



# BROOKLYN'S IN THE HOUSE

## NEWS FROM CONGRESSWOMAN YVETTE D. CLARKE

### 11<sup>th</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Representing: Brownsville, Ocean Hill, Crown Heights, Greater Flatbush, East Flatbush, Kensington, Park Slope, Carroll Gardens, Gowanus, Prospect Heights, Prospect Gardens, Grand Army Plaza, Windsor Terrace, Flatbush and Midwood



Dear Neighbor:

On Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, from 10am to 4pm, I will host a job fair, to connect prospective job candidates with companies and agencies from different industries across the city.

New York City has been hit hard by the recession, and it is our goal to ensure that we provide the resources residents need to obtain a job.

The job fair will take place at 123 Linden Boulevard, First Floor Community Room (Between Rogers and Bedford Avenues).

Potential employers, agencies and companies participating in the job fair include: Best Buy, "New" Nontraditional Employment for Women, African Nations Chamber of Commerce, Americhoice Healthcare, AXA Financial Advisors, Brooklyn Hospital Center, and many more.

If you have any questions, please contact my office at 718.287.1142. Due to limited space, please RSVP at (718) 287-0943

I wish the best of luck to all candidates.

Sincerely,  
Yvette D. Clarke

## November 6, 2009

### Rep. Clarke Fights for a Stronger Health Care Reform Bill

On Sunday November 1<sup>st</sup>, I met with a coalition of pastors from the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists who proudly voiced their support for healthcare reform. The pastors expressed the concerns of their congregations who have been gravely affected by a lack of access to healthcare benefits and the rising cost of premiums. I believe that the time for healthcare reform is now and it was an honor to join the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in raising the clarion call for reform. This is the ideal moment where we can combine our efforts in hopes of garnering support for leadership in Washington. That is why I am fighting to ensure that the public option is as strong as possible. While my colleagues and I work through the negotiation process to strengthen the bill, we need the help



Rep. Clarke addresses the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists about HealthCare Reform. Picture courtesy of Pastor Stephen Williams, Sr.

and support of the American people. That is why I am continuing to issue a call to action. As supporters of health care reform, you must mobilize by contacting your elected officials and demanding action. Write to your Member of Congress. Write to your local newspapers and television stations. Call your local radio stations. Let the whole country know that you support comprehensive healthcare reform. It's now or never because we will never get an opportunity like this again in our lifetime.

### Rep. Clarke Supports Small Business Development

Today, the House of Representatives passed HR 3737, which would make improvements to the microloan program at the Small Business Administration (SBA). SBA's Microloan Program makes short term loans available to small businesses. These loans can be used for working capital or the purchase of inventory, supplies, furniture, fixtures, machinery, and equipment. SBA makes funds available to specially designated intermediaries, typically nonprofits with experience in lending and technical assistance. The bill, the Small Business Microlending Expansion Act of 2009, would accomplish the following:

- remove the requirement that such loans be short-term only, allowing for longer loan repayment periods;
- make it easier for micro-lending entities to participate in the microloan program ;
- increase the borrowing limits for micro-lending entities, allowing them to increase lending; and
- increase the maximum loan amounts that small businesses can receive from the micro-lender.

## **WARNING: Wrong Address Could Deny or Delay Immigration Paperwork**

Millions of Americans and legal permanent residents file immigration petitions and applications for their relatives in the United States and abroad. Between the fees, paperwork, and interview appointments, it's easy to get confused by the lengthy process. As a Member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I have a heightened responsibility to work collaboratively with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and my constituency to ensure that residents can navigate the road to citizenship as smoothly as possible.

Recently, I have noted increased constituent complaints about delayed or denied immigration applications resulting from out of date home address information within USCIS' database system. It is important to notify USCIS of any address or name changes in order to keep your file current and accurate. I urge you to reestablish your communication with USCIS to update your address by call the National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283. You can also check you case status and receive email updates by visiting <https://egov.uscis.gov>.

## **HR 3639 The Expedited Card Reform For Consumers Act**

This week, I voted in support of reform that will protect consumers from the certain practices of credit card issuers. The Credit CARD Act implements tough regulations on the credit card industry and empowers consumers by equipping them with the tools they need to manage their own credit. The effective date of the CARD act would have been next year, but HR 3639 moves this date up to December 1 of this year. The Expedited CARD Reform for Consumers Act:

- amends the Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009 (Credit CARD Act of 2009) to move up the effective date of the Act, except for certain depository institutions, from February 20, 2010, to December 1, 2009;
- Moves up the effective date of the requirement that any penalty fee or charge that a credit card issuer may impose, including a late payment fee, over-the-limit fee, or any other penalty fee or charge, be reasonable and proportional to the omission or violation to which it relates; and
- Moves up the effective date by which the Federal Reserve must issue final implementing rules for required creditor reviews of changes in factors considered in past consumer annual percentage interest rate (APR) increases when determining whether to reduce the APR.

This vote was part of my long term plan to strike the proper balance between the job creation that comes from a vibrant financial sector and the vital responsibility of protecting consumers.

## **Legislative Spotlight**

Just outside of New York City lies an area along the New Jersey Turnpike that has been referred to as the "most dangerous two miles" in America. A number of at-risk chemical facility sites sit between Newark Liberty International Airport and Port Elizabeth, NJ. Many of my constituents drive along that danger zone when traveling outside the city.

Today, the House passed H.R. 2868, the "Chemical and Water Security Act of 2009," by a vote of 230-193. I am a cosponsor of H.R. 2868 because it is quite clear that the existing chemical facility regulations must be strengthened. In fact, in March 2006, then Senator Obama noted in a Senate floor speech that, "by employing safer technologies, we can reduce the attractiveness of chemical plants as a target."

When chemical companies don't follow their own sector's "best practices," they put their frontline workers and my constituents at great risk. That is why I am a strong advocate for provisions in the bill that require:

- worker participation in the development of vulnerability assessments and site security plans;
- proper security training for workers; and
- whistleblower protections for workers who report non-compliance.

I am particularly pleased to see that a provision from an amendment that I sponsored with Representative Chris Carney of Pennsylvania is included in the bill. This will establish a Worker Training Grants Program. It will also direct the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to award grants to non-profit organizations with demonstrated experience in implementing and operating successful worker or first responder health and safety training programs.

As a New Yorker who witnessed the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks firsthand, I am proud to cosponsor a bill that will provide adequate training to workers in the danger zone, as well as the men and women first responders who fearlessly risk their lives to rescue those workers and protect our critical infrastructure.