



**JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE**  
**SENATOR CHARLES E. SCHUMER**  
**CHAIRMAN**



**Media Advisory**  
March 7, 2007

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**STAGGERING AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALE  
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES A HIDDEN SHAME  
NEVER TALKED ABOUT IN U.S., JOINT  
ECONOMIC COMMITTEE HEARING TO  
EXAMINE CRISIS AND URGE SOLUTIONS**

*On Eve of Release of New Employment Figures, Schumer to Urge Experts to  
Develop National Plan Based on Previously Successful Programs*

*Modernization of Earned Income Tax Credit and Innovative Social Training  
Programs Developed by Key Hearing Witnesses*

*In Landmark Congressional Hearing, JEC Chairman Highlights Historic  
Difficulties Uniquely Facing Population Segment, Almost 20 Years After Last  
Hearing on Economic Status of African Americans*

Washington, D.C. – **U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer**, Chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, will hold a hearing to address the little talked about, but staggering rates of African American male unemployment **on March 8, 2007 at 9:30 am** in **562 Dirksen Senate Office Building**. The JEC will examine in more detail, and investigate federal policy solutions, such as job training and social insurance reform, that will help us meet the challenges of this serious problem. The landmark JEC hearing will mark the first significant effort by the committee to address the economic status of African Americans since 1990 and it comes on the eve of the release of new employment figures by the federal government. As of January 2007, the unemployment rate for African American men age 20 and older is 7.5%.

There is a growing crisis of joblessness for African-American men. Across the country, far too many black men – especially in urban areas – face difficulty finding and keeping work. The numbers are staggering and getting worse. As far back as 1980, a 20-year old black man was almost twice as likely to be unemployed than a white male of the same age. Even during the economic boom of the 1990s, the annual labor force participation rate of African American males over 20 dropped from 75 percent in 1990 to 72 percent in 1999, and it remained between three and four percentage points below that of white males with few exceptions. The recent

downturn in manufacturing jobs will exacerbate African-American male unemployment numbers because they make up a large share of those jobs.

*The panelists will include:*

- **Ronald B. Mincy**, Maurice V. Russell Professor of Social Policy and Social Work Practice, School of Social Work, Columbia University and editor of *Black Males Left Behind*
- **Robert Carmona**, President and CEO, STRIVE (Support and Training Result in Valuable Employees)

**WHAT: Joint Economic Committee Hearing on African American Male Unemployment**

**WHEN: Thursday, March 8, 2007  
9:30AM – 10:30 AM**

**WHERE: 562 Dirksen Senate Office Building**

*The Joint Economic Committee, established under the Employment Act of 1946, was created by Congress to review economic conditions and to analyze the effectiveness of economic policy.*

[www.jec.senate.gov](http://www.jec.senate.gov)

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