



**STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN EMANUEL CLEAVER, II  
COMMITTEE ON RULES HEARING ON THE  
AMENDMENT (IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE) TO H.CON.RES. 112  
OFFERED BY MR. CLEAVER OF MISSOURI, MR. SCOTT OF VIRGINIA, MS. MOORE OF WISCONSIN, AND MS. BASS OF  
CALIFORNIA  
TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2012**

Thank you all for being here today and asking me, as Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus for the 112th Congress, to speak to you about our FY 2013 Budget Priorities. I first want to acknowledge all 42 Members of the CBC, but especially our Budget, Appropriations & Taxation Taskforce and the FY13 Budget Chairs, Congressman Bobby Scott, Congresswoman Gwen Moore and Congresswoman Karen Bass.

The Budget itself is a moral document—it is our proverbial Bible that guides the way we choose to run government and help the people we serve. Our FY2013 alternative federal budget will address the budget deficit while protecting important safety net programs needed by our communities. The CBC's top priorities for the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress are:

- Promoting job creation and economic development;
- Providing lifetime educational opportunities;
- Protecting the healthcare that we worked so tirelessly over the past 40 years; and
- Protecting the right to vote and justice for all Americans.

We can only make these priorities a reality by sustaining and strengthening the programs that invest in and protect all Americans--whether it is workforce investment, unemployment insurance, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or with the onslaught of unfair voter laws across the country, proper funding of the Election Assistance Commission. These programs are vital to national interests because they train our workforce, stabilize our economy, and provide funding for our cities and states throughout the Nation. I understand that now is the time for us as Americans to sacrifice in order to protect our children. However, I struggle to understand how the proposed majority budget helps achieve this goal. Over the past few years, due to many strategic investments led by President Obama, the nation's overall unemployment rate has lowered. However, the African American unemployment rate remains nearly double the national average. In order to improve this dire situation and to ensure every American's full recovery, we must make smart and targeted investments for every community in need.

Government investment in people, education, infrastructure, and innovation can create jobs. Over time, the jobs created by these strategic investments pay for themselves and then some. Investment allows people to earn, learn, spend, save, and invest. Cutting funding to programs that assist hard working Americans, help families with their most basic needs, maintain our crumbling infrastructure, and expand access to educational opportunities will only make unemployment statistics worse. We cannot win the future by leaving people behind. Our success as a nation is interwoven in the success of *all*

communities. Until we grasp that concept, as a Nation, we will never see the full potential of this country and for that I am truly concerned.