

# Congressional Black Caucus



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CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS  
CALLS FOR REDEDICATION TO  
PASSAGE OF KING HOLIDAY BILL

WASHINGTON, D.C. ----- Congresswoman Cardiss Collins (D-Ill.), chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, today said that the Sunday commemorative amendment to the King birthday bill was "totally unacceptable" and said that Caucus members had requested pulling the bill from the House floor rather than passing an emasculated one. To make the holiday fall on a Sunday", she said, "denigrates the memory of this great man. There are literally hundreds of commemorative days, most of which are frivolous. To place Dr. King's memory on the same plane is demeaning." She said, "the task at hand is to organize in the Black community, and among all Americans who honor Dr. King's memory, to pass a bill that makes his birthday a full legal holiday".

Congressman John Conyers (D-Mich.), principal author of the King holiday bill, said, "We are used to long-term fights. It took us a long time to pass the Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment Act, and we are prepared for the struggle to pass the King holiday bill." The Sunday commemorative amendment "is an affront to millions of Americans, Black and White, who regard Dr. King as the individual ✓ who had the greatest positive impact on American life in this century".

Congressional Black Caucus members vowed to bring the King birthday bill back again when Members of Congress appreciate the depth and breadth of support for making Dr. King's birthday a national legal holiday. Congresswoman Collins called adoption of the Sunday amendment "a temporary roadlock in our path". She called upon all Americans of good will "to speak out forcefully in support of a national legal holiday for Dr. King".

✓ Congressman Conyers called the King birthday bill a critical issue for presidential and congressional candidates to address in their campaigns. "Congress made an unfortunate statement yesterday," Congressman Conyers noted, "that it was not prepared to honor Dr. King for his unique contribution to the cause of world peace and human rights, or prepared to close out forever the divisive sectional and racial chapter in America's history. Congress sent a regrettable signal to the rest of the world in which Dr. King is regarded as a legendary hero. We will win this fight, but only with the help of everyone in America who believes in Dr. King and his legacy."