

A Record of Progress

JOHN CONYERS, JR.

**Detailed Congress-By-Congress
Summary**

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112th Congress, (2011 - To Date) (Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee)

I. Legislation Introduced/Passed into Law by Rep. Conyers

Conyers introduced bills and amendments passed into law

- National Guard and Reservist Debt Relief Extension Act, extending for four years exception from bankruptcy means test for members of the National Guard and military reserves (P.L. 112-64).
- Extending judges authority to redact personal information from their financial disclosures. Helping to protect the safety of judges by extending the authority of the Judicial Conference to redact sensitive information contained in judge's financial disclosure reports filed by a judicial officer or employee if it is found that revealing personal and sensitive information could endanger that individual or a family member of that individual (P.L. 112-89).
- Temporary Bankruptcy Judgeships Extension Act, extending thirty bankruptcy judgeships, including a bankruptcy judge stationed in Detroit (P.L. 112-152).
- Patent Term Extension Amendment, for many years the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) applied inconsistent interpretations related to patent term extension applications under the Hatch-Waxman Act. Rep. Conyers' amendment, which was included as Section 37 of the legislation, confirms the FDA's "business day" interpretation so that where the FDA notifies a company after normal business hours that its drug has been approved, the time for filing a patent term extension application does not begin to run until the next business day (P.L. 112-29).
- Amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012. The amendment would prevent authorized funds from being used to establish on the ground in Libya the presence of members of the Armed Forces or private security contractors. This amendment was offered as the United States was beginning to mull over engaging with Libya as tensions were escalating between revolutionary protestors and the Qaddafi regime. A nearly identical amendment was also adopted by voice vote to the 2012 Defense Appropriations Act (Agreed to by a recorded vote in the House of 416-5; P.L. 112-81).
- Amendment to the Intelligence Authorization Act of 2013, requiring the Director of National Intelligence to write a report to Congress assessing the consequences of a military strike against Iran. The amendment states that nothing in the bill would be understood as authorizing the use of

force against Iran. (Agreed to by voice vote on the House Floor; P.L. 112-87).

- A total of 17 Public Laws have been considered thus far by the Judiciary Committee as a result of more than 191 hearings, many of which were bipartisan and non-controversial, and as Ranking Member, Rep. Conyers was involved in the consideration of all measures passed through the committee, including an extension of the term of the FBI Director, and an extension to the United States Parole Commission, along with other legislative initiatives that became public law.

Legislation introduced or passed House

- Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act, to acknowledge the fundamental injustice, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and to establish a commission to examine the institution of slavery, as well as the racial and economic discrimination against African-Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African-Americans, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies. Rep. Conyers originally introduced this legislation in the 101st Congress (H.R. 40).
- Caging Prohibition Act, prohibiting state or local election officials from preventing an individual from registering to vote or voting in any election for federal office by using “caging,” the practice of direct mailing individuals on voter rolls, collecting a database of undeliverable addressees, and using that list to purge individual’s voter registrations. Rep. Conyers originally introduced this legislation in the 110th Congress (H.R. 107).
- Voting Opportunity and Technology Enhancement Rights (“VOTER”) Act, to protect voting rights and to improve the administration of Federal elections in various ways, including the creation of a national federal write-in absentee ballot and internet voting registration. Rep. Conyers has repeatedly introduced legislation to expand voter rights, and originally sponsored this bill in the 109th Congress following the disputed 2004 Presidential elections (H.R. 108).
- To establish a National Commission on Presidential War Powers and Civil Liberties, to investigate and report to the President and Congress on the broad range of executive branch national security policies undertaken since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Rep. Conyers originally introduced this legislation in the 111th Congress (H.R. 109).

- Dangerous Product Warning Act, imposing criminal liability on corporations and corporate officials who do not disclose existence of dangerous products (H.R. 322).
- Corporate Crime Database Act, requiring Attorney General to assemble and disseminate data base of legal proceedings involving corporations with annual revenues of greater than \$1 billion/year (H.R. 323).
- Universal Health Care, or the “Expanded and Improved Medicare For All Act,” providing all United States residents with free health care that includes all medically necessary care and give these patients freedom to choose from participating physicians and institutions. Rep. Conyers first introduced this legislation in the 107th Congress as H. Con. Res. 99, and went on to become a national advocate for affordable universal healthcare. This legislation has been endorsed by over 573 national, local, and state organizations across the nation. Rep. Conyers has traveled across the country and gave numerous speeches at packed town hall meetings on the for Congress to pass a universal health care bill, and became the de facto leader of the universal health care movement in Congress and throughout America. The universal single payer bill now has the support of over 14,000 physicians and medical students. (H.R. 676).
- Maternal Health Accountability Act, awards grants to States for reviewing and reporting on maternal mortality and pregnancy-related deaths. The bill provides for public disclosure of the information reported (H.R. 894).
- Prevent Lockout of Athletes of the Year Act, eliminating the antitrust exemption for professional football sponsored telecasting agreements under the Sports Broadcasting Act (H.R. 1060).
- Private Bill for the relief of Al-Housseynou Ba, to permit Ba to adjust his status to that of a lawful permanent resident so that he may remain in the United States (H.R. 1276).
- Quality Health Care Coalition Act, exempting health care professionals from federal and state antitrust laws regarding negotiations with a health plan concerning contract terms under which the professionals provide health care items or services for which plan benefits are provided. This legislation is designed to level the playing field between health care professionals against health insurers (H.R. 1409).
- Home Foreclosure Reduction Act, allowing homeowners to reduce the amount of their mortgage loan to value of residence in bankruptcy. Rep Conyers has managed or introduced this legislation since 2007 (H.R. 1587).

- Private Bill for the relief of Bartosz Kumor, to permit Kumor to adjust his status to that of a lawful permanent resident so that he may remain in the United States. (Ordered by Judiciary Committee to be reported by voice vote. H.R. 1857).
- Oil Consumer Protection Act, making oil-producing and exporting cartels illegal; to improve competition in the oil and gas industry, to strengthen antitrust enforcement with regard to industry mergers; to protect consumers from price-gouging of gasoline and other fuels. Rep. Conyers has introduced this legislation since the 110th Congress (H.R. 1899).
- Democracy Restoration Act, declaring that the right of a U.S. citizen to vote in any election for federal office shall not be denied or abridged because that individual has been convicted of a criminal offense unless, at the time of the election, such individual is serving a felony sentence in a correctional institution or facility. Rep. Conyers originally introduced this legislation in the 94th Congress (H.R. 2212).
- Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Administration Improvement Act, increasing the limits governing trustee compensation in a case under Chapter 7 and authorize the court, in determining the amount of reasonable compensation to be awarded to a trustee under Chapter 7, to treat such compensation as a commission (H.R. 2667).
- Main Street Fairness Act, allowing States to collect taxes on on-line sales, providing a level playing field with bricks and mortar retailers. Among other things, this legislation would increase tax revenues in Michigan by an estimated \$872 million (H.R. 2701).
- National Jazz Preservation and Education Act, establishing a National Jazz Preservation Program, operated by the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institute, to promote and preserve jazz (H.R. 2823).
- End Racial Profiling Act, prohibiting any law enforcement agent or agency from taking part in racial profiling. Rep. Conyers originally introduced this legislation in the 106th Congress (H.R. 3618).
- Haiti Empowerment, Assistance and Rebuilding (HEAR) Act of 2012, authorizing \$2 billion over the next two years to support the sustainable recovery and long- term rebuilding of Haiti, outlining critical strategic initiatives and mandates to ensure U.S. assistance efforts comprehensively address the priorities of the people of Haiti (H.R. 3771).
- Foreign Cultural Exchange Jurisdictional Immunity Clarification Act, (lead Democratic sponsor) providing immunity to foreign states from lawsuits seeking damages for artwork that is already legally immune

from seizure when the artwork is in the United States for a temporary display. This legislation is strongly supported by the Detroit Institute of Art (H.R. 4086).

- Shield Our Streets Act, establishing grant programs for law enforcement and public safety as well as local governments that are in high crime areas and are facing budget cuts to apply for funding such as in Wayne County, Michigan. This program would cover expenses related to purchasing and installing street lights to deter crime, funding activities related to crime labs, and funding public defender programs. (H.R. 4098).
- The Humphrey-Hawkins 21st Century Full Employment and Training Act, creating a new tax on financial transaction that would fund Workforce Investment Act (WIA) training programs and innovative public and private sector jobs programs across the country (H.R. 4217).
- Amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act, “un-declaring” war against Iran, stating that nothing in the defense spending bill would be construed as authorizing the use of force against Iran (Passed en bloc without roll call vote. Amendment No. 95 to H.R. 4310).
- The John Hope Franklin Tulsa-Greenwood Race Riot Claims Accountability Act, creating a Federal cause of action to allow the survivors of the Tulsa-Greenwood Race Riot of 1921 to seek a determination on the merits of their civil rights and other claims against the perpetrators of the riot in a federal court of law. Rep. Conyers originally introduced this legislation in the 110th Congress (H.R. 5593).
- Health Insurance Industry Antitrust Enforcement Act, eliminating antitrust exemption for health insurers. Rep. Conyers originally introduced this legislation in the 111th Congress (H.R. 5838).
- Rehab and Ahmed Amer Foster Care Improvement Act of 2012, enhancing the existing federal policy of encouraging state foster care programs to place children in the care of willing and able relatives. States that receive federal funding for foster care programs will be required to add certain procedural enhancements to their foster care programs so as to ensure a fairer placement decision-making process (H.R. 6021).
- Protecting Employees and Retirees in Business Bankruptcies Act, leveling the playing field and ensuring fairness for employees and retirees in corporate reorganizations and Chapter 11 bankruptcy cases. This is achieved by requiring heightened standards a debtor must satisfy before it can reject collective bargaining agreements and reduce retiree benefits. In addition, the legislation mandates stricter court supervision of bonuses paid out to executives, ensuring that there is a more equitable

- shared sacrifice during the restructuring process. Rep. Conyers originally introduced this legislation in the 110th Congress (H.R. 6117).
- Expressing a sense of Congress that the “super committee” should not reduce benefits for Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid beneficiaries, in an attempt to safeguard the earned benefits of workers in the face of severe federal spending cuts without consideration for increased revenue. There are 85 cosponsors to this initiative that became a main rallying point in the successful effort to prevent the “super committee” from cutting Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid (H. Con. Res. 72).
 - Constitutional amendment overturning the Supreme Court decision in Citizens United, (lead cosponsor) which allowed unlimited contributions to campaigns by corporations. In the 111th Congress, Rep. Conyers cosponsored a similar amendment with Rep. Donna Edwards requiring corporations to disclose their political donations to increase campaign transparency (H.J. Res. 78).
 - Expressing the sense of the Congress that involuntary homelessness for families, women, and children, should be eliminated, that the federal government should provide adequate funding for the rental housing voucher program and that the federal government should move away from a “shelter first” housing policy and instead promote a “housing first” policy that provides employment and training opportunities, transportation, and other self-sufficiency services to help the involuntarily homeless (H. Con. Res. 119).
 - Congratulating Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. on the historic milestone of 100 years of serving local and international communities, maintaining a commitment to the betterment of mankind, and enriching the lives of collegiate men throughout the United States (H. Res. 105).
 - Expressing sense of the House that federal government should take steps to respond to sentiments and attacks against Muslim, Arab, Sikh, and South Asian American Communities, in reaction to anti-Muslim hearings being held in Congress. Rep. Conyers also spoke out against Home Depot cancelling their support for reality show "American Muslim" due to anti-Muslim pressure on the company (H. Res. 283).
 - Expressing sense of House celebrating 10 year anniversary of Underground Railroad Memorial comprised of Gateway to Freedom Monument in Detroit and Tower of Freedom Monument in Windsor (H. Res. 434).
 - American Investment and Job Creation Act, creating new programs that allow foreign entrepreneurs to earn green cards by establishing new U.S. businesses that create jobs for American workers. This legislation is

designed to spur new foreign investment, business development and job creation in the United States, particularly in distressed urban and rural areas like Detroit (H.R. ____).

- Cyber Privacy Fortification Act, providing criminal penalties for the failure to comply with federal or state obligations to report security breaches of the sensitive personally identifiable information of individuals. Certain breaches would also be required to be reported to the FBI or the Secret Service. The bill would also require federal agencies engaged in rulemaking related to personally identifiable information to publish privacy impact statements relating to the impact of the proposed rule. Rep. Conyers originally introduced this legislation in the 110th Congress (H.R. 6183).

II. Committee Activities

Ranking Member Conyers again utilized Democratic hearings and reports to highlight various excesses, particularly of the Republican-led Congress. As a result, he convened Democratic hearings, town halls and investigations which (I) highlighted the harm of the Republican proposed budgets; (II) detailed the impact of “voter ID” and similar voting restrictions on our citizen’s right to vote; (III) highlighted the danger of immigration raids in Michigan; (IV) considered the impact of Michigan’s Emergency Manager law on minorities; voting rights; and the right to contract; (V) reviewed possible antitrust and other abuses in college athletics; and (VI) a forum reviewing the Trayvon Martin tragedy.

Ranking Member Conyers also led the successful opposition to the following extreme measures in the new Republican-led House, all of which have thus far either failed to reach the House floor, failed in the House, or have not been brought up for consideration in the Senate. These include:

Constitutional Amendments

- Balanced Budget Amendment, necessitating balancing the budget on the backs of seniors by raiding Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds and making it more difficult to increase debt limits (H.J. Res 1, H.J. Res. 2).
- Amendment Concerning Parental Rights and Education, adding a clause to the Constitution stating that the upbringing and education of a child is a parent’s fundamental right. This amendment prohibits the government

from infringing upon that right, and similarly disallows any treaty or international law from superseding that right. The amendment is unnecessary as the right is already protected under current law (H.J. Res. 110).

- Amendment Protecting the Rights of Crime Victims, limiting the rights of the accused (H.J. Res. 106).

Rolling Back Civil and Constitutional Rights

- “No Taxpayer Funding of Abortion Act,” making it difficult if not impossible for private health care plans or insurance markets to include reproductive rights options (H.R. 3).
- “District of Columbia Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act,” prohibiting any person from performing an abortion in the District of Columbia after 20 weeks (H.R. 3803).
- “See Something, Say Something Act,” granting immunity from civil liability to individuals who report seeing people engaging in suspicious behavior that could be related to terrorist activity, thereby encouraging racial profiling (H.R. 963).
- Data retention legislation, requiring that Internet companies retain a one-year record of certain Internet communications in order to create database to investigate crimes including but not limited to unregistered sex offenders (H.R. 1981).
- “Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act,” attempting to obstruct women’s choice rights by falsely equating anti-choice legislation with civil rights by legislatively banning so-called race and sex selected abortions. During the committee markup of the bill in February 2012, Rep. Conyers amendment striking the names “Susan B. Anthony” and “Frederick Douglass” was adopted by the committee (H.R. 3541).
- Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act, limiting the ability of women to seek otherwise lawful abortions across state lines (H.R. 2299).

Attacking Immigrants’ Rights

- “Secure Visas Act,” eliminating court review of immigrant removal proceedings related to visa revocations (H.R. 1741).
- “Keep our Communities Safe Act,” unconstitutionally authorizing the indefinite and possibly permanent detention of immigration detainees with little or no procedural protections (H.R. 1932).

- Eliminating the Diversity Visa Program, dramatically and adversely changing the face of immigration to the United States (H.R. 704).
- “Hinder the Administration’s Legalization Temptation,” suspending until January 21, 2013 – a temporal limitation targeting only President Obama – the authority of the Executive Branch to use current immigration law to grant or extend certain forms of immigration relief and benefits. This would have, for example, prevented the Obama Administration from exercising its discretionary authority to prioritize enforcement resources and deter deportations on a case-by-case basis for humanitarian reasons or for other purposes (H.R. 2497).
- “Legal Workforce Act,” requiring every employer in the country to use the Department of Homeland Security’s E-Verify program, growing the government, shrinking the economy, inviting discrimination, and destroying millions of American jobs. (H.R. 2885).

Limiting Health, Safety and Consumer Rights

- Limiting the rights of injured medical malpractice victims by among other things, limiting pain and suffering and punitive damages (H.R. 5).
- Limiting agencies ability to issue health, safety and other regulations, (H.R. 527, “Regulatory Flexibility Act”; H.R. 3010, “Regulatory Accountability Act”; H.R. 10, “REINS Act”; H.R. 4078, the “Regulatory Freeze for Jobs Act”; H.R. 3862, the “Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act”; and H.R. 4377, the “Responsibly and Professionally Invigorating Development Act”).
- Concealed Carry legislation, requiring all states that have concealed carry laws to accept permits from all other states, regardless of whether the state has greater restrictions on concealed carry permits (H.R. 822).
- Limiting the Equal Access to Justice Act, by restricting fee reimbursement of prevailing parties against the government (H.R. 1996).
- “Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act,” mandating judge-imposed sanctions on attorneys in federal legal actions (H.R. 966).
- Combating the ill-conceived GOP version of the Violence Against Women Act (“VAWA”), that eliminates existing protections in current for immigrant victims of domestic violence and other serious crimes and fails to extend much-needed protections to LGBT victims and Native American communities. Rep. Conyers served as the lead House Democrat in contesting the Republican version of the Violence Against Women Act, and functioned as the main correspondent between Democratic and Republican Members of Congress concerning legislative

hearings. (H.R. 4970/ H.R. 4271).

Ranking Member Conyers also led the opposition to ill-considered measures which were passed into law by the Republican House. These included:

- PATRIOT Act extension, of four years for expiring provisions including “business record” provision allowing FBI to obtain information on “tangible things” if related to their investigations without showing probable cause (P.L. 112-14).
- National Defense Authorization Act, mandating that all terrorism suspects be held by military and authorizing the indefinite detention of U.S. citizens accused of terrorism (P.L. 112-81).

III. Michigan-Related Grants and Appropriations

As a senior member of the Michigan delegation, Rep. Conyers worked in conjunction with his colleagues to secure funding for various projects in the Detroit metropolitan area. While earmarks have been banned in the 112th Congress, Rep. Conyers has requested and secured over \$66.1 million in grants and appropriated funds for the Detroit area thus far. Of this total, \$3.2 million was from appropriated funds, and \$62.9 million was from grant funding. In addition, Rep. Conyers was instrumental in securing the first-ever Patent and Trademark Satellite Office open up in Detroit.

Appropriated Funds (\$3.2 million)

Infrastructure Improvements (\$1.25 million)

- Restoration of the Detroit Institute of Arts (\$750,000)
- Airport improvements (\$500,000)

Justice-Related Projects (\$1.9 million)

- Police Department Firearm Reduction Initiative (\$1 million)
- Wayne County Juvenile Mentoring Program (\$400,000)
- City of Detroit Parolees, Technical Parole Violators, and Former Prisoners Project, which aims at providing former prisoners with job training and employment opportunities (\$550,000)

Grants (\$64.4 million)

Department of Transportation – State of Good Repair Program

- \$30 million grant awarded to the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation Project in Greater Detroit for replacement buses, security cameras, and general facility renovations.

Department of Justice – Community Oriented Policing Services

Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response

- \$22.5 million grant awarded to Detroit saving 100 firefighter jobs

COPS Hiring Program

- \$5,694,725 for the City of Detroit Police Department
- \$1,125,000 for the City of Dearborn Police Department
- \$936,270 for the Charter Township of Redford Police Department
- \$441,682 for the City of Hamtramck Police Department

Department of Justice – Office of Justice Programs

Bureau of Justice Assistance

- \$43,664 for the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services towards Public Education Programs Concerning the Anti-Discrimination Provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act.
- \$158,043 was awarded by the Detroit Community Justice Partnership for the Violent Gang and Gun Crime Reduction Program for Project Safe Neighborhoods.

National Institute of Justice

- \$175,111 for Wayne State University for the Body Armor Standards Research for Criminal Justice Applications: Wound Characterization program.
- Wayne State University received \$134,111 towards the Body Armor Standards Research for Criminal Justice Applications: Weapons Characterization program.
- Wayne State University received a further \$449,662 to go towards the Office of Science and Technology Continuations.
- Wayne State University provided \$982,147 to go towards the Body Armor Standards Research for Criminal Justice Applications: Soft Armor Effects on Core Body Temperature.

Department of Labor – Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program

Detroit Rescue Ministries' Homeless Veterans Programs

- \$300,000 for efforts to provide employment opportunities to homeless veterans. This money will go towards the Detroit Rescue Ministries and their efforts to provide counseling, affordable housing, as well as job training.

*Department of Veteran Affairs – Supportive Services for Veteran Families
Low Income Veteran Families' Housing Stability*

- \$590,929 grant awarded to the Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency to serve approximately 125 participant households in Monroe and Wayne Counties.
- \$999,370 grant awarded to Southwest Counseling Solutions to serve approximately 425 participant households in Wayne County.

Detroit Patent Office Opening

Rep. Conyers was instrumental in the United States Patent and Trademark Office opening its first satellite office in Detroit on July 14, 2012. The office will directly create over 100 patent examiner jobs and encourage further innovation in the Detroit area adding many additional high technology jobs. Language providing for the Detroit office was included in the America Invents Act (P.L. 112-29).

IV. Other

- Letter to Judiciary Committee Chairman Smith requesting hearings relating to issues surrounding the shooting of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and 18 other individuals in Tucson (01/27/2011).
- Letter to United States Department of Homeland Security Inspector General Richard Skinner and United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Assistant Director Timothy Moynihan concerning allegations of racial profiling, warrantless searches, and unlawful detentions by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Detroit Field Office (04/15/2011).
- Advocated for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to create a transparent, searchable credit card, mortgage, and financial product consumer complaint database in a letter sent to Treasury Secretary Geithner in August of 2011. In June 2012 the CFPB announced it was launching such a database.

- Letter to Attorney General Eric Holder concerning the settlement talks between state Attorneys General and mortgage servicers in cases dealing with illegal and predatory activities (05/03/2011).
- Letter to Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision John Bowman, Comptroller of the Currency John Walsh, Professor Elizabeth Warren, and Chairwoman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Sheila Bair supporting plans to develop comprehensive oversight of federally regulated mortgage servicers (05/05/2011).
- Letter to Attorney General Eric Holder concerning the Federal Bureau of Investigation's investigation of labor union and anti-war activists in Michigan and the potential for these investigations to have chilling effects on free speech (05/06/2011).
- Letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton about meeting with members of the Yemeni American community in Michigan's 14th District in light of the humanitarian crisis in Yemen (06/08/2011).
- Letter to Attorney General Eric Holder concerning the allegations of misconduct and human rights abuses by the Puerto Rico Police Department (06/13/2011).
- Letter to Attorney General Eric Holder and Federal Communications Chairman Genachowski in opposition to the potential merger between AT&T with T-Mobile (07/20/2011).
- Letter to Judiciary Committee Chairman Smith urging him to hold hearings and move legislation to implement the American Jobs Act, specifically to hire more first responders and public safety personnel (09/09/2011).
- Letter to Chairman Donald of the Georgia State Board of Pardons & Paroles urging the board to reconsider their decision to close Troy Davis' clemency hearing, due to the fact that the defense team was unable to finish their presentation (09/20/2011).
- Letter to the Director of the United States Marshals Service, Stacia Hylton, and Federal Detention Trustee Michael Pearson, concerning the lower than necessary reimbursement rate for federal prisoners resulting in a shortfall to Wayne County (09/23/2011).
- Letter to Judiciary Committee Chairman Smith concerning antitrust and due process issues in intercollegiate athletics within Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the NCAA (10/19/2011).
- Letter to Attorney General Eric Holder concerning the constitutionality and legality of Michigan's Emergency Manager law (12/01/2011).

- Letter to Governor Snyder expressing the concerns of Federal, State, and Local elected officials with Michigan's Emergency Manager law (12/15/2011).
- Letter to Attorney General Holder concerning the targeted killings of Anwar al-Awlaki authorized by a secret memo from the Department's Office of Legal Counsel (01/18/2012).
- Letter to Michigan Secretary of State Ruth Johnson requesting that the 200,000 petition signatures to repeal the Emergency Manager law in Michigan be handled responsibly and transparently (02/29/2012).
- Letter to Judiciary Chairman Lamar Smith to hold a hearing concerning the inappropriate email, regarding President Obama, United States District Judge Cebull of Montana forwarded from his official judicial email account (03/06/2012).
- Letter to Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe opposing post office branch and distribution closings, As a result, no layoffs or restructuring at Post Office distribution centers in City of Detroit. Rep. Conyers has also written letters and fought to protect 6 day delivery of mail (02/13/2012).
- Wrote letters to House Speaker Boehner objecting to continued defense of DOMA in the courts and at great taxpayer expense, (4/4/2011, 9/26/2011, 3/26/2012).
- Letter to Attorney General Eric Holder imploring the Department of Justice to look into the circumstances surrounding the Trayvon Martin tragedy, and whether or not the events surrounding the incident qualified as a hate crime under federal provisions (03/22/2012).
- Letter to Governor Snyder concerning the potential implementation of the Emergency Manager law in Detroit and the potential for Detroit to be coerced into signing a one-sided consent agreement over the city's finances (03/22/2012).
- Op-ed in *Politico* entitled "GOP Etch-A-Sketch Can't Erase War on Women," stating that, "The Violence Against Women Act has had two purposes: to protect victims and to help prosecute perpetrators. The House Republican bill undermines both — eliminating existing protections for women and depriving police of the tools needed to hold offenders accountable." (05/06/12).
- Letter to Attorney General Eric Holder following up on the House Judiciary Committee's initial request for information surrounding the drone strikes and targeted killing of Anwar al-Awlaki (05/21/12).
- Letter to President Obama concerning the alleged mishandling of the sentence commutation request of Clarence Aaron by the Pardon

- Attorney during the Bush Administration, and requesting that Attorney General Eric Holder investigate into the matter (05/22/2012).
- Formal comments to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Regulatory Products Division Chief Aigbe, regarding the Department of Homeland Security's proposed rule that would create a provisional waiver process to keep United States citizens and their families intact (06/01/2012).
 - Letter to Gene Dorado, Comptroller General of the Government Accountability Office, requesting reports and further information on successful reentry programs for the 700,000 inmates released from prison in 2010 (06/01/2012).
 - Letter to Attorney General Eric Holder and Federal Communications Chairman Genachowski concerning Verizon Wireless's acquisition of Advanced Wireless Service's spectrum and competition in the telecom industry generally (06/13/2012).
 - Letter to Judiciary Committee Chairman Smith requesting an oversight hearing of the Department of Justice's enforcement of the National Voter Registration Act, specifically relating to the voter purge that was underway in Florida (06/29/2012).
 - Letter to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Napolitano requesting additional federal investigations into the bomb threat at the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel and the Ambassador Bridge (07/17/2012).

Awards

- CAIR Michigan Council of American Islamic Relations-MI (03/28/11).
- Government official of the year - Black Wall Street awards luncheon (08/20/2011).
- Walking the Walk on Job Creation Green for All and Black Enterprise (09/21/2011).

111th Congress (2009-2010) (Chairman, Judiciary Committee)

I. Legislation introduced/passed into law by Rep. Conyers *Conyers introduced bills passed into law*

- Hate Crimes Prevention Act, extending protection of federal hate crimes law and including crimes of violence based on prejudice against gender, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity (included in P.L. 111-84).
- Helping Families Save their Home Act, allowing bankruptcy judges to modify mortgages on primary residences. The bill passed the House but stripped out in the Senate, with the remainder of the bill providing additional homeowner protection measures (P.L. 111-22).
- Satellite Home Viewer Act, reauthorizing the satellite compulsory license and making other changes to update the law and increase consumer choices (P.L. 111-175).
- Trademark Technical and Conforming Amendment Act (P.L. 111-146).
- Amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2011, requiring the Secretaries of Defense and State to explore ways the United States could prevent accidental war with Iran (P.L. 111-383).
- Resolution celebrating the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. During the 39th anniversary of the Stevie Wonder song tribute to Dr. King, “Happy Birthday” (H. Res. 1010).
- Resolution honoring the life and achievement of Rev. Benjamin Hooks (H. Res. 1271).

Major legislation that Rep. Conyers was lead Democratic sponsor or helped manage that passed into law

- Fair Sentencing Act, reducing the sentencing between crack and powder cocaine from 100 to 1 to 18 to one (P.L. 111-220).
- James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, establishing health care fund and compensation claims program for first responders and others suffering serious health problems caused by exposure to toxic materials after the September 11 attacks (P.L. 111-347).
- Asian Carp Prevention and Control Act, adding Asian Carp to list of injurious species prevented from being imported into U.S. (P.L. 111-307).
- Arbitration rights for terminated auto dealers in GM and Chrysler bankruptcies (included in P.L. 111-117).
- A total of 47 other public laws were enacted by the Judiciary Committee as the result of 160 hearings, and as Chairman, Rep. Conyers was involved in the consideration of these measures, including public laws preventing U.S. courts from recognizing foreign defamation judgments which are inconsistent with the First Amendment; criminalizing

distribution of animal crush videos to comply with Supreme Court precedent; strengthening tribal law enforcement to better prosecute crimes and fight violence against women; granting permanent residence status to Haitian orphans admitted to U.S.; harmonizing and simplifying international adoptions; creating a human rights enforcement section at DOJ; enhancing antitrust criminal penalties; proclaiming Casimir Pulaski to be an honorary citizen posthumously; enhancing tools to combat cigarette smuggling; and Tribal Law and Order Act.

Major legislation that Rep. Conyers introduced or helped manage that passed the House

- Health Insurance Industry Antitrust Enforcement Act, repealing McCarran Ferguson antitrust exemption for health and medical malpractice insurers (H.R. 3596).
- DREAM Act, enabling high-achieving young people who were brought to the U.S. as children years ago – who were raised here, worked hard in school, and have pursued or are pursuing higher education or military service – to resolve their immigration status and contribute their full talents to our country (H.R. 1751/5281/6497).
- SPILL Act, amending and updating legal liability laws of the sea to permit families of workers killed in Gulf Coast oil explosion and others to, among other things, obtain damages for pain and suffering (H.R. 5503).
- DISCLOSE Act, requiring disclosure of large corporate political donations in wake of Supreme Court decision in Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission (HR. 5175).

Legislation introduced

- Fight Fraud Act, improving and expanding the investigation and prosecution of mortgage fraud and financial institution fraud through the amendments of the federal criminal codes and appropriating funds to the Attorney General for investigations, prosecutions, and civil proceedings involving federal assistance programs and financial institutions (H.R. 1748).

II. Committee Activities

Chairman Conyers responded to the end of the Bush presidency by completing work on the Judiciary Committee's pending requests and subpoenas; issuing his

own Report concerning excesses of the Bush Administration (and following up on the Report's recommendations); and conducting further hearings and moving legislation concerning the PATRIOT Act and related matters.

In terms of follow-up on pending subpoenas and outstanding requests, in March, 2009, Chairman Conyers reached an agreement with the prior Bush Administration to resolve the Committee's lawsuit and its pending subpoenas. Under that agreement, over the next several months, the Committee obtained access to White House documents and on-the-record testimony of former Bush White House officials Karl Rove and Harriet Miers. On August 11, the Committee released over 5,400 pages of White documents and more than 700 pages of Miers and Rove transcripts to the public and to U.S. Attorney Danehy for her criminal investigation. Among other things, these materials revealed significant White House involvement in the U.S. Attorney scandal; that Karl Rove and the Bush White House were directly involved in the decision to fire New Mexico U.S. Attorney David Iglesias for failing to pursue vote fraud allegations; that Iglesias was criticized by Rove aide Scott Jennings; for not "doing his job on" Democratic Congressional candidate Patricia Madrid and that Rove specifically pushed for his removal. Chairman Conyers also obtained the testimony of Jay Bybee, author of several key torture memos (known as the "Bybee Memo") who was now a federal judge. Judge Bybee was interviewed on the record in May, 2010 and the transcripts were released by Rep. Conyers in July.

In terms of issuing his own review on the excesses of the Bush Administration, in early 2009, Chairman Conyers released a 539-page report entitled "Reining in the Imperial Presidency: Lessons and Recommendations Relating to the Presidency of George W. Bush." This Report updated the abuses identified in "The Constitution in Crisis;" described efforts to investigate those abuses by congressional committees and others and made 50 recommendations to prevent their recurrence. The principal recommendations included: (I) following up on pending document requests and subpoenas (noted above); (II) creating an independent blue ribbon panel to fully investigate Bush Administration abuses (Rep. Conyers introduced H.R. 104 to this effect on January 6, 2009); and (III) an independent criminal investigation regarding whether any laws were broken by the prior Administration (in addition to the pending investigation of the U.S. Attorneys scandal, in August, 2009, Attorney General Holder announced an investigation into 101 cases of torture allegations, subsequently narrowed to two death in custody cases).

With regard to other recommendations, several were immediately implemented by the Obama Administration, such as ending the practices of torture and abuse, and secret detention. The Administration also announced an intention to close Guantanamo within one year and began to take steps to do so, although was ultimately throttled as a result of resistance from Congressional Republicans. Other recommendations were followed partially, such as agreeing to limit the use of states secrets privilege, and limiting the use of signing statements, while others have not been followed such as changing procedures to protect against the selective declassification of documents.

Chairman Conyers conducted further hearings and initiated legislation relating to the PATRIOT Act and associated issues. He held hearings on the PATRIOT Act, misuse of states secret privilege, military commissions, national security and civil liberties, and Administration misstatements justifying military action. He introduced and moved legislation to modify the PATRIOT Act to better protect constitutional and civil rights by, among other things, narrowing the standards for the FBI issuing national security letters, eliminating gag rules preventing disclosure of these letters, and providing for greater disclosure and oversight of government surveillance authority (H.R. 3845). Although the prevailing political environment made final passage impossible, Rep. Conyers has continued to pursue these issues.

As Chairman, Rep. Conyers also held hearings and/or moved legislation in the following areas:

- Antitrust: competition in digital books, minority broadcast ownership; NBC-Comcast combination; airline industry; ticketing and promotion industry; banking and financial reform; newspapers; drug patent settlements; professional football; regulated industries; competition with China; health care. Moved legislation dealing with railroad antitrust exemptions and resale price fixing.
- Crime: Youth PROMISE Act (assisting at risk youth); DNA and rape kit grants; juvenile justice accountability; elder abuse; domestic minor sex trafficking; indigent defense issues in Michigan and other states; Mexico border violence; problems with mandatory minimums; Innocence Protection Act; internet privacy.
- Bankruptcy: Ramifications of auto industry bankruptcies; medical bankruptcies; treatment of employees in bankruptcy; treatment of private student loans in bankruptcy; credit cards and bankruptcy; the continuing home mortgage foreclosure crisis; increasing number of bankruptcy judges.

- Courts: Judicial recusals; removal issues; alcohol regulation; courtroom security.
- Consumer Rights: series of hearings on head injuries and concussions in football; misuse of mandatory arbitration agreements.
- Immigration: comprehensive immigration reform; impact of Haitian earthquake.
- Civil and Constitutional Rights: Legal Services Corporation; Tulsa-Greenwood race riot; voting rights; racial profiling; discrimination against older workers; Ashcroft v. Iqbal decision concerning civil pleading requirements; federal habeas corpus limitations; fair housing; faith-based initiatives; Americans with Disability Act.
- Intellectual Property: replacement parts and auto industry, patent reform; domain name registries; copyright piracy; performance rights
- Impeachment Task Force: impeachment of Judge Porteous and Samuel Kent.

III. Michigan-Related Grants and Appropriations

During the 111th Congress, Rep. Conyers requested and secured over \$86.8 million in grants and earmarked appropriations for the Detroit area. Of this total, \$62.2 million was from earmarked appropriations, and \$24.5 million was from grant funding.

Appropriated Funds (\$62.2 million)

Economic and Defense Spending (\$20.8 million)

- Innovative programs such as the Plug-in hybrid vehicle electrification program (\$6.4 million)
- The Advanced Mobile Microgrid (\$5,440,000)
- Software Assurance Education and Research Institute (\$1.6 million)
- The Mobile Manufacturing and Repair Cell/Engineering Education Outreach Program (\$4.8 million)
- The Detroit Creative Business Accelerator (\$147,386); the United Way for Southeastern Michigan Ex-Offender Entrepreneurship Program (\$491,286)
- The Emergency Operations Center for the City of Detroit (\$2 million)

Transportation and Infrastructure (\$10.7 million)

- A Detroit Transit Options for Growth Study (\$950,000)
- Replacement buses for the City of Detroit (\$1,424,500)
- Farebox improvements for Detroit (\$2,850,000)
- The Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transit (SMART) Fleet Bus Maintenance and Engine Replacement (\$3,923,500)
- General transportation funds for Detroit (\$665,000)
- General transportation funds for Highland Park (\$950,000)

Environmental Initiatives (\$30.6 million)

- The Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control (\$808,000)
- The Consortium for Plant Biotechnology Research (\$9,112,000)
- The Great Lakes Remedial Action Plans (\$2,390,000)
- The Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal Dispersal Barrier (\$12.5 million)
- Ecorse Creek conservation (\$200,000)
- Renovations to a chemistry building in Michigan (\$951,500)
- Funding for Marygrove College (\$380,600)
- Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration (\$4,314,000)

Local Crime and Recidivism Programs (\$8 million)

- The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (\$5,440,000)
- Justice programs in the city of Detroit and Charter County (\$2.8 million)

Education and Healthcare (\$2.8 million)

- Equipment for physical education activities in Detroit (\$476,000)
- A comprehensive youth development and education program for the Detroit Youth Foundation (\$476,000)
- An initiative to assist TANF recipients with attaining higher education including scholarship funding (\$590,000)
- The Starr Commonwealth Structured Therapeutic Living Program for developmentally disabled and at-risk youth and young adults (\$190,000)
- University of Detroit Mercy facilities and equipment (\$333,000)
- The Health Disparities Reduction Project for Women and Children in Detroit (\$762,000)

Grants (\$24.5 million)

Department of Justice – Community Oriented Policing Services

COPS Hiring Recovery Program

- \$2,271,240 for the City of Dearborn Municipal Police Department
- \$11,148,750 for the City of Detroit Police Department
- \$203,274 for the Ecorse Police Department
- \$987,132 for the Charter Township of Redford Police Department
- \$245,900 for the Riverview Police Department
- \$449,214 for the Brownstown Police Department
- \$421,084 for the Hazel Park Police Department
- \$204,955 for the City of Melvindale Police Department

Developing Crime Fighting Technologies

- \$625,000 for the Oakland County Sheriff's Department
- \$305,000 for the City of Rochester Hills Sheriff's Department
- \$1,120,000 for the Detroit Fire Department Emergency Responders
- \$300,000 for the Mason-Oceana 911 Emergency Responders
- \$300,000 for the Wayne County Government
- \$350,000 for the City of Detroit Police Department

Tribal Resources Grant Program for Equipment

- \$171,492 for the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi

Department of Justice – Office of Justice Programs

Bureau of Justice Assistance

- \$500,000 for the Downriver Community Conference for the improvement of their organizational infrastructure and functionality of the criminal justice system.
- \$197,781 for the Detroit Community Justice Partnership towards Project Safe Neighborhoods.
- \$750,000 for the City of Detroit for implementation of the Second Chance Act Prisoner Reentry Initiative: Local Demonstration.
- \$250,000 for the Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney's Office to expand the Wayne County Mortgage Fraud Team.
- \$550,000 for the City of Detroit to support the Workforce Development Department's Parolees, Technical Parolee Violators, and Ex-Offenders Project.
- \$1,418,498 for the Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney's Office to further expand the resources needed to operate its Mortgage Fraud Task Force.

- \$212,239 for the Detroit Community Justice Partnership towards Project Safe Neighborhoods.

Community Capacity Development Office

- \$141,747 for the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion was awarded to Detroit for the Weed and Seed Program Guide and Application Kit: Continuation Series.
- The same program was granted \$135,730.73 by Hamtramck Community Initiative for the City of Hamtramck.

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs

- \$500,000 for the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit for the Gang Prevention Youth Mentoring Program.
- \$200,000 for the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services for the Youth and Development Services Project.
- \$100,000 for HOPE for the HOPE's educational and leadership campus located in Detroit.
- \$500,000 for the Chapel Hill Missionary Baptist Church for artistic and extracurricular activities for at-risk children.

IV. Other

- Called for DOJ investigators into shooting of 7-year old Aiyana Jones by Detroit Police Department, and killing of Detroit Imam Luqman Ameen Abdullah by the FBI.
- Rep. Conyers founded and chaired the Out of Afghanistan Caucus (May 18, 2010).
- Wrote an op-ed in *The Washington Post* entitled “Why We Have To Look Back,” stating that, “Indeed, I want to move on as well – there are so many things that I would rather work on than further review of Bush's presidency. But in my view it would not be responsible to start our journey forward without first knowing exactly where we are. . . . If those temptations are to be resisted – if we are to face new threats in a manner that keeps faith with our values and strengthens rather than diminishes our authority around the world – we must fully learn the lessons of our recent past,” (01/30/09).
- Wrote an op-ed in *USA Today* entitled “Nation needs full accounting of Bush Administration excesses,” stating that, “The precise form and scope of this effort is open to discussion and compromise, but what is not an option is to do nothing. The matters at hand are too grave and our

- national honor is too precious to move forward without fully accounting for what has been done in America's name." (02/17/09).
- Wrote an op-ed in *The Detroit News* entitled "Homeowners need new options," stating that, "As we've seen in the last three years, home foreclosures uproot families, devastate local communities, and stunt economic recovery. If we are going to stem the still-rising tide of foreclosures, we need more than incentives for Wall Street – we need to take real action and give homeowners more options to save their homes." (08/26/10).

Awards

- National Association of Minority Automobile Dealers – Diversity Advocacy Award (2009).
- Metro Detroit Youth Day – Appreciation Award (2009).
- Kappa Alpha Psi – Award of Distinction (2009).
- The Humanitarian Society of the United States of Legislative Fund – Humane Champion (2009).
- The Martin Luther King, Jr. DC Support Group Inc. – Humanitarian Award (01/19/2009).
- The Coalition of Black Trade Unions – Charles A. Hayes Award for Commitment to Struggle for Justice (04/21/2009).
- National Bar Association – Presidential Award of Merit (09/23/2009).
- Legal Aid and Defender Association, Inc. in honor of Ed Pokomy (11/06/2009).
- The University of Michigan Honorable John Conyers Jr. Jazz Advocacy Award (02/13/2010).
- The Peoples Award Helping to Heal the Nation (05/02/2010).
- National Capital Arts Council – 23rd Annual Government Management Award (05/11/2010).
- Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs (06/06/2010).
- Rainbow Push Coalition and Citizenship Education Fund Annual Conference – Drum Major for Justice (06/15/2010).
- ACLU Award of Appreciation for Extraordinary Leadership in the Passage of Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 (09/21/2010).
- Georgia Stand-Up and Act Awards – Lifetime Achievement (11/11/2010).
- Washington Psychiatric Society – Senator Paul and Mrs. Sheila Wellstone Mental Health Visionary Award (11/19/2010).

110th Congress (2007-2008) (Chairman, Judiciary Committee)

I. Legislation introduced/passed into law by Rep. Conyers

Conyers introduced bills passed into law

- Honest Leadership and Open Government Act, comprehensive ethics reform increasing regulation of lobbyists in wake of Jack Abramoff and other scandals, including disclosure of “bundled” contributions. It increased the length of the ban on lobbying contacting former contacts by former Members of Congress and senior staff to two years (P.L. 110-81).
- Pigford Claims Remedy Act, extending limitation period for black farmers discriminated against by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Rep. Conyers subsequently also helped ensure funds were appropriated to pay settlement (incorporated into P.L. 110-34).
- Pro-IP Act, providing for increased coordination, greater resources and enhanced penalties for violations of intellectual property laws (P.L. 110-403).
- Internet Tax Freedom Act, extending a moratorium on state taxes on accessing the Internet and preventing any discriminatory or multiple tax on purchases through the Internet (P.L. 110-108).
- Court Security Improvement Act, enhancing court security measures in wake of outbreak of shootings and other incidents (P.L. 110-177).
- Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act, establishing unsolved crimes section in the Civil Rights Division (P.L. 110-344).
- Former Vice Presidents Protection Act, authorizing Secret Service to protect former Vice Presidents and their families for limited periods of time (P.L. 110-326).
- Resolution recognizing 50th anniversary of desegregation of Little Rock Central High (H. Res. 668).

Major Legislation that Rep. Conyers was lead Democratic sponsor or helped manage that passed into law

- Second Chance Act, developing alternatives to incarceration, expanding substance abuse programs, and expanding reentry services, among other

things. Rep. Conyers and Rep. Bobby Scott worked together to assure that there was no faith-based requirement in the Second Chance Act (P.L. 110-199).

- Great Lakes Water Compact, allowing Great Lakes states to preserve and protect their abundant fresh water resources (P.L. 110-342).
- Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act, amending the definition of “disability” in the ADA to restore protection for the broad range of individuals with disabilities as originally envisioned by Congress when it passed the ADA in 1990 (P.L. 110-325).
- A total of 60 additional Public Laws were considered by the Judiciary Committee as a result of more than 150 hearings, and as Chairman, Rep. Conyers was involved in the consideration of these measures, including the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act (civil rights provisions); legislation implementing the 9/11 Commission’s recommendations; public laws strengthening prohibitions against animal fighting; allowing for the prosecution of genocide; improving the national instant check system for gun purchases; assisting members of the armed forces in obtaining citizenship; removing the African National Congress from treatment as a terrorist organization; working to limit the use and recruitment of child soldiers; extending the grant program for drug-endangered children; reauthorizing Debbie Smith DNA grant program; providing for more effective prosecution of child pornography; providing grants for improved mental health treatment and services to offenders with mental illnesses; exempting members of the armed services from the bankruptcy means test; reauthorizing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act; and a resolution apologizing for the enslavement and racial segregation of African Americans.

Legislation introduced

- Homeowner’s Protection Act, allowing bankruptcy judges to modify mortgages on principal residences. (H.R. 7328).
- Credit Card Fair Fee Act allowing merchants to collectively negotiate reduced fees for credit card transactions, Rep. Conyers held hearings and moved through the Judiciary Committee (H.R. 5546).
- Deceptive Practices in Voting Act, prohibiting people from knowingly communicating false information about elections with the intent to prevent people from exercising their right to vote. A counterpart was introduced in the Senate by then-Senator Obama. The bill also increased the criminal penalty for voter intimidation to five years imprisonment. This legislation passed the House (H.R. 1281).

- Caging Prohibition Act, prohibiting discriminatory challenges of lawful voters (H.R. 5038).
- Tulsa-Greenwood Race Riot Claims Act, allowing victims of Tulsa race riots to seek compensation (H.R. 1995).
- NOPEC - No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act of 2007, providing for antitrust relief against international oil cartels (H.R. 2264).
- Privacy and Cybercrime Enforcement Act, providing new tools to prosecute identity theft and other computer crimes (H.R. 4175).
- Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act, prohibiting transfer of horses across the border for slaughter and human consumption. Rep. Conyers held hearings and moved the bill through Judiciary Committee (H.R. 6598).
- Protecting Employees and Retirees in Business Bankruptcies Act, Rep. Conyers held hearings and reintroduced the legislation in subsequent congresses (H.R. 3652).
- Net Neutrality legislation, establishing an antitrust remedy for anticompetitive and discriminatory practices by broadband service providers (H.R. 5994).

Other major legislation moved through the House by Chairman Conyers

- Free Flow of Information Act, providing federal legal shield for reporters (passed House in 110th and 111th Congresses) (H.R. 2102).
- COPS Improvement Act, reauthorizing and expanding public safety and community policing programs. This legislation passed the House in the 110th and 111th Congresses (H.R. 1700).
- Attorney-Client Privilege Protection Act, limiting prosecutors from conditioning leniency on waiving attorney-client privilege. This legislation passed the House in the 110th Congress (H.R. 3013).

II. Committee Activities

As the incoming Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Conyers confronted a Bush Administration that had engaged in a series of civil rights and liberties abuses, as documented in Rep. Conyers' report, "The Constitution in Crisis." In addition, at the outset of the Congress, President Bush announced the firing of nine U.S. Attorneys under highly questionable circumstances. As a result, Rep. Conyers devoted a substantial portion of his first two years as Chairman investigating these matters, conducting a total of 157 days of oversight hearings during the 110th Congress.

With respect to the U.S. Attorneys matter, Chairman Conyers issued the very first subpoenas of the new Democratic Majority. He obtained thousands of pages of documents from the Justice Department, which he made available in real time to the public. He went to court and sought limited immunity to obtain DOJ White House Liaison Monica Goodling's testimony, and obtained the public testimony of many other high ranking DOJ officials up to and including the Attorney General. The results exposed serious wrongdoing at the Justice Department, resulted in enactment of a new law regarding the replacement of U.S. Attorneys, and led to the resignation of numerous high ranking officials, including Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez. When responsibility for the U.S. Attorney firings appeared to lead to the White House itself (according to the Chairman, "the breadcrumbs in this investigation have always led to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue"), Rep. Conyers issued further subpoenas to high ranking White House aides, including White House Chief of Staff Josh Bolten, former White House Counsel Harriet Miers and later, Karl Rove. When the Bush White House refused to cooperate based on assertions of executive privilege, the Judiciary Committee held the relevant responsible officials in contempt, and the full House followed suit on February 14, 2008 (the first vote to cite a person for contempt of Congress in over 25 years). When the Justice Department refused to prosecute the officials for contempt, Chairman Conyers filed suit in federal court and won a landmark legal victory (*Committee on the Judiciary v. Miers*). On September 29, 2008, DOJ's Office of the Inspector General and Office of Professional Responsibility released the results of their investigation into the U.S. Attorneys firings, concluding that "political partisan considerations were an important factor in the removal of several of the U.S. Attorneys," and identified numerous misstatements to Congress. This, in turn, led Attorney General Mukasey to ask U.S. Attorney Nora Danahy to conduct an independent criminal probe into the matter.

With respect to various civil liberties issues, under Chairman Conyers the Committee held hearings and investigated abuses in the area of signing statements, warrantless surveillance, state secrets, clemency power, rulemaking and the "unitary executive" theory, torture and mistreatment of detainees, extraordinary rendition, manipulation of intelligence relating to the Iraq War, voting irregularities and civil rights enforcement. Rep. Conyers conducted hearings and introduced legislation limiting the use of "National Security Letters" and "exigent letters" (H.R. 3189), conducted hearings and cosponsored legislation setting forth standards for assertions of state secrets privilege (H.R. 5607), and conducted hearings and introduced legislation that provided for court review of warrantless surveillance cases (H.R. 3773, the "RESTORE Act"). The RESTORE Act passed the House but failed to pass the Senate, and

in the end Rep. Conyers voted against the final bill because it provided retroactive immunity for telecommunications carriers involved in the surveillance.

With regard to other civil liberties abuses, Chairman Conyers held a broad series of hearings, including obtaining testimony under threat of subpoena of Vice President Cheney's Chief of Staff David Addington, Under Secretary of Defense Douglas Feith, DOJ Voting Section Chief Christopher Coates, former head of Office of Legal Policy John Yoo, and former Ohio Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell. Other witnesses included rendition victim Maher Arar, FBI Director Robert Mueller, former Attorney General John Ashcroft, former Deputy Attorney General James Comey, Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Office of Legal Counsel Stephen Bradbury, former White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan, Ambassador Joe Wilson, and author Philippe Sands. In connection with these and other hearings, Rep. Conyers, along with Armed Services Chairman Ike Skelton, introduced legislation seeking to restore habeas corpus rights to enemy combatants held at Guantanamo Bay (H.R. 2826). Chairman Conyers released a Homeland Security Inspector General report disclosing wrongdoings in the rendition of Maher Arar to Syria and called for the appointment of a special prosecutor to look into the Arar matter, the destruction of CIA videotapes, and mistreatment and possible torture of detainees. Rep. Conyers also obtained two GAO reports confirming the harm of President Bush's signing statements, a DOJ Office of Professional Responsibility report concerning the use of "waterboarding" and the enhanced interrogation tactics and a report by the Department of Justice Office of Professional Responsibility and Office of Inspector General concerning selective prosecution by the Bush Administration.

As Chairman, Rep. Conyers also held hearings and/or moved legislation in the following areas:

- Antitrust: competition in satellite radio; online search and advertising; Internet neutrality; airlines; gasoline prices.
- Crime: elder abuse; juvenile justice; prison litigation; misuse of deferred prosecution agreements, overuse of mandatory minimum sentences; and allegations of rape and imprisonment by U.S. contractors abroad.
- Bankruptcy: implementation of 2005 Bankruptcy Act; medical debt. The hearing on medical bankruptcy received national press coverage and brought attention to the growing crisis of the rise in personal bankruptcy for middle class families in America due to unpaid medical debt.

- Courts: cameras in courtroom; federal judicial salaries; off reservation gaming in Michigan.
- Consumer Rights: misuse of mandatory arbitration; holding foreign manufacturers responsible for defective products; treatment of injured NFL players.
- Immigration: series of hearings on comprehensive immigration reform and its various components; granting immigration relief to families of 9/11 victims; the impact of immigration raids on U.S. citizens and immigrant communities; the conditions of confinement in civil immigration detention facilities. The two hearings on immigration detention conditions received national press coverage and helped to spur changes in the Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s detention standards and in its reporting practices with respect to custodial deaths.
- Civil Rights: police misconduct; race related violence in public school (“Jena 6”).

III. Michigan-Related Grants and Appropriations

During the 110th Congress, Rep. Conyers requested and secured over \$73.3 million in grants and earmarked appropriations for the Detroit area. Of this total, \$39.4 million was from earmarked appropriations, and \$33.8 million was from grant funding.

Earmarked Appropriations (\$39.4 million)

Economic and Defense Spending (\$17.6 million)

- The Detroit Renaissance business district (\$282,000)
- The Economic Development Coalition of Southeast Michigan (\$500,000)
- The Component Optimization for Ground Systems (\$1.6 million)
- The Advanced Mobile Microgrid System (\$4.4 million)
- The Software Assurance Education and Research Institute (\$1 million)
- The Manufacturing and Repair Cell (\$4 million)
- The US Property and Fiscal Office Readiness Center Renovation (\$4,239,000)
- SWORDS - the Safety Confirmation Testing for Accelerated Fielding and Production (\$1.6 million)

Environmental Initiatives (\$15 million)

- Consortium for Plant Biotechnology Research (\$4,525,000)
- The Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, Dispersal Barrier (\$750,000)
- The Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, Second Barrier (\$8 million)
- The Great Lakes Fisheries Resource Office – Fish Mass Marketing Equipment (\$1,750,000)

Local Crime and Recidivism Programs (\$3.6 million)

- The Missing Persons: Locating the Ones We Love (\$423,000)
- Detroit Drug Violence Enforcement (\$376,000)
- The United Way of Southeastern Michigan Ex-Offender Reentry Program (\$634,500)
- The Truancy Reduction Initiative (\$376,000)
- The Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries for Wildwood Ranch Youth Program (\$493,500)
- The Wayne County Radio Communications Interoperability (\$211,500)
- The Detroit Business to Youth Mentoring Project (\$188,000)
- Ruth Ellis Center for an outreach program (\$366,600)
- The Wayne County Department of Public Services for a truancy intervention program (\$347,800)
- The Wayne County Juvenile Reentry Program (\$188,000)

Healthcare (\$1.2 million)

- The Wayne County Department of Public Health for a lead poisoning assessment, preventions, and intervention program (\$292,000)
- The Focus: HOPE, for an experimental learning laboratory and related equipment and technology to support undergraduate education and training (\$585,000)
- The Detroit Primary Care Access for health care information technology (\$365,000)

Mass Transportation (\$2 million)

- The Detroit Bus Component Overhaul (\$250,000)
- The Detroit Bus Maintenance Facility (\$750,000)
- The Detroit Replacement Buses (\$250,000)

- The Greenway Path and Bridge (\$250,000)
- The demolition of abandoned properties as part of a redevelopment plan in Detroit (\$300,000)
- Infrastructure improvements to continue the revitalization of the Brush Park Historic District neighborhood in Detroit (\$200,000)

Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Through President Obama’s signature stimulus legislation, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Rep. Conyers and other members of the Michigan delegation were able to provide significant funding for the manufacture in the state of Michigan of electric motors and advanced batteries.

Grants (\$33.8 million)

United States Department of Transportation – “TIGER” Grants

Under President Obama’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the United States Department of Transportation created a host of “TIGER” grants (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) to stimulate the economy and invest in American transportation infrastructure. Rep. Conyers and other Members of Michigan’s Congressional Delegation requested TIGER grant funding for the City of Detroit, and received \$25,000,000 for the M1/Woodward Avenue Light Rail Project. The grant funding will go towards a 3.4 miles long light rail system connecting the New Center to Downtown Detroit with 12 station stops.

Department of Justice – Community Oriented Policing Services

Secure our Schools

- \$161,450 for the Riverview Police Department
- \$118,050 for the Brownstown Police Department

Developing Crime Fighting Technologies

- \$2,999,456 for the Oakland County Sheriff’s Department
- \$210,443 for the Wayne County Sheriff’s Department
- \$587,368 for the Charter Township of West Bloomfield State Unit
- \$222,134 for the Michigan Department of Military Affairs

Department of Justice – Office of Justice Programs

Bureau of Justice Assistance

- \$11,855 for the City of Hazel Park for the Justice Assistance Grant Program.
- \$370,974 was awarded to the Detroit Community Justice Partnership for Project Safe Neighborhoods in Detroit.
- The Gibraltar School District was also granted \$148,590.05 for a Gang Resistance Education and Training Program.
- The Detroit Community Justice Partnership received \$676,280 towards the Anti-Gang Initiative in Detroit.
- \$178,870 for the Detroit Workforce Development Department for a Congressionally Mandated Award for a transitional jobs program.
- \$212,408 for the Detroit Workforce Development Department for a Congressionally Mandated Award to reduce recidivism and increase employment opportunities for former prisoners.
- The Detroit Community Justice Partnership received \$252,397 for the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative in Detroit.

Community Capacity Development Office

- \$438,775 for the Detroit Community Justice Partnership was awarded to Detroit for the Weed and Seed Program Guide and Application Kit: Continuation Series. The same program was granted \$350,000 by Operation Weed and Seed of Highland Park for the City of Highland Park.
- The Weed and Seed Communities Competitive Program Guide and Application Kit, was granted \$316,375.97 by the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion to the city of Detroit.

National Institute of Justice

- \$614,702.48 for the National Institute of Justice Continuation Awards by Wayne State University.
- \$437,998 for the National Institute of Justice/Office of Science and Technology Continuations by Wayne State University.

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs

- \$348,796 for the Ruth Ellis Center, Inc. for the City of Highland Park to assist runaway and homeless youth.
- \$178,870 was provided by the City of Detroit for the implementation of a mentoring program for 14 and 15 year old children by the Detroit Workforce Development Department.

Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking

- \$27,423 was awarded by the Allen Park Police Department for support for the Adam Walsh Act Implementation Grant Program II.

IV. Other

- First African American Chair of the House Judiciary Committee.

Awards

- Pacifica Foundation – Peace and Justice Award (2007).
- Second Chance Employment Service – Visionary Leader Award (2007).
- National Visionary Leadership Project – Wisdom Award (2007).
- Civil Rights Outstanding Leadership (2007).
- Let Freedom Ring – For First African American Judiciary Chairman – Presented by Reverend Wendell Anthony (02/24/2007).
- The Maryland General Assembly “Official Citizen” – In recognition of his exemplary leadership and dedication in the progress of H.R. 676 and for his steadfast efforts as the father of the movement to provide universal healthcare for all Americans (03/20/2007).
- National Coalition on Black Civic Participation – Spirit of Democracy Award (05/16/2007).
- Metro Detroit Youth Day Appreciation Award (2008).
- Dr. Alan Locke Award, DIA Friends of African and African American Art (02/10/2008).
- Congressional Black Associates – The Robert Harold Ogle Trailblazer Award (02/28/2008).
- American University Washington College of Law – Appreciation for Keynote Address at 11th Annual Hispanic Law Conference (03/15/2008).
- Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. – The Lumberton Alumni Chapter Certificate of Achievement of Appreciation (04/21/2008).
- Leadership Conference on Civil Rights – Hubert Humphrey Civil Rights Award (05/14/2008).
- United Steelworkers Wellstone Award (06/2008).
- The YWCA Metropolitan Detroit as its 2007 Individual Keeper of the Flame (08/23/2007).
- American Federation of Musicians – Lifetime Achievement Award for Commitment to Performing Musicians and their Music (09/27/2008).

- Fair Housing Center of Metropolitan Detroit – Certificate of Appreciation (10/27/2008).

109th Congress (2005-2006) (Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee)

I. Legislation introduced/passed into law by Rep. Conyers

Major legislation that Rep. Conyers was lead Democratic sponsor or helped manage that passed into law

- Voting Rights Act Reauthorization, (lead Democratic cosponsor after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi) reauthorizing expiring provisions of Voting Rights Act for an additional 25 years (P.L. 109-246).
- Violence Against Women Act, (lead Democratic cosponsor) reauthorizing and expanding programs within the Office of Violence Against Women and the Department of Justice generally. This third iteration of VAWA stressed collaboration between law enforcement agencies, youth alliances, housing, as well as health professionals with impacted women. New programs were developed to assist young victims of domestic violence, bolster health care initiatives to alleviate violence, increase public knowledge about domestic violence as well as sexual assault, and public housing assistance for women and children (P.L. 109-162).
- Resolution recognizing 50th anniversary of Rosa Parks refusal to give up her seat on the bus and subsequent desegregation (lead sponsor) (H. Con. Res. 208).
- Resolution authorizing remains of Rosa Parks to lie in Honor in the Capitol Rotunda, (lead sponsor) Rosa Parks was the 31st person, the first woman and the American who had not been a U.S. government official, to be paid this tribute. (H. Con. Res. 286, S. Con. Res. 61 and 62).
- Resolution honoring life and accomplishments of Coretta Scott King, (lead sponsor) worked with Chairman Hyde in wake of Ms. King's passing (H. Res. 655).
- Resolution honoring Chrysler Corporation and its employees for receiving 500,000th design patent for work on Chrysler "Crossfire" (lead sponsor) (H. Con. Res. 53).
- A total of 19 Public Laws were enacted by the Judiciary Committee as a result of more than 150 hearings, many of which were bipartisan and

non-controversial, and as Ranking Member, Rep. Conyers was involved in the consideration of these measures, including public laws allowing for emergency judicial special sessions in the wake of the Hurricane Katrina disaster; providing special immigration status for Iraqi translators assisting U.S. armed forces; increasing enforcement resources and penalties for counterfeit goods; and increasing enforcement tools regarding methamphetamine.

Legislation introduced

- VOTER Act, Rep. Conyers first introduced this bill making it unlawful to engage in unfair or deceptive voting practices; tracking allegation of voting irregularities; requiring nationwide same day registration and absentee ballots; requiring paper voting trail; clarifying rules for provisional ballots; minimum election standards and training; requiring open source software for voting machines, studying election day holiday; and limiting voter purging (H.R. 533).

II. Committee Activities

As Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Conyers was confronted with a number of actions by the Bush Administration and others raising serious constitutional concerns. First, was the highly controversial 2004 presidential election where the outcome was decided in Ohio and impacted by a number of questionable actions limiting voting rights. Second, was a series of civil liberties controversies arising under the Bush Administration, including allegations regarding the manipulation of intelligence to justify going to war in Iraq, allegations of torture, extraordinary rendition; and misconduct involving detainees, retribution against Bush Administration critics; and warrantless surveillance of U.S. citizens. Rep. Conyers conducted his own investigation of these issues through a series of Democratic forums he held in Washington, D.C. and around the country; organized a letter to the Bush Administration signed by 121 of his colleagues and more than 500,000 Americans seeking accountability regarding manipulation of intelligence; and issued two comprehensive and widely-read reports entitled “Preserving Democracy: What Went Wrong in Ohio” and “The Constitution in Crisis.” In addition, Rep. Conyers publicly called for a special counsel to investigate the White House’s culpability in the outing of Valerie Plame, which ultimately led to the conviction of Vice President Cheney’s Chief of Staff Scooter Libby.

- “What Went Wrong in Ohio”: a 102-page report that identified numerous, serious election irregularities in Ohio affecting hundreds of thousands of voters. This led Rep. Conyers to join with Senator Barbara Boxer and the late Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones in filing an historic electoral challenge on the House floor, and led to the introduction of numerous bills to enhance voting protection.
- “The Constitution in Crisis”: a 350-page report based on multiple hearings and the review of tens of thousands of documents, found substantial evidence that President Bush, Vice President Cheney, and other high ranking members of the Bush Administration misled Congress and the American people about the decision to go to War in Iraq; engaged in extraordinary rendition; countenanced torture and mistreatment of detainees; permitted inappropriate retaliation against critics of the Bush Administration; and approved unlawful domestic surveillance.

Rep. Conyers also led the successful opposition to the following extreme measures in his role as Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee. These include:

Rolling Back Civil and Constitutional Rights

- Splitting up the Ninth Circuit, an unprecedented effort to micro-manage judicial affairs and diminish the impact of federal judges in California (H.R. 211/212/3125).
- Illegal Immigration and Border Control bill, instituting numerous anti-immigrant changes, including making it crime to offer assistance to undocumented aliens and mandating construction of 700-mile fence on Mexican border (H.R. 4437/6095).
- “Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act,” limiting the ability of women to seek otherwise lawful abortions across state lines (H.R. 748/S. 403).
- Limiting legal remedies and disallowing attorneys’ fees in First Amendment Establishment Clause cases, in an effort to prevent plaintiffs from pursuing separation of church and state cases (H.R. 2679).
- Codifying the Administration’s authority to engage in warrantless surveillance of U.S. citizens (H.R. 5285).
- Court-stripping bill, preventing federal courts from being able to adjudicate any legal challenges to the Pledge of Allegiance (H.R. 2389).

Limiting Health, Safety and Consumer Rights

- “Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act,” mandating court-imposed sanctions on attorneys in federal and state legal actions (H.R. 420).
- Limiting agencies’ ability to issue health, safety and other regulations (H.R. 682, Regulatory Flexibility).
- “BATF Modernization and Reform Act,” imposing new limits on the ability of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives to pursue gun dealers for illegal gun sales and purchases (H.R. 5092).
- Legislation allowing private property owners to more easily allege “takings” violations, pertaining to environmental, health and safety regulations (H.R. 4772).

Ranking Member Conyers also led the opposition to a number of ill-considered measures, which were passed into law by the Republican Congress. These included:

- Anti-consumer bankruptcy legislation, giving credit card companies and banks greater rights in bankruptcy at the expense of working Americans (P.L. 109-8).
- “Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act,” immunizing gun manufacturers from legal liability for harm caused by guns (P.L. 109-92).
- “Real ID Act,” imposing federal mandate on the states to implement special tamper-proof identification cards akin to creating national identification system, and limiting asylum rights of immigrants (P.L. 109-295).
- PATRIOT Act reauthorization, of expiring provisions without significant change to reflect myriad civil liberties concerns with law and related anti-terrorism initiatives (P.L. 109-177).
- Act for the relief of the parents for Theresa Marie Schiavo, allowing the Terry Schiavo case to be transferred from state to federal court in an effort to allow Ms. Schiavo’s parents to overrule state court ruling concerning the use of life support (P.L. 109-3).
- Legislation making it more difficult for harmed victims to bring federal class actions cases (P.L. 109-14).
- Military Commissions Act, authorizing military commission trials, limiting habeas corpus rights of detainees, and making it more difficult to prosecute cases of torture and other mistreatment of prisoners (P.L. 109-366).

- Unlawful Internet Gambling Act, extending enforcement tools against private on-line gambling (P.L. 109-347).

III. Michigan-Related Grants and Appropriations

During the 109th Congress, Rep. Conyers requested and secured over \$4.9 million in grants for the Detroit area.

Grants

Department of Justice – Community Oriented Policing Services

Secure our Schools

- \$31,250 for the City of Ferndale Municipal Police Department

Developing Crime Fighting Technologies

- \$648,163 for the Oakland County Sheriff’s Department

Department of Justice – Office of Justice Programs

Bureau of Justice Assistance

- \$2,800,290 for the Detroit Community Justice Partnership for Project Safe Neighborhoods in Detroit.
- \$13,026 was awarded to the City of Hazel Park towards the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program.
- \$600,937 was awarded to the Detroit Community Justice Partnership for the 2006 Anti-Gang Initiative in Detroit.

Community Capacity Development Office

- \$225,000 for the Operation Weed and Seed Program Guide and Application Kit Continuation Sites B in Detroit.
- A matching grant of \$225,000 was awarded to the City of Detroit for the same purpose from the Detroit Community Justice Partnership.
- \$225,000 for the Detroit Community Justice Partnership for the Operation Weed and Seed Program Guide and Application Kit: Continuation B in Detroit.
- An additional \$225,000 from Operation Weed and Seed of Highland Park was granted towards the same program operating out of Highland Park.

National Institute of Justice

- \$451,057.49 for Wayne State University, for the National Institute of Justice/Office of Science and Technology Continuations.

IV. Other

- Co-founded “Out of Iraq” Congressional Caucus
- Lead plaintiff in the lawsuit Honorable John Conyers, Jr., v. George W. Bush, in which Rep. Conyers and 10 other Members of Congress sought injunctive relief preventing the execution of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-171) due to the failure of the House and Senate to pass identical bills before sending legislation to the President.
- Crafting emergency response in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Rep. Conyers took a leadership role in working hand-in-hand with the Congressional Black Caucus Chairman Rep. Melvin Watt to put forth legislative and other remedies addressing the housing, healthcare, and various needs of the victims in the Gulf Coast. At the request of grassroots activists working to address the Katrina catastrophe, Rep. Conyers sponsored a series of meetings and briefings in Congress that brought together grassroots leaders from the Gulf Coast, NGOs, Members of Congress, and senior congressional staff in order to craft federal legislation and to substantively address the Katrina crisis with real federal assistance, not just words.

Awards

- National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women – Thanks for Leadership in Reauthorizing VAWA (2005).
- National Women’s Political Caucus Award (2005).
- National Medical Association – Louis Stokes Health Advocacy Award – Using Your National Platform to Advocate on Behalf of Minorities (03/13/2005).
- Global Peach Award Presented by Global Nonviolence Conferences Detroit, Mi (04/17/2005).
- Inducted into the Coppin State University Criminal Justice Club as an Honorary Member (05/06/2005).
- Coalition on Black Civic Participation VOTE Civic Leadership Award – (08/2005).
- Jazz Unites Inc. Award (08/05/2005).
- International Civil Rights walk of fame 2005 Inductee Atlanta, Georgia (08/26/2005).

- Metropolitan Black Bar Association – Outstanding National Leadership Award (09/12/2005).
- Urban Education Leadership Award (2006).
- 17th Annual Leadership Awards – National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce (2006).
- American Medical Student Association – the AMSA Leadership in Healthcare Justice Award (03/2006).
- Lifetime Commitment Award from Michigan Coalition of Human Rights (03/19/2006).
- Art Without Walls – Recognizes His Dedication and Hard Work on the People’s Behalf for Healthcare Reform (05/06/2006).

108th Congress (2003-2004) (Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee)

I. Legislation introduced/passed into law by Rep. Conyers

Major legislation that Rep. Conyers was lead Democratic sponsor or helped manage that passed into law

- Author, Consumer, and Computer Owner Protection and Security Act, proscribing new copyright reporting requirements and requiring sharing of evidence in copyright infringement cases (P.L. 108-482).
- Anabolic Steroids Control Act, (lead Democratic cosponsor) clarifying that anabolic steroid use by professional athletes is unlawful (P.L. 108-358).
- Innocence Protection Act, (lead Democratic cosponsor) package of reforms including enhancing the use of DNA to exonerate innocent individuals and facilitating enhanced criminal representation in capital cases (P.L. 108-405).
- Recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board, (lead sponsor) landmark Supreme Court decision holding that "separate but equal" in education was unconstitutional (H. Con. Res. 414).
- A total of 59 Public Laws were enacted by the Judiciary Committee as a result of more than 115 hearings, many of which were bipartisan and non-controversial, and as Ranking Member, Rep. Conyers was involved in the consideration of these measures, including public laws examining the problem of prison rape; reauthorizing the ban on undetectable firearms; seeking to limit unauthorized “spam” on the Internet;

regulating misconduct of sports agents; and increasing visas to improve access to physicians in underserved communities.

Legislation introduced

- U.S. National Health Care Act, the “Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act,” establishing a single-payer universal health care framework to extend health insurance to all Americans. (H.R. 676).

II. Committee Activities

Rep. Conyers again led the successful opposition to the following extreme measures in his role as Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee. These included:

Constitutional Amendments

- Balanced Budget Amendment, necessitating balancing the budget on the backs of seniors by raiding Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds and making it more difficult to increase debt limits (H.J. Res 22).
- Same Sex Marriage Constitutional Amendment, preempting states’ ability to define marriage (H.J. Res. 56/106).
- Victims’ Rights Constitutional Amendment, limiting defendants’ constitutional rights in court (H.J. Res. 48).
- Flag Desecration Constitutional Amendment, altering the First Amendment for first time in our nation’s history (H.J. Res. 4).

Rolling Back Civil and Constitutional Rights

- "Human Cloning Prohibition Act," interfering with therapeutic cloning as well as development of stem cell research (H.R. 534/ 2028).
- Series of court-stripping bills, such as legislation preventing federal courts from being able to strike down the Defense of Marriage Act and adjudicating legal challenges to the Pledge of Allegiance (H.R. 3313).
- Splitting up the Ninth Circuit, in an effort to micro-manage judicial affairs and limit the impact of federal judges in California (H.R. 2723).
- "Child Custody Protection Act," limiting the ability of women to seek otherwise lawful abortions across state lines (H.R. 1755).

Limiting Health, Safety and Consumer Rights

- "Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act," immunizing gun manufacturers from legal liability for harm caused by guns (H.R. 1036).
- Legislation making it more difficult for harmed victims to bring federal class action cases, for discrimination and other legal violations (H.R. 1115).
- Limiting rights of injured medical malpractice victims, by, among other things limiting pain and suffering and punitive damages (H.R. 5/4280).
- "Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act," mandating court imposed sanctions on attorneys in federal and state legal actions (H.R. 4571).
- Anti-consumer bankruptcy legislation, giving credit card companies and banks greater rights in bankruptcy at the expense of working Americans (H.R. 975).

Ranking Member Conyers also led the opposition to a number of ill-considered measures which were passed into law by the Republican Congress. These included:

- "Partial Birth Abortion Act," limiting a woman's right to choose a specific type of abortion even when her life or health is at stake (P.L. 108-105).
- "Unborn Victims of Violence Act," limiting a woman's right to choose by establishing a legal precedent that fetuses have independent legal status by making crimes against pregnant women two separate and independent crimes (P.L. 108-212).

III. Michigan-Related Grants and Appropriations

During the 108th Congress, Rep. Conyers requested and secured over \$11.7 million in grants for the Detroit area. He also led the effort to prevent the closing of the Detroit Medical Center by securing \$28 million in federal funds.

Grants

*Department of Justice – Community Oriented Policing Services
Homeland Security Overtime Program*

- \$56,504 for the City of Dearborn Municipal Police Department
- \$2,906,435 for the City of Detroit Police Department
- \$3 million for the Wayne County Sheriff's Department

Developing Crime Fighting Technologies

- \$1,283,843 for the City of Detroit Police Department
- \$1,465,304 for the Oakland County Sheriff's Department
- 989,477 for the Wayne County Sheriff's Department

Community Capacity Development Office

- \$500,000 for the Operation Weed and Seed Program Continuation Solicitation in Highland Park
- \$350,000 for the Operation Weed and Seed Program Application Guide and Application Kit in Highland Park and Detroit

National Institute of Justice

- \$56,348.05 for Crime Lab Improvement in Dearborn.

Department of Justice – Office of Justice Programs

Bureau of Justice Assistance

- \$570,945 for local law enforcement block grants to Allen Park, Hazel Park, Dearborn Heights, Lincoln Park, Dearborn, Brownstown, Southgate, Hamtramck, Redford, and Highland Park.
- \$170,000 was awarded to the city of Detroit by the Northwest Detroit Weed and Seed organization for Project Safe Neighborhoods Media Outreach and Community Engagement Program.
- \$225,000 was allocated by the Northwest Detroit Weed and Seed organization towards the Safe Neighborhoods program – through a Housing and Urban Development Grant.

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs

- \$199,590 for the Continuation of the Drug-Free Communities Support Program.

Detroit Medical Center – Closure Prevention

Rep. Conyers lead the effort to keep the Detroit Medical Center from closing its doors, due to a severe budget crisis that was adversely impacting the hospitals ability to remain open.

Because of Rep. Conyers' seniority, and his ability to work in a bi-partisan manner, Conyers met with senior White House and Health and Human Services officials from the Bush Administration, to begin exploring the possibility of having Health and Human Services expedite federal Medicaid funds slated for Michigan for health care purposes. Conyers worked closely with senior Detroit

Medical Center officials, The Michigan House delegation, and the Bush White House in order to make the federal dollars, approximately \$28 million worth, available for the Detroit Medical Center to keep its doors open to serve some of Detroit's poorest and most vulnerable citizens: those without health insurance and too poor for comprehensive health care services.

Former Michigan Supreme Court member Conrad Mallet, who was then a senior official at the Detroit Medical Center, helped to coordinate this effort with Rep. Conyers.

IV. Other

Awards

- Alabama A & M University William Hooper Council Award (2003).
- The Justice Gerald LeDain Award for achievement in the field of control and enforcement (2003).
- Wayne State University Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration (01/20/2003).
- Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO Civil Rights Award (04/11/2003).
- Commencement Speaker for Paul Quinn College (05/05/2003).
- NAACP National Voter Fund Pioneer Award (05/20/2003).
- Kappa Alpha Psi, Fraternity – Laurel Wreath Award (07/23/2003).
- The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. – Lifetime Achievement Award (07/24/2003).
- St. Marys Christian Fellowship image award (08/04/2003).
- Keynote speaker at Opening Session of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association (08/05/2003).
- Phoenix Center – Jerry B. Dwall Public Service Award (2004).
- Public Health Association – Distinguished Public Health Legislator Award (2004).
- The American-Arab Anti-discrimination Committee Alex Odeh Humanitarian Award (02/07/2004).
- Greenville Alumni Chapter Kappa Alpha PSI, Inc. (2/14/2004).
- Prevailing CDC 2004 (03/16/2004).
- The ACLU Fund of the National Capitol Area – the Henry W. Edgerton Civil Liberties Award (03/25/2004).
- Frederick Douglas Men of Strength Award (04/27/2004).

- USDA Coalition of Minority Employees – Award of Excellence for Advancing the Causes of Equality and Opportunity for USDA Employees (06/09/2004).
- The Universal Health Care Action Network – Diane Carlye Health Care Justice Award (11/12/2004).

107th Congress (2001-2002) (Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee)

I. Legislation introduced/passed into law by Rep. Conyers

Major legislation that Rep. Conyers was lead Democratic sponsor or helped manage that passed into law

- Help America Vote Act, based in significant part on Rep. Conyers' bill, H.R. 3295, creating incentives to replace punch-card and lever-based voting systems, creating the Elections Assistance Commission, and establishing the right to a provisional ballot and minimum election administration standards (P.L. 107-252).
- A total of 56 Public Laws were enacted by the Judiciary Committee as a result of more than 110 hearings, many of which were bipartisan and non-controversial, and as Ranking Member, Rep. Conyers was involved in the consideration of these measures, including public laws providing for compensation for the victims of the September 11 tragedy, requiring federal agencies to be responsible for violations of anti-discrimination and whistle blower laws; increasing criminal penalties for white collar criminals for securities fraud violations. Rep. Conyers also facilitated House approval of a resolution condemning bigotry and violence against Arab-Americans, American Muslims, and Americans from South Asia in the wake of the September 11 attack.

Legislation introduced

- Patient and Physician Safety and Protection Act, limiting work hours for residents to 80 hours per week and disallowing residents from working more than 24 hours at a stretch. Both the AMA and the Assn. of American Medical Colleges opposed the federal regulation of work hours. Before Conyers' bill, resident physicians complained of working 48 hours straight with no rest breaks for sleep, and making medical

errors and mistakes on patients due to severe sleep deprivation. However, on June 13, 2002, the Accreditation Council For Graduate Medical Education, (ACGME) reversed course, and adopted similar standards proposed in Rep. Conyers' HR 3236, where resident work hours were limited to no more than 80 hours per week. Rep. Conyers' bill garnered 70 Co-sponsors, and a national campaign was launched by resident physicians and medical students from across the nation in support of Rep. Conyers' bill (H.R. 3236).

- Universal Health Care Legislation, establishing a framework for single-payer health care covering all citizens of the United States (H. Con. Res. 99)
- Medi-Access Act, expanding the Medicaid program so that the entire nation's uninsured would have access to affordable and accessible health insurance coverage. Those with higher incomes would pay a monthly premium. Under the bill, the federal government paid 100% of the costs of the expansion of the Medicaid program. There is a similar provision in one of the key health insurance expansion provisions of the Affordable Care Act, where the federal government pays for most of the costs of a newly expanded Medicaid program, which would cover approximately 15 million uninsured Americans. (H.R.1142).
- Violence Against Women Civil Rights Restoration Act, rewriting portions of the Violence Against Women Act to make a person committing a violent crime motivated by gender to be held liable to the injured party if the violent act involved illegal narcotics, weapons, or if it interrupted the victim engaging in commercial activity (H.R. 429).
- Humanitarian Exports Leading to Peace Act, invalidating certain trade sanctions prohibiting the delivery of food and medical aid to Iraq (H.R. 742).
- National Bank Offshore Activities Act, designating all foreign banks with a branch domestically in the United States be subject to reporting requirements when the bank acquires another financial entity, as well as if the financial institution violates financial and/or labor laws (H.R. 2273).
- Fairness in Antitrust in National Sports Act, narrowing professional major league baseball's antitrust exemption to be in line with other sports at the national level when a franchise is relocated or eliminated (H.R. 3288).
- Restoration of Fairness in Immigration Act, establishing a Board of Visa Appeals, an Office of Border Patrol Recruitment and Retention, and reviewing the due process procedures related to expedited removal as

- well as detention proceedings. Designed to repeal unfair, burdensome, anti-immigrant provisions of the Immigration Act of 1996 (H.R. 3894).
- Military Tribunal Authorization Act, authorizing the President to establish military tribunals for non-U.S. citizens who are a part of al Qaeda or are terrorists connected to the events of September 11th, and are caught fleeing from Afghanistan but are not prisoners of war was introduced to serve as statutory alternative that complies with due process requirements in contrast to the Bush administration's unilateral actions (H.R. 4035).
 - Corporate and Criminal Fraud Accountability Act, designating Federal criminal code penalties for destroying, falsifying, or altering records when a firm is under Federal bankruptcy investigation. (H.R. 4098).
 - Freelance Writers and Artists Protection Act, permitting freelance artists and writers the same antitrust protections afforded to National Labor Relations Act recognized members of unions and employees engaging in collective bargaining (H.R. 4643).
 - United States Toxic Mold Safety and Protection Act, directing the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Institute of Health, and the Center for Disease Control to study the effects on a person's health related to the growth indoor mold. Further, the Environmental Protection Agency is directed to disseminate standards for detecting, preventing, and combating toxic mold. (H.R. 5040).
 - Internet Gambling Licensing and Regulation Commission Act, establishing the Internet Gambling Licensing and Regulation Study Commission to study the legal framework and regulations surrounding Internet gambling (H.R. 5760).

II. Committee Activities

As Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Conyers led the opposition to overreaching limits on our civil rights and civil liberties in the aftermath of the September 11 tragedies. On September 19, 2001, Rep. Conyers wrote a prescient op-ed in the *Washington Post* entitled "Liberty at Risk," warning about legislative overreaction unfairly targeting minorities and immigrants. He worked with Chairman Sensenbrenner to develop legislation enhancing law enforcement capabilities while providing the necessary safeguards to protect civil liberties, which passed the Judiciary Committee by vote of 36-0 (H.R. 2975) on October 3. Subsequently, however, the Bush Administration rejected the bipartisan agreement and substituted their own 342 page draft which passed the House and was signed into law on October 26,

2001. Ranking Member Conyers led the opposition to this ill-considered measure which, among other things, lowered the standard for the FBI to enter an individual's home without notice, broadened the types of "business records" the FBI could obtain (including library records) without showing probable cause, increased the types of National Security Letters the FBI could issue without judicial approval, and permitted deportation of immigrants for donating to non-profits they did not know had terrorist ties (P.L. 107-56). The enactment of the PATRIOT Act was followed by a series of unilateral actions by the Bush Administration raising significant civil liberties issues that Rep. Conyers was at the forefront of challenging, including closing certain deportation proceedings to the public, the indefinite detention of more than 1,200 individuals in the U.S., racial profiling of Muslim and Arab Americans, and the creation of secret military tribunals. (Rep. Conyers was also responsible for passing into law a procedure for obtaining DOJ IG review of civil liberties abuses in the legislation, which resulted in important disclosures about detainee mistreatment, NSC misuse, and other abuses.)

Rep. Conyers also led the successful opposition to the following extreme measures in his role as Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee. These included:

Constitutional Amendments

- Flag Desecration Constitutional Amendment, altering the First Amendment for first time in our nation's history (H.J. Res. 36).
- Tax Limitation Constitutional Amendment, requiring super-majority votes to increase taxes, including eliminating tax loopholes benefitting the rich (H.J. Res. 96).

Rolling Back Civil and Constitutional Rights

- "Partial Birth Abortion Act," limiting a woman's right to choose a specific type of abortion even when her life or health is at stake (H.R. 4965).
- "Unborn Victims of Violence Act," limiting a woman's right to choose by establishing a legal precedent that fetuses have independent legal status by making crimes against pregnant women two separate and independent crimes (H.R. 503).
- "Child Custody Protection Act," limiting the ability of women to seek otherwise lawful abortions across state lines (H.R. 476).

- Splitting up the Ninth Circuit, in an unprecedented effort to micro-manage judicial affairs and limit the impact of federal judges in California (H.R. 1203).

Limiting Health, Safety and Consumer Rights

- Anti-consumer bankruptcy legislation, giving credit card companies and banks greater rights in bankruptcy at the expense of working Americans (H.R. 333).
- "Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act," immunizing gun manufacturers from legal liability for harm caused by guns (H.R. 2037).
- Legislation making it more difficult for harmed victims to bring federal class action cases, for discrimination and other legal violations (H.R. 2341).
- Limiting rights of injured medical malpractice victims, by, among other things, limiting pain and suffering and punitive damages (H.R. 4600).

Ranking Member Conyers also helped organize the opposition to a number of ill-considered measures that were passed into law by the Republican Congress. These included:

- "Born Alive Infants Protection Act," limiting a woman's right to choose by establishing a legal precedent that aborted fetuses have independent legal rights (P.L. 107-207).
- Voted against and help organize against the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution, granting President Bush the authority to invade Iraq (P.L. 107-243).

III. Michigan-Related Grants and Appropriations

During the 107th Congress, Rep. Conyers requested and secured over \$4.3 million in grants for the Detroit area.

Grants

Department of Justice – Community Oriented Policing Services

Making Officer Redeployment Effective

- \$233,288 for the Brownstown Police Department
- \$431,561 for the City of Dearborn Municipal Police Department
- \$748,000 for the City of Detroit Police Department

COPS in Schools

- \$125,000 for the City of Rochester Hills Sheriff's Department
- \$125,000 for the Taylor Police Department

Police Integrity Training Initiative

- \$125,000 for the City of Detroit Police Department

Department of Justice – Office of Justice Programs

Bureau of Justice Assistance

- \$1,290,747.65 for local law enforcement block grants to Rockwood, Brownstown, Hazel Park, Hamtramck, Highland Park, Lincoln Park, Southgate, Allen Park, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, and Redford.

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs –

- \$206,167.61 Mentoring programs in Detroit

Community Capacity Development Office

- \$500,000 for the Operation Weed and Seed Continuation Solicitation program in Detroit

National Institute of Justice

- \$332,823.65 for the National Forensic Sciences Improvement Act Grant for Detroit

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs

- \$216,550. Family Based Youth Delinquency Prevention from Tender Loving Care Mercy Ministries in Detroit

IV. Other

- Rep. Conyers was a member of the coalition of U.S. soldiers, parents of U.S. soldiers, and Congressmen who challenged the constitutionality of the 2003 invasion of Iraq in Doe v. Bush. The case was ultimately dismissed for failing to "raise a sufficiently clear constitutional issue."
- Wrote an op-ed in *The New York Times* entitled "Voting Rights in Peril," stating that, "Election reform is necessary to preserve our system of democracy, and it is the foremost civil rights issue of our day," (01/30/02).

Awards

- National Black Caucus of State Legislators Nation Builder Award.
- National Congressional Award (2001).
- Metro Detroit Youth Day Appreciation Award (2001).
- United States Student Association recognition for being a friend of students in his work to end racial profiling and reform the criminal justice system (03/21/2001).
- Recording Academy Washington, D.C. Heroes Awards (03/21/2001).
- The Zenobia Payne-Drake Humanitarian Award (06/08/2001).
- Fannie Lou Hamer Political Action Committee (07/14/2001).
- Rainbow Push Coalition – Freedom Fighter Award (08/2001).
- National Bar Association Wiley A. Branton Issues Symposium Award (10/12/2001).
- Illinois Campaign for Better Health Care for dedicated commitment to moral beliefs in leading the fight for universal health care, civil liberties, and social justice for all (11/2001).
- Circle of Hope. The coalition, Inc. Commitment to Service Award. For commitment to children, families and the community (11/03/2001).
- Climate Change and Global Warming Wings Award (2002).
- NCH Legislative Advocacy Award (2002).
- Council on American-Islamic Relations – Leadership Award for Civil Rights (2002).
- Cathedral Church of St. Paul (2002).
- Metro Detroit Youth Day (2002).
- In recognition of efforts taken in the fight against Breast Cancer (2002).
- Fund for the Advancement of Music Education for support of musicians' intellectual property legislation and music education (03/06/2002).
- Human Rights Campaign – 100% Perfection in the Pursuit of Equality (03/07/2002).
- Muslim Public Affairs Council Free Speech Award (04/06/2002).
- American Immigration Lawyers Association – Congressional Leadership Award (06/15/2002).
- AAPD – Justice for All Disability Rights Award (07/26/2002).
- Participation in the First Annual LAP/Hmong Veterans of America Recognition Day (09/07/2002).
- NAACP – Clarence M. Mitchell Jr. – Simmons Award (09/09/2002).
- The Black Broadcasters' Alliance – Golden Mic Award (09/10/2002).
- Jazz Foundation of American – Global Contribution to Jazz Award (09/24/2002).

- Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression – thanking him for the time he spent representing those without a voice in Congress no matter where they live (12/14/2002).
- Rackham Symphony Choir & Michigan Opera Theatre (12/22/2002).

106th Congress (1999-2000) (Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee)

I. Legislation introduced/passed into law by Rep. Conyers

Major legislation that Rep. Conyers was lead Democratic sponsor that passed into law

- Violence Against Women Act, strengthening and reauthorizing the grant programs setup by the original Violence Against Women Act in 2000. Rep. Conyers co-sponsored and co-authored the VAWA reauthorization, and served as the bill's lead advocate in the House. Additionally, new programs were developed addressing abuse of elderly persons, women with disabilities, immigrants, and survivors of sexual assault. New provisions afforded increased protection to victims of dating violence, as well as strengthened the supervised visitation program. In 2000, the VAWA provision allowing women who were victims of sexual violence the ability to sue for civil damages in federal courts was struck down by the Supreme Court under the Constitution's Commerce Clause. The provision was struck down by a 5-4 majority in the case *United States v. Morrison*. (P.L. 106-386).
- Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform, (lead Democratic cosponsor) comprehensive reform of asset forfeiture laws to insure that innocent owners receive procedural protection against government takeover of their property (P.L. 106-185).
- Work Made For Hire and Copyright Corrections Act, (lead Democratic cosponsor) Rep. Conyers helped develop legislation to restore legal rights of artists to receive compensation for sound recordings (P.L. 106-861).
- A total of 73 Public Laws were enacted by the Judiciary Committee as a result of more than 140 hearings, many of which were bipartisan and non-controversial, and as Ranking Member, Rep. Conyers was involved in the consideration of these measures, including public laws criminalizing the depiction of animal cruelty; increasing funding to

combat child abuse and neglect; improving the effectiveness of abuse and neglect courts; providing funding to states to improve DNA analysis.

Legislation introduced or cosponsored

- Corporate Crime Database Act, requiring the Attorney General to acquire data regarding all legal proceedings against any corporation, to establish and maintain a public website on improper conduct by corporations, and to prepare an annual report detailing the number of civil, legal and administrative actions brought against any corporation or corporation official (H.R. 323).
- Traffic Stops Statistics Study Act, the precursor to Rep. Conyers' End Racial Profiling Act, targeting race-based traffic stops to stymie racial profiling (H.R. 1443).
- Quality Health Care Coalition Act, allowing physicians to collectively negotiate with health insurers to improve patient health and well being. This measure passed the House in 2000 (H.R. 1304).
- The Violent and Repeat Juvenile Offender Accountability and Rehabilitation Act, prohibiting placing indecent material online to protect children (H.R. 1501).
- Small Business Franchise Act, prohibiting fraudulent practices or deceptive measures by anyone operating or connected to a franchise (H.R. 3308).
- Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act, making it a crime, punishable by jail time or the imposition of a fine, to engage in the trafficking of horse remains (H.R. 503).
- End Government Reimbursement of Excessive Executive Disbursements Act, authorizing the Attorney General to limit or recover excessive compensation paid or payable by individuals that have received Federal financial assistance on or after September 1, 2008 (H.R. 1575).
- Haiti Empowerment, Assistance, and Rebuilding Act, authorizing appropriations from 2010 through 2014 to promote long-term, sustainable rebuilding and development in Haiti (H.R. 6021).

II. Committee Activities

Rep. Conyers again led the successful opposition to the following extreme measures in his role as Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee. These included:

Constitutional Amendments

- Flag Desecration Constitutional Amendment, altering the First Amendment for first time in our nation's history (H.J. Res. 33).
- Tax Limitation Constitutional Amendment, requiring super-majority votes to increase taxes, including eliminating tax loopholes benefitting the rich (H.J. Res. 37).
- Victims' Rights Constitutional Amendment, limiting defendants' constitutional rights in court (H.J. Res 64).

Rolling Back Civil and Constitutional Rights

- "Partial Birth Abortion Act," limiting a woman's right to choose a specific type of abortion even when her life or health is at stake (H.R. 3660).
- "Child Custody Protection Act," limiting the ability of women to seek otherwise lawful abortions across state lines (H.R. 1218).
- "Born Alive Infants Protection Act," limiting a woman's right to choose by establishing a legal precedent that aborted fetuses have independent legal rights (H.R. 4292).
- "Unborn Victims of Violence Act," limiting a woman's right to choose by establishing a legal precedent that fetuses have independent legal status by making crimes against pregnant women two separate and independent crimes (H.R. 2436).
- Helped resist efforts by the Republicans to intervene in the Elian Gonzalez matter, whereby a young Cuban boy was returned to his remaining family in Cuba.

Limiting Health, Safety, and Consumer Rights

- Anti-consumer bankruptcy legislation, giving credit card companies and banks greater rights in bankruptcy at the expense of working Americans (H.R. 833 – vetoed by President Clinton).
- Legislation allowing private property owners to more easily allege "takings" violations, with regard to environmental, health and safety regulations (H.R. 2372).
- Legislation making it more difficult for workers harmed by deadly asbestos, to obtain compensation from corporate wrongdoers (H.R. 1283).

- Legislation making it more difficult for harmed victims to bring federal class action cases, for discrimination and other legal violations (H.R. 1875).
- Legislation preventing harmed victims from being able to bring a product liability action, against a defendant more than 18 years after the date of manufacture, even if the harm was not discoverable during that time period (H.R. 2005).
- Legislation make it more difficult for harmed victims to seek compensation from "small businesses," in product liability cases (25 or fewer employees, regardless of size of revenues), including limiting pain and suffering and punitive damages (H.R. 2366).

III. Michigan-Related Grants and Appropriations

During the 106th Congress, Rep. Conyers requested and secured over \$4 million in grants for the Detroit area.

Grants

Department of Justice – Community Oriented Policing Services

Making Officer Redeployment Effective

- \$118,997 for the Charter Township of Redford’s Police Department
- \$25,000 for the Township of Grosse Ile Police Department

Universal Hiring Program

- \$75,000 for the Allen Park Police Department
- \$225,000 for the City of Rochester Hills Sheriff’s Department
- \$150,000 for the City of Woodhaven Police Department
- \$75,000 for the Brownstown Police Department

COPS in Schools

- \$125,000 for the Dearborn Heights Police Department
- \$125,000 for the City of Ferndale Police Department
- \$625,000 for the Highland Park Department of Public Safety

Department of Justice – Office of Justice Programs

Bureau of Justice Assistance

- \$1,353,302 for local law enforcement block grants to Trenton, Hazel Park, Dearborn Heights, Dearborn, Melvindale, Highland Park,

Lincoln Park, Redford, Hamtramck, Brownstown, Allen Park, and Southgate.

Community Capacity Development Office

- \$350,000 for the Operation Weed and Seed Program in Detroit and Highland Park

National Institute of Justice

- \$766,529 for Violence Against Women Training and local law enforcement block grants in Detroit

IV. Other

- In 2000, Rep. Conyers founded and Chaired the 44 Member “Congressional Universal Health Care Task Force” which was co-chaired by Rep. Donna Christensen, Rep. Barbara Lee, Rep. Schakowsky, Rep. Tierney, Rep. and Hilda Solis. The Task Force sponsored numerous Congressional briefings, symposiums, floor speeches, ad-hoc Congressional hearings inside and outside of Congress, and appeared at town hall meetings in order to shine light on the plight of the uninsured in America. The Congressional Black Caucus and the Progressive Caucus took up the cause of universal health care as major front burner issue due to Rep. Conyers’ leadership.

Awards

- Medal commemorating Rep. Conyers’ service in the Korean War on the 50th Anniversary of the War.
- Dream Weaver Award - I Have A Dream Foundation of Detroit (01/15/1999).
- Lifetime Achievement Award Detroit NAACP Branch from President Rev. Wendell Anthony and Executive Director Heaster Wheeler (4/30/2000).

105th Congress (1997- 1998) (Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee)

I. Legislation introduced/passed into law by Rep. Conyers

Major legislation that Rep. Conyers was lead Democratic sponsor or helped manage that passed into law

- Curt Flood Act, based in significant part on Rep. Conyers' bill, H.R. 22, eliminating Major League Baseball's antitrust exemption with respect to labor matters (P.L. 105-43).
- Digital Millennium Copyright Act, providing notice and takedown legal regime to protect copyrighted works on Internet (P.L. 105-34).
- A total of 70 Public Laws were enacted by the Judiciary Committee as a result of more than 180 hearings, many of which were bipartisan and non-controversial, and as Ranking Member, Rep. Conyers was involved in the consideration of these measures, including public laws allowing religious workers immigration entry to the U.S.; providing for the establishment of additional Boys and Girls Clubs facilities; helping state and local government acquire bullet proof vests; enhancing criminal laws against consumer fraud.

II. Committee Activities

As Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Conyers led the fight against the Republican Majority's unprecedented impeachment of President Clinton, for what was essentially a private affair. This was a months long effort by Rep. Conyers, which began when the controversial Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr submitted a referral to the House regarding the Monica Lewinsky matter on September 9, 1998, continued through investigation in the House Judiciary Committee, and culminated in a 3-day markup of impeachment articles on December 10, 11 and 12, 1998 and House floor consideration on December 18 and 19. Although three articles of impeachment (H. Res. 611) passed the House on largely party line votes, the articles were soundly defeated in the Senate the following year.

In addition, Rep. Conyers again led the successful opposition to the following extreme measures in his role as Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee. These included:

Constitutional Amendments

- Balanced Budget Amendment, necessitating balancing the budget on the back of seniors by raiding Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds and making it more difficult to increase debt limits (H.J. Res. 1).
- Term Limits Amendment, limiting the voters' right to elect congressional representatives for more than 12 years (H.J. Res. 2).
- Flag Desecration Amendment, altering the First Amendment for first time in our nation's history (H.J. Res. 54).
- Tax Limitation Amendment, requiring super-majority votes to increase taxes, including eliminating tax loopholes benefitting the rich (H.J. Res. 111).
- Victims' Rights Amendment, limiting defendants' constitutional rights in court (H.J. Res 71).

Rolling Back Civil and Constitutional Rights

- Limiting the government's ability to fight discrimination by banning affirmative action in all federal programs and activities (H.R. 1909).
- Limiting the anti-discrimination protections of the Fair Housing Act (H.R. 589).
- "Partial Birth Abortion Act," limiting a woman's right to choose a specific type of abortion even when her life of health is at stake (H.R. 1122).
- "Child Custody Protection Act," limiting the ability of women to seek otherwise lawful abortions across state lines (H.R. 3682).
- Limiting Civil Rights Commission, funding and legal authority (H.R. 3117).
- Birthright Citizenship, the Citizenship Reform Act and the Voter Eligibility Verification Act, limiting the constitutional guarantee of birthright citizenship (H.R. 7 and H.R. 1428).

Limiting Health, Safety and Consumer Rights

- Anti-consumer bankruptcy legislation, giving credit card companies and banks greater rights in bankruptcy at the expense of working Americans (H.R. 3150).

III. Michigan-Related Grants and Appropriations

During the 105th Congress, Rep. Conyers requested and secured over \$4.8 million in grants for the Detroit area. In addition, Rep. Conyers worked to have the Detroit River designated as an “American Heritage River.”

Grants

Department of Justice – Community Oriented Policing Services

Making Officer Redeployment Effective

- \$73,974 for the Allen Park Police Department
- \$45,918 for the Charter Township of Redford’s Police Department
- \$18,000 for the Riverview Police Department
- \$180,000 for the Taylor Police Department
- \$16,875 for the City of Woodhaven Police Department
- \$351,561 for the City of Dearborn Municipal Police Department

Universal Hiring Program

- \$75,000 for the Township of Grosse Ile Police Department
- \$150,000 for the Township of Highland Sheriff’s Department
- \$450,000 for the Township of Orion’s Sheriff’s Department
- \$75,000 for the City of Southgate’s Police Department
- \$150,000 for the Township of Springfield’s Sheriff’s Department
- \$75,000 for the Township of Addison Sheriff’s Department
- \$225,000 for the Charter Township of Independence Sheriff’s Department
- \$75,000 for the Lincoln Park Police Department
- \$150,000 for the City of Melvindale Police Department
- \$150,000 for the City of Woodhaven Police Department
- \$150,000 for the City of Wyandotte Police Department

Problem-Solving Partnerships

- \$92,280 for the Taylor Police Department

Small Community Grants Program

- \$15,000 for the Township of Addison Sheriff’s Department
- \$78,111 for the Hamtramck Police Department
- \$28,062 for the Highland Park Department of Public Safety
- \$15,000 for the City of Melvindale Police Department

Department of Justice – Office of Justice Programs

Bureau of Justice Assistance

- \$1,479,787.70 for local law enforcement block grants to Melvindale, Hazel Park, Highland Park, Dearborn Heights, Hamtramck, Lincoln Park, Southgate, Allen Park, Redford, Brownstown, and Dearborn.

National Institute of Justice

- \$150,934.06 for Violence Against Women Training

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs

- \$112,817.40 for the Prevention/Treatment Program for Juvenile Gangs in Detroit

Community Capacity Development Office

- \$500,000 for the Operation Weed and Seed Program in Detroit and Highland Park

Designation

Rep. Conyers worked alongside Detroit Mayor Archer to have the Detroit River designated as one of the fourteen “American Heritage Rivers” by President Clinton. This designation afforded the Detroit River increased federal protection against pollution, allowed for the creation of parks as well as paths alongside the river, and received special economic consideration for future riverside developments.

IV. Other

Awards

- Jazz FM Outstanding Leadership Award (1997).
- Alzheimer’s Association Award (05/21/1998).

104th Congress (1995-1996) (Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee)

I. Legislation introduced/passed into law by Rep. Conyers

Major legislation that Rep. Conyers was lead Democratic sponsor or helped manage that passed into law

- Carjacking Corrections Act, (lead sponsor) specifying that federal carjacking crime includes rape if committed as part of the crime (P.L. 104-217).
- Church Arson Prevention Act, (lead Democratic sponsor) responding to an outbreak in attacks on houses of worship, particularly African American churches, by facilitating the bringing of federal charges and using additional resources against the perpetrators of these crimes (P.L. 104-155).
- Digital Performance Right in Sound Recordings Act, (lead Democratic sponsor) allowing recording artists to receive compensation when their works are performed by means of a digital retransmission (P.L. 104-39).
- Telecommunication Reform, worked with Chairman Hyde to insure that pending telecommunications legislation included a role for the Justice Department to enforce the antitrust laws (P.L. 104-104).
- A total of 69 Public Laws were enacted by the Judiciary Committee as a result of more than 120 hearings, many of which were bipartisan and non-controversial, and as Ranking Member, Rep. Conyers was involved in the consideration of these measures, including public laws providing for enhanced lobbying disclosure; combating sexual crimes against children; providing educational assistance to the families of federal law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty; combating drug-induced sexual assaults; strengthening the protection of international human rights.

II. Committee Activities

As Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Conyers led the fight to thwart the bulk of Republican's "Contract with America," the largest portion of which went through the Judiciary Committee. The initiatives he successfully organized opposition to – all of which failed to obtain the votes for passage in the House, died in the Senate, or were vetoed by President Clinton – including:

- Balanced Budget Amendment: necessitating balancing the budget on the back of seniors by raiding Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds and making it more difficult to increase debt limits (H.J. Res 1).
- Term Limits Amendment: limiting the voters' right to elect congressional representatives for more than 12 years (H.J. Res 2).
- Limits on Exclusionary Rule: allowing the introduction of unlawfully obtained evidence in court (H.R. 665).

- Limits on Rights of Injured Tort Victims: bills (i) imposing series of restrictions on product liability victims, including limits on pain and suffering and punitive damages; and (ii) requiring individuals to pay attorney's fees of large corporate defendants in unsuccessful legal actions (H.R. 956 and H.R. 988).

In addition, much of the remaining agenda of the Speaker Gingrich-led Congress made its way through the Judiciary Committee, where Ranking Member Conyers again successfully led the opposition, helping prevent all of the following measures from passing into law. These included:

Constitutional Amendments

- Flag Desecration Amendment, altering the First Amendment for first time in our nation's history (H.J. Res. 79).
- Tax Limitation Amendment, requiring super-majority votes to increase taxes, including eliminating tax loopholes benefitting the rich (H.J. Res. 159).
- Victims' Rights Amendment, limiting defendants' constitutional rights in court (H.J. Res 173 and 174).
- School Prayer Amendment (H.J. Res. 184).

Rolling Back Civil and Constitutional Rights

- Limiting the government's ability to fight discrimination by banning affirmative action in all federal programs and activities (H.R. 2128).
- Limiting the anti-discrimination protections of the Fair Housing Act (H.R. 2927/4019).
- "Partial Birth Abortion Act," limiting a woman's right to choose a specific type of abortion even when her life or health is at stake (H.R. 1833).
- Limiting the Voting Rights Act, to prohibit bilingual ballots (H.R. 351).
- Limiting Civil Rights Commission, funding and authority (H.R. 3874).
- Imposing legal barriers to challenging unconstitutional state referendum, in federal court (such as California's anti-immigrant "Proposition 187"), by requiring that such cases to be heard by 3-judge panels (H.R. 1170).
- Birthright Citizenship: led opposition in a Republican hearing on December 13, 1995 entitled, "Societal and Legal Issues Surrounding Children Born in the United States to Illegal Alien Parents."

Limiting Health, Safety and Consumer Rights

- Repealing the assault weapons ban prior to its ten year sunset date (H.R. 125).
- Limiting rights of injured medical malpractice victims by, among other things, limiting pain and suffering and punitive damages (H.R. 2419).
- Limiting agencies' ability to issue health, safety and other regulations (H.R. 9, H.R. 450, H.R. 1047, H.R. 3136, and H.R. 3307).
- Limiting legal aid, funding as well as the types of cases legal aid attorneys are able to pursue (H.R. 227).
- Legislation allowing private property owners to more easily allege "takings" violations, with regard to environmental, health and safety regulations (H.R. 925).

Ranking Member Conyers also led the opposition to a number of ill-considered measures which were passed into law by the extreme Republican Congress, but he has continued to highlight the weaknesses, flaws and in some cases constitutional infirmities of these laws. These include:

- "Defense of Marriage Act," limiting the legal rights of same sex couples by defining marriage as the legal union of one man and one woman. Additionally, the law stated that no state may be required to recognize a same-sex marriage performed in another state. This legislation had broad implications for the security and welfare of same sex couples, who are excluded from federal programs, including health insurance, Social Security, and income and estate tax provisions otherwise available to couples married under state law (P.L. 104-99).
- "Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996" and the "Anti-terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act," limiting immigrant and other legal rights, including among other things, retroactively requiring that immigrants who committed low-level legal offenses be deported and separated from their families; and allowing the use of "secret evidence" in deportation cases, denying immigrants the opportunity to obtain court review of deportation orders, as well as limiting death penalty appeals in federal court, potentially allowing innocent defendants to be executed (P.L. 104-132 and 104-208);
- "Truth-in-Sentencing" and "Prison Litigation Reform Act," eliminating parole at the federal level and making it more difficult for prisoners to challenge unconstitutional over-crowding and other prison abuses (P.L. 104-34 and 104-208).

- Disapproving Amendments to the Federal Sentencing Guidelines relating to lowering the sentences for crack cocaine sentences (P.L. 104-138).

III. Michigan-Related Grants and Appropriations

During the 104th Congress, Rep. Conyers requested and secured over \$27.1 million in grants for the Detroit area.

Grants

Department of Justice – Community Oriented Policing Services:

Making Officer Redeployment Effective

- \$79,278 for the Allen Park Police Department
- \$4,738,231 for the City of Detroit Police Department
- \$45,718 for the City of Ferndale Municipal
- \$98,700 for the Wayne County Sheriff’s Department
- \$193,836 for the City of Woodhaven’s Police Department
- \$34,655 for the Ecorse Police Department
- \$111,000 for the Hamtramck Police Department

Funding Accelerated for Smaller Towns

- \$75,000 for the Township of Addison’s Sheriff’s office
- \$150,000 for the Allen Park Police Department
- \$75,000 for the Brownstown Township Police Department
- \$75,000 for the Ecorse Police Department
- \$150,000 for the Hamtramck Police Department
- \$75,000 for the Hazel Park Police Department
- \$140,311 for the Highland Park Department of Public Safety Police Department
- \$75,000 for the Highland Township Sheriff’s Department
- \$75,000 for the Lincoln Park Police Department
- \$75,000 for the Lyon Township Sheriff’s Department
- \$75,000 for the Melvindale Police Department
- \$75,000 for the Oakland Township Sheriff’s Department
- \$75,000 for the Orion Township Sheriff’s Department
- \$75,000 for the Wayne County Sheriff’s Department

Accelerated Hiring, Education, and Deployment

- \$150,000 for the Dearborn Heights Police Department
- \$7.2 million for the City of Detroit Police Department
- \$225,000 for the Oakland County Sheriff's Department

Troops to COPS veterans hiring program

- \$3,350 for the City of Detroit Police Department

Universal Hiring Program

- \$9 million for the City of Detroit Police Department
- \$150,000 for the Charter Township of Redford's Police Department
- \$75,000 for the City of Southgate's Police Department
- \$75,000 for the Allen Park Police Department
- \$150,000 for the Brownstown Police Department
- \$104,194 for the Ecorse Police Department
- \$225,000 for the City of Gibraltar Police Department
- \$1,058,724 for the Highland Park Department of Public Safety
- \$225,000 for the City of Melvindale Police Department
- \$75,000 for the Wayne County Sheriff's Department

Anti-Gang Initiative

- \$1 million for the City of Detroit Police Department

Domestic Violence

- \$175,059 to the City of Detroit Police Department

Department of Justice – Office of Justice Programs

Bureau of Justice Assistance

- \$531,022 for local law enforcement block grants to Highland Park, Dearborn Heights, Hamtramck, Lincoln Park, Southgate, Brownstown, and Hazel Park

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs

- \$114,290 for the Prevention/Treatment Program for Juvenile Gangs in Detroit

IV. Other

Awards

- Jesse Louis Jackson Award (01/27/1995).
- The Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday Commission – The Making of the King Holiday Award (01/08/1996).
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. – Dr. Eva L. Evans, International President for unparalleled legislative service and a monumental commitment to democracy in the United States Congress (07/15/1996).
- Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. - the Adam Clayton Powell Award (12/14/1996).

103rd Congress (1993-1994) (Chairman, Committee on Government Operations)

I. Legislation introduced/passed into law by Rep. Conyers

Conyers introduced bills passed into law

- The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Extension Act, extending the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (P.L. 103-345).
- Pattern or Practice Violations, permitting the Department of Justice to take action against law enforcement agencies that engage in unconstitutional and discriminatory behaviors associated with racial profiling. The provision has been used repeatedly since that time, most recently with the Department of Justice's overhaul of the New Orleans Police Department (Rep. Conyers' bill H.R. 3332 was incorporated into P.L. 103-322, the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 and became 42 U.S.C. § 14141).

Major legislation that Rep. Conyers cosponsored or managed that passed into law

- The Violence Against Women Act, providing \$1.6 billion to enhance investigation and prosecution of violent crimes perpetrated against women, imposed automatic and mandatory restitution on those convicted, and allowed civil redress in cases prosecutors chose to leave unprosecuted. Rep. Conyers was a lead sponsor of the original Violence Against Women Act in 1994. The bill sunsets every 6 years, and Rep.

- Conyers was a principal actor in each subsequent reauthorization (included in P.L. 103-322, the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994).
- The National Voter Registration Act, the “Motor Voter Act,” requiring state governments to allow for registration when a qualifying voter applies for or renews their driver's license or applied for social services (P.L. 103-31).
 - Government Performance and Results Act, establishing pilot programs to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Federal programs by setting goals for performance and results (P.L. 103-62).
 - Making Appropriations for the Treasury Department, the U.S. Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and Certain Independent Agencies for Fiscal Year 1994, amendment transferring a parcel of land it controls for a public purpose and creating an opportunity for the land to be transferred for educational use (P.L. 103-123).
 - National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994, amendment authorizing the no-cost transfer of suitable surplus real property at base-closure installations for the development of a water-port facility (P.L. 103-160).
 - Government Management Reform Act, creating a Franchise Fund Pilot Program to increase funds available to the executive branch agencies to help streamline shared administrative services (P.L. 103-356).
 - Base Closure Community Redevelopment and Homeless Assistance Act, establishing a collaborative process to determine the use of military bases after closer to ensure that the base is used to help the homeless and redevelop the community (P.L. 103-421).
 - To Require That Certain Payments Made to Victims of Nazi Persecution are Disregarded in Determining Eligibility for Need Based Services, (P.L. 103-286).
 - A total of 8 Public Laws were considered by the Committee on Government operations as a result of more than 182 days of public hearings, and as Chairman, Rep. Conyers was involved in the consideration of these measures, including the Comprehensive National Energy Policy Act, the National and Community Service Act, the Thrift Depositors Protection Act, and a requirement that the United States Postal Service rescind significant changes related to mail delivery standards, Federal Acquisition Improvement Act, National Historical Publications and Records Commission, To Provide for the Conveyance of Certain Land in the District of Columbia to the Columbia Hospital for Women to Provide a Site for the Construction of a Facility to House the National Women’s Health Resource Center, Vegetable Ink Printing Act,

To Provide Travel and Transportation Expenses to the Families of Certain Deceased Career Appointees in the Senior Executive Service.

Legislation introduced

- Revolving Door Sunshine Act, amending the Government in Sunshine Act to require certain government officials to report their official contacts with Congress and the executive branch for five years after they leave the Federal Government (H.R. 1593).
- The Expedited Rescissions Act, expanding Presidential rescission authority by allowing the President to propose a rescission within three days of signing an appropriations bill, by requiring the Appropriations Committee to vote on the rescission within ten days, and by permitting the Appropriations Committee to propose an alternative rescission (H.R. 1578). Rep. Conyers also introduced the Expedited Rescissions Act of 1994, providing for expedited rescission authority for the President (H.R. 4600).
- National Narcotics Leadership Act Amendments, reauthorizing the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). Legislation would authorize the ONDCP to require agencies to include specific initiatives in their budget proposal to OMB, require the evaluation of counter-narcotics programs, and make the Director a member of the National Security Council (H.R. 1926).

II. Committee Activities

As Chairman of the Committee on Government Operations, Rep. Conyers also held hearings and/or moved legislation in the following areas:

- Wasted Taxpayer Dollars: Rep. Conyers exposed \$310 billion in wasted taxpayer dollars. The subsequent report written about the wasted money helped lead to the Clinton Administration's "reinventing government" initiative, according to then Vice President Al Gore.
- Environmental Protection Agency: Hearings were held on considering elevating the EPA to cabinet status and to review EPA organization and administration problems to attempt to discover a way to correct the issues.
- Health Care Administration: Hearings were held on the establishment of a health information system, enhancing the privacy of medical records,

and measures to improve administration simplification of the health care system.

- **Federal Mandates**: The Committee reported favorably on H.R. 5128, the Federal Mandates Relief for State and Local Governments Act of 1994, which would establish procedures prior to the House to impose mandates on state and local governments and require the CBO to make cost estimates before such legislation can be considered. This concept was later added to the House Rules.
- **IRS Personnel Actions**: Investigated a personnel action taken by the IRS against an individual who testified before the Committee. The IRS rescinded the personnel action and the individual was detailed to another office.
- **INS Discrimination**: After hearing complaints of employment discrimination at the INS, Rep. Conyers asked the GAO to compile data on African American employees of the INS which revealed that minorities, especially African Americans, are underrepresented in senior management. Because of these inquiries, the Attorney General directed the Acting Commissioner of the INS to form a task force to examine employment discrimination in the INS and enforced a job freeze. The taskforce concluded that there was underrepresentation of African Americans in senior positions, and Rep. Conyers continued to press the INS to take steps to ensure African American representation in senior positions. Since the job freeze was lifted, African Americans began to occupy senior positions and EEO training is mandatory for all managers.

III. Michigan-Related Grants and Appropriations

During the 103rd Congress, Rep. Conyers requested and secured over \$2.7 million in grants for the Detroit area.

Grants

Department of Justice – Community Oriented Policing Services

PHASE 1 Police Hiring Supplement program

- \$1.5 million for the City of Detroit Police Department
- \$663,572 for the Highland Park Department of Public Safety, and police hiring through the Bureau of Justice Assistance Programs
- \$240,554 for the Hamtramck Police Department
- \$375,000 for the Taylor Police Department

IV. Other

- Rep. Conyers featured in Jack Anderson piece in the *Washington Post* entitled “John Conyers: Persistence and Power” (03/10/1994).
- Rep. Conyers featured on CBS News’ “60 Minutes” with Ed Bradley (05/22/1994).

102nd Congress (1991-1992) (Chairman, Committee on Government Operations)

I. Legislation introduced/passed into law by Rep. Conyers

Conyers introduced bills passed into law

- The Cash Management Improvement Act Amendments Act, requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to prescribe regulations for the timely disbursement of Federal funds with respect to each State by July 1, 1993 (P.L. 102-589).

Major legislation that Rep. Conyers cosponsored or managed that passed into law

- Unemployment Compensation Amendments of 1992, extending the emergency unemployment compensation programs through 1992 (P.L. 102-318).
- A total of 4 additional Public Laws were considered by the Committee on Government operations as a result of more than 217 days of public hearings, and as Chairman, Rep. Conyers was involved in the consideration of these measures, including the Comprehensive National Energy Policy Act, and a requirement that the United States Postal Service rescind significant changes related to mail delivery standards.

Legislation introduced

- Federal Property and Administrative Services Authorization Act, authorizes functions of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 and made reforms to procurement provisions (H.R. 3161).

- Local Partnership Act, authorizing \$3 billion from the United States Treasury to shore up needy local governments (H.R. 5798).
- Regulatory Sunshine Act, requiring the Office of Management and Budget, as well as the Council on Competitiveness, to make public their communication about pending regulations (H.R. 5702).
- Human Genome Privacy Act, expanding privacy laws to protect a person's genetic information from improper use and disclosure (H.R. 2045).

II. Committee Activities

As Chairman of the Committee on Government Operations, Rep. Conyers also held hearings and/or moved legislation in the following areas:

- Defense: testing fraud and improprieties in the Harrier II jet, review of the A-12 Navy Aircraft, review of the B-1B Strategic Bomber.
- New Economy: Analyzing the Bush Administration's strategic response to Japan's economic aggression against the U.S. computing industry.
Healthcare: analyzing politicization of AIDS prevention, obstacles to development of HIV infections, investigating the return of tuberculosis in New York and the federal failure in managing the problem, further examining public health issues stemming from asbestos and dioxin.
- Taxation: review of the modernization of the tax system, improving the administration and enforcement of employment taxes, evaluating the IRS' program to combat senior level misbehavior.
- Commerce and Finance: combating telemarketing fraud, scrutinizing short-selling activity in financial markets

III. Other

Awards

- Recognized by the National Association of Minority Business (05/02/1991).

101st Congress (1989-1990) (Chairman, Committee on Government Operations)

I. Legislation introduced/passed into law by Rep. Conyers

Conyers introduced bills passed into law

- The Hate Crimes Statistics Act, directing the Attorney General to acquire data, for 1990 through 1994, about crimes that manifest evidence of prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnicity (P.L. 101-275).
- The Chief Financial Officers Act, creating a Deputy Director for Management within the Office of Management and Budget, establishing in OMB an Office of Federal Financial Management, and establishing within each specified agency a Chief Financial Officer (P.L. 101-576).
- Cash Management Improvement Act, improving efficiency, effectiveness, and equity in the transfer of funds between state and federal governments (P.L. 101-453).
- The Martin Luther King Jr., Federal Holiday Commission Extension Act, extending the commission, which oversees observance of the holiday, until 1994 (P.L. 101-30).
- Designating May 25, 1989, as “National Tap Dance Day.” (P.L. 101-143).

Major legislation that Rep. Conyers cosponsored or managed that passed into law

- Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act, requiring the administration to provide Congress with two reports on civil monetary penalties (P.L. 101-410).
- The Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (Title IV Only, Dealing With the Use of Certain Public Real Property to Assist the Homeless), augmenting homeless assistance to providers seeking to make use of underutilized federal property (P.L. 101-645).
- The Hotel and Motel Fire Safety Act, response to the Dupont Plaza Hotel Fire in San Juan, Puerto Rico, encouraging fire equipment installation in hotels and motels (P.L. 101-391).
- The Agent Orange Compensation Exclusion Act, excluding compensation received by Vietnam veterans resulting from the settlement of a lawsuit seeking damages from manufacturers of Agent

- Orange, from being counted as income by means-testing programs in federal agencies (P.L. 101-201).
- A total of 6 additional Public Laws were considered by the Committee on Government Operations as a result of more than 263 days in public hearings, and as Chairman, Rep. Conyers was included in the consideration of these measures, including legislation reforming financial institutions; the Rural Telecommunications Improvements Act; the Advanced Rural Telecommunication and Economic Development Act; the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act.

Legislation introduced

- Reparations Commission, studying the lingering impacts of slavery on the African American community (H.R. 3745).
- Paperwork Reduction and Federal Information Resources Management Act, reauthorizing the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs and further minimizing the amount of paperwork required by federal agencies (H.R. 3695).
- Department of Environmental Protection Act, elevating the independent level Environmental Protection Agency to the Cabinet level. This bill also legislated internal restructuring of the agency including the creation of three new offices: the Office of International Environmental Affairs, the Office of Pollution Prevention and Recycling, and the Office of Enforcement. Currently, the Environmental Protection Agency is not a Cabinet level department, but the administrator of the agency is granted cabinet rank (H.R. 3847).

II. Committee Activities

As Chairman of the Committee on Government Operations, Rep. Conyers also held hearings and/or moved legislation in the following areas:

- Peace Corps: investigation into the organization's 30 years of service.
- Drug War: oversight of United States anti-narcotics activities in the Andean Region, investigating the role of demand reduction in the National Drug Control Strategy, investigating whether Operation Snowcap had been working to stop the flood of cocaine.
- Deceptive claims: investigation into the Agent Orange cover-up, the FDA's failure to prevent deceptive health claims for food.

- Health: investigation into mistreatment of Medicare patients, analysis of AIDS treatments.
- Commerce: investigations into financial institutions' misconduct, improper behavior by senior IRS managers.
- Housing and Urban Development: investigations into abuse of power and conflicts of interest within HUD.
- Postal: overseeing operations of postal facilities in line with changes to first class mail delivery.
- Defense: investigation and review of all facets of the Department of Defense and American military operations.

III. Other

- First African American Government Operations Chair.
- Wrote an op-ed in *The New York Times* entitled "RICO Reform: A second Windfall for S&L Crooks," stating that, "If the American people don't holler fast, the crooks who looted the nation's savings and loans are going to get off very cheaply." (07/09/90).

Awards

- Award from the Mayor of the City of Philadelphia (04/24/1989).

100th Congress (1987-1988) (Chairman, Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Member, Government Operations Committee)

I. Legislation introduced/passed into law by Rep. Conyers

Conyers introduced bills passed into law

- The Criminal Fine Improvements Act, amending federal judicial code to require the Director of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts to establish a judicial procedure to process fines, restitution, forfeiture of bail bonds or collateral, and assessments (P.L. 100-185).
- The Jazz Preservation Act, expressing the sense of Congress respecting the designation of jazz as a rare and valuable national American treasure (H. Con. Res. 57 passed the House of Representatives).

- Alcoholic Beverage Labeling Act, prohibiting manufacturing, importing, or bottling for sale or distribution in the United States any alcoholic beverage unless its container bears a Government warning statement that women should not drink alcohol during pregnancy because of the risk of birth defects, and that drinking alcohol impairs driving abilities (H.R. 5409 was incorporated into the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 that became P.L. 100-690).

Major legislation that Rep. Conyers cosponsored or managed that passed into law

- A total of 58 Public Laws were enacted by the Judiciary Committee as a result of more than 147 hearings, many of which were bipartisan and non-controversial, and as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Rep. Conyers was involved in the consideration of these measures, including public laws concerning the extension of intellectual property protections to semiconductor chips, establishing procedures to implement the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction done at The Hague, improving the treatment of claims for certain retirement benefits of former employees through the Retiree Benefits Bankruptcy Protection Act, implementing the United-States Canada Free-Trade Agreement, securing the rights of intellectual property licensors and licensees which come under the protection of the bankruptcy code, implementing the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works to further protect intellectual property rights by the international community, reauthorizing the Office of Government Ethics, implementing the International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide, preserving personal privacy through the Video Privacy Protection Act, among other legislative initiatives.

Legislation introduced

- Universal Voter Registration Act, establishing national standards for voter registration for Federal elections. Rep. Conyers has remained active in voter registration issues up to and including the current Congress (H.R. 3666).
- Rape Prevention Act, establishing a grant program for local rape prevention and control projects. Portions of this legislation foreshadowed the historic Violence Against Women Act enacted by Congress in 1994 (H.R. 3697).

- Racial Justice Act, to assure due process and equal protection of the law by permitting the use of statistical and other evidence to challenge the death penalty on the grounds of disproportionate patterns of imposition with respect to racial groups, and to prohibit such patterns. Rep. Conyers has remained active on these issues, and the legislation was marked up by the Judiciary Committee in the subsequent Congress (H.R. 3329).
- Public Safety Officers' Benefits Amendments, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to increase to the amount of benefits payable with respect to the death of public safety officers (H.R. 4758).
- Civil Liberties Act, to implement the recommendations of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (H.R. 442). Rep. Conyers also introduced legislation to prohibit discrimination on the basis of affectational or sexual orientation (H.R. 709). Rep. Conyers introduced further legislation restoring the broad scope of coverage and to clarify the application of title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (H.R. 1214).
- Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Procedure Amendments, to amend section 7A, of the Clayton Act to extend the waiting periods and to expand the applicability of the notification requirement; to make subject to such section persons who, while acting in concert, acquire voting securities or assets of another person; to require such notifications to include an economic impact statement (H.R. 586).
- To provide for a GAO investigation and report on conditions of displaced Salvadorans and Nicaraguans, to provide certain rules of the House of Representatives and of the Senate with respect to review of the report, to provide for the temporary stay of detention and deportation of certain Salvadorans and Nicaraguans (H.R. 618).
- Providing additional tools to combat terrorism, by amending the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (H.R. 621).
- To amend title 11 of the United States Code to prevent the rejection of contracts, whether executory or not, that provide hospitalization and health benefits to current or former employees of the debtor (H.R. 761).
- To amend chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, to allow members of the Armed Forces to sue the United States for damages for certain injuries caused by improper medical care (H.R. 1054).

- Immigration Exclusion and Deportation Amendments, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the grounds for exclusion and deportation of aliens (H.R. 1119).
- Fair Housing Amendments Act, to amend title VIII of the Act commonly called the Civil Rights Act of 1968, to revise the procedures for the enforcement of fair housing (H.R. 1158).
- Foreign Agents Compulsory Ethics in Trade Act, prohibiting the President, the Vice President, certain other former Federal civilian and military personnel, and Members of Congress from representing or advising foreign persons for a period of 4 years after leaving Government service (H.R. 1231).
- Insider Trading Prevention Act, providing increased penalties for insider trading of securities and related conduct (H.R. 1238).
- Grand Jury Procedural Protection Act, to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for dismissal of a criminal case, before or after judgment, upon a finding of error in the grand jury proceedings from which the indictment arose. Rep. Conyers also introduced the Grand Jury Procedural Protection Act, to provide for dismissal of a criminal case, before or after judgment, upon a finding of error in the grand jury proceedings from which the indictment arose. Rep. Conyers originally introduced legislation seeking reform of grand juries in the 93rd Congress (H.R. 1348 and H.R. 3308).
- Increasing the sums authorized to be appropriated for drug law enforcement programs, by modernizing the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act for the fiscal years 1988 and 1989 (H.R. 1411).
- Torture Victim Protection Act, to amend the United Nations Participation Act of 1945 to carry out obligations of the United States under the United Nations Charter and other international agreements pertaining to the protection of human rights by providing a civil action for recovery from persons engaging in torture (H.R. 1417).
- Extending the period during which certain payments are required to be made for the benefit of retired former employees, and preventing the rejection of contracts, whether executor or not, that provide hospitalization and health benefits to current or former employees of the debtor (H.R. 1488).
- Legalization Family Unification Act, amending the Immigration and Nationality Act to waive the continuous residence requirement under the legalization program for spouses and children of qualified legalized aliens (H.R. 1812). Rep. Conyers also introduced legislation to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to waive the continuous residence requirement under the legalization program for parents of U.S. citizen

children born on or after December 31, 1981, and before November 7, 1986 (H.R. 1813).

- National Policy and Technology Foundation Act, to advance the national prosperity, quality of life, by establishing this institute (H.R. 2165).
- U.S. Health Service Act, to establish a United States Health Service to provide high quality comprehensive health care for all Americans and to overcome the deficiencies in the present system of health care delivery (H.R. 2402).
- National Narcotics Leadership Act, to provide the framework necessary to pursue a coordinated and effective national and international narcotics control policy (H.R. 2454).
- Assistance of Counsel Before Grand Juries Act, allowing assistance of counsel in connection with grand jury proceedings (H.R. 2515).
- Prohibiting private assistance for military or paramilitary operations in a foreign country if the Congress has prohibited the use of covert assistance for such operations (H.R. 2522).
- Retirement and Survivor Annuities for Bankruptcy Judges and Magistrates Act, providing for retirement and survivors' annuities for bankruptcy judges and magistrates (H.R. 2586).
- Corporate Criminal Liability Act, providing penalties for nondisclosure of serious concealed dangers by certain business entities and personnel (H.R. 2664).
- Fairness in Insurance Act, to repeal the antitrust exemption applicable to the business of insurance (H.R. 2727).
- Retiree Benefit Protection Act, improving the treatment of claims for certain retiree benefits of former employees (H.R. 2969).
- Fraud Amendments Act, including in the definition of fraud for the purpose of Federal law suits frauds involving intangible rights (H.R. 3089).
- Criminal Jury Instructions Act, to amend the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure with respect to the timing of the court's instructions to the jury (H.R. 3102).
- Prohibiting the patenting of genetically altered or modified animals (H.R. 3119).
- Defining the type of adjournment that prevents the return of a bill by the President (H.R. 3141).
- Amerasian Homecoming Act, permitting the immigration of Vietnamese Amerasians to the United States (H.R. 3171).
- Providing for a General Accounting Office investigation and report on conditions of displaced Polish nationals, providing certain rules of the

- House of Representatives and of the Senate with respect to review of the report, to provide for the temporary stay of detention and deportation of certain Polish nationals (H.R. 3195).
- Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, creating a new offense for fraudulent activity, and to restructure the civil claims procedures (H.R. 3240).
 - Imposing criminal penalties for damage to religious property and for obstruction of persons in the free exercise of religious beliefs (H.R. 3258).
 - Criminal Fine Improvements Act, to improve certain provisions relating to imposition and collection of criminal fines (H.R. 3483).
 - Sentencing Reform Act Amendments Act, to make certain amendments to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 and to improve certain provisions relating to the imposition and collection of criminal fines (H.R. 3586).
 - Official Accountability Act, to provide for criminal penalties for Government officials who commit national security offenses (H.R. 3665).
 - Allowing a Federal judge who is at least 60 years of age and has completed 20 years of service to retire from regular active service (H.R. 3726).
 - Extending the Immigration and Nationality Act, for 1 year the application period under the legalization program (H.R. 3816).
 - Reproductive Health Equity Act, to amend various provisions of law to ensure that services related to abortion are made available in the same manner as are all other pregnancy-related services under federally-funded programs (H.R. 4168).
 - Americans with Disabilities Act, to establish a clear and comprehensive prohibit of discrimination on the basis of handicap. In the next Congress the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 was enacted (H.R. 4498).
 - Congressional and Judicial Equal Employment Opportunity Act, to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to prohibit discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, national origin, or age in employment in the legislative or judicial branches of the Federal Government, and to establish the Employment Review Board composed of senior Federal judges, which shall have authority to adjudicate claims regarding such discrimination (H.R. 4576).
 - Crime Control Act, restructuring the civil claims procedures as they relate to the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (H.R. 4920).

- Federal Bureau of Investigation First Amendment Protection Act, to regulate the conduct of the FBI in certain matters relating to the exercise of rights protected by the First Amendment (H.R. 5369).
- To support democracy and respect for human rights in Haiti (H.J. Res. 416).
- To express the sense of the Congress concerning Soviet prisoners of war in Afghanistan (H. Con. Res. 169).

II. Committee Activities

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Rep. Conyers also held hearings and/or moved legislation in the following areas:

- Civil Rights: expanding the prohibitions against racial, sexual, and age discrimination to encompass more public and private institutions.
- Sentencing reform: streamlining sentencing procedures for where there were no guidelines, and granting the U.S. Sentencing Commission the authority to conceive as well as distribute temporary sentencing guidelines.
- Child Abduction: expanding State and U.S. District Courts' jurisdiction over child abduction cases while also requiring that the courts protect the well-being of any child held in custody within the judicial system.
- Bankruptcy: amending federal bankruptcy law to provide for legal representation for retirees in cases involving the reorganization of retiree benefits; amending federal bankruptcy law to provide for special revenue bonds; and authorizing the appointment of additional federal bankruptcy judges.
- Supreme Court: legislation providing greater discretion to the Supreme Court in selecting cases it will review.
- Fair Housing: amending the Fair Housing Act to provide for increased protections against discrimination to individuals with mental or physical handicaps.
- Firearms Control: prohibiting the manufacture, sale, or possession of firearms that are not capable of detection by x-rays or metal detectors

III. Other

Awards

- The Detroit Jazz Center Exchange Program Award (1987).
- International Jazz Hall of Fame – The IJHF National Jazz Heritage Award (11/21/1987).
- National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers – Champion of Justice Award (1988).

99th Congress (1985-1986) (Chairman, Subcommittee on Criminal Justice; Member, Government Operations Committee)

I. Legislation introduced/passed into law by Rep. Conyers

Conyers introduced bills passed into law

- The Sexual Abuse Act, increasing penalties for more serious sexual abuse crimes including: (1) aggravated sexual abuse; (2) sexual abuse; (3) sexual abuse of a minor or ward; and (4) abusive sexual conduct (P.L. 99-654).
- The Bank Bribery Amendments Act, making it a Federal crime to bribe any official of a bank or other financial institution (P.L. 99-370).
- The Sentencing Reform Amendments Act, amending the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984 to extend to 30 months after October 12, 1984, the deadline for the submission of the initial set of sentencing guidelines by the United States Sentencing Commission (P.L.99-217).
- Amendment to the Sentencing Reform Act, permitting senior status judges to serve as members of the United States Sentencing Commission and authorizing the Administrative Office of the United States Courts to make an initial appropriations request for the Commission (P.L.99-22).

Major legislation that Rep. Conyers cosponsored or managed that passed into law

- Criminal Law and Procedure Technical Amendments Act, modernizing restitution provisions of the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984, establishing a Crime Victim Fund in the Treasury, and making technical changes to the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984 (P.L. 99-646).
- A total of 59 Public Laws were enacted by the Judiciary Committee as a result of more than 141 hearings, many of which were bipartisan and non-controversial, and as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Criminal

Justice, Rep. Conyers was involved in the consideration of these measures, including public laws concerning the granting of a Federal charter to the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, legislation providing enhanced diplomatic security to combat international terrorism, legislation authorizing appropriations to the Administrative Conference of the United States, combating fraud through the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, legislation requiring states to develop and implement comprehensive mental healthcare plans, amending the patent law, and legislation strengthening the prohibition of kickbacks relating to Federal Government subcontracts, among other legislative initiatives.

II. Committee Activities

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Rep. Conyers also held hearings and/or moved legislation in the following areas:

- Sexual Assault: legislation to modernize and reform federal rape laws, measures making felonious sexual molestation of children in Indian country a federal crime.
- Civil/Religious rights: legislation to require the FBI to collect and publish data about certain crimes directed at religious property or a religious activity and certain crimes that are committed to express racial, ethnic, or religious prejudice, oversight hearings were held on the implementation of the Victim and Witness Protection Act of 1982 which was the fiscal year 1986 authorization request for the Justice Department's Criminal Division, ethnically-motivated crime against Arab-Americans, and anti-gay violence.
- Racketeer Influence and Corrupt Organizations Act: 9 hearings were held on bills to amend RICO to make it more difficult for private parties to sue under RICO, and the subcommittee marked up legislation which passed that House.
- Grand Jury: 5 hearings were held on bills to modernize Federal grand jury procedures.
- Death Penalty: 5 hearings were held on legislation that would establish criteria for the imposition of the death penalty by Federal courts.
- Crime: legislative hearings on drunk driving, federal pretrial discovery practices, increasing criminal penalties for falsification of aviation records and for violations of safety regulations, and federal espionage laws.

III. Other

- Wrote an op-ed in *The New York Times* entitled “The Death Penalty Lottery,” stating that, “The death penalty is as impractical, arbitrary, and discriminatory as ever and is likely to remain so. The death penalty is determined largely by the countless vagaries of the criminal justice system.” (07/01/85).

98th Congress (1983 – 1984) (Chairman, Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Member, Government Operations Committee)

I. Legislation introduced/passed into law by Rep. Conyers

Major legislation that Rep. Conyers cosponsored or managed that passed into law

- After Rep. Conyers had repeatedly resubmitted the legislation, Congress finally enacted H.R. 3706, the law designating a federal holiday honoring the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. (P.L. 98-144).
- A bill to amend title 18 of the United States Code with regard to the admissibility of business records located in foreign nations, dealing with problems in prosecuting offenses when records needed as evidence are kept in other countries. (Chairman Conyers introduced H.R. 5919, provisions identical to those in H.R. 5919 were included in part K of Chapter XII of Title II of the continuing resolution that was enacted as P.L. 98-473).
- Criminalizing the possession of contraband in prison, the Subcommittee amended H.R. 5577 and ordered it reported favorably as a clean bill, H.R. 5910. The House passed the clean bill, and the provisions of H.R. 5910 were included in H.R. 5690, the “Anti-Crime Act of 1984,” including a prison contraband provision (Part H of Chapter XI of Title II of the continuing resolution that was enacted as P.L. 98-473).
- A bill to amend title 18 of the United States Code with respect to escape from custody resulting from civil commitment, eliminating a loophole by making it a crime to escape from Federal custody resulting from a finding of civil contempt of court, from mental incompetency at the end of a prison term, and from commitment following acquittal by reason of insanity. H.R. 5526 was passed in the House, but was pending in the

Senate at the end of Congress. However, Part L of Chapter X of Title II of the continuing resolution that was enacted as Public Law 98-473 included the escape from civil custody measure.

- Financial Bribery and Fraud Amendments Act, addressing deficiencies in law regulating the conduct of banking officials (Parts E, F, and G of the Chapter XI of Title II of the continuing resolution were enacted as Public Law 98-473).
- Federal Officials Protection Act, Rep. Conyers introduced H.R. 5150, and the committee received testimony on the matter. This bill made it a Federal crime to assault members of the intelligence community or Federal probation officers engaged in, or because of, official duties. Similar provisions were included in Parts F, G, and K of Chapter X of Title II of the continuing resolution that became Public Law 98-473).
- A total of 56 Public Laws were enacted by the Judiciary Committee as a result of more than 162 hearings, many of which were bipartisan and non-controversial, and as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Rep. Conyers was involved in the consideration of these measures, including public laws concerning the prohibition of tampering with certain consumer products, legislation combating international terrorism, increasing intellectual property protections through the Trademark Clarification Act, and the Patent Law Amendments Act, among other legislative initiatives.

Legislation introduced

- Forbidding the recording by public officers and employees of telephone conversations without the consent of all parties to such conversations, (H.R. 5873).

II. Committee Activities

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Rep. Conyers held hearings and/or moved legislation in the following areas:

- Criminal Victim Compensation: assisting victims of crimes.
- Criminal Fines: raising the maximum criminal fine levels, and strengthening procedures for collecting fines.
- Insanity Defense: modifying the insanity defense in Federal Courts.
- Use of Drugs in Horseracing: further hearings were held concerning the matter.

- Modernizing and Reforming Federal rape laws: The Subcommittee held two hearings on the matter. They acted and ordered a clean bill introduced and reported favorably on the committee. Chairman Conyers introduced H.R. 6284, the clean bill, the provisions of which were included in H.R. 5690, the “Anti-Crime Act of 1984.” H.R. 5690 was approved by the House, but was pending before the Senate at the end of Congress.
- In his role as Subcommittee Chair, Rep. Conyers also convened subcommittee hearings in New York City after reports of police abuse. These hearings led to the appointment of Benjamin Ward, the first African American police commissioner in New York City.

III. Other

- Wrote an op-ed in *The New York Times* entitled “Insensitive to Black’s Health,” stating that, “Central to any political strategy aimed at reclaiming the basic right to a healthy workplace and environment is the coalescing of labor, minority groups, women, environmentalists and other citizens who share a common interest in preservation of occupational and environmental health.” (12/28/83).

97th Congress (1981 – 1982) (Chairman, Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Member, Government Operations Committee)

I. Legislation introduced/passed into law by Rep. Conyers

Major legislation that Rep. Conyers cosponsored or managed that passed into law

- Victims’ Protection, legislation requiring that a victim impact report be included in presentence reports, making restitution a separate criminal penalty, strengthening provisions concerning witness and victim tampering and retaliation, requiring the Attorney General to set and implement guidelines on the fair treatment of victims and witnesses, authorizing a federal court to revoke bail when a defendant released on bail commits a witness tampering offense, and requiring the Attorney General to report to Congress that legislation preventing Federal felons

from profiting from books, movies, articles, and other such objects about the offense (P.L. 97-291).

- A total of 58 Public Laws were enacted by the Judiciary Committee as a result of more than 139 hearings, many of which were bipartisan and non-controversial, and as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Rep. Conyers was involved in the consideration of these measures, including public laws concerning increasing intellectual property protections against the piracy of records, tapes and films, legislation requiring the Attorney General to acquire and share information to help officials at all levels of government locate missing people, and establishing penalties for specific false identification related crimes among other legislative initiatives.

Legislation introduced

- A bill to grant Federal employees the right to strike (H.R. 4375).
- The Criminal Code Sentencing Act, establishing new sentencing provisions that require the court to impose the least severe measure necessary to achieve the purposes of sentencing and state on the record the reasons for imposing a particular sentence (H.R. 4492).
- The United States Academy of Peace Act, establishing an academy of the same name as an independent nonprofit corporation designed to promote peace domestically and abroad (H.R. 6182).
- Criminal Code Revision Act, re-codifying Federal criminal law, as well as reviewing topics such as: habeas corpus reform, the death penalty, sex offenses, and grand jury reform (H.R. 4711 and H.R. 5703).

II. Committee Activities

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Rep. Conyers held hearings and/or moved legislation in the following areas:

- Sports Violence Act: controlling excessive violence in professional sports. Legislation was introduced providing criminal sanctions for the use of excessive force in professional sports that resulted in significant physical injury (H.R. 2263).
- Insanity Defense: defining the insanity defense in Federal courts to require defendants to prove insanity by a preponderance of evidence, placing limitations on psychiatric testimony at trial, revising Federal procedure for dealing with persons incompetent to stand trial, and

- establishing a Federal commitment procedure for persons acquitted by reasons of insanity (H.R. 7259).
- Horseracing: investigating the problem of the use of drugs on racehorses, and placing the drug problem under Federal supervision through the Drug Enforcement Administration (H.R. 2331).
- Public Safety Officers' Benefit Act: enlarging the class of officers whose survivors could recover the \$50,000 supplemental death benefit by including individuals who died as a result of ingesting a poisonous material or from extreme physical stress (H.R. 1968).
- Government Publications: modifying the restrictions placed on the publication of certain Government instruments, such as pictures of stamps and currency (H.R. 4275).

96th Congress (1979 – 1980) (Chairman, Crime Subcommittee; Member, Government Operations Committee)

I. Legislation introduced/passed into law by Rep. Conyers

Major legislation that Rep. Conyers cosponsored or managed that passed into law

- The Dispute Resolution Act, establishing dispute resolution procedures between the U.S. Postal Service and supervisors (Rep. Conyers co-sponsored H.R. 2863, a similar measure to H.R. 827, the Dispute Resolution Act that ultimately became P.L. 827).
- A total of 47 Public Laws were enacted by the Judiciary Committee as a result of more than 92 hearings, many of which were bipartisan and non-controversial, and as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime, Rep. Conyers was involved in the consideration of these measures, including public laws concerning the authorization of funds for the Department of Justice, legislation to implement the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977, the Magistrate Act of 1979, a restructuring of the Federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, the Refugee Act of 1980, the Soft Drink Inter-brand Competition Act, the establishment of a fact finding Commission on Wartime Relocations and Internment of Civilians Act, providing for personal protection to the spouses of major Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates, the Antitrust Procedural Improvement Act of 1979, the Customs Court Act of 1979, the Appellate Court

Reorganization Act of 1980, the Classified Procedures Act, the Judicial Conduct and Disability Act of 1979, an extension to the Small Business Administration's minority business development programs, the Gasohol Competition Act of 1980, the Gold Star Wives of America, and amendments to the patent and trademark intellectual property laws.

Legislation introduced

- The "Pretrial Services Act of 1980," requiring the Director of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts to establish a pretrial services agency in each judicial district. The bill would expand the background checking provisions developed under the Speedy Trial Act of 1974, from ten federal judicial districts to the entire federal district court system (H.R. 7084). One notable area of concern for the subcommittee was pretrial services that had been developed under the Speedy Trial Act of 1974. Being pilot tested in ten representative federal judicial districts, these pretrial services agencies are responsible for conducting background checks and providing them to judges or magistrates, as well as supervising people released from pretrial custody. Following two subcommittee hearings, Subcommittee Chairman Conyers introduced H.R. 7084 to expand the Pretrial Service Agency from ten judicial districts to the entire federal district court system. Two years later similar legislation, S. 923, the Pretrial Services Act of 1982, sponsored by Sen. Biden, became public law (H.R. 7084).

II. Committee Activities

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime, Rep. Conyers also held hearings and/or moved legislation in the following areas:

- LEAA Oversight: reauthorizing and restructuring the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, an agency within the Department of Justice that administers grant funding to local law enforcement. As with prior Congresses, the Subcommittee on Crime in the 96th Congress continued to oversee the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. In particular, the subcommittee considered legislation to reauthorize and restructure the LEAA. In an effort to reform the administration, Chairman Conyers sponsored H.R. 2108- a complete overhaul of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968. In response to these suggested changes, the subcommittee held 9 hearings in

Washington, D.C. as well as various large cities. The focus of these hearings ranged from the LEAA's white-collar crime programs, juvenile delinquency programs, and propositions to develop a Bureau of Justice Statistics. Ultimately, the full committee Chairman Peter Rodino's LEAA restructuring bill, H.R. 2061, was enacted into law, authorizing the LEAA \$825 million to the administration and internally restructuring (P.L. 96-157).

- Oversight hearing on firearms safety: focusing on gun safety efforts by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.
- White Collar Crime: focusing on criminal liability for corporations that failed to inform the government of serious dangers in their products. Under Chairman Conyers' leadership, the Subcommittee on Crime followed up on their efforts in the 95th Congress concerning the topic of white collar crime (H.R. 2061).
- Corporate abuses by the oil industry: leading investigative hearings into charges that the oil industry was artificially inflating prices.
- Parental Kidnapping: relating to the 25,000 to 100,000 children abducted each year by a noncustodial parent, which ultimately lead to the Domestic Violence Prevention and Services Act augmenting the FBI's authority in these areas. A hearing and several legislative vehicles were brought up to address the matter (H.R. 2977).
- Violence: investigating matters relating to police-community relations, police use of deadly force, violence in sports, and heightened levels of violence against minority citizens.

III. Other

- Wrote an op-ed in *The Washington Post* entitled "To Honor a Man and a Spirit," stating that, "By commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birth date, we do more than honor one man, however extraordinary, we honor the profound spirit of love, and concern that guided his life and inspired his fellow men." (10/29/79).

95th Congress (1977 – 1978) (Chairman, Crime Subcommittee; Member, Government Operations Committee)

I. Legislation introduced/passed into law by Rep. Conyers

Conyers introduced bills passed into law

- Prohibiting any child under the age of sixteen to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purposes of producing materials that are to be mailed or transported in interstate commerce, prohibiting the sale or distribution of obscene material containing children engaging in sexually explicit activities if the materials have been mailed or transported in interstate commerce. This legislation also prohibits the transportation of people less than eighteen years of age to engage in prostitution or other sexually explicit conduct for commercial purposes. (H.R. 8059, incorporated into P.L. 95-225).
- Making it unlawful to knowingly transport, sell, distribute, or purchase “contraband cigarettes,” Dealers were required to keep records and the “Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization” (RICO) statute was amended to include cigarette bootlegging as a specifically enumerated offense (H.R. 8853 incorporated into P.L. 95-575).

Major legislation that Rep. Conyers cosponsored or managed that passed into law

- Pretrial Services Agencies: amending the Speedy Trial Act of 1974, to allow for additional appropriations, and continued authorizations, for pretrial service agencies to continue. Ultimately the State, Justice, Commerce, Judiciary Appropriations contained additional appropriations for pretrial services agencies (S. 2937).
- Unemployment and Crime: a series of hearings on the relationship between unemployment and crime were held. During these hearings, the committee investigated allegations that the DOL’s offender program under Title III under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973 (CETA) was not being implemented. (The Subcommittee on Crime did not have jurisdiction over CETA so the amendments to H.R. 12542 were referred to the Subcommittee on Employment Opportunities and were enacted into law on October 27, 1978 as part of P.L. 95-524).
- A total of 56 Public Laws were enacted by the Judiciary Committee as a result of more than 83 hearings, many of which were bipartisan and non-controversial, and as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime, Rep. Conyers was involved in the consideration of these measures, including public laws concerning the establishment of an Associate Attorney General within the Department of Justice, granting a five year extension to the Commission on Civil Rights, incorporating the United States

Capitol Historical Society, providing for more effective employment of interpreters in United States courts, among other legislative initiatives.

II. Committee Activities

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime, Rep. Conyers also held hearings and/or moved legislation in the following areas:

- White-Collar Crime: a review of the definition, cause, extent, and costs of white collar crime were investigated by the subcommittee. In addition, the subcommittee assessed the charges that the federal responses to white-collar crime were inadequate. Rep. Conyers initiated activities to supplement these hearings, including two GAO investigations and a systems analysis of Justice Department referral and disposition of white-collar crime cases.
- Crime and Criminal Justice Research: investigative hearings were held to determine the role of the federal government in crime and criminal justice research. Legislation creating a separate research institute and statistics bureau, the National Institute of Justice, was considered. (H.R. 13948).
- Strengthening gun reporting requirements: following oversight hearings on proposed regulations by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms relating to the Gun Control Act of 1968. These regulations required that firearms dealers report thefts and losses of firearms, that the ATF receive reports of all commercial transactions between firearms licensees, and that each firearm imported into the United States contain a unique serial number.

94th Congress (1975 – 1976) (Chairman, Crime Subcommittee; Member, Government Operations Committee)

I. Legislation introduced/passed into law by Rep. Conyers

Conyers introduced bills passed into law:

- Amending the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, authorizing the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) for another three years and creating the Office of Community Anti-Crime

which assists citizens in fighting crime, helps enforce civil rights legislation, develops standards to improve State and local correctional facilities, and funds programs focused on reducing crime against the elderly. In addition, this legislation provided grant money that went towards the development of YouthBuild, a program geared towards helping low income young adults receive their high school diplomas or GEDs. Further, the program allows young adults to gain on the job experience as they construct affordable houses (H.R. 13636 was incorporated into the Senate version of the bill, S. 2212, and became P.L. 94-503).

Major legislation that Rep. Conyers cosponsored or managed that passed into law

- Copyright reform, amending Title 17 of the United State Code relating to copyright law. This historic copyright legislation lengthened the protection term from 28 years, with an additional 28 year renewal period, to for the entire life of the author plus 50 years. In addition to clearly delineating the different subject matters afforded copyright protection, the Copyright Act of 1976 also codified the legal notion of fair use (P.L. 94-553).
- Extension of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, for seven years (P.L. 94-73).
- A total of 48 Public Laws were enacted by the Judiciary Committee as a result of more than 68 hearings, many of which were bipartisan and non-controversial, and as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime, Rep. Conyers was involved in the consideration of these measures, including public laws concerning Title 17 of the United State Code relating to reform of the United States' immigration policy that established a preferential system of governance for immigration from the Western Hemisphere, the Administrative Procedures Act increasing executive transparency, and a revision of Chapter 9 of the Bankruptcy Act.

Legislation introduced

- The Federal Firearms Act, disqualifying persons, such as felons and mental incompetents, from having access to handguns, increasing the license fees, imposing additional qualifications on prospective licensees, prohibiting a dealer from transferring a handgun within twenty-one days unless the prospective purchaser passed a background check, prescribing penalties for carrying or using a handgun during the commission of a

felony, and establishing a National Handgun Tracing Center. This legislation was a precursor to the Brady Act which became public law in 1994 (H.R. 11193).

II. Committee Activities

During the 94th Congress there was a particular emphasis in the Subcommittee on Crime on firearms and gun safety. This is made evident by the sheer quantity of firearms bills that were considered in the Subcommittee on Crime: 125 of the 258 total bills considered. The Subcommittee held 24 hearings in total on gun safety, in both Washington and regional locations including Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Denver, Atlanta, and New York City. The principal focus of these hearings was to determine the role handguns played in urban violence, what are some of the legitimate uses of firearms, and the effectiveness of Federal, State, and local laws in reducing firearm violence. The regional field hearings were televised to allow for a national public debate on the issues, and to gauge the level of citizen support for stricter laws. In all, some 200 witnesses, experts, and citizens' groups panels participated directly, with thousands of Americans watching the broadcast hearings.

Following the year-round hearings, Rep. Conyers garnered valuable information on the federal government's initiatives to stem gun violence through work with the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. The Director responded to a letter from Rep. Conyers, and would go on to testify before the Subcommittee on Crime. In addition, Rep. Conyers sent letters to the 34 total federally licensed firearms manufacturers, and used their responses to compile statistics as well as records, that shaped the gun safety legislation. Subsequently, Rep. Conyers worked with the Chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Comptroller General, the Chief of Police of the District of Columbia, and GAO analysts to formulate a suitable gun control bill.

93rd Congress (1973 – 1974) (Chairman, Crime Subcommittee; Member, Government Operations Committee)

I. Legislation introduced/passed into law by Rep. Conyers

Conyers introduced bills passed into law

- Speedy Trial Act, requiring expeditious consideration of indictment information, arraignment and trial of federal criminal cases. All information or indictments required to be filed within 30 days of the trial, the arraignment to be held within 10 days of the filing date, and if the defendant pleads not guilty the trial must commence within 60 days from the time of the arraignment. (P.L. 93-619).

Major legislation that Rep. Conyers cosponsored or managed that passed into law

- A total of 60 Public Laws were enacted by the Judiciary Committee as a result of more than 64 hearings, many of which were bipartisan and non-controversial, and as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime, Rep. Conyers was involved in the consideration of these measures, including public laws concerning the establishment of the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, eliminating discrimination based on sex within programs run by the Naval Sea Cadet Corps., and allowing girls to participate alongside boys in Little League Baseball, among other legislative initiatives.

Legislation introduced

- Requesting that the President appoint a special prosecutor in connection with the Presidential election of 1972, to investigate allegations of voting irregularities and possible voter fraud (H. Res. 391).
- The Omnibus Penal Reform Act, establishing minimum prison and parole standards. This reform measure came about after national findings demonstrating that without minimum standards in prisons there is a heightened occurrence of disorder and aggression (H.R. 7792).
- The Community Anticrime Assistance Act, providing cities with Federal assistance for improving police-community relations and encouraging citizen involvement in crime prevention programs (H.R. 9175 and H.R. 10602. Eventually the “Cops on the Beat” legislation was passed into law in 1995).
- Repealing provisions relating to the antiriot provisions that had been incorporated in the Civil Rights Act of 1968, these provisions had been included in the landmark civil rights legislation following the urban riots during the summer of 1967, but there was a concern the provision unfairly targeted African American political activists (H.R. 9445).

- Grand Jury Reform Act, establishing rules with respect to the appearance of witnesses before grand juries to better protect their constitutional rights. Additional protections included allowing for uncooperative witnesses to be placed in confinement before their judicial proceedings, as well as establishing general rules towards governing immunity of witnesses. The term of service of the grand jury was also detailed (H.R. 13912).
- Health Maintenance Organization and Resources Development Act, creating health maintenance, supplemental health maintenance, health service, and area health education organizations in medically underserved communities (H.R. 7627).

II. Committee Activities

Nixon Impeachment

Rep. Conyers initiated two impeachment resolutions against President Nixon in the 92nd Congress: H. Res. 976 on May 10, 1972 and H. Res. 989 on May 18, 1972. Concurrently, Rep. Conyers and several fellow representatives also took out an advertisement in the *New York Times* demanding Nixon be impeached for his mismanagement of the Vietnam War.

In the 93rd Congress, the House of Representatives passed H.R. Res. 803 on February 6, 1974 to grant the Committee on the Judiciary the ability to investigate the various charges of impeachment against President Nixon. By August of that same year the Judiciary Committee prepared a report, H.R. Rep. No. 93-1305, which called for the impeachment of President Nixon stemming from three articles of impeachment. Rep. Conyers voted affirmatively on all three articles of impeachment against President Nixon.

Rep. Conyers rationale for Nixon's impeachment condemned the president's encroachment of fundamental liberties in the United States for selfish ends. Writing in *The Black Scholar*, Rep. Conyers detailed how, "There is clear and convincing proof that Richard Nixon violated his oath of office and committed high crimes and misdemeanors which jeopardized the liberties of the people."

Central to Rep. Conyers' contention was the claim that, "President Nixon unilaterally initiated and authorized a campaign of bombing against the neutral nation of Cambodia," and how, "[f]or the next four years, he continually deceived the Congress and the American people as to when the bombing began

and how far it extended.” Rep. Conyers viewed these actions as a direct and illegal extension of the powers of the presidency in conducting a secret war, while deliberately lying to the American public about the existence of armed conflict in Cambodia. Rep. Conyers explicitly identified how several intelligence agencies, including the FBI, were taken advantage of to suppress any opposition and cover up any evidence of war.

Additionally, Rep. Conyers’ writing in *The Black Scholar* cites multiple instances wherein the Nixon Administration repeatedly trampled civil liberties and basic human rights, both abroad and domestically. Specific to the Watergate scandal, Rep. Conyers noted that, “the edited White House transcripts contained evidence that the President had obstructed the Watergate investigation – which the Rep. said was ‘clearly an impeachable act’ – and again urged that the Judiciary Committee cite Mr. Nixon for contempt for refusing to supply the tapes on which the transcripts were based.”

Rep. Conyers voted in committee on February 4, 1974 and on the House Floor on February 6, 1974 in favor of impeachment on the Articles of Impeachment against Nixon. Following the House-approved legislation, Richard Nixon resigned as President of the United States.

Following President Nixon’s resignation, Rep. Conyers pursued several legislative avenues to help remedy the Watergate scandal and scrutinize the rationale behind President Ford’s subsequent pardon of Nixon. These pieces of legislation included:

- Directing the President to provide the House with the information on which he based his decision to grant Richard Nixon a pardon (H. Res. 1370).
- Establishing a commission on Watergate, obtaining and preserving copies of the tape recordings and other documents regarding the Federal investigation into Watergate (H.R. 17469).
- Expressing the sense of the House in favor of continued legal action against Richard Nixon, and standing in opposition to further Presidential pardons relating to Watergate (H.Res. 1375).
- Providing public access to all Watergate-related facts produced from investigations conducted by Federal executive offices from 1/20/1969 through 8/9/1974 (H.R.16750).
- Expressing the sense of Congress that the pardon of Richard Nixon was wrongful and premature, and no further pardons should be issued prior to conviction (H.Con.Res. 643).

- Proposing a Constitutional amendment to permit the President to grant pardons only after conviction and to permit a two-thirds vote of both Houses of Congress to overrule a Presidential pardon (H.J. Res. 1145).

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime, Rep. Conyers also held hearings and/or moved legislation in the following areas:

- Weapons and Firearms: legislation penalizing the development and transferring of biological weaponry, additional penalties for the use of firearms in violent crimes and murder, various degrees of legislation restricting the interstate transfer and purchasing of handguns.
- Violent crimes: legislation against assassinating federal elected officials or candidates.
- Dog-fighting: legislation prohibiting the shipment of dogs for the purpose of dog fighting.
- Kidnapping: legislation imposing penalties for kidnapping hostages by inmates of federal prisons, defining penalties for acceptance or distribution of benefits extorted through kidnapping, and increasing penalties against kidnapper for when victim is not returned unharmed.

92nd Congress (1971 – 1972) (Member, Judiciary Committee; Member, Government Operations Committee)

I. Legislation introduced/passed into law by Rep. Conyers

Major legislation that Rep. Conyers cosponsored that passed into law

- Equal Employment Opportunity Act, instituting the Equal Employment Opportunity programs intended to eliminate employment discrimination based on race, religion, national origin, or sex. The programs include means to air employment discrimination complaints, as well as affirmative action initiatives. The legislation granted the Civil Service Commission, now known as the Office of Personnel Management, litigation and enforcement powers to combat discrimination in the public and private sectors. (P.L. 92-261).

Legislation introduced

- Initiated two impeachment resolutions, against President Nixon on May 10th, 1972 following the Watergate scandal. The impeachment resolutions detailed how President Nixon abused the Office of the President (H.J. Res. 976 and H. Res. 989).
- Correctional Services Improvement Act, combating crime by reducing recidivism and improving correctional facilities. The legislation strengthened control of probationers, parolees, and individuals found not guilty due to mental insanity (H.R. 7105).
- Constitutional amendment lowering the age requirements for membership in Congress, Rep. Conyers proposed that anyone 22 years of age or older could run to be a Representative in the House of Representatives, and anyone 27 years of age or older could run to be a Senator in the Senate. The legislation was reintroduced subsequently (H.J. Res. 961).
- Establishing minimum prisoner treatment standards for prisons, and creating an agency to investigate complaints on prisoner treatment following national news stories of brutal prison conditions in the United States (H.R. 11882).
- Providing financial assistance for State and local correctional facilities, in a further attempt to remedy poor conditions in correctional and prison-complex facilities (H.R. 12104).
- Establishing an Independent Board of Parole, an Independent Board of Parole was established in 1930, however in 1950 it was placed under the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice, where it remains today. Rep. Conyers reintroduced this legislation subsequently (H.R. 13118 and H.R. 16276).
- Providing for family visitation furloughs for Federal prisoners, in an additional effort to curb poor federal prison conditions (H.R. 13549).
- Exonerating and providing amnesty for protesters, some of whom violated laws while protesting the United States' involvement in Vietnam. This legislation was subsequently reintroduced. In 1974, President Ford would offer conditional amnesty for people who had evaded the draft. In 1977, President Carter eventually offered pardons for Vietnam War era draft evasion to any eligible person (H.R. 14175).
- Making fair employment practices in South African enterprises of U.S. firms a criteria for eligibility for government contracts, as concerns over apartheid policies had begun to enter into the public conscience of the United States. More than a decade later, in the 99th Congress, similar legislation curtailing government contracting with South Africa passed into law. The Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act severed virtually all economic ties between the United States and South Africa, in addition to

directing the United States' foreign policy towards establishing a nonracial democracy in South Africa (Comparable language to H.R. 1139 was incorporated into P.L. 99-440).

- Limiting the term of office for the Director of the FBI, and providing for Presidential appointment and Senate confirmation of the FBI Director. This legislation was introduced following the death of J. Edgar Hoover, the founder and first director of the FBI, in light of his alleged abuses of power. Legislation limiting the FBI Director's term length to 10 years became public law in the 94th Congress (Comparable language to H.R. 14836 was incorporated into P.L. 94-503).
- Prohibiting States from denying the right to vote in Federal elections to former criminals, most states today prohibit criminals from voting while in prison, and eleven states disenfranchise former criminals after they have served their time. These restrictions have a discriminatory impact on minorities. Rep. Conyers has reintroduced similar legislation in subsequent Congresses (H.R. 15049).
- Enforcing the constitutional right of females to terminate pregnancies that they do not wish to continue, the landmark abortion rights case of *Roe v. Wade* was decided in 1973. Rep. Conyers introduced this legislation in the 93rd Congress and subsequent congresses, in an effort to codify that decision (H.R. 15143).
- National Crime Victims Compensation Act, providing compensation to the victims of violent crimes through funding to all states. In addition, this legislation provides insurance, death, and disability benefits to police officers, as well as creates civil remedies for victims of racketeering. Rep. Conyers introduced this legislation in subsequent Congresses (H.R. 15497).
- Enabling the Federal justice system to deal more effectively with narcotic addiction (H.R. 16218).
- Providing increased assistance to correctional programs and establishing guidelines for programs associated with the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act (H.R. 16449).

II. Legislative Participation

Rep. Conyers voted in favor of legislation in the following areas:

- Environment: Voted for the Federal Water Pollution Control Amendments of 1972, establishing intra-state water quality standards and a review of regulations concerning wastewater (P.L. 92-500).

III. Other

- Founding Member of the Congressional Black Caucus along with Reps. Mitchell, Rangel, Clay, Dellums, Collins, Stokes, Metcalfe, Fauntroy, Nix, Diggs, Chisholm, and Hawkins.
- Listed as an original member of President Nixon's Enemies List (Number 13).

91st Congress (1969 – 1970) (Member, Judiciary Committee)

I. Legislation introduced/passed into law by Rep. Conyers

Conyers introduced bills passed into law:

- Establishing the Sleeping Bear dunes National Lakeshore in the state of Michigan. (P.L. 91-479).
- Amending the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act, pertaining to the funding levels for various Federal grants relating to the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (P.L. 91-644).

Legislation introduced

- Prohibiting the establishment of emergency detention camps and to provide that no citizen of the United State shall be committed for detention or imprisonment in any facility of the United States Government, except in conformity with the provisions of title 18. This legislation was reintroduced subsequently. Rep. Conyers' bill foreshadowed legislation passed in 1971 repealing the Emergency Detention Act of 1950 and disallowing the detention of U.S. citizens without an act of Congress. As well as civil liberties issues in the ongoing "War Against Terror" (H.R. 11373).
- Class Action Jurisdiction Act, providing Federal jurisdiction for certain types of class actions, specifically actions brought to protect consumers (H.R. 11656).
- Establishing a Commission on Marijuana, Rep. Conyers introduced this legislation due to his concern about the over criminalization by the

- federal government of minor drug offenses, which has led to a dramatic increase in the prison population (H.R. 14011).
- Authorizing the President to proclaim the month of January of each year as “National Blood Donor Month.” Legislation similar to Rep. Conyers’ bill was signed into law (H.J. Res. 946 was identical to Senate Joint Resolution 154 which President Nixon used to declare Proclamation 3952 designating January as National Blood Donor Month).
 - Establishing an Institute for Continuing Studies of Juvenile Justice, while the legislation was not acted upon, hearings were held in the 92nd Congress on establishing an institute dedicated to juvenile justice (H.R. 15124).
 - Prohibiting certain prerequisites to the right to vote in Federal, State, and local elections, combating voter suppression efforts by disallowing reading or writing tests, educational attainments, or other proof of fellowship in a certain class or group (H.R. 15146).
 - Newsmen’s Privilege Act, allowing news reporters to keep certain sources of news information confidential. This legislation was subsequently reintroduced in the 92nd and 93rd Congresses and foreshadowed similar legislative efforts by Rep. Conyers in later Congresses seeking to protect the confidentiality of journalists (H.R. 16328).
 - Prohibiting the importation, manufacture, sale, purchase, transfer, receipt, or transportation of handguns, except for or by members of the Armed Forces, law enforcement officials, and as authorized by the Secretary of the Treasury, licensed importers, manufacturers, dealers, and pistol clubs. Rep. Conyers introduced similar legislation in subsequent Congresses (H.R. 16990).
 - Designating May 8, 1970, as a Day of National Mourning, in tribute to the Hard Hat Riot in New York City wherein 1000 college and high school students protested the Kent State shootings, as well as the American invasion of Vietnam and Cambodia (H. Res. 990).
 - Designating certain election days as legal public holidays, this legislation was subsequently reintroduced by Rep. Conyers. Rep. Conyers has remained engaged in voting issues throughout his career (H.R. 18979).

II. Legislative Participation

Rep. Conyers voted in favor of landmark legislation in the following areas:

- Voting Rights: Rep. Conyers voted for the Voting Rights Act Amendments extending the original Voting Rights Act of 1965 and augmenting Section 5 of the act to further prevent the use of discriminatory tests or other means to exclude individuals from voting (H.R. 4249).

III. Other

Awards

- Rep. Conyers received an Honorary LL.D. from Wilberforce University.

90th Congress (1967 – 1968) (Member, Judiciary Committee)

I. Legislation introduced/passed into law by Rep. Conyers

Legislation introduced

- Legislation designating Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday as a national holiday, introduced 3 days after Dr. King’s assassination. Rep. Conyers was the first member to introduce legislation honoring the life of Dr. King through a national public holiday. Among other things, Rep. Conyers had to overcome concerns that granting a day of paid vacation to federal employees would be too costly, and there was resistance towards honoring a private citizen. Rep. Conyers repeatedly reintroduced the legislation and worked with the King Center to increase support. In 1981 a Rally for Peace Conference was held at which more than 6 million signatures were collected on a petition in support of the bill. To further push for public backing behind the bill, fellow Detroit native Stevie Wonder released the song “Happy Birthday” in support of the holiday. Eventually, a version of the legislation became public law 98-399 and was signed by President Reagan on November 2, 1983. The holiday was observed for the first time on January 20, 1986 (H.J. Res. 16510).
- Anti-Gerrymandering Legislation, requiring the establishment of congressional districts composed of contiguous and compact territory for the election of Representatives. This legislation was reintroduced in subsequent congresses (H.R. 10258).

- Abolishing the death penalty, in the United States. In the mid-1960s a movement by the American Civil Liberties Union in conjunction with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund challenged the constitutionality of the death penalty. Rep. Conyers sought to act on this campaign, which coincided with there being no executions in the United States from 1968 to 1976. Rep. Conyers introduced similar versions of this legislation in subsequent Congresses (H.R. 12547).
- Constitutional Amendment granting voting representation in the Congress to the District of Columbia, Rep. Conyers reintroduced the amendment in subsequent Congresses and managed legislation on the House floor seeking to accomplish this goal legislatively. In 1973 the District of Columbia Home Rule Act was passed, granting D.C. the right to elect a Mayor and city council-members. (H.J. Res. 847).
- Fair Housing Act, Rep. Conyers was one of the first members to introduce legislation protecting against discrimination in housing on account of race, color, religion, or national origin. (H.R. 14498). Later in the Congress, Rep. Conyers helped enact separate legislation that became the Fair Housing Act (Public Law 90-284).
- Making the Civil Rights Commission permanent, the Civil Rights Commission has been reauthorized several times since being enacted in 1957, with the most recent reauthorization having occurred in 1994. The commission is still in operation (H.R. 14543).
- Authorizing the President to proclaim the week of February 14th, the birthday of Frederick Douglass, as Afro-American History Week, The Association for the Study of Negro Life and history began celebrating Negro History week in 1925 during the week of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass' birthdays, and the celebration grew in popularity. Over forty years later, Rep. Conyers introduced legislation to declare this week as Afro-American History Week in the 90th Congress. This legislation was subsequently reintroduced in the 91st Congress. The legislative initiative was ultimately expanded upon by President Ford, during the nation's bicentennial celebration in 1976, to become African American History month. (H.J. Res. 1087, 1088, 1089, and 1118).

II. Legislative Participation

Rep. Conyers voted in favor of landmark legislation in the following areas:

- Accountability: Voted for the Truth in Lending Act, providing more transparency in the consumer credit market (P.L. 90-321).

III. Other

Awards

- Rep. Conyers received the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Award for supporting civil rights.

89th Congress (1965 – 1966) (Member, Judiciary Committee)

I. Legislation introduced/passed into law by Rep. Conyers

Legislation introduced

- Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States lowering the voting age requirement in all elections to 18 years old, Rep. Conyers introduced this amendment due to his beliefs in wider access to the ballot, and that 18-year olds should be eligible to vote if they are old enough to serve our country in the military. Rep. Conyers reintroduced the amendment in subsequent congresses. Ultimately in 1971, the House and Senate approved a Senate version, which was ratified by the states in the same year as the 26th Amendment to the United States Constitution (H.J. Res. 782).
- Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States guaranteeing equal rights for men and women, Rep. Conyers introduced or cosponsored this amendment in subsequent congresses, up to and including the current congress. The Equal Rights Amendment did not pass both houses of Congress until March of 1972. However, by the March 1979 deadline, only 35 of the required 38 states had ratified the amendment leading to its failure. (H.J. Res. 829).
- Authorizing the President to designate October 31 of each year as “National UNICEF Day,” President Johnson signed a letter declaring October 31st National UNICEF Day beginning in 1967 (H.J. Res. 869).
- Civil Rights Protection Act, calling for nondiscrimination in the selection of juries, fully 20 years before the Supreme Court’s landmark decision in Batson v. Kentucky, deciding the same principle (H.R. 16043).

- Authorizing the merger of 2 or more professional football leagues, and to protect football contests between secondary schools from professional football telecasts. In 1970, NFL and AFL agreed to merge and Congress passed legislation along the lines of the Conyers' legislation. (H.R. 18424).

II. Legislative Participation

Rep. Conyers signed on as a co-sponsor of legislation, and/or voted in favor of landmark legislation in the following areas:

- Voting Rights: Co-sponsored and voted for the Voting Rights Act prohibiting discriminatory voting practices (P.L. 89-110).
- Education: Voted for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, a part of President Johnson's "War on Poverty Program" providing funding to elementary and secondary schools and encouraging equal access to education for all American children (P.L. 89-10).
- Social Security: Voted for the Social Security Act of 1965, establishing the historic Medicare and Medicaid programs as part of President Johnson's Great Society legislative program. (P.L. 89-97).
- Immigration: Voted for the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, abolishing the 1920's era national origins quota system for immigrants and substituting it with a system giving priority to skilled workers as well as immigrants with family ties to the United States. (P.L. 89-236).

III. Other

- Selected by the leadership in the House of Representatives to serve as the first African American Member on the House Judiciary Committee.
- Employed Rosa Parks to serve on his congressional staff from 1965, Rep. Conyers' first term in office, until 1988.