

TURMOIL



NCNW Advocacy & Policy

REALITY CHECK ON THE TURMOIL *by Tyese Williams, NCNW Advocacy & Policy manager*

Welcome to what NCNW calls “Turmoil - Reality Check.” With all the developments coming from the three branches of government, one can often feel they are in “a state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty” = TURMOIL.

We understand you need to know what is really going on, rooted in facts and reality, so that you can be informed and ready for action. NCNW is prepared to give it to you as it happens.

The US House Passes the SAVE Act: What does this mean for voting rights?

On April 10, 2025, the U.S. House voted to pass the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act with a 220 to 208 vote, four Democrats joined the Republicans in voting for this bill. This includes Representatives Jared Golden (ME-02), Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (WA-03), Henry Cuellar (TX-28), and Ed Case (HI-01). The SAVE Act is a bill that requires individuals to show proof of citizenship in order to vote, which essentially a voter suppression bill designed to make it harder for Americans to vote in elections. This bill is meant to target "non-citizen voting" despite it being illegal already for non-citizens to vote. So, what does this mean? This bill could disenfranchise millions of voters if signed into law and serve as another mechanism to undermine U.S. democracy.

Let it be clear this bill is not meant to target non-citizens but registered voters. This would be a blow to voters regardless of their party affiliation. Women, in particular, are at risk of facing disenfranchisement at higher rates. This is because of the lack of protections for women whose name on their birth certificate may be different from what is their current last name due to marriage. While this bill did pass the House, it is important to note that it still has to go through the Senate. This means that there is a chance the Senate Democrats could attempt to filibuster the bill in order to prevent it from passing.

2 – NCNW Reality Check for April 12, 2025

NCNW continues to remain a steadfast champion of voting rights for all Americans. We will continue to monitor this bill and provide updates.

Tariffs: *What they are, and how it impacts Black women?*

Overview: The President recently announced various tariffs on multiple countries. This has been framed as an effort to boost U.S. manufacturing and protect jobs. However, this has thrown the global economy into chaos, and prices are expected to rise for consumers. There is also the risk of an economic recession. The President placed sweeping tariffs on our top trade partners including Mexico, China, the European Union, and many other nations as well. A “sweeping tariff” simply means that more than one type of goods or materials is subject to the tariff rate imposed on that country. This includes a 104% tariff on China following China’s retaliatory tariff of 84% on U.S. goods.

As of April 9, the President decided to pause new tariffs for 90 days. Following a bipartisan outcry against the tariffs. However, the minimum 10% tariff rates are still in place including the tariffs on goods like aluminum. But what are tariffs exactly, and how do they impact you?

What are tariffs? Tariffs are a tax that is imposed on a specific good from a specific country. These are usually done with the goal to either influence a nation, raise profits, or to protect competitive advantages. However, tariffs are not paid by the country that it is placed on but instead by the people whose country created the tariff. For example, if the U.S. puts a tariff on Chinese fabrics, the Chinese companies will raise their prices in order to cover the tariff. This means that the consumers they are selling the fabric to in the U.S. now have to pay higher prices because of the tariff, essentially flipping the bill of the tariff back to where it came from. Typically, countries like to avoid tariffs in favor of trade agreements to avoid the previously mentioned issues.

How do the tariffs impact Black women? Black women are at risk of bearing the brunt of these tariffs. Many economically and vulnerable communities are at risk of suffering as a result of the current trade war. Rent for many Americans is already difficult to afford, and with prices of goods such as groceries and clothing set to increase, this will harm Black women who are economically vulnerable at higher risks. One of these risks is housing. Black women already face disproportionate rates of eviction, as a result of racial discrimination and systemic racism. One in 5 renters are behind on rent and likely to face eviction are Black women ([Centers for American Progress](#)). The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) found that in at least 17 states Black women renters had legal filings for eviction at double the rates or higher of white renters.

According to Mica Whitfield, the co-President and CEO of 9to5, National Association of Working Women, in an [interview](#) with *The Washington Informer*, 1 in 3 single mothers are already living in poverty, and these tariffs are set to make their situation worse. Whitfield also states “Black women are the fastest growing group of entrepreneurs, but they’re already

3 – NCNW Reality Check for April 12, 2025

struggling with access to capital.” She adds, “Now they’re forced to find new sources for packaging or ingredients just to stay afloat. This could close doors for so many of them.”

As the tariffs and the U.S. trade war continues to unfold, NCNW will continue to remain a steadfast advocate for Black women and Black business owners.

Dr. Mehmet Oz, Administrator of the Centers For Medicare and Medicaid (CMS)

Who is Dr. Mehmet Oz?:

Dr. Mehmet Oz was a cardiothoracic surgeon at Columbia University before becoming the host of the syndicated television show “Dr. Oz.” Dr. Oz faced scrutiny after promoting products, particularly weight loss products, that were falsely advertised. One of these products was Pure Green Coffee, which was advertised as a dietary supplement for weight loss. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) actually [charged](#) the company in 2014 with false advertising about weight loss properties. Ten doctors called on Dr. Oz to be dismissed from Columbia University following the incident; however, Dr. Oz remained in service with the university for nearly a decade afterwards. In 2021, Dr. Oz ran on the Republican ticket against and lost narrowly to current Senator John Fetterman (D) for the Pennsylvania Senate seat. On April 3, Dr. Oz was confirmed in a 53-45 vote, along party lines, by the Senate to lead the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid.

Hearing Highlights:

- Dr. Oz dodged questions around possible cuts to Medicaid stating, “I want to make sure that the patients today, and in the future, have resources to protect them if they get ill.” He continued, “The way you protect Medicaid is by making sure that it’s viable at every level.” Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) questioned Dr. Oz stating, “All my colleagues are going to want to know: Are you going to cut Medicaid?” Stating, “We want to know from everybody.”
- Sen. Maggie Hassan (D-NH) asked Oz about how many children losing their healthcare coverage would be “acceptable” to him. Oz responded, “I don’t want children losing health insurance.” Senator Hassan continued, “Well then you’re going to need to reject the Republican budget plan.”

State of the People POWER Tour, April 24 – June 15, 2025

The State of the People POWER Tour, April 24 – June 15, 2025, is a nationwide, people-powered campaign designed to rally, restore, and reimagine what’s possible for Black communities across the country. This isn’t just a series of events—it’s a movement rooted in healing, empowerment, and mobilization. The first phase includes 10 stops across key U.S. cities, where we will amplify local voices, provide tangible support, and build momentum toward a national Black agenda.

4 – NCNW Reality Check for April 12, 2025

The POWER Tour will bring together grassroots organizers, local Juneteenth leaders, creatives, educators, faith leaders, and everyday residents to listen, serve, and act. It's about showing up where our people are—and staying connected.

Tour Dates/Locations

April 26 - 27 in Atlanta, GA

April 29 - 30 in Raleigh-Durham, NC

May 2 – 3 in Montgomery, AL

May 5 – 8 in New Orleans, LA

May 13 – 14 in Newark, NJ

May 16 – 17 in Richmond, VA

May 21 – 22 in Detroit, MI

May 30 – 31 in Jackson, MS

June 2 – 3 in Louisville, KY

June 5 – 6 in Altadena, CA

NCNW members are needed to serve as volunteers. To volunteer, click the button below. Show the influence of our #purplepower! <https://forms.gle/MVpq1jD8CmY8d6cv9>

#