



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

May 21, 2010

Celebrating Brooklyn's Talented Artists

Congratulations to this year's Congressional High School Art Competition winner Anna Chen, a 9th grader from Midwood High School.

On May 14, 2010, I hosted the Annual Congressional High School Art Contest at the Brooklyn Children's Museum and was extremely impressed by the creative talent of our youth. Anna Chen's artwork will be on display as a part of a National Exhibit in the U.S. Capitol. I am thankful to all the students who submitted their work and look forward to next year's competition.



Rep. Clarke and Anna Chen, winner of the Congressional High School Art Competition, posed with Chen's artwork.

Rep. Clarke Applauds Grassroots Movement for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

On Monday, May 17, 2010, local clergymen, officials and labor union leaders engaged in an act of civil disobedience outside 26 Federal Plaza calling on the federal government to address Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

I applaud the local clergy members, union leaders, and members of the New York City Council who took action to highlight the need for Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

Arizona's ill-conceived immigration law, which promotes racial profiling, is an example of why we need to mend our broken immigration system.

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.

As a Member of Congress, I will work diligently with my colleagues in Washington to ensure that we do everything in our power to pass Comprehensive Immigration Reform legislation as soon as possible.



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 briefly visit your home to assist with the completion of the form. 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's do our part so that our voices are heard.

Sincerely,
Yvette D. Clarke

More Good News for Small Businesses on Health Reform Tax Credits

New guidance from the IRS this week is good news for the 10,300 small businesses in the 11th Congressional District of New York which may qualify for significant tax credits under health insurance reform. The Affordable Care Act is providing tax credits, effective beginning in tax year 2010, for millions of American small businesses to help them offer health insurance coverage to their employees – if they choose to do so.

On Monday, the IRS announced a number of details of how the tax credit works, including:

- that the new tax credit will not be reduced by a state health care tax credit or subsidy (except in limited circumstances to prevent abuse of the credit);
- that small businesses can receive the credit not only for traditional health insurance coverage but also for add-on dental, vision, and other limited-scope coverage; and
- detailed guidance on how a small business can determine whether it is eligible and how large a credit it will receive.

This is even better news for the small businesses in New York, which under health reform can get tax credits to cover 35% of the small business's premium costs this year, and 50% beginning in 2014. These businesses are not required to provide health insurance, but many want to in order to retain and recruit good workers. On Monday, the IRS made it clear that affordable coverage for small businesses is a top priority, and that we will work hard to make sure reform is working for them.

I hope all Central Brooklyn small business owners will review the report. See the report here: http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/rss_viewer/health_reform_small_business_guidance.pdf

Study Shows Health Reform Will Cover Nearly All Uninsured Young Adults

On Friday, May 21, 2010, the Commonwealth Fund released a new report estimating that 13.7 million uninsured young adults could gain affordable health insurance coverage as a result of the new health reform law. That number represents the vast majority of uninsured Americans under age 29.

Young adults are our most uninsured age group – and health reform was crucial to ensuring they have the security and stability of knowing they are protected in a health crisis. The Affordable Care Act gives young Americans the freedom to start their own businesses, move from job to job, and make career choices without the fear of losing health coverage.

The non-partisan Commonwealth Fund report estimates that 1.2 million young adults could receive coverage immediately, as health insurers implement the requirement that children can be covered by their parents' insurance up to age 26. That specific reform is set to go into effect in September 2010, but numerous health insurers have elected to implement the provision early, filling in the coverage gap for new college graduates. Millions more young adults will receive coverage through the newly-created insurance exchanges that go into effect in 2014. Other provisions, including expanding Medicaid eligibility, would provide health coverage to millions more young Americans.

Additionally, new insurance regulations, essential benefits, and limits on cost-sharing will ensure young adults have comprehensive health insurance that protects them from high out-of-pocket costs. Also, the Affordable Care Act will protect young adults from medical debt in the event of a serious injury or illness through the elimination of lifetime limits on health insurance coverage, which goes into effect later this year.

I hope that you will review the report. You can find it online at:

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Content/Publications/Issue-Briefs/2010/May/Rite-of-Passage-Young-Adults-and-the-Affordable-Care-Act-of-2010.aspx>

Legislative Spotlight

On Tuesday, May 18, 2010, Haitians and Haitian-Americans celebrate Haiti Flag Day. In celebration of this day, I was honored to introduce H.Res.1367, a resolution recognizing the goals and ideals of Haitian Flag Day in the House of Representatives.

Haitian Flag Day is a major Haitian national holiday celebrated with great fanfare on the grounds of the national palace and all cities in the country; it is also celebrated in other countries with large Haitian populations, such as the United States.

In the aftermath of the January 12th earthquake, over 200,000 people were killed, millions displaced and the nation's physical, political and social infrastructure devastated. However, as we celebrate Haitian Flag Day, we recognize that Haiti is at the advent of a new era. Now more than ever, Haitians turn to their flag for inspiration and a triumphant resolve, as they unite to rebuild their country.

As the international community comes together to assist in the recovery and reconstruction of Haiti, let us all be guided by the words etched indelibly on the Haitian flag, "L'Union fait la force"...through unity, there is strength!"

Original co-sponsors include: Chairman John Conyers (MI), Chairman Bob Filner (CA), Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX), Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX), Rep. Hank Johnson (GA), Rep. Carolyn Kilpatrick (MI), Rep. Barbara Lee (CA), Rep. Michael McMahon (NY), Rep. Kendrick Meek (FL), Rep. Donald Payne (NJ), Rep. Charlie Rangel (NY), Rep. Loretta Sanchez (CA), and Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL).

The people of Haiti, Haitian-Americans and the Haitian Diaspora are forever guided by the words etched indelibly on the Haitian flag, "L'Union fait la force"...through unity, there is strength!"