The Congressional Pension Forfeiture Act combines the best elements of the three bills we introduced separately. The American people are fed up with business as usual in Washington, DC. The last thing that hardworking Americans and their families should expect is to pay for a convicted felon’s retirement. They’ve earned the right to pay for their groceries, health care, or education, and Congress should be handing their hard earned money over to Congressional felons.

This bill has over 50 cosponsors and bipartisan support. I know an overwhelming majority of Americans support this comprehensive, historic Congressional reform legislation.

A former Representative was recently sentenced to 17 months in prison for crimes he committed against the American people. But while he sits behind bars, he’ll be collecting nearly $100,000 a year from his taxpayer-funded Congressional pension account. For this Congress to turn its back on the American public and let another Member leave office with his retirement nest egg would be unconscionable. Our bipartisan, consensus bill ends this taxpayer rip-off.

Every Member of Congress has a contract with the working men and women in his district when the Oath of Office is taken: to uphold the public trust. Last year 14 lawmakers-turned-lawbreakers collected $667,000 in taxpayer-subsidized Congressional pension benefits. We should help hard-working middle class Americans, not Congressional felons.

Our bill states that after the beginning of the 105th Congress, Members who are convicted of a federal felony that is committed while the Members are serving will forfeit their Congressional pensions and will forfeit their matching benefits and increased earnings under their Thrift Savings Plan.

By passing this legislation, we are once again standing up for hard-working American families. Americans who have never broken the law and pay taxes out of their hard-earned money want us to eliminate this egregious policy now.

Passage of this historic legislation will be the crown jewel of the Congress with the strongest reform agenda in forty years. The 104th Congress has done more to reform this institution than any Congress before us. It is what the American people want and it is what we in the House of Representatives should give them.

I urge all my colleagues to lend their wholehearted support to this historic legislation and I ask the House leadership to work with Mr. Riggs, Mr. Dickey, and me to bring this important bill to the floor before the 104th Congress adjourns.

TRIBUTE TO ANTONIO D. MARTIN
HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Brooklyn-born Antonio "Tony" D. Martin attended Boston University and the New School for Social Research where he earned his masters degree in health science administration and policy. He began his career in health care 13 years ago at the Metropolitan Hospital Center in New York and later moved to Kings County Hospital Center in Brooklyn. Since 1991, he has served as the executive director of the East New York Diagnostic and Treatment Center [ENYD&T] transforming it into a fully accredited New York State article 28 health center. Mr. Martin’s success is largely attributed to his belief in teamwork, which has resulted in the expansion and strengthening of the ENYD&T’s role in the East New York community.

Through his leadership, the center has actively collaborated with various churches, schools, and community organizations to create and launch health care programs such as: breast health and mammography services; medical and dental clinics; child adolescent mental health clinics; family-based mental health clinics; HIV/AIDS counseling, testing, and education; and mental health services for the homebound. His newest endeavor, a school-based health center placed in local Beacon schools, will provide primary care, mental health, and dental services to students and community residents. In addition to his role as executive director, Mr. Martin serves as a mentor and role model to youth. As a result of this personal commitment, he is a highly popular speaker on both health and youth issues.

Mr. Martin’s ability and achievements have been recognized by various organizations and elected officials such as the Lions Club; Rosetta Gaston Foundation; People Alliance Community Organization; Grace Baptist Church of Christ; Reeder Youth Care; Congressman EDOLPHUS "Ed" TOWNS; Assemblymen Clarence Norman, Jr., Nick Perry, and Darryl Towns; and former mayor David Dinkins.

His accomplishments are a testament to his commitment to improve both the quality of life and health for Brooklyn residents. I am pleased to introduce him to my House colleagues.

LEXINGTON PARK CORPORATE CENTER
HON. STENY H. HOYER
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the honor of presiding at the groundbreaking for the Lexington Park Corporate Center, a project undertaken by Millison Development. The groundbreaking ceremony signified the opening of a development which will be occupied by three companies—DCS, Semcor, and the Rail Co.—conveniently located to serve the Patuxent River Naval Base.

The companies that will occupy this new center will be able to take advantage of the changes brought in the 1940’s when this rural community was transformed from one dependent on farming and seafood, to one that is now technology driven.

A family that has been in St. Mary’s throughout the expansion and that has played a significant role in what has become one of the broadest expansions of a military base in our country is none other than the Millison family.

Hiram Millison continued to operate the store as Millison brothers, even after his brother Sammie left the business, until 1943 when the Government purchased his store and other Cedar Point properties to build the naval base.

Hiram Millison was an important figure in the Second World War to consolidate several naval air test bases and establish Patuxent River as one of the premier such bases in the world, many families were very rapidly displaced from their homes and business. Most were forced to leave within 20 days of receiving their property appraisals and then it took 6 months or more to get their money.

Hiram used his money to build a store and restaurant outside the main gate of the new base and subsequently developed a number of properties in the town that became known as Lexington Park. Upon his death in 1965, Hiram Millison’s obituary described him as a man who “planted seeds of progress.”

Hiram Millison saw opportunity when others were reeling from the trauma of disruption. He proved to be a great visionary—serving as the first president of the Patuxent River Council of the Naval League. This council played an important role in providing the community support for the Navy and the start of a tradition that has become a key reason that consolidation of bases continue to rebound to the benefit of Patuxent River today.

Today, we see this same support of the Navy with Hiram’s son Larry, who has served as a county commissioner, as a member of the board of education, and, in his role as a businessman, in his support of organizations like the Navy Alliance. Now, another Millison—Rachelle—is involved in the family business and she has proven herself as a citizen with community spirit who will not only continue to reap the seeds sown by her family, but she will also continue to sow seeds for future generations as her father and grandfather did in the past.

I know that the companies involved with the Patuxent River base are experiencing disruption as a result of consolidations. Employees may be relocating from Crystal City, VA or Warminster, PA.

Aaron Davidson is a native Pennsylvanian. He works for Semcor and along with his wife, will follow his job in Warminster down to Patuxent. In so doing, he has convinced many of his fellow employees to follow suit. I want to welcome Aaron, and the many other families relocating to this area, that this community is eager to have you and will do everything it can to make the transition for you and other families as smooth as possible.

As the transition and change brought on by this consolidation, I hope that you—like Hiram Millison—will come to find opportunities here and join with the Millisons and other proud families, planting seeds in this great community for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Millison family. Their story of perseverance, community spirit, and patriotism is a shining example of what this great country can produce when opportunity is seized.