



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

October 23, 2009

Rep. Clarke Hosts CUSH Rallies for Immigration

On Wednesday, October 21, I hosted a press conference on Capitol Hill with Churches United to Save and Heal (CUSH), a group of Caribbean-American pastors, calling for Congress to renew its commitment to Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR). I was honored to host CUSH on Capitol Hill. It gives me great pleasure to join their call for Congress to address CIR. I represent one our nation's most diverse districts, so it is easy for me to see the importance of this debate. I applaud CUSH for working so diligently to highlight the significance of CIR.

Pastors discussed how a broken immigration system has negatively affected their parishioners. They also discussed how the Caribbean and African immigrant communities can expand the debate of CIR to help bolster support for pending legislation.

We are asking the Obama Administration to focus on Comprehensive Immigration Reform like a laser beam. Who better to fully understand the importance of this issue then the son of a Kenyan immigrant?

This is the next challenge for our nation and no more will we let this issue fall to the wayside. The time is now to expand the face of the CIR debate. Everyone's voice must be heard, particularly from those in the Caribbean and Africa immigrant communities. This event showed the true face of the immigration debate, even at the Congressional level. The pastors heard supportive speeches from Representatives Mike Honda (CA), Carolyn Maloney (NY), Ed Towns (NY), Barbara Lee (CA), and Luis Gutierrez (IL).



Rep. Clarke joined Churches United to Save and Heal Calling 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 maintain a grassroots movement and be prepared to fight for CIR legislation to pass next year.

Rep. Clarke Hosts Clergy Breakfast

On Monday October 19, I met with over 70 leaders of various religious sects from the 11th District to update them on health care reform legislation as well as to listen to the concerns of their congregations. The clergy members questioned whether the health care reform proposals may adversely affect small business owners and undocumented citizens. They also voiced their support for Comprehensive Immigration Reform. We had a fruitful conversation and exchange of ideas and they left reassured of my commitment to their communities.



Dear Neighbor:

Next week, we expect health care reform legislation to be re-introduced in the House of Representatives.

Over the past few months, I have sat down with hundreds of constituents and hosted two town hall meetings, and the message is clear, **we need real health care reform NOW.**

Health care is a right, not a luxury and **I will fight for a robust public option in comprehensive health care reform legislation.**

This week a Washington Post-ABC News poll reported that 57% of Americans favor a public option, a gain of 6 points since mid-August. The American people want a public option.

Meanwhile opponents of health care reform continue to hinder and block progress.

I am calling on all of my constituents to keep the pressure on Washington. Write to your local newspapers and television stations. Call your local radio stations. Write on your blogs, your facebook pages, and your twitter accounts. **Make the whole country know that you support REAL healthcare reform and you demand a public option!**

Now is the time for real health care reform!

Sincerely,
Yvette D. Clarke

Rep. Clarke Recognizes 120th Anniversary of Fenimore Street United Methodist Church

I would like to congratulate Rev. Maxine Nixon and the Fenimore Street United Methodist Church in recognition of their 120th anniversary. I had the opportunity to attend their service on Sunday Oct. 18th and present the congregation with a statement in the Congressional Record, in honor of this momentous occasion. For over a century, this church has cared for the needs of our community, specifically the youth and elderly. I would like to thank them for their invaluable commitment to service. I wish them continued success in their future endeavors and hope the Fenimore Street United Methodist Church will continue to stand as a pillar in our community for another 120 years.

Enhanced Online Tools Make Comparing Medicare's 2010 Prescription Drug and Health Plan Options Easier

This week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that people with Medicare and family members can begin to review their 2010 coverage options through Medicare's improved online tools. Beneficiaries will find several new enhancements on the *Medicare Health Options Compare* and *Prescription Drug Plan Finder* located at www.medicare.gov. Improvements to the plan ratings, search features and plan coverage descriptions will make it easier for beneficiaries to compare their drug and health plan coverage for 2010. Beneficiaries will be able to make changes to their Medicare health and drug coverage during the open enrollment period, which begins on Nov. 15, and ends Dec. 31.

All *Plan Finder* and *Medicare Options Compare* users will be able to see plan benefits, drug pricing and other important information on more than 4,000 plan options that are available for open enrollment. People without Web access can get the same information provided by the online plan comparison tools by calling 1-800 MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or by contacting their local State Health Insurance Assistance Program office (<http://www.medicare.gov/Contacts/staticpages/ships.aspx>) or other health advocacy agencies for free personalized counseling. Medicare's customer service is available 24-hours a day and 7 days a week.

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

On Thursday, October 22, the U.S 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.

I want to thank my colleagues for their overwhelming support of H. Res. 797. This Congress understands that our citizens rely on information technology in every aspect of our lives – from managing businesses to social networking. 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.

Cyber security vulnerabilities can significantly impact our national and economic security. A 2007 Government Accountability Office report estimates the total U.S. business losses due to cyber attacks exceed \$117.5 billion per year. A 2009 Consumer Reports study found that over the past two years, one in five online consumers has been a victim of cyber crime.

As Chairwoman of the House Committee on Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity and Science and Technology, I am committed to working with Federal agencies, national organizations, businesses, and educational institutions to encourage the development and implementation of existing and future cyber security standards, practices, and technologies that enhance the nation's security.

Legislative Spotlight

On Wednesday, I voted to pass The Small Business Financing and Investment Act of 2009 out of the House Committee on Small Business.

The bill, H. Res. 3854, is aimed at providing small businesses with improved access to credit and capital at each stage of growth – from startup and early-stage development to rapid expansion to mature operation. The bill will:

- Establish an early-stage investment program which will provide true patient equity for small businesses, with specific emphasis on delivering investment to small firms in capital-intensive industries.
- Make improvements to the SBA's lending programs, and increases in the loan amounts that small businesses will be able to apply for.

Also this week, Congress and the Administration took steps to address the major credit crunch that has been facing small businesses during this recession.

On Wednesday, the Obama Administration announced that it will be creating a lending facility to support financial institutions that lend to small businesses. Small banks and community development financial institutions will be eligible to apply to this facility for the express purpose of increasing access to credit for our nation's small businesses.