

**Washington State Commission on African American Affairs**  
Activity Highlights, Sept. 2005 through January 2006

**Advise the Legislature**

- Testified before the House on HB 2823 requiring a review of school curriculum for cultural inclusion and accurate portrayal of the historical and current contributions of people of color.

<http://www.tvw.org/search/siteSearch.cfm?EvtType=C&keywords=House%20Education&Date=2006> Listen to hearing recording for Feb. 1, House Bill 2823 – Rep. John Lovick, Thelma Jackson, Rosalund Jenkins, and Gerita Cochran testify in support of the bill. Move green bar to midpoint to hear testimony.

- Testified also on:
  - SB 6651 related to voting rights for Offenders
  - SB 6681 related to military recruiting that targets high schoolers
  - SB 6736 related to payday lending regulation
  - Recommendations of the Jt. Select Committee on Health Disparities
- Met with communications staff for the House and Senate Democrats to increase awareness of ethnic media, added ethnic outlets to their distribution lists. Participated in an ethnic media reception with House/Senate members and staff.
- Sought and secured written direction from Congress to the Federal Dept. of Education to make parents aware they can opt their children out of military recruitment lists pulled from schools
- Participated in multiple legislative hearings of the Joint Select Committee on Health Disparities, distributed Committee recommendations to our list

**Advise the Governor**

- Testified before the Governor's Washington Learns Advisory Committee for K-12 Education Reform
- Met privately with Governor's policy staff and/or state agency directors to seek policy change in the following areas:
  - More effective outreach and marketing of the Linked Deposit program
  - An overall policy approach to increasing participation in state contracting
  - Revise statewide personnel questionnaire to include questions about diversity and equal opportunity practices in state agencies
  - Proposed changes to the welfare program that would place a hardship on parents (we worked with the other ethnic commissions and we won 80% of what we wanted).