

Obama out front on HIV/AIDS

Presidential candidate's website only one to address pandemic

By Aria White
Special to Sentinel-Voice
WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Of the 10 Republican and seven Democratic candidates who have registered with the Federal Election Commission to run for president, only one mentions the subject of AIDS and HIV on his or her official website, to the ire of Black AIDS activists.

"How high AIDS is on the priority scale determines how high Black people are on the scale," said Phill Wilson, founder and executive director of the California-based Black AIDS Institute in an interview with the NNPA News Service.

"If you want to show that you care about Black Americans, you'd better be talking about AIDS and HIV."

The one candidate who mentions AIDS on his official website is U.S. Sen. Barack Obama, who says he will fight AIDS by promoting condom distribution and HIV testing.

On Obama's website, he lists the efforts he has made so far to fight the AIDS prob-

lem, however even Obama focuses mostly on AIDS from a global rather than national perspective.

Wilson says every candidate needs to announce a plan to join Black institutions to help end the AIDS epidemic in Black America.

He says the candidates' lack of such a plan shows that AIDS is no longer on the front burner of America's public policymakers.

"If you fail to plan, you plan to fail," said Wilson, who is HIV positive. "We're not serious about fighting AIDS in America."

According to the Center for Disease Control, African-Americans account for about 50 percent of all reported AIDS cases in the United States. African-Americans are only 12 percent of the U.S. population.

According to the campaign of Hillary Clinton, she is dedicated to fighting AIDS, although AIDS is mentioned nowhere on her campaign website.

"The issues page isn't up yet. We are about to put the

issues pages up in the next few weeks. We will have a whole section on healthcare and there will be a section on Hillary's stand on HIV/AIDS," said Jin Chon, a spokesperson for Clinton's campaign.

Spokespersons for the campaign of Rudy Giuliani, one of the leading Republican candidates, could not be reached for comment.

The Democratic candidates who have filed with the Federal Election Commission are Sens. Joe Biden of Delaware, Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York, Christopher Dodd of Connecticut, and Barack Obama of Illinois; former Sens. John Edwards of North Carolina and Mike Gravel of Alaska and Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio.

The Republican candidates already filed are Sens. Sam Brownback of Kansas, John McCain of Arizona and John H. Cox of Illinois; former Govs. Jim Gilmore of Virginia, Mitt Romney of Massachusetts and Tommy

Thompson of Wisconsin; former Mayor Rudy Giuliani of New York City, N.Y.; and Reps. Duncan Hunter of California, Ron Paul of Texas and Tom Tancredo of Colorado.

The spokesperson for the National Black Justice Coalition, a leading advocate for Black, lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-gendered civil rights, says making AIDS/HIV a presidential issue will be key to stemming the disease in the Black community.

H. Alexander Robinson, executive director of the group, says a heightened federal response on the issues of AIDS/HIV is needed, since President Ronald Reagan delayed federal response by refusing to talk about AIDS.

"Now that the issue is clearly Black and Brown, it is really important to have national presidential leadership; if nothing more than to eliminate the stigma of talking about it," Robinson said. "It's going to take presidential leadership to bring this issue to the forefront."

Education key in Black mortality

By Aria White
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Because of a lack of education on cancer and cancer-prevention in the African-American community, African-Americans are more likely than any other race or ethnicity to die from cancer, according to medical experts.

"The problem is that we don't do enough of what works," said Sanya Springfield, Ph.D., Director of the Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities, in an interview.

According to the National Cancer Institute, African-American men are 35 percent more likely to die from cancer than White men and African-American women are 18 percent more likely to die from cancer than White women.

Cancer death disparities are top priority at the National Cancer Institute. The NCI's Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities tries to determine the cause for such health disparities in minorities.

"The difficulty lies in funding, there are plenty of models out there that work, there just aren't enough of them," Springfield said.

In addition to websites and special centers to solve this growing problem, the NCI is reaching out to the African-American community through social networks and organizations to spread the word about cancer education.

"African-Americans have a distrust of the healthcare system and that prevents them from getting tested," Springfield said.

Research has shown that African-Americans are more likely to die from cancer because of economic and social gaps. African-Americans in a low economic status
(See NCI, Page 19)

Black youth unemployment increasing as summer nears

By Aria White
Special to Sentinel-Voice
WASHINGTON (NNPA) - The unemployment rate for young African-Americans age 16-19 is more than double that of Whites the same age and appears to be increasing as summer nears, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"Because the labor force participation for African-Americans is low, the unemployment rate is a difficult number to interpret," said Dr. Bill Spriggs, chair of economics at Howard University.

According to the BLS, African-Americans 16-19 have an unemployment rate of 30.6 percent, the highest it has been in the past 9 months. The rate for Whites

16-19 is 13.3 percent.

"A big problem is that the labor market is a lot of word of mouth and job networking, and Black teenagers tend to have very ineffective job networks," Spriggs said.

The overall unemployment rate for African-Americans also remains twice that of White Americans. The rate for African-Americans is 8.2 percent, while the White rate is 3.9 percent.

The highest unemployment rate is for African-American men, at 8.4 percent. The rate for African-American men 20 years and older is 2.4 percent higher than that of African-American women 20 years and older at 6.0 percent. Unemployment rates for White males and females 20 years

and older are equal at 3.5 percent and the same for White women in the same age group.

According to a U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee report, in 2006, one out of every three Black males was not in the workforce.

Black men with less education have by far the highest unemployment rates.

"The percentage of this group that was either unemployed or not in the labor force reached 72 percent in 2004, up from 65 percent from just four years earlier," according to the report.

The report also said, "a Black male in his late twenties without a high school diploma is more likely to be in jail than to be working."

Act

(Continued from Page 4)

from conservatives and President Bush, who has threatened to veto, saying the bill is unnecessary because state and federal statutes already cover the crimes it targets.

Rep. Louie Gohmert, R-Texas, says he fears religious leaders could be accused of "aiding and abetting" in a crime if they do a sermon or give counsel against homosexual-

ity that causes someone to attack a gay person.

Conyers said, "It is long past time that Congress updated its law to ban these atrocities. It is a federal crime to hijack an automobile or to possess cocaine, and we ought to make it clear that it's a federal crime to drag a man to his death because of his race or hang a man because he is gay."

Royal Street Theater

MOTOWN

Showtime 10p -2a **Fridays**



Appearing May 18

CHAZZ

\$5 Cover Charge with 2 drink min. per guest



To Appear Friday, May 25 Sho Tyme

1821 Las Vegas Blvd. N. • (702) 399-3000