



BROOKLYN'S IN THE HOUSE

NEWS FROM CONGRESSWOMAN YVETTE D. CLARKE

11th 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

April 30, 2010

Rep. Clarke Denounces Arizona's Immigration Law

On Wednesday, April 28, I joined my congressional colleagues in denouncing the enactment of the Arizona immigration enforcement law, SB 1070. The great Civil Rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.' The enactment of the Arizona immigration enforcement law is indeed a threat to justice, not only in Arizona but across our nation. Under the new law, Arizona authorities are required, "under reasonable suspicion," to determine the immigration status of anyone who they suspect are illegal immigrants.



On Capitol Hill, Rep. Clarke joined Members of Congress in denouncing Arizona's new immigration law.

Individuals in question would have to provide proper documentation verifying their immigration status. This new law in Arizona is a step backwards in addressing our broken immigration system. It is the unfortunate response to the federal government's lack of action on Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR). Our national security is at stake; our moral standing in the world depends on it; and the American people, many of whom are first and second generation immigrants, demand it. As a Brooklyn native, whose roots are firmly planted in my Jamaican heritage, and a Representative of one of the largest populations of first and second generation of immigrants, I see firsthand the dire need for CIR.



Rep. Clarke discusses the importance of CIR with CNN En Español.

The truth of the matter is that this is not just a Hispanic issue, it is not just a border security issue, it is an American issue. I urge Congress to take a fresh look at the antiquated policies; bureaucratic backlogs that tear families apart and devastate our communities. Let us never forget, that when we turn our back on those who come to these shores to live the American dream, we are turning our backs on ourselves.



Dear Neighbor,

It is not too late to participate in the 2010 Census. If the Census Bureau did not receive your completed census form, as a courtesy, a census taker may visit your home briefly to complete the form in person. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share your information with anyone, including other federal agencies, immigration authorities or law enforcement agencies.

The census taker will never ask to enter your home. If a census taker visits you, here's what you should do:

- Ask to see their ID. All census workers carry official government badges marked with just their name; they may also have a "U.S. Census Bureau" bag.
- If you're still not certain about their identity, please call the Census Bureau at (347) 328-2540 or (866) 861-2010 to confirm they are employed by the Census Bureau.
- Answer the census form questions for your entire household (you must be at least 15 years old to answer questions) so that the census taker can record the results for submission to the Census Bureau.

Let us all do our part to have our voices heard.

Sincerely,
Yvette D. Clarke

Clarke Hosts “How To” Briefing for Prospective Haiti Contractors



Rep. Clarke discusses the importance of long-term investment in Haiti.

On Saturday, April 26, I teamed up with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to discuss the next steps in the Haitian rebuilding process. Over 150 people attended the event where they were presented with an overview and tutorial of the USAID procurement processes. Contracting initiatives are critical to ensuring that the political, physical and economic infrastructures are restored as efficiently as possible in Haiti. While resources continue to be focused on humanitarian relief, the international community needs to refocus on a long term strategy to rebuilding Haiti’s economic stability. Encouraging businesses, especially Haitian businesses, to contract in Haiti is central to the rebuilding process. The international response to this crisis has been commendable, but Haiti cannot be restructured without the resources, expertise, and assistance of Haitians, the African

Diaspora and those sensitive to Haitian culture. USAID has been integral in assisting Haiti in its response to the tragic aftermath of the earthquake. I thank them for their commitment to Haiti and its people. I look forward to continue working with them to ensure that Haiti is rebuilt for Haitians, by Haitians and their allies.

Congress Passes Bill to Cut Wasteful Spending

On Wednesday April 28, Congress passed H.R. 5013, the IMPROVE Acquisition Act, with a vote of 417 to 3. This bipartisan legislation will reform the defense acquisition system to save American taxpayers \$135 billion over the next five years. It also ensures that the men and women who are risking their lives to safeguard our country get the proper equipment they need to do their jobs and protect themselves on the battlefield.

The IMPROVE Acquisition Act cleans up waste, fraud, and abuse in the defense acquisition system through four key common sense reforms. It creates a better accountability system, establishes an auditable financial management system at DOD, improves the management of the acquisition workforce and strengthens the industrial base. The bill builds on the legislation enacted by the Democratic-led Congress last year to clean up wasteful defense spending and reform weapons system acquisition.

A second measure, the bipartisan Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act, targets nearly \$100 billion a year in improper government payments that result from poor oversight on the part of federal agencies. This legislation improves transparency in government agencies, prevents improper payments, requires agencies to recover overpayments, and holds top managers at agencies accountable for improper payments or overpayments.

Both of these bills will cut wasteful spending, saving taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars. This Congress inherited massive deficits from President Bush and Washington Republicans. Now, we are taking the necessary steps to cut irresponsible spending and to make sure we don’t pass these deficits on to our children and grandchildren.

Legislative Spotlight

Friday April 23, I introduced H.R. 5121, the Global Sexual and Reproductive Health Act of 2010. This legislation seeks to strengthen and expand the U.S. government’s current program on international family planning and reproductive health into a more comprehensive sexual and reproductive health program. Building upon previous achievements, this legislation aims to combat the denial of important and often life-saving health services for those in developing countries. This comprehensive legislation would:

- support voluntary family planning,
- educate and outreach,
- reduce unsafe abortions,
- increase prevention of STIs and HIV,
- promote contraceptive development,
- train healthcare professionals,
- and various other initiatives.

Original co-sponsors of the bill include Reps. Tammy Baldwin, Lois Capps, Judy Chu, Steve Cohen, Susan Davis (CA), Keith Ellison, Raul Grijalva, Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, Dennis Kucinich, Barbara Lee (CA), Dennis Moore (KS), Carolyn Maloney, Kendrick Meek, Jan Schakowsky, Louise Slaughter, Pete Stark, Diane Watson, and Lynn Woolsey.

Fulfilling the need for sexual and reproductive health services would produce dramatic results. For example, providing contraceptives to the 215 million women in developing countries who are not able to access modern contraceptive methods would avert: 53 million unintended pregnancies; 150,000 women from dying of pregnancy-related complications; 600,000 children from losing their mothers, and 25 million induced abortions each year. Simultaneously investing in family planning services and pregnancy-related care would achieve even greater results by slashing maternal deaths by 70 percent and newborn deaths by almost half.

As a Member of the Congressional Women’s Caucus, I believe these programs have been underfunded. This legislation builds upon previous successes and establishes an effective, long-term sexual and reproductive health program.