

Vola Percoco; Jon Anthony Perconti; Ivan A. Perez; Nancy E. Perez; Anthony Perez; Alejo Perez; Angela Susan Perez; Angel Perez; Berry Berenson Perkins; Joseph Perroncino; Edward Joseph Perrotta; John William Perry; Glenn C. Perry; Emelda Perry; Franklin Allan Pershep; Danny Pesce; Michael J. Pescherine; Donald A. Peterson; Jean Hoadley Peterson; William Russel Peterson; Davin Peterson.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKELTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### NATIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND ACT, H.R. 2394

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) IS RECOGNIZED FOR 5 MINUTES.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce today that over 1,700 local, State, and national organizations from throughout this country have endorsed H.R. 2394, legislation that I introduced last June, to create a National Affordable Housing Trust Fund. And I especially want to thank for their organizing efforts the National Low-Income Housing Coalition for all of their help in bringing these organizations together around this terribly important issue.

It is almost unprecedented to have such an outpouring of support from such a broad array of groups representing working people through their unions, business leaders, different religious affiliations, bankers, environmentalists, and, of course, affordable-housing advocates. This is perhaps one of the most significant grass roots campaigns to support legislation at one time and has helped us generate our already 126 bipartisan cosponsors. I am here today on the floor of the House to thank all of the groups that have endorsed this legislation and to ask my colleagues to cosponsor this important and much-needed bill. We have come a long way in a short time; but obviously, we need to go further.

A complete list of all of the groups that have endorsed this legislation can be found at the National Housing Trust Fund Campaign's Web site at [www.nhtf.org](http://www.nhtf.org). That is [www.nhtf.org](http://www.nhtf.org), for a complete list of all of the organizations that have endorsed the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund legislation.

Mr. Speaker, experts from across the country have acknowledged that the issue of affordable housing has rapidly become a major national problem. That is true in my State of Vermont, and it is true all across this country. It is an issue in which millions of low-income seniors, the elderly, disabled, and families with children are increasingly unable to afford decent housing.

According to HUD, about 5.4 million Americans today are paying more than half of their limited incomes, more than half of their limited incomes, on housing, or are living in severely substandard housing. Since 1990, the number of families who have "worst case housing needs" has increased by 12 percent. That is 600,000 more Americans who cannot afford a decent and safe place to live.

□ 1600

For these families living paycheck to paycheck, one unforeseen circumstance, a sick child, a needed car repair or a large utility bill can send them into homelessness.

This crisis must be addressed. Every American must be entitled to decent, affordable housing. The question is where do we begin? According to the accounting firm of Deloitte & Touche, profits generated by the Federal Housing Administration are expected to exceed \$26 billion over the next 7 years. H.R. 2394 would use the surplus to increase affordable housing by creating an affordable housing trust fund. According to housing experts, if the FHA surplus was used to build affordable housing, we could more than triple affordable housing construction next year and provide accommodations to more than 200,000 families.

Mr. Speaker, not only would a national affordable housing trust fund help solve the affordable housing crisis in the United States, it would also generate 1.8 million decent paying new jobs and nearly \$50 billion in wages according to a recent study. As today's economy continues to sputter with layoffs up over 600 percent from last year, and as millions of Americans are paying 40 to 50 percent of their limited incomes on housing, the creation of a national affordable housing trust fund is needed more than it has ever been needed.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line here is that we can put Americans to work building the affordable housing that millions of our fellow Americans need, and we can accomplish two important goals at the same time. Number one, combatting the recession by putting people to work; and second of all, providing decent housing to the families that need it. This is a very important piece of legislation, and I am very proud that 1,700 different organizations, religious organizations, grass-roots organizations, are supporting it. I ask my colleagues to support it as well.

#### COVER-UP OF SALVATI STORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORBERRY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I spent 7½ years just prior to coming to Congress as a criminal court judge in Tennessee trying the felony criminal cases, the murders, the armed robberies, the

rapes. I tried the attempted murder of James Earl Ray, many leading cases, but I can tell Members that I do not think that in my years of law practice or in my years as a judge that I have ever seen a worse miscarriage of justice than that done to Joseph Salvati in Massachusetts where he was made to stay in prison for over 30 years. Even the FBI knew he had not committed the crime for which he had been convicted. Sometimes we read about people who have been wrongly convicted, but almost always in those cases the prosecutors or the law enforcement people honestly thought the people were guilty, and only found out later that they were not.

But in the Salvati case, the FBI knew apparently for 30 years that this man was not guilty of the crime he had been convicted of, and yet they made him stay in prison for more than 30 years.

I can tell Members that the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) of the Committee on Government Reform has tried to call attention to this miscarriage of justice and see that nothing like this ever happens again. He held one hearing and he attempted to hold another hearing today about it, but today the Department of Justice refused to release or submit the documents that the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) had requested in a continuing cover-up of the original cover-up.

I think it is shameful. In fact, I think it is fair to say that I have never seen the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) as angry as he was today, and he said that he is going to hold hearings until the Department of Justice has the decency to come forward and do what they can to correct this horrible miscarriage of justice.

I remember reading a cover story in Forbes magazine, certainly a very conservative magazine, in 1993 in which they reported that the Department of Justice had more than quadrupled its budget since 1980, and that there were U.S. attorneys falling all over themselves trying to find cases to prosecute. The article discussed how Federal prosecutors were cherry-picking local cases, taking the best or easiest cases away from local prosecutors so they could have something to do.

This quadrupling of the budget and size of the Department of Justice was being done, even though 94 percent of all crimes were being handled and prosecuted by local and State law enforcement personnel and prosecutors. Even though their work was not going up, their budget and number of employees was.

This article in Forbes said too often in Federal law enforcement the name of the game is publicity, not a reduction in the amount of crime. The article in Forbes said that the Department of Justice was proving that Parkinson's law of bureaucracy was true, that work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion. As the