



# NAACP

**Derrick Johnson**  
*President and  
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February 16, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

It has come to our attention that the Council of Economic Advisors Chair Cecelia Rouse is leaving her position. We applaud your appointment of the first Black Chair of the Council! It is an important position and one where we need to have continued representation on economic policy.

While there have been leaks in the media regarding Dr. Rouse's replacement, we would like to recommend Dr. William E. Spriggs for this and future roles. Dr. Spriggs is an economist with a proven record of understanding how economic policy can improve equity. Someone who also has an extensive record on economic policy and the impact of those policies across all communities.

Dr. Spriggs' career spans his work with several Administrations including serving as Assistant Secretary of Labor, assuming leadership positions with several civil rights organizations, leading Howard University's Economic Department and the establishment of its Center on Race and Wealth coupled with extensive union work.

Dr. Spriggs' leadership includes serving as past President of the National Economic Association, the National Bureau of Economic Research and now as the President-Elect of the Labor and Employment Research Association. As a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance, he was a recipient of its highest honor, the Robert Ball Award. He is a member of the National Academy of Public Administration, and served on several National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine studies.

His position at the AFL-CIO has led to a ten-year appointment chairing the Economic Working Group for the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD. In this role, he regularly meets with the leading economic policy makers of the G-7 nations, distinguishing him as a well-recognized voice on the global stage regarding economic policy.

We advocate for a continued Black presence on the Council. In that regard, Dr. William E. Spriggs would serve as a policy advisor with an expansive voice centered in economic equity. His wealth of knowledge on domestic and international economic policy makes him an excellent choice for the Council of Economic Advisors.

Respectfully,

Derrick Johnson  
President and CEO