



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, Prospect Heights, Prospect Gardens, Grand Army Plaza, Windsor Terrace, Flatbush and Midwood

June 25, 2010



Rep. Clarke Attends Immigration Press Conference to Mark 100+ Co-Sponsors for H.R. 4321



Rep. Clarke Joins Her Congressional Colleagues in Calling for Comprehensive Immigration Reform Legislation on Capitol Hill

On Thursday, June 24, I joined my congressional colleagues in the House of Representatives at a press conference to mark the 100+ co-sponsor milestone for H.R. 4321, entitled *Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity Act* (CIR-ASAP) introduced by Rep. Luis Gutierrez.

Having over 100 cosponsors of this legislation clearly illustrates that CIR is not just a Hispanic issue, -- not just a border security issue, -- not just a State issue, but an American issue. We stood as a diverse coalition of elected officials, clergy members, activists, and allies of Comprehensive Immigration Reform, ready to see our nation address this important issue.

Among those at the press conference was a special group that hails from the 11th Congressional District of New York, Churches United to Save and Heal (C.U.SH). I thank this group for working closely with our labor unions and immigration coalition groups in leading the effort to place comprehensive immigration reform at the forefront in New York City. As a Brooklyn native whose roots are firmly planted in my Jamaican heritage, I can proudly say that I too am the face of Comprehensive Immigration Reform. We need Comprehensive Immigration Reform now. 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.

State Department Re-Vamps Website

Last year, over 370 million people got passport, visa and international travel information from www.travel.state.gov. With feedback from over 30,000 of them, the State Department improved their website to make it even better. "People from all over the world visit www.travel.state.gov to find information about how to get a passport, apply for a visa to come to the United States, or for other consular services our bureau provides," said Janice L. Jacobs, Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Consular Affairs. "It is the Department's preeminent tool for reaching out to the American public about travel safety in other countries, and for them to let us know their travel plans so that consular officers in our embassies and consulates around the world can serve them better."

As the summer travel season approaches, I encourage you to check out the re-designed site and spread the word to your family and friends about the new www.travel.state.gov.

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 his/her 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

Rep. Clarke Attends the Greater New York Academy of Seventh-day Adventists Commencement Ceremony



Rep. Clarke Address the Graduating Class of 2010 at the Greater New York Academy of Seventh-Day Adventist

On Sunday June 20, I joined the students, parents, teachers, and administrators of the Greater New York Academy of Seventh-day Adventists for their 87th Commencement Ceremony at the Gethsemane Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brooklyn, N.Y.

I would like to commend the graduating class of 2010 for their outstanding achievements throughout their four years of high school. Every time I have an opportunity to participate in a commencement ceremony, I am reminded of the reason why I serve on the House Education & Labor Committee. These young men and women completed their academic requirements and overcame countless challenges to attain their high school diploma. Their families sacrificed to ensure their child or children received a quality education. My colleagues and I continue to prioritize education within the national legislative agenda. We have strived to pass legislation that will benefit the leaders of today and tomorrow, by increasing the resources available to every school and the financial aid provided by the federal government.

It was a wonderful experience to see the fruits of our labor in Washington, D.C. through the academic success of our students in New York City. These determined young people have proven themselves as -- individuals full of ambition and determined to succeed. I wish all our graduates and their families -- the best in their endeavors.

Rep. Clarke Applauds House Passage of Legislation to Give Oil Spill Commission Subpoena Power

On June 23, I voted to pass legislation to grant the Commission investigating the British Petroleum (BP) oil spill (H.R. 5481) subpoena power. The Commission, which was established by Executive Order and based on legislation introduced in the House in early May (H.R. 5241), will investigate the causes of BP's devastating oil spill in the Gulf and report back to the President with recommendations for how to prevent and mitigate the impact of any future spills that result from offshore drilling.

The President has committed the full cooperation of the federal government to the Commission and its mandate. Federal regulations do not authorize the Executive Branch to give the Commission subpoena power without Congressional Action. As a nearly unilateral bipartisan vote by Congress demonstrated, this power remains an essential investigatory tool. The bill passed by a vote of 420-1, with two members voting "present."

I also participated in the Education and Labor Committee's hearing on worker health and safety issues in the wake of the BP oil spill and cleanup efforts. The aims of this oversight hearing centered around a breakdown of which authorities and responsibilities should be held by which federal agencies in both offshore drilling and oil spill response operations, as well as how and whether they are currently fulfilling those responsibilities. Many of the workers cleaning up the oil spill lost not only their jobs but also their way of life as a result of this tragedy. Ensuring the health and safety needs of these workers are adequately addressed remains a priority.

Legislative Spotlight

On June 24, the United States Congress passed the conference report for H.R. 2194, the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestment Act. The bill passed with an overwhelming bipartisan majority and will now be sent to President Obama for signature.

The Obama Administration took office with the hopes of working diplomatically to persuade Iran to abandon its quest for nuclear weapon.

I supported the Administration in this aim with the hopes of avoiding crippling sanctions that could adversely affect the Iranian people. However, the Iranian regime repeatedly refused to engage with the international community, and continued with their nuclear enrichment program.

I co-sponsored H.R. 2194 when it became evident that diplomatic negotiations had failed and further action was necessary to thwart the threat of a nuclear Iran.

A nuclear-armed Iran would destabilize the Middle East, lead to an arms race in a volatile part of the world, and threaten the United States, as well as Israel and other key allies in the region.

It is important that we as a nation continue to send the message to Tehran that a Nuclear Iran is dangerous to the global community.