

National Black Church Initiative

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For immediate release
PRESS RELEASE

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National Black Church Initiative Backs President Carter's Remarks On Race

Now We Know That This is Not a Post Racial Society

Washington, DC – The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) met in an emergency session today to discuss President Carter's remarks on race concerning President Barack Obama. President Carter asserted that racism is behind the onslaught of attacks on President Barack Obama's healthcare initiative. President Carter was alluding to two recent developments in the news. One was the disrespectful outburst of Rep. Joe Wilson calling Barack Obama a liar on national television during a joint session of congress. The second was Glen Beck's conservative ramblings on Fox News that called President Obama a racist and his inflammatory remarks regarding healthcare and death panels. There seems to be agreement among all commentators that the recent surge of protests at healthcare panels across the country have been organized and orchestrated by disgruntled conservative white talk show hosts, white conservative blogs and conservative think tanks with the purpose in mind of undermining President Obama's plan to provide healthcare for everyone in America who lacks it.

The recent "9/12" movement was the culminating effect of white elements in our society that believe that Barack Obama, the first African American President, is systematically trying to take away their privileged position that they have held since the founding of this country. There seems to be a genuine split among white conservatives and liberals as to the value of having Barack Obama as President of the United States. The white conservatives do not want the vast majority of the American public to view their actions as racist, instead calling them simply opposition to the President's policy. However, many white liberals believe that the opposition of Barack Obama's policy does not stem from a legitimate difference in policy beliefs, but instead stems from the fact that this is a systematic attempt to undermine white privilege in this country.

President Carter's recent remarks crystallized the deep sentiments that the African American leadership feel, especially in the Black Church. Upon the election of Barack Obama many African American leaders, including Rev. Anthony Evans, President of NBCI, were told and warned that they should never cite race as a chief factor whenever the country disagrees with the

first African American President. Now, it has become ironic that no one from the African American leadership has pegged any of the issues Obama faces as caused by racism. It was only after Rep. Joe Wilson's emotional, racist outburst -- that has caused many African Americans to fear for the very life of Barack Obama -- that the Black leadership will now ignore the unwritten rule from White House concerning race and begin to openly deal with this question.

Rev. Anthony Evans said, "It has only been six months in President Obama's administration, but the Black Church feels that it has to cry out to God and ask him to intervene so that we do not begin to drag up the ugly history of racism in this country. We are tired of fighting against this evil. This evil is brought on by fear, and even though President Obama has reassured our white brothers and sisters everywhere that he will be even handed in his dealings they do not feel that he deserves the benefit of the doubt. We all must come back to understand and accept that we elected Barack Obama as our President of the United States of America."

Acceptance of that fact must occur so that we may realize the benefits of a civil society. The Black Church will dedicate its life to making sure that all God's people are treated equally and fairly, because we know that God has no favorites.

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a coalition of 16,000 African-American and Latino member churches works to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare. In addition to our member churches, we have 18,000 sister churches. NBCI is a faith-based health organization dedicated to providing critical wellness information and preventive health screening to all of its members. The African-American community ranks first in eleven different health risk categories. NBCI's purpose is to partner with national health officials to provide health education, reduce racial health disparities, and increase access to quality healthcare.