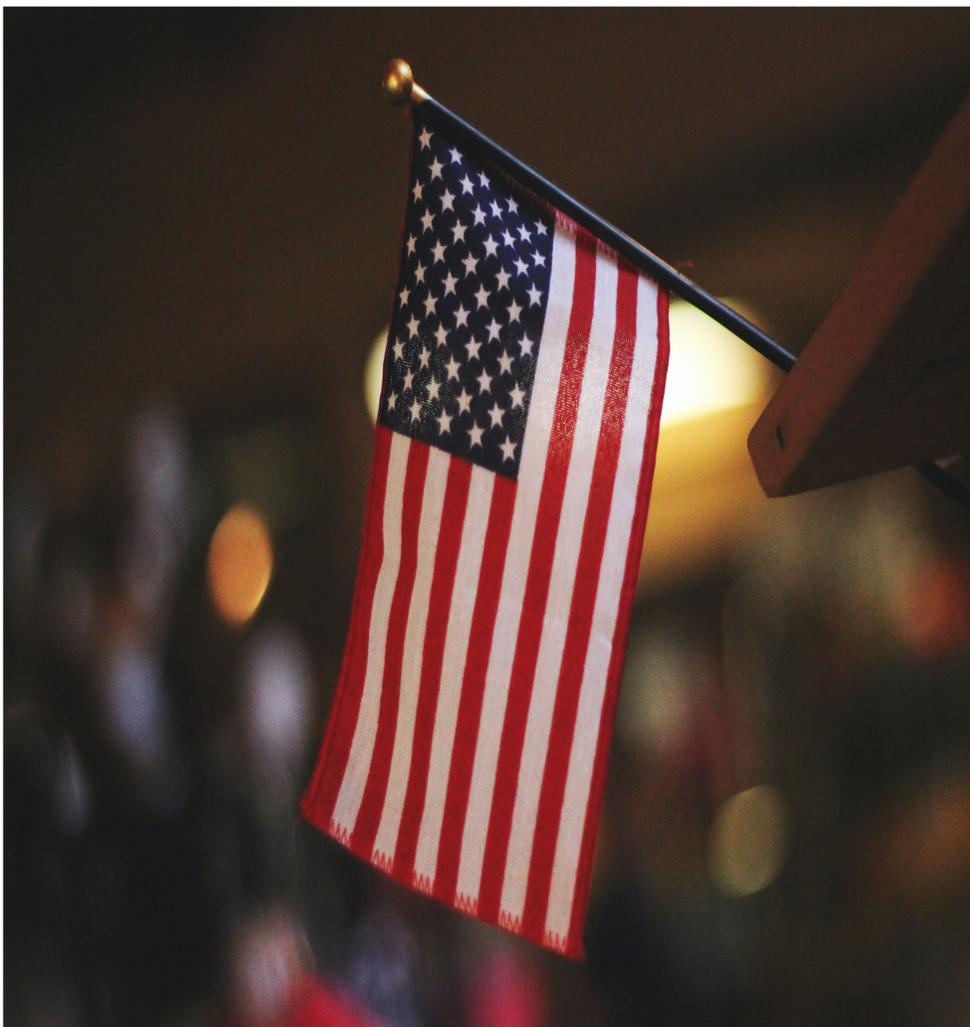


Protecting your vote

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight, co-sponsored the “Delivering for America Act” to protect delivery standards for the U.S. Postal Service and to keep the United States Postal Service free from partisan sabotage.

The legislation would maintain current service standards as well as the integrity of our elections and prohibit the Postal Service from implementing any changes to the operations or level of service it had in place.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Protecting American Interests

Voted to impose sanctions on foreign individuals and entities responsible for human rights abuses in China’s Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous region.

Voted against concurring with Senate amendments to the “USA FREEDOM Reauthorization Act” in an effort to gain additional privacy protections in the FISA court for Americans.

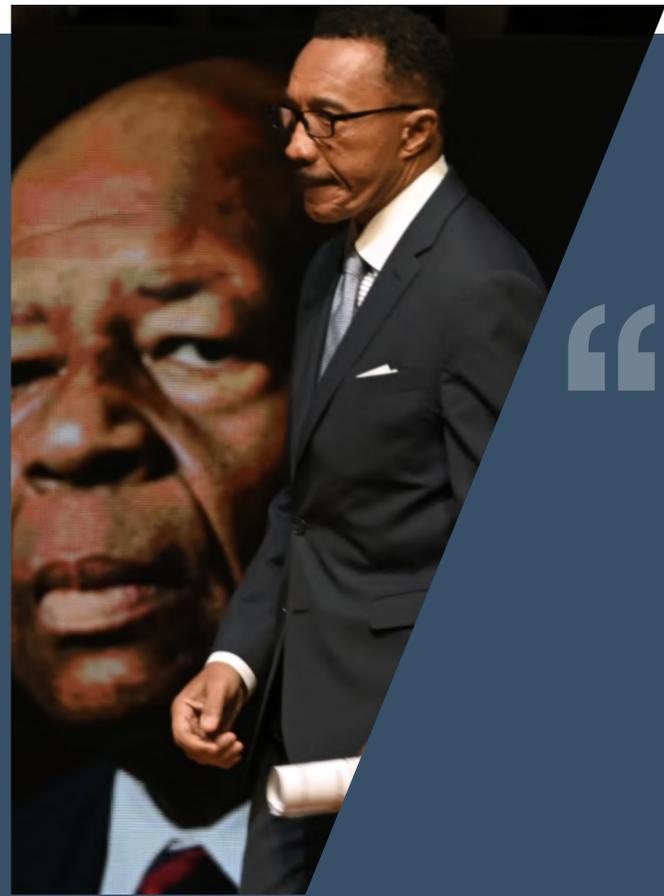
COVID-19 RELIEF

HEROES ACT



Voted to support the HEROES ACT which protects lives, livelihoods and the life of our democracy. The legislation honors our heroes and supports the economy in the following ways by doing the following:

- **Honors our heroes by** providing assistance to state, local, territorial and tribal governments who desperately need funds to pay vital workers like first responders and health workers
- **Strong support for small businesses,** by improving the Paycheck Protection Program to serve the smallest businesses and struggling non-profits, providing hard-hit businesses with second loans, and delivering targeted assistance for the struggling restaurant industry and independent live venue operators.
- **Additional assistance for airline industry workers.**
- **More funds to bolster education and child care**
- **Supports testing, tracing and treatment,**
- **Provides additional direct payments** with a second round of economic impact payments of \$1,200 per taxpayer and \$500 per dependent.
- **Protects payrolls,** by enhancing the new employee retention tax credit that encourages employers to keep employees on payroll.
- **Ensures worker safety,** by requiring all workplaces to develop and implement infection control plans based on CDC expertise
- **Preserves health coverage,** protecting Americans losing their employer-provided health insurance by making unemployed Americans automatically receive the maximum ACA subsidy on the exchanges
- **Restores unemployment benefits**
- **Bolsters housing assistance,** helping struggling families afford a safe place to live – preventing homelessness.
- **Strengthens food security,** addressing rising hunger with an increase to the maximum SNAP benefit and additional funding for nutrition programs
- **Safeguards our democracy,** with new resources to ensure safe elections, an accurate Census, and preserve the Postal Service.



“ He was an honorable statesman and my dear friend for over 42 years. I'm keeping my promise to further the work he didn't get a chance to finish. ”

How we're furthering the work of Congressman Cummings

1 **Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act**

Congressman Cummings launched a probe into the unfair pricing practices of pharmaceutical companies. He fought to lower prescription drug costs until his death. As a member of the Oversight Committee, I worked to hold Big pharma CEOs accountable for the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs and for putting profits over people.

2 **Henrietta Lacks Enhancing Cancer Research Act**

I took steps to push forward this bill which aims to study and address the barriers and disparities that currently prevent far cancer patients of color from enrolling in clinical trials.

3 **Parren Mitchell Minority Business Education and Empowerment Act**

I took steps to further this legislative priority which will facilitate federal partnerships between the Small Business Administration (SBA) and historically Black colleges and universities. Through this bill, the SBA will be required to distribute grants to different-sized HBCUs to establish Small Business Development Centers on their campuses.

4 **Witness Security and Protection Grant Program Act**

This bill directs the U.S. Attorney General to award competitive grants to state and local governments to establish and maintain short-term witness protection programs in cases involving homicides, violent felonies, serious drug offenses, gang-related crimes or organized crime. I took steps to move the legislation forward.

BY THE NUMBERS

108

Measures Voted on

**Nearly
\$60K**

Federal tax refunds &
stimulus payments
recovered for
constituents

\$213 million+

Federal grants
dollars awarded to
the 7th District

\$130K +

Benefits recovered
for veterans in the
District

\$45K +

Obtained in Social
Security benefits
for constituents

50+

Mail delivery issues
resolved with the
US Postal Service

IMMIGRATION

- ✓ Secured 14 Green Cards for applying immigrants
- ✓ Secured 2 National Interest Waivers
- Helped a constituent stranded in Nigeria, return to the United States during COVID-19 shutdowns.

DELIVERING RESULTS FOR THE 7TH DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

Rep. Kweisi Mfume on USPS chaos: 'Hijacking mailboxes off of every corner they can find'

by ABC7/Associated Press | Monday, August 17th 2020

AA



Congressman Kweisi Mfume, who represents Maryland's 7th congressional district, speaks about problems with the United States Postal Service on Monday, August 17, 2020. (ABC7)

PASSPORTS

- ✓ Original cosponsor of the **Passport Backlog Elimination Act** which would require the State Department to submit a plan to Congress to eliminate the passport processing backlog created by the coronavirus pandemic.
- ✓ 7 passport applications ushered through the passport agency to enable constituents to enjoy timely travel.

Mural depicting slavery covered up at Catonsville Post Office after Mfume, state lawmakers call for its removal

-Baltimore Sun

STUDENT SERVICES

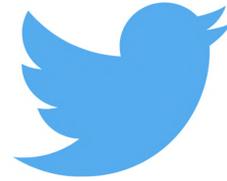
- ✓ **Military Service Academy**
Received nearly 40 applications from area students to obtain a nomination to a U.S. Service Academy.
- ✓ **Congressional App Challenge**
50% increase in student participation in the Congressional App Challenge compared with the previous yesterday.

#TeamMfume
is on social media!

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Engage.



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