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THE TRUTH UNBRIDED

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## Report finds segregation in education on the rise

By Jennifer C. Kerr

WASHINGTON (AP) - Six decades after the Supreme Court outlawed separating students by race, stubborn disparities persist in how the country educates its poor and minority children.

A report May 17 by the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office found deepening segregation of black and Hispanic students at high-poverty K-12 public schools. These schools often offered fewer math, science and college prep classes, while having disproportionately higher rates of students who were held back in ninth grade, suspended or expelled.

"Segregation in public K-12 schools isn't getting better. It's getting worse, and getting worse quickly," Rep. Bobby Scott of Virginia said. The analysis, he said, confirmed that America's schools are largely segregated by race and class, leaving "more than 20 million students of color now attending racially and socioeconomically isolated public schools."

"This report is a national call to action," said Scott, the House education committee's top Democrat and among the lawmakers who requested the study. Its release coincided with the 62nd anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education ruling, which declared segregated schools

unconstitutional.

"While much has changed in public education in the decades following this landmark decision and subsequent legislative action, research has shown that some of the most vexing issues affecting children and their access to educational excellence and opportunity today are inextricably linked to race and poverty," the report said.

GAO studied three school districts in the South, Northeast and West. Each took steps to increase racial and economic diversity in the schools but were hampered by transportation issues and getting support from the parents and the community. (Continued On Page 6)



Dr. Elmira Mangum, president, Florida A&M received a key to the city from Cora Cole-McFadden, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Durham. Dr. Mangum was commencement speaker for graduate and professional schools at NCCU. See photos on page 8. NCCU Photo - Public Relations.

NC Students and Community Demand a withdrawal of Senate Bill 873. The full petition sent to Gov McCrory, Margaret Spellings, and members of NCGA.

### Stop Obliterating NC Black History: Protect Our Schools, Build Black University

North Carolina Senate Bill 873 is designed to destroy the long standing history of 5 NC public universities serving black and minority students. The bill would force Elizabeth City State University, Fayetteville State, UNC Pembroke, Winston-Salem State, and Western Carolina to lower their tuition to \$500 a semester, damaging their ability to provide the necessary services and education to their students. This bill would effectively defund and make institutions with a history of providing quality education for Black, minority, and rural populations unable to provide a four year education.

We are not fooled by the NCGA's attempt to blame our universities for lack of "success" when they have been systematically cutting funds to higher education, specifically HBCUs. We call on our legislators, the Board of Governors, and Gov. McCrory to end the war on HBCU's and the UNC system. We demand that those in power uplift our communities by providing the necessary resources that prioritizes our students and communities. We will not be idle as our state destroys our education.

- We Demand:**
- \* Senate Bill 873 be immediately withdrawn as proposed legislation;
  - \* Full funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, allowing black students to have opportunities that are currently limited to predominantly white institutions;
  - \* Increased funding for all public universities, creating a debt free UNC system;
  - \* Public input process that values the voices of students, professors, community and particularly the voices of HBCUs.
  - \* The North Carolina General Assembly and Board of Governors not sell our University by running it as a business, but instead upholds an institution of learning and critical thinking;
  - \* Transparency from all decision making institutions regarding higher education;

### 4th Circuit sets June 21 date for arguments in voter ID case

RALEIGH (AP) - A federal appeals court has scheduled a hearing next month to review a lower court ruling that upheld North Carolina's major 2013 rewrite of its voting laws, including a photo identification requirement to vote in person.

The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia told attorneys to prepare for oral arguments before a three-judge panel June 21. The announcement continues the appeals court's effort to quickly examine last month's ruling by U.S. District Judge Thomas Schroeder. The first briefs are due later this week.

The state NAACP, League of Women Voters of North Carolina and U.S. Justice Department appealed Schroeder's decision rejecting arguments that voter ID, scaled-back early voting and other changes discriminated against minority voters. The ID requirement began with the March primary.

### Obama signs bill striking offensive terms from US laws

WASHINGTON (AP) - Federal laws will no longer include outdated and offensive terms used to describe minority groups.

President Barack Obama signed a bill striking the several terms, including "Negro" and "Oriental" on May 23, the White House said.

Those terms will be replaced with "African American" and "Asian American."

The bill removing the terms passed the House in February and the Senate last week. No one in either chamber objected.

The language targeted by the bill had appeared in laws dating to the 1970s that attempted to define minorities.

In the Department of Energy Organization Act the phrases "a Negro, Puerto Rican, American Indian, Eskimo, Oriental, or Aleut or is a Spanish speaking individual of Spanish descent" will be replaced with "Asian American, Native Hawaiian, a Pacific Islander, African American, Hispanic, Puerto Rican, Native American, or an Alaska Native."

The same language changes will be made to the Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Act of 1976.

### Ben & Jerry push to register voters in North Carolina

(AP) - Ice cream innovators Ben & Jerry are in North Carolina to launch a drive to increase voter registration and participation.

Ben & Jerry's co-founders Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield are visiting North Carolina Central University in Durham on May 17 to launch a national campaign that includes a new ice cream flavor.

The liberal former entrepreneurs are working with the North Carolina NAACP and others in an effort to promote the importance of Congress reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act and working to remove the influence of big money in politics.

Participating Ben & Jerry's scoop shops across the country will install kiosks to register voter. Trucks offering free scoops of Ben & Jerry's will tour North Carolina this summer with information about the campaign and voter registration.

## Supreme Court upends all-white jury verdict, death sentence Clarence Says All-White Juries Okay

By Mark Sherman

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Supreme Court upended the conviction and death sentence of a black Georgia man May 23 because prosecutors violated the Constitution by excluding African-Americans from the all-white jury that determined his fate.

The 7-1 ruling in favor of death row inmate Timothy Tyrone Foster came in a case in which defense lawyers obtained strikingly frank notes from prosecutors detailing efforts to keep African-Americans off of Foster's jury. The decision broke no new ground in efforts to fight racial discrimination in jury selection, but underscored the importance of a 30-year-old high court ruling that took aim at the exclusion of minorities from juries.

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote for the court that "prosecutors were motivated in substantial part by race" when they struck African-Americans from the jury pool, focusing on the decision to exclude two black jurors. Two such jury strikes "on the basis of race are two more than the Constitution allows," Roberts wrote.

The high court returned Foster's case to state court, but Stephen Bright, Foster's Atlanta-based lawyer, said "there is no doubt" that the decision May 23 means Foster is entitled to a new trial, 29 years after he was sentenced to death for killing a white woman.

The decision did nothing, however, to limit peremptory strikes, lawyers' ability to reject potential jurors without offering any reason. The late Thurgood Marshall, the first African-American to serve on the Supreme Court, once said that racial discrimination would persist in jury selection unless peremptory strikes were curtailed.

Justice Clarence Thomas dissented, saying he would have respected the decisions of state judges who sided with prosecutors and rejected Foster's claims. Thomas, a Georgia native, recounted Foster's confession to having murdered a 79-year-old retired schoolteacher "after having sexually assaulted her with a bottle of salad dressing."

When the case was argued in November, the justices did little to hide their distaste for the tactics employed by prosecutors in north Georgia. Justice Elena Kagan said the case seemed as clear a violation "as a court is ever going to see."

Still, Georgia courts had consistently rejected Foster's claims of discrimination, even after his lawyers obtained prosecutors' notes that revealed their focus on the black people in the jury pool. In one example, a handwritten note headed "Definite No's" listed six people, of whom five were the remaining black prospective jurors.

The sixth person on the list was a white woman who made clear she would never impose the death penalty, according to Bright. And yet even that woman ranked behind the black jurors, he said.

The court was not persuaded by the state's argument that the notes focused on black people in the jury pool because prosecutors were preparing to defend against discrimination claims.

The Supreme Court's ruling about race discrimination in jury selection was about (Continued On Page 6)