



27<sup>th</sup> National Delegates Assembly  
Blacks In Government, Incorporated  
2006 Resolutions – New York, New York

**RESOLUTION**

**Support Reparations from Aetna Insurance for African Americans**

**WHEREAS**, Blacks In Government (BIG) was organized in 1975, and incorporated as a non-profit organization under the District of Columbia jurisdiction in 1976, and now is the Nation's oldest and largest public service employee advocacy organization, dedicated to the eradication of all vestiges of racism and disparate treatment practices perpetrated upon people; and

**WHEREAS**, BIG believes that Blacks should unite in order to obtain and secure the rights and privileges of full citizenship participation, and to address the collective needs of African Americans in public service and to organize around issues of mutual concern and use collective strengths in confronting workplace and community issues; and

**WHEREAS**, research has determined that several insurers were involved in providing slave insurance policies to slave owners; and

**WHEREAS**, Aetna was one of the companies involved in underwriting policies in the 1850s; and

**WHEREAS**, an investor, unsure about purchasing costly human chattel, would gain security from predecessor companies to Aetna Inc., New York Life Insurance Company, and American International Group, which enabled slave owners to work enslaved Africans in ultra hazardous capacities; and

**WHEREAS**, insured enslaved Africans frequently died horrendous deaths including drownings, and fatal burnings in coal mines; and

**WHEREAS**, California's Slaveholder Insurance Policies Bill (SB 2199) made it possible to acquire slave insurance policies from Aetna and Aetna predecessor(s) and other insurers doing business in the state of California; and

**WHEREAS**, Aetna issued a public apology for their role in slavery but to date, has not created a restitution Trust Fund to benefit the descendants of enslaved Africans as they said they would; and

**WHEREAS**, research and efforts by Deadria Farmer-Paellman with Aetna and ongoing grassroots organizing of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA) and other reparations activists and supporters served as catalysts for a host of slavery era disclosure bills requiring corporations doing business with local and state municipalities to disclose any ties they or their predecessor(s) have to the institution of slavery; and

**WHEREAS**, Blacks in Government (BIG) adopted a resolution in 2004 supporting Congressman Conyers' H.R. 40 Bill to acknowledge the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery and to establish a commission to examine the present day impact of slavery and Jim Crow on living African-Americans and to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 3.4 Million African Americans, which constitute 17 % of the federal government's workforce, having the economic clout to influence Aetna's behavior to create a restitution Trust Fund to benefit the descendants of enslaved Africans; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,**

- (1) that the National Organization of Blacks in Government through its National Board of Directors and the National Executive Committee, all regions and chapters members currently enrolled under an Aetna Healthcare Policy should consider other insurance providers during the 2006-2007 Federal Government Open-Season since Aetna has failed to create a restitution Trust Fund to benefit the descendants of enslaved Africans as stated; and
- (2) that a written copy of this resolution be delivered to Aetna Insurance Headquarters, and that the National Organization of Blacks in Government through its National Board of Directors and the National Executive Committee, all regions and chapters petition Aetna Healthcare to follow through with the creation of a restitution Trust Fund to benefit the descendants of enslaved Africans as stated; and
- (3) that a Press Release be issued for widespread dissemination announcing the adoption of this Resolution and the recommendation that Aetna Healthcare establish a Trust Fund to assist African American Healthcare Institutions actively working to alleviate the health disparities plaguing African American families and communities; and
- (4) that a copy of this Resolution be delivered to National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA), P.O. Box 90604, Washington, D.C. 20090-0604, and Ms. Deadria Farmer-Paellman, Restitution Study Group, P.O. 622, Hoboken, NJ 07030, for negotiating with Aetna for a resolution to this issue.

Submitted by:

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