

Bush signs anti-bias bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush has signed legislation to protect people from losing their jobs or health insurance when genetic testing reveals they are susceptible to costly diseases.

Broadly embraced in Congress, the anti-discrimination measure aims to ensure that advances in DNA testing won't end up being used against people.

The new law forbids employers and insurance companies from denying employ-

ment, promotions or health coverage to people when genetic tests show they have a predisposition to cancer, heart disease or other ailments.

Bush praised the bill for protecting "our citizens from having genetic information misused."

Sponsors of the legislation call it a groundbreaking protection of civil rights. About a dozen of them gathered in the Oval Office as Bush signed the bill, but not Sen. Edward Kennedy, to

whom the president paid particular tribute.

Kennedy, who learned this week that he has a malignant brain tumor, has called the genetic anti-discrimination bill "the first major new civil rights bill of the new century." The Democratic senator from Massachusetts left the hospital on Wednesday.

"All of us are so pleased that Senator Kennedy has gone home, and our thoughts and prayers are with him and
(See Bill, Page 5)

Black attorneys focusing on improved kids' health

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The local chapter of the National Bar Association is hosting a Kids Fitness Olympics: Health and Safety Fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday at the 100 Academy of Excellence, 2341 Comstock Drive, between Carey Avenue and Martin Luther King Boulevard.

According to the group, "this program is designed as an intervention for people of color and all children on learning to live a healthier lifestyle. There is a deep concern for health issues affecting children. If more children do not exercise regularly and eat nutritional foods, they could be headed for a host of medical problems, such as pediatric hypertension, coronary heart disease, stress on weight-bearing joints, high blood pressure, dental problems and strokes."

The National Bar Association has joined other community organizations, as well as medical experts, dentists and educators to assist in educating children health, fitness and safety. The Fitness Olympics are geared toward youth ages four to 12. In addition to the youth-related activities, there will be legal workshops (medicine and law, legal issues affecting families, health prevention and additional law-related topics), networking booths, activities for teenagers and adults and panel discussions on living healthy and juvenile obesity.

The LVNBA is encouraging individuals, nonprofits and companies to partici-

pate in its adopt-a-school program, whereby they contribute monies that will help purchase school supplies (paper, books, uniforms, computers, etc.) and a virtual fitness system that encourages youth to stay healthy. This event is free for children under age 12. A \$5 donation is requested of those over 12. Those interested in more information can contact Karen Williams at kidsfitness08@yahoo.com or 1-866-514-0711.

Originally incorporated in 1981 as the Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association, the LVNBA (the only bar association in Nevada serving the African-American legal community), is Nevada's only affiliate chapter of the National Bar Association. The NBA is the oldest minority bar and the largest organization of African-American attorneys in the United States.

The LVNBA's purpose is the advancement of the social and economic well-being of its largely African-American membership; improving relations between the legal profession and the community at large; promoting understanding, goodwill and cooperation among lawyers and the interests of the legal profession; aiding in reforms for the economic and social welfare of all people in a manner consistent with the principles of a free democratic society; and improving the educational, social and economic status of the African-American community to eliminate discrimination.

McCain accepts NAACP's nod

WASHINGTON (AP) — What a difference a nomination makes.

Now that he's wrapped up the Republican nomination for president, Sen. John McCain has decided to attend the annual convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Cincinnati in July. A year ago when he was just one of a pack of GOP contenders, he turned down the civil rights group's invitation.

McCain disclosed his plans in an interview with

the well established publication, *Essence* magazine, which was released Tuesday. Asked how he might reach out to the Black community, McCain replied that he would "go to places and venues that would allow me to continue a dialogue with the African-American community. I will go to the NAACP convention."

McCain noted that he "talked about the need to include 'forgotten Americans'" during a visit he recently made to the Edmund Pettus

Bridge in Selma, Ala., where Alabama state troopers and local sheriffs deputies stormed and beat 800 Blacks and Whites marching for voting rights on March 7, 1965.

All eight Democratic presidential candidates but only one of the 10 Republican candidates, Colorado Rep. Tom Tancredo, addressed the NAACP's 98th annual convention in Detroit last July. NAACP spokesman Richard McIntire said all presidential candidates were invited.

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