



# 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*

# March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010

## Rep. Clarke Admonishes An Act of Violence Against the LGBT Community

On Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010, I joined New York City Council Member Brad Lander in admonishing all acts of violence against the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) Community. Several weeks ago, a despicable act of violence occurred when a man was viciously beaten after leaving an event in Carroll Gardens.

I am deeply concerned about reports of violence against anyone in this community and my thoughts and prayers go out to the victim of this crime. As the Representative of one of the most diverse districts in the nation, with a large LGBT community, I will continue to proudly stand up to preserve the civil rights of all individuals. Former Mayor David Dinkins referred to New York City as a "gorgeous mosaic." Our diversity is what makes us beautiful and unique.

Such terrible acts underline how we, as a community, must take quick and decisive action whenever bigotry and injustice arises. People who perpetuate violence should be brought to justice before the law. Know that I will work closely with my colleagues, on all levels of government, to ensure that the LGBT community in New York and throughout our nation is fully protected from hate crimes.

## Rep. Clarke Fights for Healthcare and Student Loan Reform

On Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010, I joined House leadership in highlighting the importance of Healthcare Reform and Student Loan Reform legislation for America's youth. As a Member of the House Education and Labor Committee, ensuring that our youth have access to affordable health insurance as well as quality education is one of my top priorities. With our nation continuing to recover from this recession, students, young adults, and middle class families have had a hard time balancing their health insurance payments and paying for college.



On Capitol Hill, Rep. Clarke Joins House Leadership in Highlighting Healthcare Reform and Student Loan reform Legislation

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, "Young adults, ages 19-29, have the highest uninsured rate of any age group," in the U.S. To combat this, healthcare legislation created by the House of Representatives includes a provision that allows parents to cover their children up until the age of 26. Meanwhile, House student loan reform legislation includes core principles of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act. This measure was passed by the House in September with bipartisan support. It provides the largest investment in federal college aid in history by investing billions of dollars in the Pell Grant scholarships. I understand the importance of ensuring that our younger generation has access to quality health insurance, as well as a quality education. The youth are the future leaders of this nation. Our country's ability to succeed is contingent on their accessibility to education.



Dear Neighbor,

The 2010 Census forms began arriving in households across the nation this week. I continue to encourage my constituents to complete and return the 2010 Census form. The questionnaire only contains ten questions and should take ten minutes to complete. This form asks for:

1. Number of people living in the residence
2. Additional people that might be living there as of April 1, 2010
3. Whether the residence is owned or rented
4. Telephone number (in case the Census Bureau has follow-up questions)
5. Residents name
6. Resident's sex
7. Resident's age and date of birth
8. Whether the Resident is of Hispanic origin
9. The Resident's race
10. Number of residences

Participation in the census is required by law for everyone living in the United States. The public is encouraged to promptly mail back their 2010 Census forms by Census Day on April 1, 2010.

For those who are wary of completing the Census form, know that by law, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share respondents' individually identifiable answers with anyone, including tribal housing authorities, other federal agencies, and law enforcement entities.

The data provided is priceless. As they say at the Census Bureau, "We can't move forward until you mail it in."

Sincerely,  
Yvette D. Clarke

## Rep. Clarke Celebrates Women's History Month



Rep. Clarke attends Mt. Sion Baptist Church's Women's History Day Month

On Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010, I spoke at the Mt. Sion Baptist Church's Women's History Day Program. It is important that we recognize the great contributions women have made and continue to make in our nation. Women of every race, ethnicity, social class, and background, have for centuries made many substantial - and often unrecognized - contributions to the development of our society. Women share in a unique struggle that continues to mold, shape, and prepare them to serve our families, neighborhoods, communities, and nation. As a Member of the Congressional Women's Caucus, I continue to work

to develop legislation that addresses women's health, economic equity, education, domestic violence, child care, child support, sexual harassment, and international women's issues. In October 2009, I introduced HR 3771, The Veteran, Minority and Women-Owned Construction Business Mentorship and Grant Assistance Act of 2009. This legislation aims to build capacity for small women-owned firms so that they can better compete in the global market. Whether we recognize it or not, how we lead today sets the foundation for the next generation of women leaders.

### Congresswoman Clarke Visits Haiti

Earlier this month, I participated in a Congressional Delegation trip to Haiti in order to assess the impact of the ongoing relief efforts and analyze the prospect for future development. After witnessing firsthand the destruction caused by the January 12th earthquake, it is clear that we must continue to work alongside the Haitian government in their recovery and reconstruction effort. I have spent considerable time speaking with Haitian leaders and citizens alike. We must develop a long term strategy that fosters sustainable development in this devastated nation. Upon my return, I have been examining avenues to provide Haiti with more than just humanitarian relief.

Last week, I sent a letter to President Barack Obama requesting that he issue an executive order to establish a Haitian Enterprise Development Fund (HEDF). An Enterprise Development Fund would invest in medium and small private firms that would create the lasting economic stability Haiti needs to fully recover from the devastating earthquake.

It is my goal to have our government develop long term rebuilding efforts, reunite Haitian families, and create sustainable economic opportunities for all Haitians to enjoy. I look forward to working closely with the Haitian government, the Obama Administration, my Congressional colleagues, and my constituents to create long term solutions for the island nation. Together we can help build a better Haiti.

### Grants Available for Brooklyn Residents

I am pleased to announce that the application process for three new Department of Labor grant opportunities has officially begun. Over \$190 million has been allocated for: Community Based Job Training Grants, Trade Adjustment Assistance Grants, and Indian and Native American Employment and Job Training Grants.

I encourage those who are interested in applying to visit the Department of Labor's new online suite of resources for grant applicants at:  
[http://www.workforce3one.org/page/grants\\_toolkit](http://www.workforce3one.org/page/grants_toolkit).

This is a great opportunity and I hope that my residents will apply. For those who meet the qualifications, instructions, and applications can be found at:  
[http://www.doleta.gov/grants/find\\_grants.cfm](http://www.doleta.gov/grants/find_grants.cfm)

## Legislative Spotlight

On Monday, I introduced H.R. 4842, the Homeland Security Science and Technology Act of 2010. The bill was co-sponsored by Chairman Bennie Thompson, Ranking Member Peter King, and subcommittee Ranking Member Dan Lungren.

As Chairwoman of the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, and Science and Technology, I will use this bill as a roadmap to address the many Science and Technology (S&T) research and development issues plaguing the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

This legislation would authorize over \$1.12 billion in fiscal 2011 funding and \$1.15 billion in fiscal 2012 funding for the Department of Homeland Security's S&T Directorate. The purpose of the bill is to ensure that the DHS Science and Technology Directorate has the right tools available to be successful. Success in this context means not just funding research and development projects, but delivering final products into the hands of our first responders, law enforcement officials, or critical infrastructure owners to help them make America more secure.

On Tuesday the bill passed by the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, Science, and Technology unanimously. The bill is currently awaiting consideration by the full House Homeland Security Committee. Please contact [Algene Sajery](mailto:algene.sajery@mail.house.gov) at [algene.sajery@mail.house.gov](mailto:algene.sajery@mail.house.gov) if you would like more information about this bill or the S&T procurement process.