

JULY 8, 2026 · 119TH CONGRESS

The Honorable Ayanna Pressley
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Demand for a House Hearing on the Economic Condition of Foundational Black Americans

Dear Congresswoman Pressley:

We, the undersigned, seek government intervention for economic justice for Black America.

The Joint Economic Committee (JEC) report, produced under the Biden administration, clearly shows the economic plight of Foundational Black Americans—teetering on economic genocide.

That same JEC report states that Foundational Black Americans remain at the bottom of the economic ladder in every state, Montana being the exception. Combined with abysmal unemployment figures, and with the recent Supreme Court decision on for whom the Fourteenth Amendment was written, this points to economic extinction in a country of vast wealth—wealth created through the chattel enslavement of Foundational Black Americans.

You carry H.R. 40 in the People’s House—the commission bill Congressman John Conyers first introduced in 1989 and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee carried until her passing. We do not write to persuade you of the debt; you have already placed it on the record. We write to arm you. The research enclosed—from the Joint Economic Committee’s own reporting to the Darity–Mullen scholarship—is the evidentiary record for the hearing this moment demands, and we ask you to call for it.

This is more than egregious. We have come to Capitol Hill so that both Houses—and the Black grassroots we represent—will understand that it must be corrected. We respectfully demand a House hearing, preferably before the November elections.

Respectfully,

The Undersigned



Israel Lee Armstead

Founder & President, E5 Enclave Incorporated · 501(c)(3)

e5enclave.com · 762.362.5283

Founder & Exec. Dir., BLM Grassroots Miami · 501(c)(4)

Co-Founder, Justice For All · Heir of Mr. Ralph McCartney

Chavone Garza

B.A., Social Research Analytics (SRA)

Founder & Research Director

Institute for Applied Social Research (IASR)

Jean Cornelius-Barnett

Mentor · Daughter of Dr. Samuel J. Cornelius

M.S., Rehabilitation Counseling (retired)

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The Honorable Summer Lee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Demand for a House Hearing on the Economic Condition of Foundational Black Americans

Dear Congresswoman Lee:

We, the undersigned, seek government intervention for economic justice for Black America.

The Joint Economic Committee (JEC) report, produced under the Biden administration, clearly shows the economic plight of Foundational Black Americans—teetering on economic genocide.

That same JEC report states that Foundational Black Americans remain at the bottom of the economic ladder in every state, Montana being the exception. Combined with abysmal unemployment figures, and with the recent Supreme Court decision on for whom the Fourteenth Amendment was written, this points to economic extinction in a country of vast wealth—wealth created through the chattel enslavement of Foundational Black Americans.

You have said plainly in the People's House what this packet documents: that the wealth of this nation was built on stolen Black labor, and that the debt remains unpaid. As a co-sponsor of H.R. 40, you carry the case for reparative justice. We write to arm you with the record enclosed, and to ask you to champion the hearing it demands.

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The Honorable Maxine Waters
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Demand for a House Hearing on the Economic Condition of Foundational Black Americans

Dear Congresswoman Waters:

We, the undersigned, seek government intervention for economic justice for Black America.

The Joint Economic Committee (JEC) report, produced under the Biden administration, clearly shows the economic plight of Foundational Black Americans—teetering on economic genocide.

That same JEC report states that Foundational Black Americans remain at the bottom of the economic ladder in every state, Montana being the exception. Combined with abysmal unemployment figures, and with the recent Supreme Court decision on for whom the Fourteenth Amendment was written, this points to economic extinction in a country of vast wealth—wealth created through the chattel enslavement of Foundational Black Americans.

For more than three decades, you have been the conscience of the Congress on the economic life of Black America—on housing, on banking, on the predatory practices that strip Black wealth. We come to you as organizers come to an elder: with the record in hand and a single ask.

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The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Demand for a House Hearing on the Economic Condition of Foundational Black Americans

Dear Congresswoman Clarke:

We, the undersigned, seek government intervention for economic justice for Black America.

The Joint Economic Committee (JEC) report, produced under the Biden administration, clearly shows the economic plight of Foundational Black Americans—teetering on economic genocide.

That same JEC report states that Foundational Black Americans remain at the bottom of the economic ladder in every state, Montana being the exception. Combined with abysmal unemployment figures, and with the recent Supreme Court decision on for whom the Fourteenth Amendment was written, this points to economic extinction in a country of vast wealth—wealth created through the chattel enslavement of Foundational Black Americans.

You chair the Congressional Black Caucus in this 119th Congress—the largest in its history. The February 2022 analysis enclosed in this packet was released by the Joint Economic Committee with the Caucus you now lead, and its findings have only hardened since. We ask the Caucus's Chair to carry this record to a hearing.

This is more than egregious. We have come to Capitol Hill so that both Houses—and the Black grassroots we represent—will understand that it must be corrected. We respectfully demand a House hearing, preferably before the November elections.

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The Honorable Al Green
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Demand for a House Hearing on the Economic Condition of Foundational Black Americans

Dear Congressman Green:

We, the undersigned, seek government intervention for economic justice for Black America.

The Joint Economic Committee (JEC) report, produced under the Biden administration, clearly shows the economic plight of Foundational Black Americans—teetering on economic genocide.

That same JEC report states that Foundational Black Americans remain at the bottom of the economic ladder in every state, Montana being the exception. Combined with abysmal unemployment figures, and with the recent Supreme Court decision on for whom the Fourteenth Amendment was written, this points to economic extinction in a country of vast wealth—wealth created through the chattel enslavement of Foundational Black Americans.

You have never needed persuading on questions of justice—you have stood on the House floor when standing carried a cost, and you co-sponsor H.R. 40 today. We ask you to help carry the record enclosed to a hearing.

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The Honorable Frederica S. Wilson
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Demand for a House Hearing on the Economic Condition of Foundational Black Americans

Dear Congresswoman Wilson:

We, the undersigned, seek government intervention for economic justice for Black America.

The Joint Economic Committee (JEC) report, produced under the Biden administration, clearly shows the economic plight of Foundational Black Americans—teetering on economic genocide.

That same JEC report states that Foundational Black Americans remain at the bottom of the economic ladder in every state, Montana being the exception. Combined with abysmal unemployment figures, and with the recent Supreme Court decision on for whom the Fourteenth Amendment was written, this points to economic extinction in a country of vast wealth—wealth created through the chattel enslavement of Foundational Black Americans.

Congresswoman, this letter comes from home. E5 Enclave Incorporated works from Liberty City, in the district you have served since 2011, following in the footsteps of Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek. Our founder, like you, is an alumnus of Miami Northwestern Senior High School. And on February 1, 1994, Congresswoman Meek rose on the floor of the House to honor Mr. Ralph McCartney of Overtown—our founder's granduncle—whose tribute from the Congressional Record is enclosed in this packet. As you complete this final term, we ask you to spend some of the standing you have earned on the hearing this record demands.

This is more than egregious. We have come to Capitol Hill so that both Houses—and the Black grassroots we represent—will understand that it must be corrected. We respectfully demand a House hearing, preferably before the November elections.

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The Honorable Steve Cohen
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Demand for a House Hearing on the Economic Condition of Foundational Black Americans

Dear Congressman Cohen:

We, the undersigned, seek government intervention for economic justice for Black America.

The Joint Economic Committee (JEC) report, produced under the Biden administration, clearly shows the economic plight of Foundational Black Americans—teetering on economic genocide.

That same JEC report states that Foundational Black Americans remain at the bottom of the economic ladder in every state, Montana being the exception. Combined with abysmal unemployment figures, and with the recent Supreme Court decision on for whom the Fourteenth Amendment was written, this points to economic extinction in a country of vast wealth—wealth created through the chattel enslavement of Foundational Black Americans.

On June 19, 2019—Juneteenth—you chaired the first hearing ever held on H.R. 40, and you co-sponsor the bill still. You know what a hearing does: it places the truth in the permanent record, under oath, where it cannot be unsaid. We ask you to help convene the next one.

This is more than egregious. We have come to Capitol Hill so that both Houses—and the Black grassroots we represent—will understand that it must be corrected. We respectfully demand a House hearing, preferably before the November elections.

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The Honorable Rand Paul
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Demand for a Senate Hearing on the Economic Condition of Foundational Black Americans

Dear Senator Paul:

We, the undersigned, seek government intervention for economic justice for Black America.

The Joint Economic Committee (JEC) report, produced under the Biden administration, clearly shows the economic plight of Foundational Black Americans—teetering on economic genocide.

That same JEC report states that Foundational Black Americans remain at the bottom of the economic ladder in every state, Montana being the exception. Combined with abysmal unemployment figures, and with the recent Supreme Court decision on for whom the Fourteenth Amendment was written, this points to economic extinction in a country of vast wealth—wealth created through the chattel enslavement of Foundational Black Americans.

Senator, when the Supreme Court handed down its decision on the 14th Amendment this June, you said publicly what the historical record has always held: that the Citizenship Clause was written to secure citizenship for the freedmen and to overturn *Dred Scott*. On that reading, we agree. The freedmen are our ancestors. We are the Americans the Amendment was written for—and the enclosed record shows the economic condition of that people today.

This is more than egregious. We have come to Capitol Hill so that both Houses—and the Black grassroots we represent—will understand that it must be corrected. We respectfully demand a Senate hearing, preferably before the November elections.

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JULY 8, 2026

The Honorable Clarence Thomas
Associate Justice
Supreme Court of the United States
One First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20543

Re: The Economic Condition of Foundational Black Americans — For the Record

Dear Justice Thomas:

We, the undersigned, write not to ask anything of the Court, but to place a record before you.

In your dissent in this June's Citizenship Clause decision, you wrote: "Blacks were entitled to citizenship because they were Americans. They had no other homeland, owed no allegiance to any foreign power, and were subject to no other authority." Whatever else divides the country on that case, on this point the historical record stands with you: the Fourteenth Amendment was written first for the freedmen.

We are their descendants. The enclosed record—the Joint Economic Committee's reporting, produced under the Biden administration, and the scholarship gathered alongside it—shows the condition of the very Americans for whom the Amendment was written: at the bottom of the economic ladder in every state, Montana being the exception. This, in a country of vast wealth—wealth created on the chattel enslavement of Foundational Black Americans.

We have carried this record to both Houses of Congress to demand a hearing on the economic condition of Foundational Black Americans. We place a copy before you so that the same record the Congress holds also rests in your chambers. Among the undersigned is Jean Cornelius-Barnett, daughter of Dr. Samuel J. Cornelius.

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