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**Cover Story**  
***CBC Monitor: Watchdogs of the Black Caucus***  
***Harold Ford and David Scott Rated Worst***

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For the first time in history, an African American group has graded the Congressional Black Caucus's legislative performance on a curve that reflects the Black Political Consensus. The results were startling. Harold Ford, Jr., of Memphis, registered only a five percent positive grade, based on his votes on nine "bright line" issues that came before him in this legislative session. David Scott, the Black Congressman from suburban Atlanta, did little better. Scott rated only a ten percent positive score.

Ford and Scott led the field of what the CBC Monitor called "The Derelicts of the CBC."

"They are derelict in their duties to their Black constituents," said Leutisha Stills, who oversaw the study of the CBC's legislative behavior, this year. "The CBC Monitor is based on Black people's political views. Other organizations rate legislators in ways that dilute African American opinion – that discount our view of the world. Such a methodology diminishes the profound lessons that Black people have learned in our centuries of struggle. We must hold our own people to account for their political actions."

Jared Ball, a Washington-based journalist who called the CBC Monitor into existence, insists that accountability is paramount. "There are now 43 Black representatives in Congress," he said, "one of them a Senator. They must be held to a standard. That's what the CBC Monitor does: establish a standard."

By the CBC Monitor's standards, seven Congressional Black Caucus members are derelict. The worst malefactors, including the aforementioned Harold Ford (D-TN) and David Scott (D-GA), are Sanford Bishop (D-GA), at 25 percent, Albert Wynn (D-MD), at 30 percent, Artur Davis (D-AL), 40 percent, Gregory Meeks (D-NY), 45 percent, and William Jefferson (D-LA), at 55 percent.

These men have failed our people, and sold out to other interests.

The CBC Monitor gives credit to those members who have stood tall, as well. They are called the Honor Society. First among the honor list is Rep. John Conyers, Jr., a founding father of the CBC from Detroit, followed by Barbara Lee (D-CA), Maxine Waters (D-CA), Cynthia McKinney (D-GA), Robert Scott



## The Black Commentator – Cover Story: CBC Monitor: Watchdogs of the Black Caucus

Members of Congress like Harold Ford, who represents extremely poor districts, to vote for a Republican bankruptcy bill that creates an even worse economic environment for their own constituents. It is despicable for representatives of the Black and poor to vote to allow unearned wealth to be passed on to unearning children, while the sponsors of such legislation spout racist garbage about “welfare queens.”

The report from the CBC Monitor makes us hold our breath, knowing that the Congressional Black Caucus has fallen into such disarray. But Jared Ball and Leutisha Stills have pointed the way. And the finger points at all of us.