



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

March 5th, 2010

Rep. Clarke Applauds Extension of Unemployment

On Tuesday, March 2nd, 2010, the Senate overcame a filibuster by Republican Senator Jim Bunning and passed emergency legislation extending unemployment benefits. The emergency legislation includes a 30-day extension of a range of programs that would have expired, including unemployment insurance, help for unemployed workers in paying for health care (COBRA), small business loan guarantees, the highway bill, and flood insurance. It also delays cuts in Medicare physician payments to ensure that seniors have reliable access to their doctors.

With the passage of this legislation, the 85,000 New Yorkers who would have lost their unemployment insurance no longer have to worry. I applaud my colleagues in the Senate for securing the emergency relief that millions of American families desperately need.

Rep. Clarke Holds Hearing on Science & Technology Directorate

On Wednesday, March 3rd, 2010, I held a hearing with the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, Science and Technology. My colleagues and I heard testimony from Under Secretary Tara O'Toole regarding her plans and priorities for Science and Technology initiatives.

After comprehensive review, it is clear that improvements have been made since the directorate was first established. Research activities have created products used by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS),



Rep. Clarke Chairs House Homeland Security Subcommittee hearing on DHS Science and Technology Directorate

the first responder community, and infrastructure operators to better secure our homeland. Despite the positive efforts, more work remains. It has become especially difficult to evaluate the directorate's success in mitigating security issues. I remain committed to establishing research rules and metrics that will allow Science and Technology initiatives to flourish. The security our great nation depends on it.



Dear Neighbor,

The first decade of the new millennium has come to a close and Census season 2010 will soon kick into full gear. Every ten years, the U.S. Census counts every person living in the United States, as determined by the Constitution. As we all know, democracy is not a "spectator sport". That is why I am encouraging all of my constituents to fill out the 2010 Census form.

Beginning in March, Census forms will be delivered to your place of residence. National Census Day is Thursday April 1st, 2010. You should aim to return your completed forms by the April 1st deadline. The Census Bureau will process completed forms in April and analyze the received data by the end of the year.

It is important that every single household complete and return the Census form. Less than 35% of our district participated in the 2000 Census, and our community must improve our Census questionnaire response rate in order to secure our fair share of critical public resources.

The 2010 Census will be used to help allocate federal funds to communities all across the U.S. for things like hospitals, schools, job training centers, senior centers, emergency services, public works projects, and many other necessary services. The data provided is invaluable, but as they say at the Census, "We can't move forward until you mail it in."

Sincerely,
Yvette D. Clarke

Rep. Clarke Commends EPA for Final Decision on Gowanus Canal Cleanup

On Tuesday, March 2nd, 2010 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that it has placed the Gowanus Canal on the Superfund National Priorities List. The *National Priorities List* (NPL) is a list of highly contaminated sites that the EPA is making a priority to address and clean up. The Superfund cleanup has an estimated timeline of 10-12 years. I am happy a decision has been reached on this issue and I hope that greater oversight of the clean up process can be exercised with the Superfund designation.

I am aware that some constituents have very serious reservations with Gowanus Canal's Superfund Designation. I will continue to work with residents to address these concerns as we move forward.

As the Representative of the 11th Congressional District, I will be working to ensure that the Superfund plan best serves the communities surrounding the canal. I will also continue to work with the community, the EPA, and my counterparts in government to ensure that the Gowanus Canal is cleaned up as thoroughly and quickly as possible.

Rep. Clarke Advocates for Small Business and Community Development before Budget Committee

On Wednesday, March 3rd, 2010, I testified before the House Committee on the Budget about my principal interests regarding the Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2011. I advocated for increased funding of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI), the Minority Business Development Agency, and the Community Development Block Grant.

Minority and women owned small businesses have been hit especially hard by the economic downturn. That is why it was important for me to advocate for \$260 million in funding for the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund. CDFIs are loan funds, banks, credit unions, community development venture capital funds and other organizations principally engaged in economic development. CDFI customers are 70 percent low income, 60 percent minority and 52 percent female. The work of CDFIs is especially important, in light of the subsequent restriction on lending to low to moderate- income families and small businesses during this economic recession.

After my testimony, Budget Committee Chairman John Spratt vowed to work with me on these economic recovery programs that support minority and women owned businesses and the communities they serve. As a member of the House Small Business Committee, I will continue to advocate for minority and women owned businesses throughout my district.

Medicare Part B Enrollment Ends Soon

If you're covered under Medicare Part A, but originally opted not to apply for Medicare Part B, now's the time to enroll in Part B. You will have to act fast, because the general enrollment period ends on March 31.

Medicare Part A (hospital insurance) helps pay for inpatient care in a hospital or skilled nursing facility following a hospital stay, some home health care, and hospice care. Part B helps pay for doctors' services and many other medical services and supplies not covered by hospital insurance.

Learn more about Medicare by reading Social Security's publication on the subject at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10043.html

Legislative Spotlight

I am a proud original cosponsor of H. Con Res 248, a privileged resolution introduced by U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) that would require the House of Representatives to debate whether to continue the war in Afghanistan.

I applaud the efforts of the many brave men and women who serve in our military and those currently involved in the conflict in Afghanistan. However, the Afghan war is now the second longest war in United States history. After an almost ten year investment of substantial military resources, nearly \$232 billion dollars, and the lives of hundreds of service members, I agree with many Americans that it is time for us to bring our troops home from Afghanistan.

I have voted in the past in support of legislation that would end the war in the Afghanistan.

On March 10, 2010 we expect that the House will debate the resolution.

This resolution is supported by a vast network of peace organizations including Peace Action; Progressive Democrats of America; Voices for Creative Nonviolence; Brave New Films; Foreign Policy in Focus; Friends Committee on National.