

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2009

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit documentation consistent with the Republican Earmark Standards.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOE BARTON

Bill Number: H.R. 3293—Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill

Account: HRSA—Health Facilities and Services

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: The University of Texas at Arlington

Address of Receiving Entity: 701 South Nedderman Drive, 346 Davis Hall, Arlington, TX 76019

Description of Request: I have secured \$650,000 in funding to be used for acquisition of equipment to support new multidisciplinary collaborative research and development activities in support of improving preventative in-home healthcare for the aging (Smart Care). It would also be used for construction and the purchase of capital equipment for the biointerface engineering project.

RECOGNIZING GWENN WALDMAN

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Art Therapy Connection, a not-for-profit that has empowered hundreds of struggling students in the Chicago public school system.

Art Therapy Connection teaches students to deal with negative emotions and hardship through the use of creative outlets, which have consistently rendered them better behaved, more focused and more successful in school. Art therapy helps raise children's self-esteem by encouraging self-expression and providing them the opportunity to work through their behavioral and social problems in a fun, motivating way. In addition, Art Therapy Connection brings art to schools that have cut it from the curriculum through the Visiting Artist Program that connects students to artists in the community.

Art Therapy Connection has grown each year, reaching out weekly to over 150 students at five different grade schools and high schools in the 2008–2009 school year and is still expanding. I would like to honor Art Therapy Connection for working tirelessly to make art therapy available to as many students as possible. The program has proven to be an invaluable resource for children in the Chicago public school system.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2009

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leader-

ship standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the FY 2010 Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 3288

Account: FTA, Buses and Bus Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Anaheim

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 South Anaheim Boulevard, Anaheim, California 92805

Funding Secured: \$725,000

Description of Request: The Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center (ARTIC) will be the premier regional multimodal transportation hub in Orange County, located on a 16-acre site in the City of Anaheim, strategically situated along the Los Angeles to San Diego (LOSSAN) rail line, bounded by State Route 57, and in close proximity to the Interstate 5 freeway. The ARTIC will establish both physical and functional linkage to provide seamless access between all transit modes. The ARTIC is needed to accommodate the travel needs of 45 million visitors and will strategically facilitate bus rapid transit service, proposed California High Speed Rail alignment, as well as the Anaheim to Ontario International Airport segment of the California-Nevada Interstate super speed rail project. The project will also expand existing transportation infrastructure for Amtrak intercity rail, Metrolink commuter rail, fixed-route and express bus services, taxi and Anaheim Resort shuttles, as well as private transportation providers such as Greyhound. The City of Anaheim is completing this project in conjunction with the Orange County Transportation Authority and once complete, will act as an integral hub serving millions of travelers in and out of the Southern California region.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 3288

Account: FTA, Capital Investment Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Omnitrans

Address of Requesting Entity: 1700 West 5th Street, San Bernardino, California 92411

Funding Secured: \$32,370,000

Description of Request: The introduction of premium transit modes and services in the San Bernardino Valley corridors in the future will allow Omnitrans to achieve better market penetration, while being able to positively influence the livability of communities in its service area. The faster, more direct transit service of Bus Rapid System (BRT) has proven beneficial to many communities around the country. Therefore the study has selected the following seven major transit corridors within the Omnitrans service area: (1) E Street; (1a) E Street Extension; (2) Foothill Boulevard East; (3) Foothill Boulevard West; (4) Mountain/Euclid Avenues; (5) San Bernardino Avenue; (6) Holt Avenue/4th Street; and (7) Grand/Edison Avenues. These seven corridors, two north/south and five east/west, cover much of the developed land within the service area and form a grid which will allow direct transfers between lines if an entire system of fast premium services is implemented by Omnitrans. Omnitrans is currently moving forward with the E Street Corridor, and a plan is needed for the remaining corridors.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 3288

Account: Economic Development Initiative

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: National Community Renaissance

Address of Requesting Entity: 9065 Haven Avenue, Suite 100, Rancho Cucamonga, California 91730

Funding Secured: \$1,000,000

Description of Request: National Community Renaissance is one of the largest nonprofit affordable housing development corporations in the United States. It manages the development and preservation of high quality affordable housing throughout the country, including development of new affordable housing, preservation of existing affordable housing at risk of going to market rate, and full service construction management with expertise in multi-family and mixed use development. This community opportunity program has been absolutely invaluable in helping to provide affordable housing for more American families and in promoting increased homeownership in the United States. For every dollar of public funding, National Community Renaissance leverages nine dollars of private funds to support its goals of affordable housing. Over the past several years, Congress has continually supported National Community Renaissance's program of acquisition, rehabilitation, and preservation of at-risk affordable housing by appropriating funds from the Self-Help and Assisted Homeownership Opportunity Program account. Federal funding would be used for the acquisition, rehabilitation, and preservation of at-risk affordable housing.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 3288

Account: Economic Development Initiative

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Hillview Acres Children's Home

Address of Requesting Entity: 3683 Chino Avenue, Chino, California 91710

Funding Secured: \$250,000

Description of Request: Established in 1929, Hillview Acres Children's Home cares for severely abused and neglected children throughout the greater Los Angeles area. Using four cottages that house no more than nine children each, Hillview provides 24-hour residential and mental health treatment services for abused boys and girls ages six through eighteen. The Home's main activities include complete assessment services and psychiatric care, a state-certified nonpublic school, a Family Reunification Program, and a home for pregnant teens and teenage mothers. One of the biggest challenges Hillview faces today, however, is its aging physical plant. Built with volunteer labor over forty years ago, the physical appearance of the campus no longer mirrors the services provided. The renewal of the campus is vital to showing the children they are worthy of a safe and caring home. Hillview Acres has benefited from congressional support in previous fiscal years and continued federal funding of this public-private partnership is necessary, however, to allow Hillview to uphold its mission in receiving, treating, and caring for thousands of severely abused and neglected children.

DEMOCRACY RESTORATION ACT
OF 2009

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Democracy Restoration Act of 2009. This legislation will serve to clarify and expand voting rights, as well as assist former felons with their reintegration into our democracy.

The Sentencing Project reports that, since 1997, 19 states have amended felony disenfranchisement policies in an effort to reduce their restrictiveness and expand voter eligibility. These reforms have resulted in more than 760,00 citizens regaining their voting rights. Yet, despite these reforms, an estimated 5 million people continue to be ineligible to vote in Federal elections, including nearly 4 million who reside in the 35 states that still prohibit some combination of persons on probation, parole, and/or people who have completed their sentence from voting.

I believe that there are three grave discrepancies in State laws regarding felony convictions that lead to unfairness in Federal elections. First, there is no uniform standard for voting in Federal elections, which leads to an egregious disparity and unequal participation in Federal elections based solely on where a person lives. Second, laws governing the restoration of voting rights after a felony conviction are unequal throughout the country and persons in some States can easily regain their voting rights while in other States persons effectively lose their right to vote permanently. Third, State disenfranchisement laws disproportionately impact ethnic minorities, thus adversely infringing upon citizens of these communities constitutional right to vote.

These concerns about ex-offender disenfranchisement are not rhetorical. In the past two election cycles, flawed voter purges have deprived thousands of legitimate voters of their rights. For example, an erroneous interpretation of state law by the Ohio Secretary of State deprived thousands of ex-felons in that state of even the right to register. Only Federal law can conclusively resolve the ambiguities in this area plaguing our voting system.

Like the States, Congress has recognized the need to address the barriers to full citizenship faced by ex-offenders. Last Congress, President Bush signed the Second Chance Act into law, signaling a greater awareness of the need to implement policies to aid the reintegration of our ex-felon community. This voting legislation is the next step in restoring the ex-felon community to full citizenship. Denying voting rights to ex-offenders robs them of the opportunity to fully participate and contribute to their society. Disenfranchisement laws isolate and alienate ex-offenders, and have been shown to serve as one more obstacle in their attempt to successfully reintegrate into society. Moreover, these obstacles adversely impact the voting participation of their families, further undermining the effectiveness of our voting system.

This legislation is a narrowly crafted effort to expand voting rights for ex-felons, while protecting State prerogatives to generally establish voting qualifications. This legislation would only apply to persons who have been released

from prison, and it would only apply to Federal elections. Consequently, the bill is fully consistent with Constitutional requirements established by the Supreme Court in a series of decisions upholding Federal voting rights laws.

In past Congresses, voting restoration legislation has been supported by a broad coalition of groups interested in voting and civil rights, including the NAACP, ACLU, the National Council of Churches (National and Washington Office), the National Urban League, the Human Rights Watch and the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, among many others.

The practice of many states denying voting rights to former felons represents a vestige from a time when suffrage was denied to whole classes of our population based on race, gender, religion, national origin, and property. Ex-felons who have been lawfully released from prisons have paid their debts to society. To continue denying them the ability to reclaim rights as citizens resurrects historic unenlightened practices of our society. Ultimately, I believe that we fail not only ex-offenders by denying them the right to vote, but the rest of a society that has struggled throughout its history to be legitimate and inclusive. Just like poll taxes and literacy tests, it is long past time that these restrictions be relegated to unenlightened history.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2009

Mr. SCHOCK. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the Republican adopted standards on earmarks, I submit the below detailed explanation of the Oak Ridge Cemetery Infrastructure Improvements, Springfield, Illinois.

Bill Number: H.R. 3288, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Provisions/Account: Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives

Name and Address of Requesting Entity: The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Springfield and Oak Ridge Cemetery, located at 1440 Monument Avenue, Springfield, IL, 62702.

Description of Request: Oak Ridge Cemetery is the largest cemetery in Illinois, the resting place of President Abraham Lincoln and is the nation's second most visited cemetery with up to 40,000 visitors a day using private vehicles and mass transit buses. The roads used were paved and guttered over 100 years ago and now are in dire need of resurfacing. Oak Ridge Cemetery is self supporting and typically requires no tax dollars from the federal, state, or local level. In a typical year, Oak Ridge receives over 3 million visitors; however, with the Lincoln Bicentennial this year, visitation is expected to have a large increase.

CONGRATULATING LITHUANIA ON
1,000TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking Congressman JOHN SHIMKUS, for introducing this legislation. I would like to congratulate the people of the Republic of Lithuania on the 1000th anniversary of Lithuania. Lithuania, a full and responsible member of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, has proved resilient in overcoming many obstacles and has achieved many great accomplishments: Lithuania founded Vilnius University in 1579; in 1990, the Republic of Lithuania was restored and Lithuania became the first Soviet republic to declare independence; in 1918, Act of Independence of Lithuania led to the establishment of Lithuania as a sovereign and democratic state; in 2007, the United States Government and the Government of Lithuania celebrated 85 years of continuous diplomatic relations.

I commend Lithuania for successfully developing into a free and democratic country, with a free market economy and respect for and adherence to a rule of law. The U.S. welcomes and appreciates efforts by the Government of Lithuania to maintain international peace and stability in Europe and around the world by contributing to international civilian and military operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Bosnia, Kosovo, and Georgia. Since 2005, Lithuania has been leading a Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) of Ghor Province in Afghanistan. They have worked to help Afghanistan become a secure, democratic and self-sufficient state. Lithuania has been dedicated to the success of the UN-mandated ISAF operation and to working with the international community in Afghanistan motivates our involvement.

The vast Lithuanian community in the United States has preserved its spiritual, cultural and family ties with their historical motherland during the long years of living overseas, which translated into active cultural and business cooperation between Lithuania and the United States. The activities of Lithuanian Americans have greatly contributed to the restoration of Lithuania's independence and to the membership of Lithuania in NATO. Today their active participation greatly adds to the promotion of Lithuania's foreign policy goals and the strengthening of cooperation between Lithuania and the U.S. As a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I recognize firsthand the importance of Lithuania's global foreign policy efforts, and they are to be commended.

The Lithuanian American Community, Inc., (LAC) is the network that keeps Lithuanians connected in the U.S. They have 60 chapters in 27 states and the District of Columbia. The Houston, Texas chapter is an active and vibrant group, and they remain engaged in the community and strive to educate their fellow Houstonians on the rich culture of Lithuania. Lithuanian American community maintains regular contacts with the Lithuanian Embassy and other Lithuanian Government institutions.