

As you know, H.R. 2711 contains provisions within the Committee on the Judiciary's Rule X jurisdiction. As a result of your having consulted with the Committee and in order to expedite the House's consideration of H.R. 2711, the Committee on the Judiciary will not assert is jurisdictional claim over this bill by seeking a sequential referral. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding and agreement that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Committee Report and in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

JULY 30, 2013.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding the Committee on the Judiciary's jurisdictional interest in H.R. 2711, the "Citizen Empowerment Act," and your willingness to forego consideration of H.R. 2711 by your committee.

I agree that the Committee on the Judiciary has a valid jurisdictional interest in certain provisions of H.R. 2711 and that the Committee's jurisdiction will not be adversely affected by your decision to forego consideration of H.R. 2711. As you have requested, I will support your request for an appropriate appointment of outside conferees from your Committee in the event of a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation should such a conference be convened.

Finally, I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Committee Report and in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you again for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

DARRELL ISSA,
Chairman.

NUCLEAR IRAN PREVENTION ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in opposition to the Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 1911—the Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act of 2013.

This bill will peg student loan interest rates to the 10-year Treasury note allowing the rate to fluctuate with financial markets.

Specifically, the bill would peg the permanent student loan interest rate to the 10-year Treasury note plus 2.05% for undergraduate subsidized and unsubsidized Stafford loans; the 10-year Treasury note plus 3.6 % for subsidized and unsubsidized Stafford loans; and the 10-year Treasury note plus 4.6% for Parent Plus and Graduate Plus loans.

One positive thing that this bill does do is that it caps student loan interest rates at 8.25% for undergraduates, 9.5% for graduate students, and 10.5% for Parents Plus and Graduate Plus loans.

I am disappointed with this bill because it fails to permanently keep student loan interest rates at their current fixed rate, and in doing so increases the cost to borrowers over the next 10 years by an estimated \$715 million dollars.

Despite the public outcry over student loan debt, now totaling over \$1 trillion dollars, Congress has chosen to make an estimated \$715 million dollar profit off of student loans.

This is shameful! We should not be making a profit off the backs of students. Students are our future. An educated populous is what America needs to remain competitive in the 21st century. Balancing the budget on the backs of students is wrong, unfair and shameful!

NUCLEAR IRAN PREVENTION ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I regretfully rise to express my opposition to H.R. 850, the most recent legislative effort by this body to further increase sanctions on Iran. Although I believe the intentions of the authors of this legislation are good, I believe our shared goal of preventing Iran from achieving a nuclear weapon will actually be harmed by bringing this legislation forward at this critical moment.

In three days, Iran will inaugurate a new president—Hasan Rowhani—who was elected after he ran on a platform of engaging with the United States and rejecting the extremist policies of his predecessor. Despite the fact that Mr. Rowhani was not the preferred candidate of Supreme Leader Khamenei, he was elected by an overwhelming majority of the Iranian people this past June. In short, the Iranian people rejected an extremist government and voted for the candidate who represented the best opportunity to break with the human rights violations and belligerent policies of the past.

Yet, instead of taking this moment to re-engage with Iran and pursue diplomacy—which is the only way to ultimately prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon—we are instead moving forward with new, crippling sanctions before we have the opportunity to see whether President-elect Rowhani's campaign promises will lead to new, positive action. Even worse, this legislation sends a message to the Iranian people that their bravery and massive turnout this past June in the face of violent repression and intimidation from the government, was a futile and irrelevant action in the eyes of the United States.

In addition to this legislation's unfortunate timing, this bill also contains several troubling provisions which diverge significantly from previous Iran sanctions legislation. The bill contains policy language that changes the red line

for war with Iran from the clear position laid out by the Obama Administration to a nebulous position that Iran should not be allowed to obtain a nuclear weapons "capability." The term "capability" is not defined in the bill. When dealing with questions of war and peace, it is incumbent that Congress and the Administration speak with one voice and avoid putting forward policy positions are open to interpretation and could pave the way for war.

Additionally, the bill places significant restrictions on the President's ability to waive sanctions in exchange for positive action by Iran on the nuclear issue. In doing so, the bill threatens to fracture the unprecedented international coalition working to prevent Iran from achieving a nuclear weapon.

For all of these reasons, both procedural and substantive, I oppose the bill.

NUCLEAR IRAN PREVENTION ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 850, the Nuclear Iran Prevention Act.

This legislation will significantly strengthen the impact of existing sanctions on Iran in the hopes of convincing the regime's leaders to stop their nuclear weapons program.

The message to Iran must be crystal clear: stop your nuclear program or face intensifying international isolation and crippling economic pressure until your program stops.

I stand with over 350 over my colleagues who have co-sponsored this legislation in strong opposition to Iran's nuclear weapons program.

Allowing Iran to achieve nuclear weapons capability would start a very dangerous nuclear arms race in a region that is already unstable—endangering our Nation's security and the security of our friends and allies in the Middle East.

Iran continues to increase its stockpiles of twenty-percent enriched uranium, approaching a level where they can very quickly breakout whenever they want. They are also installing advanced centrifuges that would allow them to substantially increase their uranium enrichment at a rapid pace.

This legislation will eliminate sources of foreign funding, reduce oil exports by an additional million barrels per day and apply harsh penalties to human rights violators.

By passing this legislation and ensuring its enforcement, we can continue to enforce the strongest possible amount of financial pressure against Iran.

The window for a peaceful resolution is quickly closing. Through tightening sanctions, pursuing the diplomatic track, and keeping all options on the table, I believe we can persuade the Iranian regime to stop their quest for nuclear weapons before it is too late.

As co-chair of the Democratic Israel Working Group, I urge my colleagues to stand for peace and a nuclear-free Middle East and vote in support of this important legislation.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF SHERIFF
WARDIE PERNELL VINCENT, SR.

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate my good friend, constituent, and public servant, Sheriff Wardie Pernell Vincent, Sr. upon his retirement from service as Sheriff for Northampton County, North Carolina.

Wardie Vincent was born on November 4, 1947, to Eugene and Norene Vincent in the town of Henrico, North Carolina. He attended Northampton County public schools and graduated in 1966 from historic Gumberry High School. On October 5, 1967, Wardie enlisted in the United States Army and courageously served the United States of America for two years. He was Honorably Discharged from military service and returned to his hometown where he and his wife Betty would rear three wonderful children.

Wardie Vincent's service in the United States Army introduced him to the important work of law enforcement and the value in maintaining safe communities. He applied the skills learned in the Army to excel in his desire to be a law enforcement officer and pursue training at Halifax Community College where he received a degree in Criminal Justice.

Wardie Vincent's first job out of college was as security guard with the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers' Association in the Town of Rich Square. He later became an undercover officer working with Bertie, Hertford, Warren and Martin Counties on a variety of critical assignments targeting drug use and gang activity. It would become clear that Wardie Vincent's unmatched skills and experience would lead him to seek the office of Sheriff for Northampton County.

At age 51, Wardie Vincent was elected Sheriff of Northampton County. He would be reelected three more times to this high office, most recently in November 2010 when he ran unopposed. Sheriff Vincent has served a total of fourteen years as the High Sheriff of Northampton County and has overseen the expansion of this office through the hiring of additional Deputy Sheriffs and a strategic crack-down on illegal drugs through the county's drug taskforce. He also modernized the Sheriff's office by securing grants and improved budgeting for updated technology and law enforcement tools. There is no doubt that the Northampton County has been made safer through the visionary leadership of Sheriff Wardie Vincent.

Sheriff Vincent and his wife Betty look forward to spending more time with their three children—Kimberly, Kenisha, and Wardie, Jr. and their five grandchildren—Saige, Kai, Omani, Myles, Caleb, and Kenadi.

Mr. Speaker, the retirement of Sheriff Wardie Pernell Vincent, Sr. will leave a great void in Northampton County. But I know he will continue to play a vital role in his community as a leader, advocate, and friend to his fellow citizens. I ask my colleagues to join me in offering our sincere appreciation for Sheriff Vincent's forty years of public service and best wishes upon his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO LILLIAN KAWASAKI

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, this month, the Los Angeles Area lost a wonderful leader, the environmental community lost a true champion, and I lost a dear friend. Lillian Kawasaki had served the city of Los Angeles since the early 1990s, and while she wore many hats throughout her years in public service, one thing remained constant among them all—she fought to make life better for those around her.

An elected member of the WRD Board of Directors since 2006, Lillian was the first Asian-American ever appointed a department chief in Los Angeles. Lillian began heading the Los Angeles City Environmental Affairs Department in 1990 under Mayor Tom Bradley, and she worked tirelessly to improve the air quality in Los Angeles, spearheading the Los Angeles City Clean Air Plan and the City CEQA Thresholds Guidelines and Environmental Justice Program. In addition, Ms. Kawasaki served on the California State University LA Foundation Board for more than 5 years. She had recently joined the California Small Business Development Center Network Advisory Board.

Lillian was determined to clean up the city that she loved. Beginning as a researcher at UCLA, she worked on wastewater nutrient recycling programs before moving over to the Port of Los Angeles's Environmental Management Division. As a scientist, Lillian understood that the air we breathe and the water we drink affects our communities, our children, and our future, and her passion for a higher quality of life of Los Angelinos is what drove her to public service. She dedicated her life to cleaning up the Los Angeles Area, and her work will be felt for generations to come.

The daughter of Japanese-Americans who were interned during World War II, Lillian was determined to commemorate this part of American history, and served as the co-chair of the Friends of Manzanar, a National Historic Site. Lillian was determined to give back to her community, and was a member of the Women's Foundation Donor's Circle, where she championed financial literacy for women and girls in her community.

Lillian left us not long ago, but her impact lives on. The lives she touched are forever changed for the better, as are the communities she dedicated her life to improving. Her life's work provides an inspiration for all of us. So, today, I bid farewell to a friend, a community leader, and a true role model to so many.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF STRATFORD LANDING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Stratford Landing Elementary School in Alexandria, which is proudly celebrating 50 years of providing an excellent education to the students of Fairfax, Virginia.

Built on land once owned by George Washington, Stratford Landing Elementary School officially opened its doors with Principal Eleanor N. Hollandsworth on September 3, 1963 with an initial enrollment of 301 students in grades one through six. This student population would more than double the next year.

In response to a rapidly growing community and an influx of military families the following year, Stratford Landing underwent its first renovation in 1966, adding an additional hallway of classrooms.

As schools across the Nation began to implement kindergarten classes to comply with the Federal Head Start initiative, Stratford Landing opened its first half-day kindergarten program in 1968.

During the 1970s, Stratford Landing initiated one of the first Gifted and Talented Centers in Fairfax County Public Schools, developed to offer a unique academic program to qualifying students in grades three through six from multiple local elementary schools. Stratford Landing also expanded to include two preschool programs, which supported early intervention for young children identified with autism and developmental delays.

Over the years, the school underwent other renovations to add a gym, music room, day care facility, playground, 10-classroom modular unit, and seven learning environment trailers. It also created an English as a Second Language program to better meet the needs of students.

In 2009, Stratford Landing developed and continues to refine a Discovery Garden, supporting environmental and science studies. The school also began offering a full-day kindergarten program with the last phase-in by Fairfax County Public Schools for the 2011–2012 school year.

Stratford Landing continues to stay abreast of technological changes by adding Smart Board technology to all classrooms, increasing the number of mobile laptop carts, investing in hands-on voting systems, and using other technology tools to support the needs of 21st century learners.

Stratford Landing Elementary School, the parent-teacher association, and the school community continue to work in partnership to benefit student success and achievement both in the classroom, on the school grounds, and through diverse after-school programs. And while the school mascot and student fashions have changed over the years, Stratford Landing Elementary School has remained committed to providing an academically challenging and positive learning environment in which all students thrive.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to commend Stratford Landing Elementary School as it marks 50 years of providing educational opportunities to the children of Fairfax County.

THE WATER FOR THE WORLD ACT OF 2013

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as America prepares for the holiday season, it is important to pause and reflect on what we can