

and counseling employees on substance abuse. Instead, the program has evolved into a subsidy solely for drug-testing centers, a private industry that does not warrant funding from the SBA, an agency whose mission is to promote and assist small businesses. Given the financial challenges facing the government, it is not prudent to use scarce taxpayer funds to purchase drug-testing services from and for viable private sector companies. As a result, the termination of program funding is appropriate due to the lack of meaningful returns on the public investment.

8. Termination of the National Women's Business Council (NWBC)—The NWBC mandate is to conduct research on women entrepreneurship, which is duplicative of the research work of the SBA's Office of Advocacy. Having two research entities conduct similar research is unnecessary and the NWBC funding should be terminated. The Office of Advocacy is the appropriate entity to conduct all entrepreneurship-related research as it benefits from both economies of scale and scope in its organization structure and staff capabilities.

In the last 18 months, small businesses have increasingly turned to the SBA for assistance. This has helped stem job losses and, in some parts of the country, created pockets of new growth. As a result, we are now beginning to see signs of strength, as private sector jobs continue to be added. To this end, the National Association for Business Economics recently found that 31 percent of companies added jobs between April and June, the highest level since 2007. Additionally, 39 percent of businesses surveyed reported that they expect to hire more workers over the next six months, which is the most since January 2008. Such growth is promising and it suggests that the business climate is becoming ripe for the establishment of new firms. This means that the SBA needs to be prepared to help these firms succeed, while also containing its costs. The Committee's proposals, if implemented, will accomplish this by reducing the federal deficit, curtailing fraud, and enabling the SBA to focus on its most important and successful programs. By increasing efficiency, the agency's existing tools and resources can be improved, without imposing additional costs on the taxpayer. This is a means to not only act in a fiscally prudent manner, but also a way to meet the needs of our nation's small businesses.

IN RECOGNITION OF MADLYN AND
JAMES AARON

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of James and Madlyn Aaron's long-standing dedication to their community and to applaud their many contributions to the public. I hope that their faithful devotion to the state of New Jersey may serve as an example to us all.

James Aaron has been practicing law for 41 years and is a member of the New Jersey State Bar and Monmouth Bar Association. He is currently partner at the distinguished firm of Ansell Grimm & Aaron, based in Ocean, New

Jersey. Jim has been able to connect his professional career with his desire to contribute to his community. He has served as a panelist for the Monmouth University Real Estate Institute and has lectured for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education. In addition, Jim has been the City of Long Branch's City Attorney since 1994, has served as the municipal prosecutor and attorney for the zoning board for the City of Long Branch, and has held the position of Ashbury Park's City Attorney. In fact, he is the only City Attorney in the history of New Jersey to serve these cities at the same time. Jim's impressive legal career includes practicing before the United States Supreme Court, the United States Court of Appeals, and the United States Court of Claims.

Mr. Aaron's active participation in New Jersey civic life extends to a variety of other spheres as well. In 2006, Jim was appointed the Commissioner of the New Jersey Racing Commission. He also sits on the Board of Trustees of the Hollywood Golf Club. In addition, because religion is important to him, Jim has attended Temple Beth Miriam for his entire life. He is now a member of the Temple's Board of Trustees.

Jim's wife Madlyn Aaron was a school teacher in the Long Branch school system for over 33 years. She holds a B.A. and an MBA from Monmouth University, and her commitment to education has continued even after retirement. Madlyn and Jim sponsor the Leslie B. Aaron Scholarship Fund which provides a scholarship to a deserving Long Branch High School senior every year. They also sponsor Heimlich-Aaron Scholarship Fund which provides a scholarship for a worthy graduate of Temple Beth Miriam's Hebrew High School. The couple supports Monmouth University and the Monmouth Medical Center, and their contributions to civic life also include their active membership in the Long Branch Chamber of Commerce. Perhaps most notably, Jim and Madlyn recently served as co-chairs of the Temple Beth Miriam's "Capital Campaign." The campaign successfully raised over \$2.5 million dollars for the Temple.

Madam Speaker, please join me in leading this body in acknowledgement of the dedication of James and Madlyn Aaron to their community. Their contributions to civic life and charitable and religious organizations make them tremendously valued citizens of my district and the state of New Jersey.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK
OF DR. CLAIRE COLEMAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise today to remember and honor the life of a dear friend, Dr. Claire Colman. Claire was an accomplished physician, a staunch champion of women's rights, and a dedicated Democratic activist.

Since her passing last December, friends from around the Metro-Detroit area and Michigan have remembered Claire in various ways, including a most fitting dedication by the Birmingham-Bloomfield Democratic Club of a park bench in Birmingham's Shain Park. I am honored to add my words today to the growing list of tributes to Claire's life.

Claire embodied progressive values and had an abiding passion for human rights. She was a tireless leader, ably heading key organizations as Michigan NOW and Detroit WAND, even while struggling with serious health issues. Through her leadership and activism, Claire was the essence of advocacy. Even the most minor task warranted her attention—she was ever on the phone, at meetings, raising money and raising spirits. She remains an example for us all.

Above all, however, Claire was a loving and devoted wife to Michael and mother to Joe and Brian. To both my wife Colleen and I, she was not only a dear friend but a trusted advisor and stalwart advocate.

In so many ways, Claire's passion, energy and enthusiasm for life and goodness lives on in each of us. Her memory inspires us to work toward a world that expresses our shared values. She is missed. She is cherished. And she will always be in our hearts.

FINDINGS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF
THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND GOVERNMENT REFORM RELATING TO
EFFICIENCY AND REFORM PURSUANT TO H. RES. 1493

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to subsection (c)(2) of H. Res. 1493, the House-passed Budget Enforcement Resolution, I am submitting the following information for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The Budget Enforcement Resolution requires that I identify the Committee actions that help achieve deficit reduction by reducing waste, fraud, and abuse in government programs, promoting efficiency and government reform, and controlling spending in the government programs. This requirement reflects the House's commitment to deficit reduction and bringing about a more efficient and accountable government for the American people. As Chairman of the Oversight Committee, I am pleased to comply with this requirement.

A September 2 letter from the Speaker of the House and Majority Leader to House Committee Chairs identifies some of the important legislative steps the Oversight Committee has taken to promote deficit reduction, fiscal responsibility, and government reform in the 111th Congress. The Oversight Committee and the House of Representatives passed the Government Efficiency, Effectiveness and Performance Improvement Act, H.R. 2142. As the letter acknowledges, the enhanced oversight provided by this legislation will significantly cut government waste. In addition, the Committee approved the Improper Payments Elimination and Reduction Act, H.R. 3393, which was also signed into law (as S. 1508) on July 22, 2010. The Office of Management and Budget recently reported that the federal government made an astonishing \$98 billion in duplicate, erroneous, or undocumented payments in 2009. The Committee's and the Congress' efforts, in passing H.R. 3393 / S. 1508, will provide the government with the tools it needs to recover these overpayments for the American taxpayers and stop them from occurring in the first instance.

In addition to these important reforms, the Oversight Committee is pursuing a broad-based approach to deficit reduction and budget savings. The Committee's actions include direct oversight of agencies to improve and address inefficient practices that would result in over \$19.4 billion in budget savings. The Committee also has advanced legislative reforms to strengthen the internal watchdogs at government agencies, improve the investigative and auditing arm of Congress, empower federal workers to fight fraud and waste without fear of retaliation, improve government efficiency by facilitating the sale of surplus federal real property, and save hundreds of millions of tax dollars by expediting the transition of government-wide telecommunication services. These efforts are described below.

HOLDING AGENCIES ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OVER \$19.4 BILLION IN COST SAVINGS REFORMS

At the request of the Oversight Committee, Inspectors General from across the government identified improvements and efficiencies in government operations that would result in over \$19.4 billion in savings to the federal budget if fully implemented. As the country begins to recover from the economic crisis, the American public should have confidence that agencies will be held accountable for taking any actions necessary to recover such significant savings of their hard-earned tax dollars. The Oversight Committee will monitor implementation of each of these IG recommendations. The Committee will require agency heads to report back on the steps they are taking to recoup these savings for the U.S. taxpayers, to provide a timeline for the realization of these savings, and detail any administrative or legislative action needed to bring about these savings and efficiencies.

STRENGTHENING THE IG COMMUNITY

The Oversight Committee is also taking legislative action to promote better and more efficient government. This September, the Committee plans to bring legislation (H.R. 5815) to the floor of the House of Representatives that will better equip Inspectors General to fulfill their statutory mission of rooting out waste and fraud in the federal government. The legislation complements and strengthens the Committee's ongoing oversight efforts in this area. The legislation will require corrective action by government agencies to address IG cost saving recommendations. A statutory mandate will remove the bureaucratic inertia and barriers that too often slow or thwart agency efforts to tackle inefficiencies that account for billions of dollars in unnecessary spending every year. The legislation will also provide IGs with the tools they need to conduct complete and thorough investigations of waste, fraud, and abuse in government contracting. Collectively, the reforms in H.R. 5815 will strengthen the authority of IGs so they can better fulfill their important mission of fighting waste and protecting the interests of the taxpayers.

IMPROVING THE GAO

During this Congress, the House of Representatives passed legislation (H.R. 2646) sponsored by the Oversight Committee that will strengthen the authority and effectiveness of the General Accountability Office (GAO). The GAO helps inform the Congress, Executive agencies, and the public about areas and programs within the federal government that are performing well, and those that need to be improved or are vulnerable to waste, fraud, and abuse. GAO audits pro-

vide reliable assessments as to whether the taxpayers are receiving full value from important government programs. H.R. 2646, which is awaiting action in the Senate, will increase the effectiveness of GAO by ensuring that GAO is not unnecessarily restricted in its efforts to secure necessary information in the course of performing its auditing and investigative functions for the Congress.

EMPOWERING FEDERAL EMPLOYEES TO COMBAT WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE

The Oversight Committee is committed to advancing H.R. 1507, the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2009, and is currently negotiating with the Senate on this essential reform. Similar legislation was passed as part of the Recovery Act in the beginning of the Congress, but was unfortunately stripped out in conference with the Senate. The government should make every effort to ensure that tax dollars are not misspent or vulnerable to waste, fraud, or abuse. Federal employees at financial and other agencies throughout the government are often the first to witness abuses or illegality that presents a risk to the taxpayer. They are in a position to call attention to waste in government operations because they see what is happening inside our government on a day-to-day basis. Providing strong protections for those who disclose misconduct helps to promote a more accountable and transparent federal bureaucracy. Importantly, the legislation also extends strong whistleblower protections to employees of government contractors.

FACILITATING SAVINGS THROUGH SALES OF REAL PROPERTY

Last September, the Oversight Committee favorably reported H.R. 2495, the Federal Real Property Disposal Act. This legislation would encourage the sale of surplus federal real property by allowing the General Services Administration to use its funds to prepare unneeded properties to be reported excess. It would also allow agencies to retain the proceeds from the sale of surplus real property. These measures would implement recommendations by GAO, which has stated in its High-Risk Series that the funding needed to prepare property for disposal and some agencies' inability to retain sale proceeds have been longstanding barriers to the sale of surplus property. The language of H.R. 2495 is being added to S. 1510, the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division Modernization Act, and the Oversight Committee is currently negotiating with the Senate on final language for the bill.

SAVING TAX DOLLARS BY EXPEDITING THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS TRANSITION

The delay in transitioning government-wide telecommunications services from the General Services Administration's FTS2001 contract to Networx has resulted in the loss of approximately \$22 million a month. At the current pace, those losses could total between \$300 million and a half-billion dollars in unrealized cost savings by May 2011. The Oversight Committee held a hearing on this issue in May 2010 and will continue closely monitoring and working with the General Services Administration, the Office of Management and Budget, and individual Agencies to expedite the transition to Networx. In addition, I am planning to introduce legislation requiring agencies to complete the transition to Networx before the current FTS2001 bridge and crossover contracts expire in May 2011. If enacted, this legislation would eliminate the need for the General Services Administration to enter into any additional bridge contracts.

I look forward to continuing to work with House leadership, the other Committee

Chairs, and the Members of this body as we take steps to eliminate the deficit, and promote government that best protects the interests of the U.S. taxpayers.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HATCH ACT NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION PARITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Hatch Act National Capital Region Parity Act. This bill would remedy an omission in federal law that treats District of Columbia residents who work for the federal government differently from their federal colleagues in the Washington metropolitan area. This omission is another remnant of the days before the District of Columbia was a self-governing jurisdiction. This bill would give the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) authority to designate the District of Columbia similar to other local jurisdictions so that federal employees who reside there may take an active part in political management and political campaigns for local partisan elections. Under the Hatch Act, OPM only has authority to designate Maryland and Virginia localities in the immediate vicinity of the District, or towns in which the majority of voters are federal employees, as exempt from the Hatch Act's prohibition on federal employee participation in local partisan elections. Currently, federal employees residing in 47 Maryland localities, 15 Virginia localities and 12 other localities across the United States are permitted to participate in local partisan elections.

OPM's authority to exempt certain localities recognizes that, if large numbers of residents in a jurisdiction are federal employees, much of a locality's population would be denied the opportunity to participate in local affairs. When the Hatch Act was passed in 1940, the old Civil Service Commission (CSC) was given authority to exempt federal employees living in Maryland and Virginia localities near D.C. because large numbers of residents of those localities were, and continue to be, federal employees. However, CSC was not given the same authority for the District of Columbia, even though a large number of residents were, and continue to be, federal employees, probably because D.C. did not have local elections until the Home Rule Act of 1973.

This bill is part of our ongoing mission to wipe away all the disparate treatment of District residents left in federal law. Our related pending bill, the Hatch Act Reform Act (H.R. 1345), which the House passed last year and is now on its way to the Senate floor, would permit the District of Columbia, the only local jurisdiction where local government employees are under the federal Hatch Act, to enact and operate under its own local Hatch Act, like other jurisdictions in the United States.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the District of Columbia as a self-governing jurisdiction by supporting this bill.