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*“Bringing people together to serve humanity”*

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**For Immediate Release**

## **DC Black Church Initiative Is Gracefully Asking DC Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton to Resign**

*Your time has come!*

**Washington, D.C.** – The DC Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of African American faith communities that works to eradicate racial disparities, gracefully asks DC Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton to resign. At 82, she does not have the fire in the belly to fight the Republican takeover, let alone President Trump.

The Black Church loves you and thanks you for your service. We will be visiting you soon to discuss how we can assist you. If you refuse to go, please note that you will not have the support of the Black Church in the future, but you will always have our appreciation, respect, and love.

Rev. Anthony Evans, President of the DC Black Church Initiative, said, “This is hard for me and other clergy. We love Eleanor, but the scripture says there is a time for everything, and now it is her time.

We beg in Christ that you step aside and allow the voters of DC to pick a younger person who will stand up in the finest tradition of the civil rights that you helped to create and birth. Now is the time to graciously exist with your dignity intact.

You have a remarkable legacy to leave as you continue this act in an extraordinary life yet lived.

Before her congressional service, President Jimmy Carter appointed her to serve as the first woman to chair the **U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.**

She came to Congress as a national figure who had been a civil rights and feminist leader, tenured professor of law, and board member at three Fortune 500 companies. Congresswoman Norton has been named one of the 100 most important American women in one survey and one of the most powerful women in Washington in another. The Congresswoman's work for full congressional voting representation and for full democracy for the people of the District of Columbia continues her lifelong struggle for universal human and civil rights.

Her success matches Congresswoman Norton's accomplishments in breaking barriers for her disempowered district in bringing home unique economic benefits to her constituents. Among them are senatorial courtesy to recommend federal judges, the U.S. Attorney and other significant federal law enforcement positions for the District; up to \$10,000 per year for all D.C. high school graduates to attend any public U.S. college or university and up to \$2,500 per year to many private colleges and universities, known as the **District of Columbia Tuition Assistance Grant (DCTAG)**; a unique \$5,000 D.C. homebuyer tax credit, which has sharply increased home ownership in the District and was a major factor in stabilizing the city's population; and D.C. business tax incentives, including a significant wage credit for employing D.C. residents, which has maintained businesses and residents in the District.

Congresswoman Norton has also brought significant economic development to the District of Columbia throughout her service in Congress, creating and preserving jobs in D.C. The most significant are her work in **bringing the U.S. Department of Homeland Security headquarters compound to D.C.**, which is one of the largest federal construction project in the country; co-sponsoring the **bill** that developed the 55 acre-Southeast Federal Center, the first private development on federal land; her work that resulted in the relocation of 6,000 jobs to the Washington Navy Yard; and her successful efforts to bring to the District the new headquarters for the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, along with **an additional Metro station at New York Avenue** (now the NoMa - Gallaudet U Station), which resulted in the development of the NoMa neighborhood.

Congresswoman Norton helped end the city's most serious financial crisis in the 1990's, by achieving a historic package that for the first time restructured the financial relationship between Congress and the District, by transferring \$5 billion in unfunded pension liabilities and billions more in state costs to the federal government.

The Congresswoman, who taught law full-time before being elected, is Professor Emerita at Georgetown University. After receiving her bachelor's degree from Antioch College in Ohio, she simultaneously earned her law degree and a master's degree in American Studies from Yale University. Yale Law School has awarded her the Citation of Merit for outstanding alumni, and Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences has awarded her the Wilbur Cross Medal for outstanding alumni, the highest awards conferred by each institution on alumni. She is the recipient of more than 50 honorary degrees.

## **ABOUT NBCI**

DC Black Church Initiative is the parent organization of NBCI.

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 150,000 African American and Latino churches, comprising 27.7 million members, that works 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. The National Black Church Initiative's methodology utilizes faith and sound health science. We also offer our member congregants and the public helpful and healthy science-based tips on how to develop and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

The National Black Church Initiative's purpose is to partner with major organizations and officials whose primary mission is to reduce racial disparities in various areas, as cited above. NBCI provides faith-based, innovative, and cutting-edge solutions to complex economic and social challenges. NBCI's programs are guided by **credible statistical analysis, science-based strategies and techniques, and methods that are proven to be effective.**