



Representative Alma Adams
D-North Carolina
US House of Representatives

Dr. Alma S. Adams was elected to her sixth full term representing the 12th Congressional District of North Carolina on November 5, 2024. After winning a special election in November 2014, Congresswoman Adams was sworn in immediately as the 100th woman elected to the 113th Congress.

Representative Adams serves on the Committee on Education & Workforce and the House Committee on Agriculture. She serves on the subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education and is Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development. Additionally, she serves on the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Nutrition and Foreign Agriculture and the Subcommittee on Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology.

One of her outstanding legislative accomplishments is the enactment of H.R. 5363, the Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education (FUTURE) Act that permanently provides funding totaling \$255 million a year for all Minority-Serving Institutions, including \$85 million for HBCUs. Another is the establishment of a new \$50 million R&D grant program for HBCUs and MSI's in 2023 federal budget.

Representative Adams has previously served on the Financial Services Committee, Joint Economic Committee and in several leadership positions, including Assistant Whip for the Democratic Caucus, Vice Chair of Agriculture, Ranking Member of the Small Business Committee, ranking member of the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, and ranking member of the Small Business Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight, and Regulation.

The Congresswoman is the co-founder and co-chair of the Black Maternal Health Caucus with Rep. Lauren Underwood of Illinois, as well as the founder and co-chair of the Congressional Bipartisan Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Caucus. Adams is also a member of the Women's Caucus, Diabetes Caucus, Autism Caucus, Congressional Black Caucus, Progressive Education Caucus, Historic Preservation Caucus, AIDS/HIV Caucus, Hunger Caucus, Medicaid Expansion Caucus, and the Art Caucus.

The Black Maternal Health Caucus works to reduce the unacceptable rates of mortality and morbidity for Black parents. Adams introduced the landmark *Momnibus* package in 2020, 2021, and 2023 with other members of the caucus.

The HBCU Caucus promotes bipartisan legislation that supports HBCUs and their graduates. Since its inception, the caucus has coordinated the Diversity in Tech program and the HBCU Braintrust, both of which foster engagement, collaboration, and partnership between Fortune 500 companies, government and industry leaders, and HBCUs. The caucus also won \$40 million for HBCUs for scholarships, funding for newly established centers of excellence in agriculture, and additional funding for agricultural research and cooperative extension for 1890 land grant universities in the 2018 Farm Bill.

Throughout her career, Representative Adams has fought for a quality education for all students, including legislation to provide nutritious breakfasts in schools and increased pay for teachers. For 40 years, Dr. Adams taught Art at Bennett College. While at Bennett, she led the effort to increase student civic participation coining the phrase “Bennett Belles are Voting Belles” and organizing annual marches to the polls. As a former educator, Rep. Adams has dedicated her career to improving the lives of young people and her community. She is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the North Carolina A&T State University Human Rights Medal, the highest award presented by her alma mater to an individual who fights against social injustice and helps improve the world, and was inducted into the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame.

In 1994 Dr. Adams was appointed by her peers to serve in the North Carolina House District 26 seat. She went on to serve ten terms in the State House. During her tenure, she rose to become the chair of the North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus and was instrumental in passing legislation that improved the climate for quality affordable health care in the state. Representative Adams also pioneered the Displaced Homemakers Bill and successfully spearheaded the state’s first minimum wage increase in nine years.

Before serving as a member of the North Carolina General Assembly, Congresswoman Adams served nine years on the Greensboro City Council. Throughout her service to the second district in Greensboro, Dr. Adams worked to create safe and affordable housing and for the revitalization of neighborhoods. She began her political career in the 1980’s by becoming the first African American woman ever elected to the Greensboro City School Board. It was then that she made a lifetime commitment to effecting social change in her community and beyond.

Congresswoman Adams has one daughter, Linda Jeanelle Lindsay, one son, Billy E. Adams II, four grandchildren: Joslyn Lindsay, Aaron Lindsay, Billy E. Adams III, and Miracle Sumner, and one great-granddaughter Blair Rose Adams. Congresswoman Adams graduated from North Carolina A&T State University in 1968 and received her Master of Arts in Art Education in 1972. She earned her Ph.D. in Art Education and Multicultural Education from The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, in 1981.
