

National Black Church Initiative

P.O. Box 65177
Washington, DC 20035
202-744-0184
dcbci2002@gmail.com
www.naltblackchurch.com

Contact:

Rev. Anthony Evans
202-744-0184

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NBCI is Outraged that Democrats and Republicans Are Balancing the Budget on the Backs of the Poor

Politicians Are Unfairly Targeting the Poor and African Americans

Washington DC – The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a faith-based coalition of 34,000 churches comprised of 15 denominations and 15.7 million African Americans, is outraged that both Democrats and Republicans are attempting to balance the budget on the backs of the poor. During this time of severe economic unrest, our fragile nation can ill afford to harm those least able to weather this storm.

President Obama's campaign motto was "Change". Americans believed that he would be a different type of president - that he would be a staunch supporter of the Democratic ideal of defending the poor, supporting the middle-class and creating a fair and balanced society. President Obama was voted into office on the platform that he would depart from former President Bush's policies. However, we have received a Bush-like presidential term that has ignored the poor and caved into Republican pressures to destroy the safety net respectfully upheld for over sixty years.

No one would have ever believed that President Barack Obama would have been an advocate for radically slashing the budget, ignoring the needs of his Democrat supporters to appease the radical Republicans' interests: less government, single-minded support of big business, big defense budgeting and radical reprioritizing of social programming that depends on a carrot and stick approach.

Republican Representative Paul Ryan's proposed 'Path to Prosperity' would cut Pell grants, college loans and education. In fact, two-thirds of the budget cuts in the Ryan proposal are from programs for low- or middle-income people. Meanwhile, it lowers taxes for the richest 10 percent. This is a program of wealth redistribution upward, in the extreme, a cruel austerity program. It will not create jobs or make the economy better for anybody but the very wealthy. So, morally and pragmatically, the program is wrong.

Rev. Anthony Evans, President of NBCI says, "The black church will not stand by while Republicans and Democrats gut our great nation's budget at the expense of the poor. Our job is to defend the poor, not to congratulate the rich, wealthy and well-connected. We are prepared to oppose President Obama and Republicans alike in an all out public policy fight for the soul of this country. Such radical social program budget cutting in

light of this double-dip recession is not only unethical but morally reprehensible.”

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 34,000 African American and Latino churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI's mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the-box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI's programs are governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work. Visit our website at www.naltblackchurch.com.