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'Don't you dare leave this stage without doing it': Biden was forced to publicly vow to appoint a black woman to SCOTUS by Rep. Jim Clyburn in return for his endorsement during 2020 South Carolina primary

- Biden performed poorly in the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primaries and needed a boost in South Carolina in February 2020 to help clinch nomination
- Clyburn, who previously chaired Congressional Black Caucus, offered endorsement, if Biden promised to fill next SCOTUS vacancy with black woman
- Journalists Jonathan Allen and Amie Parnes detail in their book that Clyburn powwowed with Biden during a break in the Dem debate on February 25, 2020
- The lawmaker was becoming increasingly frustrated that Biden had not promised on the debate stage to nominate a black female Supreme Court justice

Katelyn Caralle January 27, 2022

Joe Biden reportedly promised House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn during the 2020 campaign that he would nominate a black woman to the Supreme Court – something that angers Republicans who claim a selection should not be based on race or **gender**.

Democrats, however, claim it's about time that a black woman serves on the Supreme Court after news emerged prematurely Wednesday that liberal Justice Stephen Breyer is retiring. Biden performed poorly in the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primaries and needed a boost in South Carolina in February 2020 to help clinch the nomination to take on **Donald Trump**. Clyburn, who previously chaired the Congressional Black Caucus, offered his endorsement but with a caveat – that the then-candidate publicly pledge to place a black woman on the Supreme Court should he get the chance in his tenure.

Journalists Jonathan Allen and Amie Parnes detail in their book Lucky that Clyburn pow-wowed with Biden during a break in the Democratic debate on February 25, 2020. The lawmaker was becoming increasingly frustrated that Biden had not promised on the debate stage to nominate a black female Supreme Court justice after speaking on the issue the night before.

South Carolina US District Court Judge J. Michelle Childs seems to have the backing of Clyburn, who represents South Carolina in the House. Childs, 55, also already appears to be in Biden's favor as he nominated her last month to the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, where the nomination is still pending.

Clyburn seemed confident on CNN Wednesday that Childs could win the favor of Republicans.

'I know that Michelle Childs will have the support of several Republicans, including the two Republican senators from South Carolina,' referring to Tim Scott and Lindsey Graham.

The advice helped propel Biden's campaign and eventually earn the nomination.

Biden is meeting with Breyer, 83, on Thursday and will deliver remarks on the justice's 27-year tenure on the high court.

So far, 10 names already emerged for the short list of who Biden is considering nominating.

Republicans are not happy that Biden is choosing to narrow his scope of nominees to only black women.

'Imagine being the Supreme Court nominee for Biden where your qualification is your skin color and gender,' former Donald Trump official Richard Grenell tweeted Thursday. 'Black women should be furious that Biden doesn't see them as actually qualified.'

He added in another post: 'Asians, gays and Hispanics had no shot for a Supreme Court seat from Joe Biden.'

'Biden has eliminated 94% of Americans for consideration for a Supreme Court pick in the event of a retirement. Now that's leadership,' former attorney, and former conservative radio host Neal Boortz sarcastically tweeted.

Ilya Shapiro, vice president of the libertarian Cato Institute, wrote: 'Because Biden said he's only consider black women for SCOTUS, his nominee will always have an asterisk attached. Fitting that the Court takes up affirmative action next term.'