



**National
Urban League**

*Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.
For An Equitable Future.*

Marc H. Morial
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December 9, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, O'Neill House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
S-337, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Schumer, Leader Jeffries, and Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the National Urban League (NUL) and our over 90 affiliates representing over 300 communities across the nation, I write to you today to ask Congress to pass the bipartisan AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act (S. 1669/H.R. 3413) and that it be sent to the President's desk before the end of the 118th Congress.

AM radio is a lifeline for local communities, including the predominately African-American and underserved communities that NUL serves. It plays a vital role in providing underserved communities with reliable news, entertainment, sports and information in critical times of emergency. Across the nation, over 82 million Americans tune in to AM radio every month, which is at least 90% of the American population. There are over 100 Black-owned radio stations that would be impacted if AM radios were removed from vehicles. Those radio stations not only provide a voice for Black America, but serve as a source of opportunity, creativity and ownership for marginalized communities.

Additionally, AM radio provides a sense of community in underrepresented neighborhoods who have a strong focus on religious or in-language programming. Across the country, there are over 600 AM stations that broadcast content in a language other than English. In rural and urban areas in which there are broadband deserts, AM radio is a link to cultural content that allows these communities to maintain their connections.



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When hurricanes and other natural disasters strike parts of the U.S., AM radio is available to provide trustworthy information before, during and after the hurricanes. I know first-hand the impact that AM radio plays as we approach the 20th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. In my home state of Louisiana alone, over 1.7 million people were affected by the storm. When the power went out and cell service was down, AM radio was a resilient communications source, providing live and continuous news alerts regarding storm warnings, evacuations and community resources.

AM radio is central to our ability to reach all Americans across the spectrum. That is why NUL stands with the over 125 organizations representing minority and underserved communities, first responders, public safety officials, local governments, older Americans, religious voices and rural and agricultural communities, advocating for this important piece of legislation to be enacted before the start of next Congress.

Sincerely,

Marc H. Morial
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Urban League