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Press release submitted by Elesha Gayman

Representative Gayman Attends Convention of Progressive Young Elected Officials in Atlanta

Young Elected Officials Network 4th National Convening, June 12-14, in Downtown Atlanta

Davenport, IA– Rep. Elesha Gayman joined more than 150 progressive young elected officials from across the country in Downtown Atlanta at the fourth annual convening of the Young Elected Officials (YEO) Network. The YEO Network Convening is the largest gathering of progressive elected leaders under the age of 35 in the country. From June 12-14, the young leaders will share their experiences, policy initiatives and best practices, and build a lasting network with their fellow young elected officials from across the country. The YEO Network is a project of People For the American Way Foundation.

"Having the opportunity to meet other young elected leaders is a great chance to share our experiences that are unique both to public office and our young age and is not something that we usually get the chance to do," said Rep. Gayman. "I greatly appreciate PFAW's attention to helping develop skills of young leaders such as myself."

The YEO Network is directed by Tallahassee Commissioner Andrew Gillum, along with Georgia State Representative Alisha Thomas Morgan, who serves as the Membership Manager. The network stands at more than 500 elected officials from 49 states, and includes a diverse and talented group of policy makers and problem solvers. The YEO Network's mission is to unite and support young leaders who share a passion for building communities that reflect values of freedom, fairness and opportunity.

"These young elected officials play a critical role in shaping the public agenda and political debates, and manage billions of dollars of public money. This year's convening will be filled with resources to meet their needs, to build upon their strengths, and empower them to transform their political vision into progressive action," said Commissioner Gillum.

Young elected officials, under age 35, represent 4.8 percent of all elected leaders in congressional, gubernatorial, legislative, and city and county commission seats in the United States according to a Rutgers University Eagleton Institute of Politics study.

Representative Gayman said, "I hope to take from the convening knowledge that will help me to continue to enhance my ability to be an affective leader in addition to being able to assist other young people learn how to embrace leadership in their own communities."

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