

## South Carolina Black Media Group, Inc.

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who propose to favor freedom, and yet depreciate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean's majestic waves without the awesome roar of it's water."

- Frederick Douglass

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## More Than 400 South Carolinians Endorse Mayor Pete Buttigieg's Douglass Plan for Black America

By Columbia City Councilwoman Tameika Devine, SC Democratic Party Black Caucus Chair Johnnie Cordero, Rehoboth Baptist Pastor and State Rep. Ivory Thigpen, and more than 400 Douglass Plan endorsers

There are a number of questions voters may ask themselves before stepping into the ballot box. "Did I read enough about the candidates?" "Do their policies align with mine?" "Is there a place nearby where I can grab that second cup of coffee?" But most often it is -- "whose presidency is going to make my life better?"

There is one presidential candidate who has proven to have intentional policies designed to make a difference in the Black experience, and that's Pete Buttigieg. We are over 400 South Carolinians, including business owners, pastors, community leaders, and students. Together, we endorse his Douglass Plan for Black America, the most comprehensive roadmap for tackling systemic racism offered by a 2020 presidential candidate.

Pete recognizes that our challenges are intertwined--that you cannot talk about criminal justice reform without talking about an issue like economic empowerment, and you cannot talk about economic empowerment without talking about things like how our neighborhoods were segregated. His plan--as ambitious as the Marshall Plan that rebuilt Europe after World War II--addresses all of these aspects of our lives, including laying a strong foundation for racial justice, spurring Black entrepreneurship, and reforming our broken health care system. Pete believes that, with the right kind of policies and a national movement that holds our whole government accountable, we can finally achieve

equality in his lifetime.

The legacy of slavery is a legacy of stolen labor and stolen wealth. Slavery, segregation, redlining, predatory lending, and other systemic discriminatory practices created this dynamic, and the Douglass Plan will take deliberate steps to dismantle it. To close the wealth gap and promote greater economic security, Pete's Douglass Plan will triple the number of entrepreneurs from underserved communities --particularly ones of color--within 10 years. His Walker-Lewis Initiative --inspired by Black business pioneers Madam CJ Walker and Reginald Lewis --is projected to create up to three million new jobs.

A number of policies will work hand-in-hand to achieve this ambitious goal.

Pete will launch a federal fund, modeled on a successful program in Maryland, that will co-invest in entrepreneurs of color, so that a young coder from Spartanburg or Greenville can get a leg up in fulfilling her aspirations. Recent graduates who were eligible for Pell Grants would be encouraged to start and maintain businesses in exchange for having their college loans deferred and forgiven. And under a Buttigieg administration, the federal government will set a new and far higher target for doing business with minority- and women-owned firms --increasing it to 25%. This proposal alone could inject more than \$100 billion in communities of color.

And, knowing the extraordinary role that HBCUs play as engines of

empowerment, a Buttigieg administration will dedicate \$25 billion to these institutions. By significantly increasing investments to schools like Claflin University and South Carolina State, Pete will help level the playing field between them and other world-class colleges and universities in the United States.

But Pete's policies to reverse the harms caused by hundreds of years of systemic injustices don't stop there. Pete has proposed a 21st Century Homestead Act to make it easier for people living in historically redlined communities to become homeowners. With Black women dying from maternal complications at triple the rate of white women, and Black men facing a greater risk of diabetes, Pete has outlined a plan for Health Equity Zones to help communities with their most pressing needs -- including recruiting more Black doctors, nurses, and health professionals. And to ensure it becomes easier--not harder--to vote, Pete will pass a 21st Century Voting Rights Act.

On the campaign trail, Pete has been talking about making Americans in every part of the country feel like they belong. And the Douglass Plan does just that. Tearing down racist structures and systems with bold and comprehensive reforms, the Douglass Plan will unlock the potential of Black America and take bold steps toward fulfilling long-broken promises of true equity.

Written by over 400 South Carolinians who endorsed Pete Buttigieg's Douglass Plan for Black America.



## Congressman Cummings - Conscience of the Congress

By Dr. Julianne Malveaux

Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA), AFSCME President Lee Saunders, and Democratic activist and pastor Leah Daughtry took to the stage to have a conversation about politics, voting, and political courage. Congressman Elijah Cummings (D-MD) was scheduled to attend the Spirit of Democracy awards dinner, hosted by the National Coalition for Black Civic Participation (NCBCP) on October 16; he died just a few hours after the dinner concluded.

As Roland Martin led the three luminaries who received the Chairman's award from NCBCP, it was clear that Cummings would have been right at home in the company of his colleagues. It would have been great to hear his passionate voice thundering about the need to speak truth to power. As Chairman of the House Oversight Committee, he was known for his powerful and scathing attacks on this administration. He never hesitated to use his investigative powers to check an administration replete with political chicanery and corruption. Indeed, he reportedly signed subpoenas from his hospital bed the evening before he made his transition.

I always enjoyed my interactions with Congressman Cummings. He was right-on and righteous, humble and honest, and ever faithful to his roots. He had no airs -- and was proud to be the son of a sharecropping family. He loved Black people and loved the Baltimore neighborhood that he never moved away from, commuting daily from Capitol Hill to his home.

Cummings wielded a powerful influence, not only among other politicians regardless of political party, but also on his neighbors, taking to the street with a bullhorn to



try to quell emotions in the wake of the police murder of Freddie Gray. And for all his power, Cummings was also often measured. When 45 attacked his city by calling it a "rat-infested" place where no one wanted to live, Cummings held his powder and allowed others, including many Baltimoreans, to respond. And while he could be scathing in his questioning, he could also be kind and collegial, which explains why so many Republicans issued acclamatory statements upon his death.

Cummings was guided by his faith and by his keen sense of right and wrong. He believed in our country and, more importantly, in our Constitution, which is why he was so very passionate about the need for those in power to adhere to it. The Maryland congressman was also passionate about children, or the "generations yet unborn." He chafed at the administration's policy of separating children from their parents at the border, challenging his colleagues in a booming voice, "We are better than this."

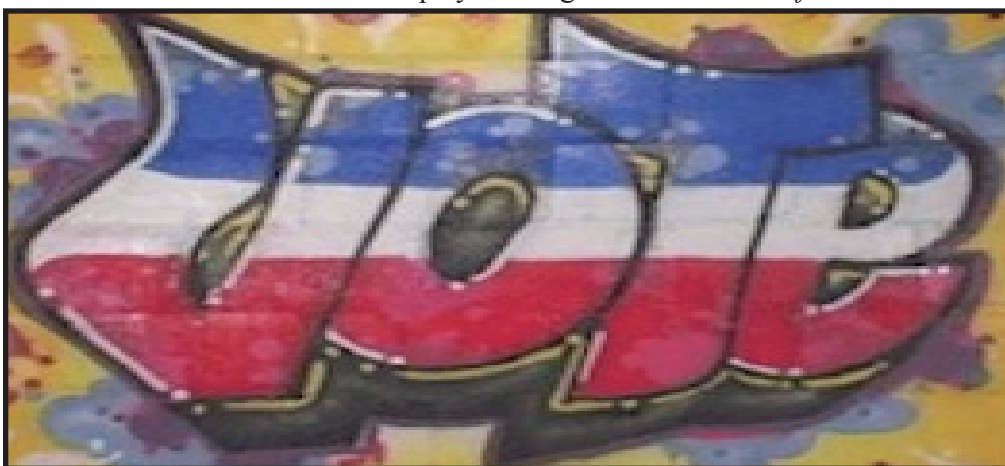
For all his passion, thunder, and pointed criticism, he was also a notably kind and considerate man. House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD) said of his colleague, "In a time of confrontation and disagreement and anger and, yes, sometimes hate, he was a beacon of civility, of fairness, of justice." Many others echoed those sentiments, with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi describing Cummings

as "the conscience of the Congress."

Maryland Governor Larry Hogan (R), must set a date for a special election for Cummings congressional seat. Until then, House Democrats will have to decide who assumes his chairmanship of the House Oversight Committee. Many say Cummings' death will not slow the momentum for impeachment. Indeed, I hope that more members of Congress will emulate the Cummings' passion for the Constitution and disdain for those who fail to honor it. Speaker Pelosi has pledged to move swiftly on impeachment, and not a day goes by without 45 providing more reasons for impeachment. On the same day that Congressman Cummings died, the President, after issuing unusually compassionate condolences for the Cummings family, announced that the G-7 meeting next year will be held at the Trump resort in Miami. This is a direct violation of the emoluments clause of the Constitution and a reflection of the way the Trump family has used the White House as a cash machine. One can only imagine what Congressman Cummings would have to say about this matter.

Cummings' death is a blow to the Congress, the Congressional Black Caucus, the African American community, and the nation. He will be sorely missed. While no one can fill his shoes, we must all be motivated by his legacy of speaking truth to power, being a voice for the voiceless, with compassion, dignity, and respect for the Constitution.

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest project MALVEAUX! On UDCTV is available on youtube.com. For booking, or for more info visit [www.julianne-malveaux.com](http://www.julianne-malveaux.com)



## Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor must be submitted on Friday no later than 5p.m. All letters should be either typed and double spaced, or printed legibly and contain no more than 250 words. The Editor reserves the right to edit, categorize or refuse to print any submitted opinion. Letters should include the address, and phone number of the author(s) for verification. All expressed opinions do not necessarily reflect those of staff or management of this publication.