

other affordable housing and 8,900 affordable assisted living units for seniors and persons with disabilities; 2.9 million square feet of community health center space serving 350,300 patients annually, and helped created 25,000 jobs for low-income individuals.

Back in my district—the 14th district of New York—NCB Capital Impact has played a significant role in providing financing for much needed housing and community development projects. NCB has facilitated more than 600 loans in my district alone. Most of these loans are for housing, including affordable housing, as well as loans for community facilities and loans to non-profit organizations like the Council of New York Cooperatives and Condominiums. Together, these groups are able to provide assisted living, affordable housing and services to the frail and elderly.

Despite their good work in serving low-income communities and disadvantaged populations, NCB Capital Impact is not eligible for assistance authorized under the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994, which is administered by the CDFI Fund. NCB Capital Impact meets all of the eligibility criteria on its own and without exception; however the Fund has ruled it cannot certify NCB Capital Impact as a CDFI because of the corporate structure of its parent NCB. In short, NCB Capital Impact is shut off from critical sources of financial awards that are needed to maintain their housing and community development efforts.

The interest of NCB Capital Impact in gaining CDFI certification is two-fold. First, it has a track record that is comparable to other organizations that received CDFI status; its mission is dedicated to working with low income populations and communities. Second, increasingly in the community development finance field, CDFI certification is viewed as a 'good housekeeping seal' of approval in working with other federal agencies and other private and public institutions.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this technical amendment to the NCB statute so that the non-profit, mission-driven NCB Capital Impact may continue to provide services to distressed and underserved communities throughout New York and the country at-large.

CONGRATULATING LADY TIGERS OF BENTON HARBOR HIGH SCHOOL

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Lady Tigers of Benton Harbor High School on their first ever state basketball championship. These outstanding young women have come a long way this past season and have made their community so very proud. It had been 25 years since the Lady Tigers last appeared in the Class A finals . . . and this time they emerged as champions!

Winning a state championship is something that will last a lifetime. It is a remarkable achievement that few teams in southwest Michigan ever experience, and it is a legacy that will live with the 2008–09 Lady Tigers forever. The Lady Tigers and Coach Harvey

know what brought this state title back to Benton Harbor—hard work. It is doing that one extra sprint, that extra drill, shooting that extra free throw after practice that helped make the Lady Tigers champions. Nobody outworked the Tigers and nobody could beat them in the state tournament. And nobody had a greater following or more community support than our Lady Tigers.

It is an honor to pay tribute to the entire Lady Tiger squad: Olivia Askew, Damonica Buford, Tiara Greer-Allen, Andrea Ellis, Iesha Ellis, Deborah Meeks, Rashonda Pargo, Nyesha Winbush, and All-American Destiny Williams, who led the Lady Tigers with 31 points and added 21 rebounds. We salute all of you.

On behalf of all the residents of southwest Michigan, congratulations again to the Lady Tigers and Coach Harvey and the entire Benton Harbor community—you are an inspiration to us all. It is Tiger Pride at its finest. Go Tigers!

INTRODUCTION OF THE PAY FOR PERFORMANCE ACT

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, tonight I am proud to introduce the Pay for Performance Act of 2009.

Madam Speaker, this bill is based on two simple concepts. One, no one has the right to get rich off taxpayer money. And two, no one should get rich off abject failure.

An economy in which a bank executive can line his own pocket by destroying his company with risky bets is an economy that will spiral downwards. And a government that hands out money to such executives is a government that fails to protect the taxpayers.

Our job is to act on behalf of taxpayers to fix our economy, and we do so tonight with this bill.

Madam Speaker, the U.S. Government spent \$170 billion to stabilize AIG, and it now owns 80% of that company. Yet recently, AIG paid more than \$165 million in bonuses to 73 employees with this taxpayer money. That is like paying an arsonist to put out his own fires.

The restrictions in this bill apply only to financial institutions that have taken capital investments from the taxpayer, and they are commonsense restrictions. Pay can't be excessive or unreasonable, and bonuses must be based on performance standards. And if the banks want to avoid these common-sense restrictions, there's a very simple solution—just pay the bailout money back to the government, as so many banks claim they want to do. I know the taxpayers in my district will take it back happily.

As I asked the CEO of AIG when he came to testify before the Financial Services committee, is it more important to protect bank executives who have lost billions of dollars, or to protect us? The answer to that question is now before this body.

I know which side I'm on.

I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this important bill.

CONGRATULATING MAYOR SAM
JONES FOR BEING NAMED
MOBILIAN OF THE YEAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to honor Mobile Mayor Sam Jones on the occasion of being named Mobilian of the Year for 2008 by the Cottage Hill Civitan Club. The Mobilian of the Year is the city's most prestigious civic honor, and Mayor Jones is most deserving of this award in recognition of his tireless efforts on behalf of the Port City.

A native of Mobile, Mayor Jones graduated from Central High School in Mobile. He attended Florida Junior College and Jacksonville University in Florida before enrolling at the Alabama Interdenominational Seminary, where he was awarded an honorary doctorate.

Mayor Jones started his career in the U.S. Navy where he served for nine years. He served on the USS *Forrestal* where he was a flight deck troubleshooter for A-7 aircraft, an equal opportunity officer, race relations education specialist, and community services coordinator.

From 1980 until 1987, Mayor Jones was executive director of Mobile Community Action, Inc., where he oversaw a 240-person staff and a \$5 million annual budget. He then served as a Mobile County Commissioner for four terms.

In 2005, Sam Jones was elected as the first African American mayor of Mobile. Mobile's Press-Register recently editorialized that "Mobile's first African American mayor has demonstrated to the nation that Mobile is a progressive and inclusive Southern city where all residents have the opportunity for public service."

Mayor Jones is a man known for working 10–12 hour days, including weekends, and is rarely one to take a vacation. As captain of the city of Mobile, Mayor Jones has done yeoman's work helping to recruit several significant economic projects to Mobile, including the biggest economic development project in the history of our state, ThyssenKrupp's \$4 billion state-of-the-art steel plant.

Mayor Jones has an obvious love for Mobile. He has served as the past president of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama; a former member of the National Association of Counties Board of Directors; the National Association of Counties Election Reform Steering Committee; co-chair of Renewal 90 Educational Initiative; steering committee member of the 1988, 1992 and 2000 Education Funding Referendum Initiatives; former member of the Alabama Sentencing Commission; judge, Alabama Court of the Judiciary; former member of the Judicial Inquiry Commission; past member of the Alabama Port Authority; former member of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors; former board member of the United Way of Southwest Alabama and 1998 chairman of a \$7 million campaign for the organization; founder of the Mobile County Community Development Partnership; founder, Prichard Federal Credit Union; former chair of Envision Mobile/Baldwin; member, Underage Drinking Task Force; member, 100 Black Men, Mobile

Chapter; and director of Christian Education and Sunday School Superintendent for Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church.

He also currently serves on the boards of several organizations, including the University of South Alabama, the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission, the Mobile United Steering Committee, the Mobile Senior Bowl Committee, the MLK Redevelopment Corporation, the Mobile County Governmental Utilities, Mobile County Communication District, Volunteers of America, and Maritime Center of the Gulf of Mexico. He also serves as chair of the Metropolitan Planning Organization and is an emeritus member of the Community Foundation of Southwest Alabama.

Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my personal congratulations to Mayor Sam Jones for being named the Mobilian of the Year for 2008 and in so doing recognize him for his many outstanding accomplishments.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating a dedicated professional and friend to many throughout south Alabama. I know his many friends and colleagues join me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts over the years on behalf of the city of Mobile and the entire state.

RECOGNIZING ZEIDERS ENTERPRISES CELEBRATING TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF BUSINESS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Zeiders Enterprises over the 25 years since its founding in Prince William County, Virginia. The more than 700 staff members of Zeiders Enterprises provide services and assistance to more than 1.5 million military and family members at nearly 50 military installations worldwide each year.

Zeiders employees serve in crucial roles as clinical counselors, victim advocates, new parent support specialists, financial counselors, transition specialists, and relocation specialists. Through these activities, Zeiders Enterprises has made a direct, positive difference in the lives of individuals, families, their communities, and the organizations in which they serve. Especially noteworthy is the role that Zeiders plays in supporting the special needs of military service members and their families. Zeiders Enterprises is a founding sponsor of The Quality of Life Foundation, whose mission is to honor and serve our severely injured combat service members and their families by helping them face the life-changing challenges unique to their situations.

Employees at Zeiders contribute outside the workplace through extensive volunteer service.

This volunteer support of the American Red Cross, Peace Corps, local schools, youth development programs, mentoring programs, victim advocate programs, youth sports programs, community orchestras, volunteer fire and rescue departments, and military service in National Guard and Reserve occurs in Prince William County, Virginia, and across the nation where Zeiders employees live and work. The consistent contributions of Zeiders employees to the communities in which they serve are truly impressive.

A culture of public services emanates from the top of the Zeiders Enterprises organization. Michael Zeiders, president and CEO, serves the citizens of Prince William County and Virginia as an active member of both the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board and the SkillSource Group Board. Under his leadership, Zeiders Enterprises is an active partner in the community. Additionally, Mr. Zeiders has supported families of Wounded Warriors nationwide through the Quality of Life Foundation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today to congratulate Zeiders Enterprises on its 25th anniversary and to pay tribute to the significant contributions its employees have made in improving the lives of our brave men and women who serve this great country.

AUTHORIZING PILOT PROGRAM FOR PATENT CASES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 629, the "Patent Judges Pilot Program in Certain District Courts." I urge my colleagues to support this bill. This bill will provide more expertise in skill in a difficult area of law: patent law. Americans hold the patents and patent law as important, integral to our very lives. Patents reward ingenuity and creativity.

As the Blackberry litigation demonstrated, deficiencies in the current system have the ability to paralyze America. Indeed, the New York Times noted that "[something] has gone very wrong with the United States patent system." The Financial Times opined that "[i]t is time to restore the balance of power in U.S. patent law." Indeed, there has been a cry for change in the patent system and increased expertise for many years now.

The Constitution mandates that we "promote the progress of science and the useful arts . . . by securing for limited times to . . . inventors the exclusive right to their . . . discoveries." In order to fulfill the Constitution's mandate, we, as Members of Congress, must

examine the system periodically to determine whether there may be flaws in the system that may hamper innovation, including the problems described as decreased patent quality, prevalence of subjective elements in patent practice, patent abuse, and lack of qualified persons to study patent law.

H.R. 628 attempts to correct some of these problems.

H.R. 628 creates a pilot program to increase the expertise of U.S. District Court judges who wish to hear cases that involve issues related to patents or plant variety protection. The bill provides for the designation of not less than 6 United States district courts in at least 3 different circuits to take part in the pilot program. In the designated courts, judges who elect to hear patent or plant variety protection cases will be designated to do so by the chief judge. Cases will be assigned randomly, but undesignated judges may decline to accept patent and plant variety protection cases. The bill authorizes the expenditure of not less than \$5 million per year for up to 10 years to pay for the educational and professional development of designated judges, and for compensation for law clerks with technical expertise related to patent and plant variety protection cases to be appointed by the designated courts.

The high cost of patent litigation is widely publicized. It is not unusual for a patent suit to cost each party upwards of \$10 million. Appeals from United States district courts to the Federal Circuit are frequent, in part because of the perception within the patent community that most district court judges are not sufficiently prepared to adjudicate complex, technical patent cases. In 2008, 45 percent of the patent cases that were appealed to the Federal Circuit were reversed in whole or in part or vacated and remanded. This bill seeks to promote consistency among United States district courts by increasing the expertise of district court judges, thus providing for more certainty in intellectual property protection.

Taken together, these improvements would bring the American patent system up to speed for the twenty-first century. Instead of remaining a hindrance to innovation and economic growth, the patent system should work for inventors, ensuring America's patent system remains the best in the world and prevents risks to innovation.

I am encouraged by this bill, and I am hopeful that minorities and women take advantage of this pilot program. The patent judges pilot program and pilot program for law clerks provides for the educational and professional development of the designated district judges in matters relating to patent and plant variety protection, and for compensating law clerks with expertise in technical matters arising in patent and plant variety protection cases. This is yet another step that America is taking to ensure that its patent system is the best in the world. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.