

Constituent Services

Over the course of the past year, my district office has been instrumental in helping constituents who experienced difficulty navigating through federal agencies to resolve their personal matters. Of 900 new cases opened this year: 79% of these cases dealt with immigration assistance, 8% sought assistance with financial affairs concerning mortgages, foreclosures and modifications, 4% received help with problems dealing with HUD-Section 8 Housing, 3% were veterans seeking help obtaining benefits and active duty military serviceman and women seeking aid with the U.S. Army, Navy, Marines and Army National Guard, 5% were Social Security/Medicare cases and 1% were IRS/Tax advocacy and federal student aid referrals.



Rep. Yvette Clarke Sits Down with Constituents and Discusses Her Role In Congress.

Services My Office Can Offer You

Know that my office is open to you and we provide an array of services. We provide assistance in filling out federal forms, as well as expediting passport applications. We also do advocacy through individual casework on a range of issues from Immigration to Medicare. We also help our residents understand the federal benefits that they may be qualified for. My goal is to make sure we empower our residents with the resources they need to prosper in the 21st century. It is an honor to serve the constituents of the 11th Congressional district of New York and I look forward to working with you in the coming year. To open a case with the District Office, please call 718.287.1142.

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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



Year in Review

Fighting To Create Jobs In Brooklyn

As of October, the unemployment rate sat at 10.3 percent. While I am optimistic about early economic indicators pointing to a recovery, many New Yorkers are still having a hard time finding jobs. This is why creating jobs has been my top legislative priority. Earlier this year, I joined Congress in passing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This stimulus package has created over 40,000 jobs in New York thus far. On December 16th, I joined Congress in passing H.R. 2847, the Jobs for Main Street Act. This legislation invests \$48 billion to help put people back to work rebuilding our roads and bridges, modernizing public buildings and mass transit. This bill also helps America's small businesses create jobs by expanding the federal guarantee for banks that lend to small businesses and eliminates fees on Small Business Administration (SBA) loans. Also, last month I hosted the 11th Congressional District 2009 Job Fair, where I am happy to say that almost 1,000 people attended. With New York City hit hard by this recession, I thought it was imperative to join the bi-partisan Jobs Now! Caucus. This caucus comes together to focus on reducing our nation's unemployment rate. I am confident that through all the legislation and initiatives coming from Congress, that New York City is headed towards economic prosperity. You have my commitment that my office will continue to help you find high quality jobs.

Fixing our Broken Immigration System

Approximately 39% of the residents in my district are foreign-born immigrants. These numbers represent a large portion of my district that is directly affected by our nation's broken immigration system. That is why on December 15, I joined my colleague Rep. Luis Gutierrez as he presented his legislation, H.R. 4321, the Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity (CIR A.S.A.P.), in Congress. This legislation includes:

- Provisions to restore judicial discretion in removal cases
- provisions of the [DREAM Act](#),
- smart and humane enforcement provisions, including national security protections; and
- Haitian Temporary Protective Status



Rep. Clarke Holds Press Conference Fighting for Comprehensive Immigration Reform on Capitol Hill as C.U.S.H. Members look on.

I was honored to have been joined in the fight for CIR by Bishop Findlayter and Clergy United to Save and Heal (C.U.S.H), Chung-Wha Hong, Executive Director of NY Immigration Coalition, Sandy Placido, and Northern Manhattan Coalition For Immigrant Rights. In October C.U.S.H came to Capitol Hill lobbying and raising the clarion call for Comprehensive Immigration Reform. We must never forget that this debate is critical to improving the lives of all American citizens, American businesses, and the lives of those who seek to be Americans. I am committed to working with my local leaders to continue the fight for CIR legislation to pass next year.

Keeping Brooklyn Residents One Step a Head of the H1N1 Virus

On Oct 27, 2009, I chaired the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, Science and Technology hearing entitled, "Real-Time Assessment of the Federal Response to Pandemic Influenza." The Homeland Security Committee has long been concerned with the state of our pandemic preparedness. I also hosted two telephone townhalls with special guest Dr. Aletha Maybank, the Assistant Commissioner of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene of the Brooklyn District Public Health Office, where constituents could call in and ask questions regarding the H1N1 Virus and the vaccine.

Dear Neighbor:

This end of the year newsletter is a compilation of many of the major legislation that I introduced or originally sponsored and highlights some of the major events that my office and I hosted in the District and on Capitol Hill.

As the year comes to an end, it is important for all of us take the time to reflect on the challenges we have confronted this year.

I know that many families across our district are struggling and are feeling the effects of this recession. I want to remind the citizens of Brooklyn, New York that every time we have faced hardship or adversity as a nation, we have always been resilient. Whether through the Great Depression, the September 11th terrorist attacks, or through our current economic crisis, working together, we will demonstrate our resiliency and ingenuity to overcome our adversities.

Sincerely,

Yvette D. Clarke

2009 Legislative Accomplishments

House of Representatives Passes H.R. 3962 Affordable Healthcare for America Act

Healthcare is a fundamental human right, rather than a commodity. On November 9th, Congress cast a historic vote to provide everyone access to affordable Healthcare. I proudly casted my vote in favor of this bill. In my district, the 11th Congressional District of Brooklyn, the Affordable Health Care for America Act could:

- Allow for no co-pays or deductibles for preventive care; no more rate increases or coverage denials for pre-existing conditions, and guaranteed oral, vision, and hearing benefits for children.
- Provide credits to help pay for coverage for up to 160,000 households
- Under the bill's insurance reforms, 11,900 individuals in the district who have pre-existing medical conditions will now be able to purchase affordable coverage.
- Allow 11,300 small businesses to obtain affordable health care coverage and provide tax credits to help reduce health insurance costs for up to 11,400 small businesses.



Rep. Clarke Hosts Health Care Town Hall Where She Listens to Her Constituent's Concern About Our Current Healthcare System.

House of Representatives Passes Clarke's Resolution Supporting National Preparedness Month, Honoring First Responders and Homeland Security Employees

H.Res 731 expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the employees of the Department of Homeland Security, their partners at all levels of government, and the millions of emergency response providers and law enforcement agents nationwide should be commended for their dedicated service on the Nation's front lines in the war against acts of terrorism. This resolution pays homage to the brave men and women first responders living in the 11th Congressional District who risked their lives on September 11, 2009.

House Passes Clarke's Resolution, Supporting the Goals and Ideals of National Cyber Security Awareness Month 2009

On October 22, the House of Representatives passed my resolution H. Res. 797, supporting the goals and ideals of National Cyber Security Awareness Month 2009 with a vote of 415 to 0. As innovation spurs increased access and demand for the internet and information technologies, cyber warfare and cyber crime are increasing in sophistication and frequency. In this digital age, we are all interconnected and our national cyber infrastructure is only as strong as the weakest link in the chain. The passing of this resolution is a clear message to the American people that our government will continue to protect and strengthen our critical cyber infrastructure.

House Passes FAST Redress Act of 2009, H.R. 559

On February 4, the House passed my bill, The Fair, Accurate, Secure, and Timely Redress Act of 2009 by a vote of 413-3. This legislation directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a fair process for individuals who believe they were delayed or prohibited from boarding an aircraft because they were wrongly identified as a threat when screened against any terrorist watch list used by the Transportation Security Administration or any component of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This act requires the establishment of a method for maintaining and appropriately disseminating a Comprehensive Cleared List of individuals who: (1) were misidentified and (2) completed an appeal and redress request and provided required information to verify their identity.

Clarke Introduces Affordable Housing and Community Development Act of 2009

On March 3, I introduced the H.R. 1270, the Affordable Housing and Community development Act of 2009. This bill authorizes an increase in funding for the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) to \$8 billion for the fiscal years 2011 and 2012. The bill also provides technical assistance to CDBG grantees to improve their performance as well as further fair housing activities. CDBG funds may be used for community development activities ranging from mortgage counseling, real estate acquisition, rehabilitation of housing and commercial buildings, and the development of job creation/retention facilities. The CDBG is a lifeline for many urban and impoverished communities as well as a necessary component for the development of such neighborhoods.

Continuation of 2009 Legislative Accomplishments

Clarke Secures \$20 million to Protect New Yorkers From Radiological Attack , \$3 million for Cyber Security and over \$15 million in funding for Community Organizations in NY-11

This October, the Congress passed the Homeland Security Appropriations Bill with funding for two initiatives that I sponsored. First, the Securing the Cities Initiative (STC) provides funds to implement a unified strategy for defending against radiological and nuclear terrorist threats. The bill also included my \$3 million for State Information Sharing & Analysis Center Program (MS-ISAC). These funds will help states address cyber security vulnerabilities, which can significantly impact our national and economic security. I was also successful in securing over \$15 million in appropriation funding for nonprofit organizations and research facilities that provide valuable resources and services to my constituents and create jobs in my district. The funds will go to the following organizations: Brownsville Community Development Center; the Brooklyn Children's Museum; SUNY Downstate Medical Center; Community Services Society of New York; NY Junior Tennis League; Ohel Children's Home and Family Services; After School Corp; St. Francis College; Brooklyn Academy of Music; Central Brooklyn Housing Council; Reach Out and Read; Gay Men's Health Center of NYC; Brooklyn Botanical Gardens; Brooklyn College; and New York Structural Biology Center.

Clarke Cosponsors H.R. 3017, The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)

Another important piece of legislation that was introduced during the first session of the 111th Congress is the Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 2007 (ENDA) (H.R. 3017). I am an original co sponsor. The purpose of ENDA is to prevent workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation. ENDA does not create any "special rights," but simply affords to all Americans basic protection from employment discrimination based on sexual orientation. Gay, lesbian and bisexual Americans can be fired, refused work, paid less and otherwise subjected to employment discrimination because of their sexual orientation. Currently, it's legal in 30 states to fire someone based on their sexual orientation. This legislation applies to employers with 15 or more employees, employment agencies, labor organizations and joint labor-management committees. ENDA also applies to Congress, the federal government, as well as employees of state and local governments. It does not apply to members of the armed forces and includes a broad exemption for religious organizations. Similar to existing employment law, the Act also prohibits preferential treatment and retaliation.

Rep. Clarke Introduces the Immigration Fraud Prevention Act of 2009, H.R. 1992

The Immigration Fraud Prevention Act of 2009, H.R. 1992 would penalize those who engage in schemes to defraud persons seeking legal counsel or assistance in connection with federal immigration laws. A growing number of fraudulent "immigration specialists" are preying on individuals who retain their services. They promise to help immigrants and petitioners navigate the system, only to charge exorbitant fees and file bogus paperwork. This legislation will help the many immigrants in my congressional district.

Clarke Introduces H.R. 2070, The Radiological Materials Security Act

I sponsored H.R. 2070, the Radiological Materials Security Act. This legislation will protect Americans by decreasing the likelihood of an attack using radiological devices. Since September 11th, Americans have lived with the terrifying reality that a terrorist attack can happen anytime, and in their own backyard. Congress must do everything in its power to help protect all of the cities of America from bioterrorism attacks.

H.R. 2071, Caribbean Count Bill

As we move closer to the 2010 Census, I thought it was important to sponsor H.R. 2071. This legislation requires that the Census includes a greater stratification of ethnicity so that respondents may indicate Caribbean extraction or descent. It is important to have an accurate count of all of the ethnicities within each district to allocate the appropriate amounts of funds for public programs and services.

Clarke Introduces H.R. 3771- The Veteran, Minority and Women-Owned Construction Business Mentorship and Grant Assistance Act of 2009

The proposed legislation establishes grant programs for minority, veteran, and women-owned small business construction companies. The bill would also provide funds to hire legal, accounting, and business consultants for the purpose of creating the internal business systems that are essential for success. The federal government must continue to play a unique role in assisting small businesses; they are the backbone of our nation's economy.