



**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
**June 25, 2009**

**Contact: Betty Anne Williams, 202-789-3505 or**  
[bawilliams@jointcenter.org](mailto:bawilliams@jointcenter.org)

**Economic, Community and Political Leaders to Confront “Wealth Gap”**  
*Congressman Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD) to Set the Stage for Strategic Action*

**WHO:** The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies partners with Associated Black Charities’ *More in the Middle* initiative

**WHAT:** A daylong policy forum of community leaders, policymakers, economists and other experts to address “Closing the Wealth Gap.” This forum will bring together community stakeholders and local, state, and regional policymakers – as well as national policy experts – to generate dialogue, ideas and recommendations aimed at reinvigorating the nation’s black middle class, with a special focus on the situation in Baltimore, MD. Speakers will include:

**The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD), U.S. Congress, 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District**  
**Ralph B. Everett, Esq., President and CEO, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies**  
**Diane Bell-McKoy, President and CEO, Associated Black Charities**  
**William A. Darity, Jr., Ph.D., Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy, Duke University**  
**Darrick Hamilton, Ph.D., Milano The New School for Management and Urban Policy**

**WHERE:** Barbara Jordan Conference Center  
Kaiser Family Foundation  
1330 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

**WHEN:** Monday, June 29, 2009  
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Associated Black Charities is a Maryland 501(c)(3) public foundation that facilitates the creation of measurably healthier and wealthier communities throughout the State of Maryland through responsible leadership and philanthropic investment. For more information, go to [www.abc-md.org](http://www.abc-md.org).

The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies is one of the nation’s leading research and public policy institutions and the only one whose work focuses primarily on issues of particular concern to African Americans and other people of color. For more information about the Joint Center, please visit our Web site at <http://www.jointcenter.org>.

###