Coalition slams mortgage plan

A coalition of 37 religious, civil rights and affordable housing groups gathered Monday to file a lawsuit against Fannie Mae, the federal Housing and Urban Development Department and the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) for their alleged predatory practices and discriminatory lending. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of the coalition, which includes the National Council of Churches, the National Anti-Discrimination Council, the National Economic Development Council, the National Organization for Human Rights, the National Religious Campaign Against Purple Heart, the National Association of Community Development Workers and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

"The coalition is calling for an investigation of these practices and the imposition of penalties on the defendants," said Reverend Dr. William J. Barber, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. "We believe that these practices are in violation of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, and we demand that they be stopped immediately."