

While current sanctions on Iran have impeded Iran's ability to successfully develop a nuclear weapon, most experts agree that Iran will have nuclear capabilities in the next two to three years if tougher sanctions are not imposed.

According to a recent report released by the International Atomic Energy Agency, Iran has a stockpile of low-enriched uranium that if further enriched could produce three nuclear weapons.

Earlier this week, I sent letters to Chairman ROS-LEHTINEN, Ranking Member BERMAN and House leadership urging them to consider H.R. 1905 and sanctions on the Central Bank of Iran. I am encouraged by the Committee's swift action and hopeful that this bill will swiftly be brought to the floor for consideration in the whole House.

H.R. 1905 strongly reflects the demands of the international community that tougher sanctions must be placed on Iranian leaders to end their nuclear program. If enacted, H.R. 1905 would increase sanctions on human rights violators in Iran, impose tougher sanctions on the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), and would finally codify the U.S. policy to prevent Iran from developing unconventional weapons and ballistic missiles. This bill takes steps to peacefully thwart Iran's nuclear aspirations.

During the markup of this bill, an amendment offered by Ranking Member BERMAN to strengthen sanctions against Iran's Central Bank was unanimously agreed to. The Berman Amendment strengthens H.R. 1905 by inserting language that directs the President to determine whether the Central Bank of Iran is engaged in sanctionable activity.

By sanctioning the Central Bank of Iran, the United States would set a strong example for countries around the world that depend on a geopolitically stable Middle East for their own security and prosperity. Imposing tougher sanctions on the Iranian economy will demonstrate that the international community will not tolerate Iran's continued refusal to end their nuclear enrichment program.

Specifically, the Berman Amendment directs the President of the United States to determine whether the Central Bank of Iran has:

Assisted Iran's WMD or missile programs, including proliferation of WMD to other governments;

Financed Iran's procurement of advanced conventional weapons;

Provided financial services for the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps; or

Facilitated Iran's support of international terrorism.

Should the President make the determination that the Central Bank of Iran is involved in any of these areas, the bill would require him to apply sanctions under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. These sanctions would ensure that any foreign bank involved in significant transactions with the Central Bank of Iran are excluded from doing business with the U.S. If this bill is passed by the whole House, the President will have 30 days to make this determination.

Mr. Speaker, history has taught us that strong sanctions can bring about peaceful change. A generation ago, Congress passed the Anti-Apartheid Act which led to the end of the apartheid regime and brought about a

peaceful revolution resulting in the new democratic South Africa.

While the Arab Spring has deflected a lot of attention away from Iran's nuclear enrichment program, H.R. 1905 will help to refocus our efforts on appropriately addressing this critical issue. Leaders in the Iranian government have shown repeatedly that they are unwilling to comply with international demands to scrap their nuclear program.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this bill and look forward to voting for it when it comes to the floor for final passage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, while I was present for rollcall vote 820 on November 2, 2011, my vote was not recorded. Had my vote been recorded I would have voted "yes" on that passage of the Small Company Capital Formation Act.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HIRE VETERANS ACT OF 2011

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, as Americans celebrate Veterans' Day this year it is important to take time and reflect on the infinite contributions and sacrifices the men, women, and families of those who have served in our Armed Forces. Our commitment to veterans should not end with their service, we must show our gratitude by offering them every opportunity to experience the American dream that they fought to protect.

With a veteran unemployment rate of 22 percent nationwide, much more needs to be done to create an environment that helps the private sector hire men and women who have served our country in uniform, more than 250,000 of whom live in San Diego County. That is why I am pleased to introduce the Help Inspire and Retrain our Exceptional (HIRE) Veterans Act of 2011 along with my colleague, Congressman JOHN BARROW of Georgia.

Over the next two years, as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan begin to wind down, more veterans will find themselves searching for jobs in the civilian workforce. One of the biggest obstacles for unemployed veterans is connecting to employers. The HIRE Veterans Act of 2011 helps overcome this obstacle and provides opportunities to valuable members of our community with the resources they need to transition from the armed services to a civilian workforce. This legislation will authorize grants to be awarded by the Department of Commerce to local Chambers of Commerce to create job training, apprenticeship, and internship programs for local veterans.

The time to act is now. As part of the record, I am submitting letters of support from

the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce and the San Diego North Chamber of Commerce. These letters emphasize the importance of this legislation and describe how local Chambers and businesses can help HIRE veterans.

CARLSBAD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

November 2, 2011.

Hon. BRIAN BILBRAY,
Member of Congress, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BILBRAY: I am writing to support the proposed Help Inspire and Retrain our Exceptional (HIRE) Veterans Act you are proposing in the upcoming session.

The Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce is the 10th largest Chamber in the State of California and the second largest in San Diego County. We are located adjacent to the large Marine Corps Base at Camp Pendleton and as such see first-hand the serious unemployment problem facing our young veterans. In response to the problem we have created the Boots in Business Military Mentoring Initiative to allow as many of the 8,000 veterans leaving the service from Camp Pendleton each calendar year to mentor with civilian employers across the county.

The main issue facing these veterans is competing for jobs with civilians in the region is their ability to see first-hand the types of jobs in the marketplace and learn what employers are looking for when they hire someone both in experience and education.

Our mission is to help military personnel in the last weeks of their active duty term learn about the business world through job shadowing 60 to 90 days prior to their discharge date. By showing them what it's like to work in a variety of professions, local companies will help veterans make smart future career and educational decisions. Our program (a Memorandum of Understanding MOU) is a collaborative effort between the Marine Corps Base at Camp Pendleton, the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce and many local businesses that are willing to provide a variety of job shadowing experiences to active military members and their spouses as they prepare to enter civilian life.

Military members are allowed up to 30 days of paid Temporary Additional Duty to be mentored, so they can shadow as many civilian jobs as possible during that time. A mentoring activity can be one day, one week or even one month in duration, depending on the goals of the veteran, the number of positions shadowed, and the depth of involvement with each position.

We are providing resume writing, job interviews, and first-hand experience test driving as many jobs that they desire in order to see if the job fits how they can compete to get it. There is no charge for our program and their spouses are equally allowed to participate.

If the veteran decides to return to his or her home town we have arranged with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to contact the local city chamber of commerce and notify them of the arrival of a new veteran and have them arrange business introductions were possible.

We endorse your proposed legislation 100%. The soaring unemployment rate adds another layer of difficulty to the job search experience. Your legislation will go a long way toward allowing Chambers across the country with veterans in their community have a fair chance to be hired and begin a meaningful career.

Respectfully,

TED OWENS,
President/CEO.

Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce.

SAN DIEGO NORTH,
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
November 2, 2011.

Subject: Support of "HIRE Veterans Act of 2011"

Hon. BRIAN BILBRAY,
U.S. Representative, 2410 Rayburn Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BILBRAY: We, the San Diego North Chamber of Commerce, support your proposed legislation titled, "Help Inspire and Retrain our Exceptional Veterans Act of 2011." In a time of economic uncertainty and high unemployment, your legislation would allow for local chambers of commerce to provide assistance for those who have honorably served.

As organizations that are familiar with local employer needs and that are able to provide workforce training, Chambers of Commerce are a bridge between businesses with open positions and job seekers such as our returning military men and women. This bill will ensure that our veterans are better prepared for job opportunities in our communities by funding training workshops, résumé writing and interview classes, and career coaching.

In areas like San Diego, where returning military often choose to retire, our organizations hear from veterans on a constant basis looking for career development advice and jobs. This bill will allow these veterans to be better served and better prepared as they seek opportunities after their service.

This Act will help prepare our veterans and help local economies get back on their feet. For these reasons, the San Diego North Chamber of Commerce supports the "HIRE Veterans Act of 2011."

Sincerely,

DEBRA ROSEN,
President and CEO,
San Diego North Chamber of Commerce.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 816, due to flight cancellation and subsequent delay traveling to Washington from my District, I was unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN FOLKS OF
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. John Folks on being awarded Superintendent of the Year from the Texas Association of School Boards.

Dr. Folks has served as superintendent of the Northside Independent School District in San Antonio, Texas since 2002 and was selected from among the 1,000 eligible superintendents from across the state of Texas for this award. Dr. Folks has consistently advocated against budget cuts to education and schools, and during his time as superintendent, Northside ISD has become the larg-

est school district in Bexar County and has grown from 65,000 students to 97,500 students. Northside ISD is also the largest school district in Texas to be classified as a "recognized" school under the state's accountability system.

Dr. Folks has been instrumental in maintaining the quality of Texas public schools and has served as superintendent of Spring Independent School District in Houston and Mid-west City-Del City Public Schools in suburban Oklahoma City. He began his teaching career in Port Arthur, Texas and has remained an educator for 41 years. As Past President of the Texas Association of School Administrators, he has used his leadership skills to help school districts excel across the state of Texas. He is committed to doing what is right for Texas youth and understands that it takes a skilled team of dedicated educators to pave their road to success to prepare students to lead productive and fulfilling lives.

I would again ask you to congratulate Dr. John Folks on his recognition as Superintendent of the Year by the Texas Association of School Boards and acknowledge his fight for providing an exemplary education throughout our nation's public school systems.

HONORING DALLAS COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER MICHELLE MOORE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michelle Moore, a distinguished Dallas County public defender from my district. After sixteen years with the Dallas County public defender's office, Ms. Moore will be leaving her current position to open the first public defender's office in Burnet County, Texas.

There are few people with as much capacity for compassion and as much dedication to her work as Ms. Moore has demonstrated throughout her term of public service. Her years of tireless work to help absolve innocent men of crimes they never committed have been critical to strengthening the integrity of our judicial system here in Texas and throughout the Nation.

Having helped to free eleven wrongfully-imprisoned men, Ms. Moore has contributed greatly to Dallas County's record as having more DNA exonerations than any other county in the Nation since Texas began permitting post-conviction DNA testing in 2001.

Ms. Moore has frequently gone above and beyond her normal scope of duty by making sure that exonerees had no trouble assimilating back into the lives that were taken from them, even regularly working off the clock and without charging her clients for legal advice.

Beyond the boundaries of this great State, her work has gone far to highlight the need for a closer examination of certain convictions and for stronger safeguards against wrongful imprisonment. Ms. Moore's contributions have undoubtedly not only changed the lives of those she directly represented, but also the vast others in similar circumstances throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that we must see Ms. Moore go. However, I have

found relief in the fact that she is not leaving her work entirely and will instead be going on to serve the needs of other wrongfully convicted prisoners. I would like to end by wishing Ms. Moore the best of luck in her latest attempt to bring veritable justice to under or unserved areas in Texas.

[From dallasnews.com, Oct. 29, 2011]

PUBLIC DEFENDER WHO SPENT DECADE WORKING TO FREE THE INNOCENT IS LEAVING DALLAS COUNTY

(By Jennifer Emily)

For a decade, Dallas County public defender Michelle Moore has worked on and off the clock to free the innocent from prison and help them adjust to life on the outside once they're released.

This week, Moore, the face of the public defender's office, is leaving to open the first public defender's office in Burnet County, in the Hill Country.

Moore helped free 11 men from prison, appeared on a television documentary called Dallas DNA and helped change state laws to compensate exonerees and prevent wrongful convictions.

"It's tough to leave Dallas County and leave behind the exonerees," she said. "I'll still be in touch and help out."

Dallas County's exonerees are mostly excited about Moore's new opportunity, she said. But they still wish she would stay in Dallas County.

"A couple of the guys were 'Oh, yeah, that's cool,'" Moore said. "But a couple of the guys were like 'We'll never see you again.'"

Someone else will take over her job with the public defender's office, but the position has not yet been filled.

Christopher Scott, freed in October 2009 after spending 12 years in prison for a crime he did not commit, said that while behind bars, he saw Moore on television and hoped that one day she would be his attorney. He said he couldn't believe it when she was appointed to his case.

Scott said Moore not only works on cases in her job as a public defender but also regularly gives them free legal advice and makes sure they are adjusting well when freed from prison.

"Michelle is a princess to us," said Scott, who said he considers Moore both a friend and family. "A lot of people take advantage of exonerees—not Michelle. She gives us advice normally people would charge hundreds of dollars for."

James Hammond, a DA's office investigator who has worked on numerous claims of innocence, said Moore's dedication to her job extends far beyond regular hours.

"She's very compassionate toward the exonerees," he said. "Not just the legal side in the courtroom but that they had clothes and a place to stay. She made sure when they stepped out of the building, they had a parachute, that they had people interested in their interests."

Moore spent 16 years in the public defender's office. In 2001, when the state began allowing post-conviction DNA testing, Moore began working cases in which inmates requested DNA testing of old evidence to prove their innocence. Later, she worked similar cases where there was no DNA to test.

Dallas County has had 22 exonerations by DNA evidence and three, including Scott's, by other evidence. Since 2001, when Texas began allowing DNA testing and Moore began working on cases, the county has had more DNA exonerations than any other county in the nation.

Some DNA tests confirmed guilt and others were inconclusive. Moore was the lead attorney on nine cases in which inmates were freed, and she assisted on two others.