

efforts to reduce crime and recruit public safety officers.

In addition, the GIVE Act will create 4 new service opportunities including a Clean Energy Corps, an Education Corps, a Healthy Futures Corps, and a Veteran Service Corps. These volunteer opportunities will further improve environmental protection, health-care access, and services for veterans. These new service corps will address critical concerns in low-income communities. I am very happy that Congressman TEAGUE revised the legislation to aid veterans in their pursuit of education and professional opportunities, and help veterans with the claims process, and assist rural, disabled, and unemployed veterans with transportation needs. Moreover, the GIVE Act will recognize colleges and universities that are strongly engaged in service through grants and rewards that will in turn improve educational access in the United States.

I am pleased to see the Retention of my Language from the 110th Congress that gives special consideration to historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, Tribal universities, and colleges serving predominantly minority populations. So strong are these universities' support of service, that "veritas et beneficium," or "truth and service" in Latin, is inscribed on their insignias.

The GIVE Act will create a Campuses of Service Program that will encourage and assist students in pursuing public service careers. It will also focus on recruiting scientists and engineers to keep America competitive for years to come. The Act will expand the Senior Corps as a way to keep Older Americans including seniors engaged in public service, and will create a Youth Engagement Zone to increase the number of young students in volunteer services.

Moreover, it expands the focus of The National Civilian Community Corps to include disaster relief efforts and infrastructure improvement to allow quicker and more effective responses to disasters like Katrina and like that devastated numerous communities in the United States. Finally, the Give Act will launch a nation-wide Call to Service Campaign that encourages all Americans to engage in national service and to recognize September 11th as a National Day of Service and Remembrance.

I am honored to cosponsor this legislation that will add service before self to America's future leaders. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE INAUGURAL
NATURALIZATION CEREMONY OF
THE CITIZENSHIP COUNTS ORGANIZATION

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the Citizenship Counts organization, whose inaugural naturalization ceremony is being held today to welcome new American citizens. The event's keynote speaker, Gerda Weissmann Klein, is one of very few living survivors of the Holocaust and the founder of Citizenship Counts. She has used her experiences to educate and inspire others in our community and all over the world.

Gerda's story is one of true bravery and heroism. She survived the perils of six concentration camps during the Holocaust and a 350-mile march through Eastern Europe before being liberated by Allied forces. In the many years since, Gerda has dedicated her life to being an advocate for the teaching of tolerance, empowerment, and respect through her extensive work with the Gerda and Kurt Klein Foundation and Citizenship Counts.

The Citizenship Counts organization motivates students through civics education and community service while bolstering pride in their citizenship. Through these programs, Citizenship Counts effectively promotes the ideal of American citizenship as a responsibility, and instills the strong moral values that Gerda has worked so tirelessly to uphold.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Citizenship Counts, an organization whose efforts have truly strengthened our community.

RECOGNIZING THE CELEBRATION
OF NOWRUZ

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Nowruz, a traditional Persian holiday taking place this week that celebrates the arrival of spring.

Dating back more than 3,000 years, Nowruz is observed by millions of people of Persian descent in the United States, Iran, Iraq, Central Asia, and many other regions of the world. The two-week holiday symbolizes renewal, health, happiness, and prosperity. The holiday's ecumenical values are celebrated by adherents of many religions including Islam, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, and the Bahai'i faith. It is considered a special time to share with family and friends and honor cultural traditions.

Here in the United States, Nowruz serves to remind us of the many noteworthy and lasting contributions of Iranian-Americans to the social and economic fabric of American society. I am pleased to join Iranian-Americans in my congressional district and others around the country and around the world in honoring this special occasion.

FEDERAL MUNICIPAL BOND MARKETING
SUPPORT AND
SECURITIZATION ACT OF 2009

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Federal Municipal Bond Marketing Support and Securitization Act of 2009 to address the collateral damage suffered by our state and local governments as a result of the financial crisis. The nation's 55,000 issuers of tax-exempt bonds, including most state and local governments, continue to experience limited access to the capital markets due to the liquidity crisis despite the fact that municipal bonds have always been among the safest investments.

A municipal bond expert recently told me, pointedly, that it is a nightmare out there for those entities attempting to float bonds.

Prior to my election to Congress last November, I spent the last 14 years in local government as a member of the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, Virginia, the last five as Chairman. I oversaw a local government with an annual budget of \$4.5 billion and a AAA rating from Wall Street's three main credit rating agencies. I understand state and local governments, and I believe they are the most effective engines for creating jobs on Main Street, whether by building new schools, fire stations and water treatment plants, or repairing our nation's ailing infrastructure and implementing our environmental agenda.

State and local governments issue debt for their myriad projects through the selling of bonds, and the municipal bond market was one of many victims of the financial meltdown last fall. After the fallout, investors and money fled from those bond markets to U.S. Treasury notes as a safe haven. As a result, the nation's 55,000 issuers of tax-exempt bonds, our state and local governments, are experiencing limited access to the capital markets due to the liquidity crisis despite the fact that "munis" are and always have been among the safest of investments.

Further complicating the issue is the fact that the private insurance market has virtually disappeared, eliminating a viable means of credit enhancement, which allows a small town water authority, for example, to attain the same credit-worthiness as a metropolitan transportation authority.

The drying up of bond markets and lack of insurance has created a double-whammy of steep shortfalls and tough financial choices for state and local governments. In light of this fiscal and capital crisis, legislation is needed to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to establish a program to provide direct credit enhancements or insurance for municipal bonds to help our state and local partners move forward on their shovel-ready projects.

House Financial Services Committee Chairman BARNEY FRANK agreed with me during a colloquy on the subject in mid-January in which he called states and municipalities among the most sympathetic victims of the economic turmoil. Since then, I have been consulting with Chairman FRANK, my colleagues, municipal governments and others who are active in the municipal bond market to craft a solution. What I proposed today may not provide the ultimate solution, but it provides a starting point to begin addressing this critical situation.

My legislation directs the Secretary of the Treasury and Federal Reserve Board to work together to strategically intervene in the municipal bond market to restore liquidity and spark local job creation. It gives the Treasury Secretary the authority, either directly or through the Federal Financing Bank, to provide credit enhancements or guarantees or to outright purchase municipal bonds. It calls on the Federal Reserve to exercise its authority to establish a credit facility for the express purpose of assisting our local and state partners. Of course, the method, source, timing and conditions of any new financing arrangement would be subject to Treasury's approval.

The federal government historically has been reluctant to interfere with the municipal markets, but I believe such concerns could be

addressed by imposing some reasonable limits and conditions on the nature and amount of assistance to minimize risk. Furthermore, municipal bonds historically have a solid performance rating with a low rate of default.

A basic measure for the public to have confidence that the recovery and reinvestment package is working will be the creation of jobs and the completion of physical projects. President Obama has set the goal of creating three to four million jobs. Unlike the financial services relief plan, in which the reward for our investment was largely unseen by the general public, expectations are high for tangible results—paychecks and progress—from this stimulus plan.

It is my firm belief that the primary vehicle for delivering on that promise will be our investments in state and local governments, but we first need to ensure that localities are ready to run with the ball once we make the hand-off. That will require immediate federal action to stabilize their fiscal situation and to revive the municipal bond market.

I believe this bill can help stabilize the municipal bond market, and I look forward to working with Chairman FRANK and other interested members in finding a solution to this serious problem.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION EXTENSION ACTS OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1512, To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes, introduced by my distinguished colleague from New York, Representative CHARLES B. RANGEL. This important legislation will extend funding in order to improve transportation for Americans across the nation.

The costs of air travel have increased rapidly in the last few months. Airlines have not only increased the price of air fare, but they have been forced to put charges on extra baggage, cut flights, and lay off hundreds of employees. Air travel is essential, as it is beneficial environmentally, socially, and especially economically. Without the ability to travel by air cheaply and easily, the flow of people, goods, and ideas would substantially decrease.

If we do not extend funding to airline programs, many negative consequences will ensue, including cutting services, such as air traffic control, certification, and inspection, as well as the inability by the airlines to buy new equipment for the aging infrastructure.

It is obvious that something must be done to solve this pressing problem. It is necessary for airlines to look into 2 alternative means in order to increase their effectiveness. However, it is also necessary for the United States to fund several programs.

The Airport and Airway Trust Fund was established in 1970 "to provide for the expansion and improvement of the nation's airport and airway system." Since then, it has provided funds for the Federal Aviation Administration.

Various pieces of legislation have come before the Congress to extend this fund, and yet partisanship has stalled these bills. It is necessary for us to extend this program in order to modernize our air traffic control system. NextGen, a state-of-the-art air traffic control system would allow control towers to pinpoint the exact locations of aircrafts, making the skies less chaotic, and air travel much more efficient.

Additionally, the extension of the Airport Improvement Program is necessary in order to improve safety and efficiency in our air travel. Airports are sites used by millions and millions of Americans every single day. It is vital that airports, travelers, and air flight personnel be secure, and thus it is important to continue to fund this program.

Even though air travel is obviously important, other forms of travel contribute to the nation as well. The Highway Trust Fund was created by the Highway Revenue Act of 1956 to ensure a dependable source of financing for the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways. This is the premier fund for government spending on highways, with approximately 45% of all highway spending coming from this fund. The Congressional Budget Office predicts the fund will run a deficit of \$1.7 billion at the end of 2009 and \$8.1 billion by the end of 2010. The Highway Trust Fund balance must be restored.

This bill will extend the taxes that fund The Airport and Airway Trust Fund, extend the expenditure authority of The Airport and Airway Trust Fund, extend the Airport Improvement Program, and restore the Highway Trust Fund balance. This is a vital bill for cities like Houston, Texas, which happens to have one of the top 10 airports in the Nation. I urge my fellow members of Congress to support H.R. 1512 in order to increase efficiency, safety, and functioning of our nation's transportation systems.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF J.W. ANDREWS, JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Jackson and, indeed, the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor J.W. Andrews, Jr., and pay tribute to his memory.

Born in Prestwick, Alabama, Mr. Andrews married Ida Virginia Tiggs Andrews in 1937, and the two were married nearly 55 years when she died. He began his career as a machine operator at a veneer mill before becoming an insurance agent for Unity Burial Life Insurance Co. in the early 1950s. By the end of the decade, he had become manager of the company as well as of the accompanying Unity Funeral Home. In the mid-1970s, Mr. Andrews and his wife purchased the funeral home, which became Andrews Funeral Home in 1986. The couple also owned Andrews Flower and Gift Shop.

During the 1960s, Mr. Andrews became active in both politics and the civil rights movement in Clarke County. He traveled to various communities holding voter registration classes, helping familiarize residents with the voter questionnaire used by the Board of Registrars.

He was also a longtime president of the Clarke County Voters League, an organization formed to promote and protect the voting rights of African Americans.

Mr. Andrews was instrumental in the formation of several county commission and school board districts, which provided African Americans representation on those boards. In 1985, Mr. Andrews became one of the first two African Americans to be elected to serve on the Jackson City Council, a seat he held for 14 years. He was also the first African American to serve on the Clarke County Board of Education.

In recognition of his many achievements, the city of Jackson honored Mr. Andrews by rededicating State Highway 177 from the end of Commerce Street to U.S. 43 as the "J.W. Andrews Highway." In 1997, he was honored as the Civitan Club's 47th "Citizen of the Year."

Mr. Andrews was an active member of his church, St. Union Baptist Church in Jackson. He served as a deacon for more than 50 years as well as treasurer, Sunday school superintendent, and choir member. For more than 50 years, he served as host of the Sunday morning radio programs "Spiritual Time" and later "Early Morning Gospel" on WHOD-FM. He also served as an Alabama Democratic Conference chairman for more than 35 years.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. J.W. Andrews, Jr., will be dearly missed by his family—his children, William Wesley Andrews, Sr., Hattie Virginia Sampson, Carl Gregory Andrews, and Harriette Andrews Douglas; his sister, Jessie Mae Jackson; his 11 grandchildren; his 22 great-grandchildren; and his seven great-great-grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

IN HONOR OF OFFICER CHRISTOPHER TRUCILLO

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Christopher Trucillo, Chief of Department of the Port Authority Police of New York & New Jersey. Chief Trucillo began his law enforcement career in 1978 as a municipal police officer in Harrison, New Jersey. He continued his career of public service by later joining the Port Authority Police Department in 1986. As an officer for the Port Authority, Chief Trucillo worked different operational, administrative, and investigative functions. On September 11, 2001 while assigned as the Commanding Officer of the Internal Affairs Bureau, Chief Trucillo responded to the World Trade Center disaster by mobilizing the members of his staff and accounting for all Port Authority Police personnel who responded. Under his leadership an irreplaceable connection was created between the families of those who were lost in the tragic events of 9/11 and the police department. Chief Trucillo was named the "2004 Boss of the Year" by the New York State Shields for "outstanding leadership and