Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 4, 2007

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House and Senate Chairmen Introduce Legislation Promoting Diversity in the Senior Executive Service

Chairman Davis and Chairman Akaka will hold a press conference to announce the introduction of this legislation on <u>Thursday, October 4, 2007, at 12:00 p.m. in room 2203 Rayburn HOB</u>

Washington, D.C. – Today, Chairman Danny K. Davis (D-IL), Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia, and Senator Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI), Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, introduce the "Senior Executive Service Diversity Assurance Act" (the Act).

The legislation will establish within the Office of Personnel Management a "Senior Executive Service Resource Office" to ensure that the Senior Executive Service "reflects the Nation's diversity." The office will have the responsibility and the power to "prescribe regulations and provide guidance to agencies concerning the structure, management, and diverse composition of the Senior Executive Service." The legislation provides for public access to statistics, accessible via an Internet website. The legislation establishes programs to recruit women, ethnic minorities and persons with disabilities at the interagency and collegiate level.

Davis stated, "Diversity is one of our nation's great strengths. Ensuring that diversity at this critical level of government operations will strengthen the Senior Executive Service and improve the functioning of the agencies while ensuring equal opportunity for every American."

Chairman Akaka stated, "Diversity throughout the federal workforce should reflect the diversity of the Nation from the most senior officials to entry level positions. It is especially important that the Senior Executive Service reflect our Nation's diversity because they are the leaders in the federal community. I am pleased to join my colleague Congressman Danny Davis in introducing the Senior Executives Service Diversity Assurance Act to address the under-representation of women, minorities, and the disabled in senior level positions.