

positive developments include receiving a March of Dimes grant for research purposes and obtaining funding for a program to assist parolees with re-entry into the community. With the help of contributions from the State, the Susan B. Koeman Foundation, and the banking industry, the Jersey City Family Health Center has established a mobile mammography program. I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. McReynolds, and he has been instrumental in making much needed health care services a reality. I am proud to have secured funding for a pilot program at the health center, and thanks to him and his team, the community enjoys the benefits of a successful program for minorities with cancer.

Apart from working in administration, Mr. McReynolds has taught as an adjunct professor at New York University where he was the author of a course textbook in the Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.

Born and raised in Indiana, Mr. McReynolds spent much of his undergraduate career studying and traveling abroad before graduating from Wheaton College with a degree in English literature. He also holds a master's degree in hospital administration from the Washington University School of Medicine.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Larry McReynolds for his impressive ability to spearhead and develop worthwhile health care programs, his drive to improve access to vital patient services, and his passion to help those in need. His work has touched the lives of countless individuals in Jersey City and the greater community. I am confident that he will continue to have great success in his new position as the executive director of the Sunset Park Health Center Network at the Lutheran Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York, and I wish him all the best.

A NOTE ON PROCESS REGARDING THE CONTINUITY IN REPRESENTATION ACT

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, on February 28, 2002, the House Subcommittee on the Constitution held a legislative hearing on H.J. Res. 67, Representative BRIAN BAIRD's proposed constitutional amendment to allow lawmaking by an appointed House of Representatives following a terrorist attack.

During the 107th Congress, a bipartisan working group co-chaired by then-House Republican Policy Committee Chairman CHRISTOPHER COX and House Democratic Policy Chairman Martin Frost, met regularly to discuss the issues surrounding continuity in government, including constitutional amendments. As a result of those working group meetings, the House passed H. Res. 559 during the 107th Congress, expressing the sense of the House that each State should examine its existing procedures governing special elections so that, in the event of a catastrophe, vacancies in the House could be filled in a timely fashion. Unfortunately, only one state, California, responded to that request. Consequently, the House responded precisely as the Founders would have expected the House to respond, namely by acting pursuant to

Congress's authority under the Constitution to ensure that the House is repopulated expeditiously through elections in extraordinary circumstances. To that end, H.R. 2844, the Continuity in Representation Act, was introduced in the 108th Congress. The bill received a hearing before the House Administration Committee on September 24, 2003, and it was marked up by both the House Administration (on November 19, 2003) and House Judiciary Committees (January 21, 2004). Amendments adopted on the House floor included one that would protect the rights of military and overseas voters to participate in the expedited elections, and a provision that provided explicitly that all federal laws governing the administration of federal elections would apply.

Because H.R. 2844 was a bipartisan bill that resonates best with America's democratic values, on April 22, 2004, it passed the House on an overwhelming bipartisan basis by a more than 3-to-1 margin, by a vote of 306-97.

As part of a bipartisan agreement, I agreed to a markup of Representative BAIRD's proposed constitutional amendment (H.J. Res. 83 in the 108th Congress) in the Judiciary Committee. That was done on May 5, 2004. Committee Members all had the opportunity to offer amendments to H.J. Res. 83 to either perfect its language or replace it entirely with the text of any other version of the amendment. During the markup, I asked if there were any Members who wanted to offer amendment more than half a dozen times. The Judiciary Committee adversely reported out H.J. Res. 83, so all Members could have an opportunity to vote on it on the House floor.

The constitutional amendment the House voted on was the approach supported by Representative BRIAN BAIRD, the Member who is widely regarded as the most outspoken House proponent of appointed Members. This proposal and a host of others have been extensively studied by scholars both inside and outside of Congress, including during the last Congress, and by previous Congresses, going back some 50 years. It remains a terrible idea because it would introduce into our Founding document, for the first time, the concept that laws can be written by an unelected aristocracy. That is a bad idea now, and it was a bad idea then, when the House of Representatives, controlled by both Democrats and Republicans, rejected all constitutional amendments authorizing appointed House Members sent to it by the Senate, even during the height of the Cold War.

The conclusion of the Continuity in Government Commission's (a privately-funded commission's) report recommending a constitutional amendment that would deny the right to self-government under laws enacted by elected representatives states that "The exact details of a solution are less important than that the problem be addressed seriously and expeditiously." (This is from page 31 of the report, which can be found at <http://www.continuityofgovernment.org/report/report.html>.)

On June 2, 2004, the House voted on H.J. Res. 83 and generally on the question of whether Americans should be governed by laws passed by an unelected aristocracy. There are only two ways to go on the issue: either you support an appointed House—the "details," by the Continuity in Government Commission's own admission, are relatively unimportant—or you support preserving law-

making by an elected House. Representative BAIRD, the author of H.J. Res. 83, said of a constitutional amendment—quote—"The more urgent matter is to put that measure before the body." On June 2, 2004, that measure was put before the House, and the House overwhelmingly rejected it by a vote of 63-353, a margin of over 5-1. That margin of defeat of a constitutional amendment is historically large.

The right to self-government under laws passed by the People's chosen representatives has endured since America's birth, through two World Wars, a Civil War, a Cold War, and now a war against terrorism. The terrorists would like nothing more than to make us rewrite our Constitution to reflect their twisted vision of autocratic rule. The Continuity in Representation Act rejects that terrorist vision and would preserve the right to elected representation.

TRIBUTE THE REVEREND LUCIUS WILLIAMS ON HIS TWENTY-FIFTH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to congratulate Reverend Lucius Williams on his 25 years as pastor of Second Baptist Church in Belleville, New Jersey. Second Baptist is indeed fortunate to have the dynamic and creative energy Pastor Williams offers to his congregation. Likewise, Pastor Williams is blessed to have a membership that honors and respects him enough to celebrate this significant milestone with him.

Reverend Williams was installed as pastor of Second Baptist Church in February, 1980. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in theology from United Bible College in Orlando, Florida. His ministry is filled with love for his congregation and he works tirelessly toward enhancing his members' theocratic experience. Under his pastoral watch, several ministries have been established. They include:

The Sisters Sharing Ministry, a ministry focusing on the needs of women and children; the Eliza B. Goldston Scholarship Foundation, a ministry that raises the awareness and importance of education through scholarship; the Valley Community Development Corporation, a ministry that incorporates community development and neighborhood beautification along with a tutorial program and English as a second language; SBC Praise Ministry, a ministry that lifts the name of Jesus in song; Hosanna Praise Dance Ministry, a ministry that lifts the name of Jesus in dance; the Christian Education Ministry, a ministry that focuses on Christian walk through education and mentorship; the Prison Ministry, a ministry that focuses on the needs of men and women in the penal system.

Pastor Williams' commitment to his church and the surrounding area are evident in his other activities. Along with his wife, the former Patricia Gabriel, the Crossroads of Life Christian Bookstore was established in June, 1976. He has received numerous awards for his outstanding love and passion to the work of the church, business and community.