



**BLACK
AMERICAN
D.O.S. CAUCUS**

I attended the CBC Tele Town Hall on March, 20, 2020 and it was very informative, thank you. I would hope during this COVID19 pandemic you would avail yourself to your constituency often, maybe even weekly so we can stay up to date with the initiatives and laws being passed.

I'm writing in response to the Chairwoman's request to respond to the Tele Town Hall. My greatest concern is for the "least of these", my people, American Descendants of Slavery (ADOS). We have been maligned, abused, mistreated, pushed aside and all but forgotten. In this great & distressing moment we need not be relegated to bottom casteness any longer. Everything the CBC does from here on out should be all about ADOS and our place in society. We are bottom caste, without any safety net, no wealth & no hope. We need a strong African American (ADOS) middle class. If America is to make it through this crisis then the time to act is now.

I am 56 years old and I've been working since I was 13, sometimes barely scraping by other times done really well but those times are few and far between. Because my mom has no wealth, I have no wealth to pass down. Because my great, great, great grandfather William Hawkins I, on my Daddy's side who was born about 1840 was a slave, then a sharecropper (read slave) who could neither read nor write he had nothing to pass down to his son, who had nothing to pass down to his son, who had nothing to pass down to my grandma. My great grandfather had a 5th grade education and worked when he was at least 14. My grandma had an eighth grade education and she too worked when she was a teen. My great grandpa, William Hawkins III, made \$720 in 1939 according to the 1940 and he worked 40 weeks on the railroad.

The ADOS middle class was at zero dollars before COVID19, it's about to be obliterated. We have no wealth because we were sent on our way after slavery with no food, no clothing, no shelter by vindictive, angry & violent white people who wanted nothing more than to see us fail if they could no longer profit from our bodies. That ADOS is still here is a miracle. I am a miracle.

My youngest son, (I have 5 children) has epilepsy and Aspergers Syndrome. While in my womb, we lived in a lead filled house and I think it's the reason he has issues, as do all my younger children, his is the most profound. He's 28 and he just moved into a space with a roommate for the first time in his life a few months ago. I worry about him because of the medication he takes and how it is wearing on his kidneys. Eventually he will have to stop taking it and then what? He's got all these ailments but I've never been able to get help for him, or diagnoses or aid or assistance, it's just been me trying to help him. His dad, whom I divorced years ago, has checked out mentally, because this ADOS life is SO hard. He does what he can but he's constantly fighting depression and has health ailments as well.

With the COVID19 outbreak, my son, has lost his job. It was a part-time job at a Dollar General but he was happy. For the first time in his life he was independent, not relying on anyone but himself and working steady. His sister told him to do part-time because he's sickly and that doesn't require him to work as much but if he wants to work more he can. Of course he's been



**BLACK
AMERICAN
D.O.S. CAUCUS**

laid off (hasn't told me) but I know. Now he's jobless, money less and not I nor his dad can really help him because we're barely making it ourselves.

I would love to be able to take him (or any of my children) in but I'm living in a room that I pay for week to week. I can't afford a down payment on a place, hell, nor the monthly payment if it's over \$600, and where does one find a decent place for \$600 in Atlanta, let alone America?? And heaven forbid I feel sick, I have no healthcare. What am I supposed to do? Me getting sick will cause others to be sick too.

Like I said, I've worked since I was 13. I'm smart. I've been to college, I've owned my own businesses. I've made 6 figures but without the under girding of wealth and/or capital when that goes away so does the lifestyle and by lifestyle, I mean roof over my head. When my business failed in 2018, I had to file bankruptcy. I lost my apartment, my credit and my livelihood. I had to go back to working from home and I make just enough to pay my weekly rent, buy food and help 3 out of 5 kids when they ultimately need it. This should not be. William Hawkins I, fought his way out of slavery, married, sharecropped and did his best only for his progeny to get to the 21st century and still be wealthless in the country that used his body as chattel and his hands as labor for free.

ADOS need a strong black middle class. We don't have that now and without it we will perish. This pandemic is showing America (and the world at large) the underbelly, the flaws, the holes, the treatment of the least of us. We need our government to do what it should have done in 1865 when William Hawkins I was 25 and "set free". Pay us reparations.

Your constituent,
Trish R – Atlanta, GA



**BLACK
AMERICAN
D.O.S. CAUCUS**

Dear CBC,

My name is Larry Riley, I am a resident and home owner in the 30311 area of Atlanta, GA. I attended the CBC Tele Town Hall on March, 20, 2020 and it was very informative, thank you. I would hope that after this COVID19 pandemic is over that you would avail yourself to your constituency more often, maybe monthly or even just a few times a year so we can stay up to date with initiatives and legislation being proposed and passed.

I'm writing in response to the Chairwoman's request to respond to the Tele Town Hall. My greatest concern is for the "least of these", my people, American Descendants of Slavery (ADOS). We have been maligned, abused, mistreated, pushed aside and all but forgotten for 400 years. In this great & distressing moment we need not be relegated to bottom caste any longer. Everything the CBC does from here on out should be all about the benefit & progress ADOS and our place in society. We are a bottom caste, without any safety net and no wealth. We need a strong African American (ADOS) middle class. If America is to make it through this crisis then the time to act is now! We demand reparations for ADOS and a black agenda to be pushed in this time to crisis without such, we will never fully recover from this crisis as well as ones to come in the future.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message, see ados101.com for the plan for reparations and a black agenda.

Larry R. – Atlanta, GA



**BLACK
AMERICAN
D.O.S. CAUCUS**

Dear CBC,

I am tired and frustrated. As I sit back and look at the world fall into the dark abyss. I have to always look back at my past and realize. We as #ADOS have been living in the abyss for years.

I had to watch my mother walk through food pantries. I had to watch my mother wash dishes with shampoo. And now at her tender age of 70. I have to watch her live her entire life poor and and hopefully not die poor. I am thankful that I work from home, but my husband has been placed in furlough. The entire weekend was spent filling out paperwork for unemployment. Applying to Door Dash and other Uber type of jobs, so that we can keep the money flowing.

Then of course the uncertainty of this entire situation. I am tired and DAMN MAD that the children that run the CBC are not fighting for us.

I am tired and DAMN MAD that every other group can advocate on their behalf, but we #ADOS have to be the mule of society and not demand our own.

I am tired and DAMN MAD that my people are not getting the assistance they need.

We will demand our #Reparations as long as we have the voice and the power to do so and YOU ALL will pay what is rightfully owed.

- Name withheld – GA



**BLACK
AMERICAN
D.O.S. CAUCUS**

Dear CBC,

My name is Michael J Adams, I'm writing because of the urgency of this COVID19 pandemic and the effects it's having on myself, my family and the Black community at large. This pandemic has the potential to completely decimate American Descendants of Slavery #ADOS if CBC does not act quickly and with specific demands to support the Black community. Our people need the basics because of the malignant neglect we've endured upon freeing ourselves from bondage and without reparations from the government that kept us in bondage.

Once we left the killing fields of the South, we were terrorized, raped, lynched, redlined; we endured Black Codes, peonage, sharecropping, Jim Crow, mass incarceration, segregation, the war on drugs and malignant neglect.

Because we're starting from zero (literally) I and my family members have endured - loss of family land and homes, unemployment and under-employment, inability to amass generational wealth and providing a way ahead for future generations.

The time to act is now, Black Americans specifically American Descendants of Slavery #ADOS demand economic inclusion and protection in the country of our birth in the form of Reparations and a Black Agenda addressing community and family needs.

Yours Truly

Michael A. – Atlanta, GA



**BLACK
AMERICAN
D.O.S. CAUCUS**

Dear CBC,

I am writing to express my extreme disappointment in your lack of representation for Black Americans, specifically, American Descendants Of Slavery (ADOS), of which I am a part. We need for you to advocate on our behalf vehemently, particularly, to advocate for reparations for American Descendants of Slavery. We need reparations to address the racial wealth gap which will only widen further during this devastating pandemic.

Please do your jobs and advocate for us! We are on the bottom of every economic indicator. We need help and \$1200 will not lift us up out of our current economic condition. We stand to lose BIG and may inevitably have to face the fact that we may NEVER recover.

I am asking you to add a provision to the current legislation to address reparations for ADOS. Please reference Dr. William "Sandy" Darity's latest book, From Here to Equality..., for clarity and guidance on how to get this done.

I am also asking you to allocate \$2,000 per month until the corona virus pandemic ends, to each adult and child of US citizenship.

Work for us, not against us.

Regards,
Tiffany S.



**BLACK
AMERICAN
D.O.S. CAUCUS**

Dear CBC,

My name is Cathy Payne and I'm writing because of the urgency of this COVID19 pandemic and the effects it's having on me, my family and the black community at large. This pandemic has the potential to completely decimate American Descendants of Slavery if the CBC does not act quickly. Our people are in need of the basics because of the malignant neglect we've endured upon freeing ourselves from bondage and without reparations from the government that kept us in bondage.

Once we left the killing fields of the South, we were terrorized, raped, lynched, redlined; we endured Black Codes, peonage, sharecropping, Jim Crow, mass incarceration, segregation, the war on drugs and malignant neglect.

Because we're starting from zero (literally) I've had to endure loss of opportunity, all of my interviews lined up were cancelled. I am over 55 and have been looking for since October, 2019. I had 3 final interviews the week of March 5 all cancelled due to COVID19. I am 55 years old. Working in a warehouse or riding a bike doing deliveries is not an option for me. Physically I can't carry or lift 50 to 70 pounds on a regular basis; those are the only jobs available in New York City at this time. Due to the pandemic and immediate shut down of all work opportunities I can't go home to my family in California I'm stuck with no one fighting for me. It hurts my soul when I see the CBC constantly working for every other 'minority' group in America but us, while we are suffering. Your lack of support of us has allowed every other 'minority' group to get whatever they want using our struggle with your support. This has to stop and stop now.

Please represent us, not the illegal's at the border, not the refugee communities, not the Asian community, us – ADOS, the people your caucus has been created for.

Sincerely,

Cathy P.

ADOS California/New York

Stranded in a Pandemic



**BLACK
AMERICAN
D.O.S. CAUCUS**

Dear Lawmakers,

I'm writing to you because of the urgency this COVID19 crisis has created for the Black community and particularly, American Descendants of Slavery (ADOS). For a little over a year now, I've been deeply immersed in data from some of the world's most respected economists, historians, academics, and scholars. I read the proposals you have offered for the Stimulus Bill that is making its way through the halls of congress currently and I'm going to be honest, they don't go far enough.

I'm a CPA who owns my own business. The crisis has hurt me financially in a number of ways. Several of my contracts require me to work at client sites on their in-house computers. As long as these clients are under quarantine, my contracts with them will either be delayed or cancelled entirely. This will likely end up costing me thousands of dollars and the majority of my income as long as the crisis lasts. While this is going on, my bills do not stop.

Your proposal started by saying "when America catches a cold, the black community catches pneumonia". That is a very accurate statement. Even if all of the proposals you made were adopted many black businesses will close their doors for good in the midst of this crisis. We can draw a direct line from the fact that our ancestors were never repaired after slavery to the under-capitalization of ADOS businesses today. Our counterparts from other communities can pull from assets to weather this storm while we cannot.

As ADOS, we start from 0 (or less) every time a catastrophe happens. In 2008 the great recession wiped out our wealth. COVID19 is looking like it will be even worse. We are set to start over AGAIN at 0. WE NEED YOU TO SUPPORT REPARATIONS, not just the anti poverty programs in the proposal you offered.

Otherwise, it's a matter of if, not when the next downturn sets us back to 0 again. Meanwhile the racial wealth gap is at \$117,000 and expanding.

Thank you for your time,
Evan S. – Pittsburgh, PA



**BLACK
AMERICAN
D.O.S. CAUCUS**

Dear CBC,

I'm writing to report to you about my #ADOSLife during the Covid-19 Pandemic. First let me start off by saying that prior to the pandemic I needed reparations. I'm an American Descendant of Slavery. My family is wealthless. I didn't have parents who could afford to pay for my college education. Therefore, although I only borrow \$32,000 for undergraduate and graduate school, my current principle balance is just shy of \$125,000 due to capitalizing interest. I needed reparations prior to the pandemic.

At the end of 2019, my husband had surgery and ran into complications. His hospitalization cost close to \$300,000 and he must return this year for another surgery. My husband is also ADOS and he needed and needs reparations, too.

On Friday, my husband was laid off. The Friday prior, he was cleared for his surgery but that has been postponed due to Covid19. With the loss of his wages, I don't know how we will make ends meet. We needed reparations prior to March of 2020 and given the current crisis we must continue to insist that the country pay its debt owed and make the American Descendants of Slavery whole. I implore you to fight for our survival as we were about to teeter off the cliff as we had already experience economic collapse. This will not be a pandemic for ADOS. This will be the apocalypse and I'm not sure that we will make it through to the other side without reparations.

Best,

Amirah L. – Bethlehem, GA



**BLACK
AMERICAN
D.O.S. CAUCUS**

Dear CBC,

My name is Kaliq. I am contacting you with urgency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the consequential impact it is having on myself, my family, and the black community at large. This pandemic has the potential to completely decimate the financial position of American Descendants of Slavery if groups like the Congressional Black Caucus do not act quickly. Given eroded resources, American Descendants of Slavery require the basics as a result of the malignant neglect endured upon freeing themselves from bondage without reparations from the government responsible for sanctioning the institution of Chattel Slavery.

Once American Descendants of Slavery left the killing fields of the South, they were terrorized, raped, lynched, and redlined. Furthermore, this group endured Black Codes, peonage, sharecropping, Jim Crow, mass incarceration, segregation, the war on drugs, and overall malignant neglect.

As a result of American Descendants of Slavery starting from zero (literally), my family and I have had to endure working without being insured, while others have been the first to be laid off at their jobs. Also, some individuals cannot take off due to employment being an essential service to survive. Many of my family members have children and elderly loved ones that need additional medical aide unrelated to the virus but must avoid going to hospitals because medical resources are being allocated to COVID-19 testing and treatment. According to the following article, *Public health expert says African Americans are at greater risk of death from coronavirus*, and our families are at greater risk during this COVID-19 pandemic.

These are scary times. It is paramount that my family, community and I can count on knowing that the Congressional Black Caucus has our best interest in policies that address our economic status and specific needs during this time. Please let me know if you need any additional information. Thank you.

Best Regards,
Kaliq R. – NC



**BLACK
AMERICAN
D.O.S. CAUCUS**

March 25, 2020

The Honorable Terri Sewell
2201 Rayburn HOB
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Sewell:

My father is a 75-year-old veteran who has to visit the VA regularly for checkups. He receives all of his heart medicine from the VA, which he drives an hour to Tuscaloosa to visit. Before the Coronavirus outbreak, he was scheduled to have his pacemaker battery replaced. His appointment was canceled and now he lives in fear everyday that he won't have the care he needs if it stops working.

The logistics of navigating a rural community during a pandemic are a nightmare for him. My father lives in a food desert; he has to drive to the surrounding towns for groceries. There are no sidewalks in his neighborhood, very few in the town, where he can safely take a brisk walk for exercise to avoid clots. There has been no update on the appointment for his pacemaker.

I know there are many black elderly people who are in similar conditions as my father. The coronavirus has exacerbated the the conditions in rural isolated communities where black people must overcome lack of infrastructure, lack of access to healthy food, lack of access to healthcare with little to no wealth as a buffer. I am asking that you seek funding for rural community clinics so the elderly can receive the care they deserve, that you advocate specifically for grants not loans for black people to build and maintain grocers in our own communities, that you secure money for rent vouchers for black people who can't work during the pandemic, that you demand a moritorium on the collection of mortgage and modular home payments by banks and creditors and on the reporting of late payments to the credit bureau by creditors, and that you also seek funds for basic infrastructure so that black people in the Blackbelt can live like real American citizens.

Lastly, I ask that you demand reparations for your black constituency so the wealth and incomestolen by government via deprivation of resources and economic exclusion be restored to the black descendants of slavery who still live in the very places their ancestors were enslaved. My father and his peers speak highly of you and are proud to have you fighting on their behalf. We all are counting on you to do what is right during this difficult time.

Sincerely,
Kanita Deavers
York, Al