



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

July 31, 2009

Rep. Clarke Celebrates Alumni Day

On Saturday July 24th, I was honored to visit the Hanson Place Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Fort Greene section of Brooklyn in celebration of their Annual Alumni Day.

Over 300 people from across the country and the Caribbean filled the church to participate in the special worship service which included guest speaker Rear Admiral Barry Black, Chaplain for the United States Senate. Many of the congregants who filled the sanctuary and surrounding rooms were alumni of the Northern Caribbean University, a Seventh-day Adventist academic institution, located in Jamaica with more than 5,000 students from over 35 countries. After being introduced by Senior Pastor Melwyn Mounter, I took the opportunity to provide an overview of recent congressional activity and to discuss my commitment to education.



Rep. Clarke speaks at the Annual Alumni Day (Photo: Dwight Carnegie)

I know how critical education is for today's youth, tomorrow's leaders. As a result of the global economic crisis, many academic institutions, specifically private schools, have seen a decrease in student enrollment. I commend the New York Chapter of the Northern Caribbean University Alumni Association, for the impeccable work they continue to do in order to ensure that every student has the opportunity to learn and succeed regardless of their finances. As a member of the House and Education Labor committee, I will continue to work with my colleagues in Washington, to increase access to education here in the United States, knowing that the Caribbean countries will also enhance its educational system to offer their students only the best.

Rep. Clarke Votes to Protect Investors and the Health of the Financial System

Today I voted in support of the Corporate and Financial Institution Compensation Fairness Act of 2009. This bill protects the interests of investors, such as pension and mutual fund participants, giving them an advisory vote on executive compensation. The bill also requires federal regulators to monitor proposed compensation plans to protect against risks to our financial system, which is still recovering. Today's legislation comes in response to wide ranging sentiments in the economic community that excessive executive compensation is a significant element of systemic risk.

I believe this Bill strikes the right balance in addressing the fact that executive compensation got a bit out of hand while still protecting the rights and business judgments of companies that provide so many jobs and are so central to New York's economy.



Dear Neighbor:

Many of you are aware of the proposed healthcare reform compromise that is being discussed in Congress this week. I believe this language represents a step backwards.

The proposal would make it more difficult for the uninsured to buy insurance coverage, waters down the government option, and will not achieve the goal of keeping insurance rates down.

It is unacceptable for any proposal to attempt to shift the financial burden of healthcare reform onto the shoulders of the poor and working class, who need the most help.

I remain steadfast in my position and continue to strongly support universal coverage and a robust public health plan option as necessary provisions in any healthcare bill.

Sincerely,
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Traveling This Summer?

The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative is a result of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (IRTPA), requiring all travelers to present a passport or other document that denotes identity and citizenship when entering the United States. Effective as of June 1, 2009, all U.S. citizens are now required to present a passport book, passport card, or WHTI-compliant document when entering the United States.

The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles issues **WHTI-Compliant Enhanced driver licenses (EDL)** (includes Enhanced learner permits) and **Enhanced non-driver photo ID cards (ENDID)** to applicants who can prove U.S. citizenship and NYS residency. An EDL or ENDID can be used **instead of a passport** to travel **by land and sea** between the U.S. and **Canada, Mexico and some countries in the Caribbean**. For more information please visit <http://www.nysdmv.com/edl-main.htm>.

An EDL or ENDID is **not acceptable for air travel** between these countries.



(Photo: New York State Department of Motor Vehicles)

What does it cost? The fee for an EDL or ENDID is \$30 in addition to any fees required for your driver license or non-driver photo ID card transaction.

How long does it take to receive one? It takes approximately **two weeks** from the date your application is processed to receive your Enhanced document in the mail. This is the **same amount of time** it takes to receive a **regular** NYS DMV driver license or non-driver photo ID card.

For how long is an EDL or ENDID valid? An EDL is valid for a maximum of 8 years, the same amount of time as a current NYS driver license.

What countries, territories and islands are considered part of "the Caribbean" under WHTI? **Puerto Rico** and the **U.S. Virgin Islands** (includes St. Croix, St. John and St. Thomas) in addition to: Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica (except for business travel), Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Turks and Caicos

Other WHTI compliant documents include:

- **U.S. Passport:** U.S. citizens may present a valid U.S. passport when traveling via air, land or sea.
- **The Passport Card:** The passport card is only valid for **land and sea** travel between the U.S. and Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean region, and Bermuda. The passport card is more convenient and less expensive than a passport book.

For more information please visit the State Department website at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc_2223.html.

Legislative Spotlight

It is wrong to unfairly punish innocent young people who came here, as children, by no choice of their own. This is why I have cosponsored H.R. 2681, the PROUD Act (People Resolved to Obtain an Understanding of Democracy Act). This bill can make a positive impact in schools and communities by recognizing those hard-working, immigrant students who are here to make a better life for themselves and their families.

The PROUD Act would amend the Immigration Nationality Act to provide a pathway to citizenship for exemplary non-citizen high school graduates who are at least 18 years old. Currently, immigrants must take the United States citizenship exam as part of the naturalization process. The PROUD Act waives the citizenship test requirement and allows immigrants to apply by presenting academic transcripts to prove that they have completed grades 6 through 12 in the U.S., thereby demonstrating that they understand U.S. history, government and civics; and by demonstrating that are of good moral character. The PROUD Act also includes a reduced fee for the naturalization application to help these young adults be able to economically afford to apply.

Students (undocumented or legal permanent residents) who meet the details below will be eligible to apply for United States citizenship status, and pay a reduced fee:

- must furnish a transcript from a high school(s) and middle school(s) who show they have attended a school in the United States for at least five years, and they must demonstrate that they have completed curriculum that reflects knowledge of United States history, government and civics;
- adhere to an extensive background check;
- graduated from high school; and
- can show they are of "good moral character" for the past 6 years.

Please note that this bill is not retroactive. Therefore, individuals will only be eligible to apply up to five years after graduating from high school and cannot be over age 25. I will continue to advocate for a more inclusive pathway for this immigrant group in the

In Local News

Due to the efforts of Congresswoman Clarke, the Flatbush neighborhood library located at 22 Linden Blvd. received funding for roof maintenance. As a result it will be temporarily closed between July 31st and August 31st. During the closure, mobile services will be provided on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11-4pm. To find a library near you, please visit www.brooklynpubliclibrary.gov