

CODIFICATION OF TITLE 41,
UNITED STATES CODE, PUBLIC
CONTRACTS

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to codify and enact certain general and permanent laws, related to public contracts, as Title 41 of the United States Code. This bill has been prepared by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the House of Representatives as the successor to H.R. 4320, introduced in the 108th Congress on May 10, 2004. This bill reflects changes resulting from the review and comment process that was provided after H.R. 4320 was introduced. All issues raised during that process have been resolved to the satisfaction of the parties involved.

The bill, along with a detailed section-by-section explanation of the bill, can be accessed on the Office's website at <http://uscdo.house.gov>. Anyone interested in obtaining a printed copy of the bill and explanation, and persons interested in submitting comments on the bill, should contact Ken Paretzky, Senior Counsel, Office of the Law Revision Counsel, U.S. House of Representatives, H2-304 Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515-6711. The telephone number is (202) 226-9061. Comments on the bill should be submitted to the Office of the Law Revision Counsel no later than July 16, 2006.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHIC HECHT

HON. JOHN C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor former United States Senator Chic Hecht for his service to the residents of Nevada as well as the United States of America.

Mayer Jacob Hecht was born on November 30, 1928. He is better known by his friends and family by the childhood nickname of Chic. Chic was born into a Jewish family in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in retailing from Washington University in St. Louis in 1949 before entering the military.

Chic attended Military Intelligence School at Fort Holibird and served as an intelligence agent with the U.S. Armed Forces during the Korean War, from 1951 to 1953. Chic was a member of the National Military Intelligence Association, and was inducted into the Military Intelligence Hall of Fame in 1988. After leaving military service, Chic moved to Nevada. His business activities included retailing, the operation of a bank, and interests in hotels. He married the former Gail Kahn in 1959.

In 1966, Chic was elected to the Nevada State Senate, the first Republican to represent his predominantly Democratic district in and around Las Vegas in more than 25 years. He was a State Senator from 1967 to 1975, serving as Senate Minority Leader from 1969 to 1970. In 1982, Chic was elected to the United States Senate, ousting four-term incumbent

Democrat Howard Cannon. He served only one term, from 1983 to 1989, having been defeated for reelection in 1988 by Democrat Richard Bryan. He was then appointed ambassador to the Bahamas by President George H.W. Bush, and served in that post from 1989 to 1994.

At age 77, Senator Hecht passed away on May 15, 2006 due to complications from cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Senator Chic Hecht for his success in politics and his service to his community and his country. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FLOYD
PATTERSON, A HEAVYWEIGHT
CHAMPION WHO ROSE FROM
POVERTY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the life of Floyd Patterson, a soft-spoken boxer who overcame a troubled childhood to become the heavyweight champion of the world.

Born on January 4, 1935 in Waco, North Carolina, Patterson grew up poor in Brooklyn, New York. Patterson's father was a manual laborer and his mother took care of Patterson and his 10 siblings. He had serious learning disabilities and could not read, write, or speak. At age 11, his mother had him committed to a school for emotionally disturbed boys. It was at this school where Patterson first picked up a pair of boxing gloves.

At age 16, Patterson won the New York Golden Gloves middleweight title at Madison Square Garden and at age 17, he won a gold medal as a middleweight at the 1952 Olympic Games in Helsinki. On November 30, 1956, Patterson became the youngest heavyweight champion in history at the age of 21.

Throughout his professional career, Patterson amassed a record of 55 wins, 8 losses, and 1 draw. His total earnings from boxing reached \$8 million. Despite his talent in the boxing ring, Patterson was known as a gentle and sweet man. Red Smith, The New York Times sports columnist called him, "the man of peace who loves to fight."

After retiring, Patterson remained in boxing and opened up a gym. He took interest in young boxers, especially a troubled 11-year-old who reminded Patterson of himself. He eventually adopted the boy and became his trainer and manager. The special order organized by Representative STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES is an appropriate way to celebrate and honor this model human being.

SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of a program that makes an enormous difference in the lives of all our constituents:

the Community Development Block Grant, or CDBG, program.

The CDBG program provides direct federal funding to local governments to make needed investments that improve the quality of life in our communities. These funds are used to prevent homelessness, reduce infant deaths, and provide youth enrichment programs. They are used to rehabilitate housing, to reconstruct residential streets, to help fund domestic violence shelters, to provide seniors with snow removal and lawn care assistance, and to fund important economic development initiatives.

The President has again demonstrated that his budget priorities are upside down and out of step with our communities' needs by proposing a 20 percent cut in formula funding to CDBG entitlement communities. But as the distinguished Ranking Member of the Appropriations Committee, Representative OBEY, has pointed out, just looking at this year's proposal doesn't tell the whole story.

The CDBG program is just one of many important domestic priorities that have been subject to a bizarre pattern in which, year after year, the President proposes draconian cuts, then Congress restores some of the funding and declares victory. However, the effect of this is that after several years, the draconian cuts are imposed. Since 2001, the CDBG program has already been cut by more than 22 percent in real dollars.

Yet the President wants to reduce these vital resources to our local communities even further. According to a Congressional Research Service analysis that I requested, the CDBG entitlement communities in my district would stand to lose \$2.25 million next year if the President's proposed funding cuts are adopted.

As bad as these numbers sound, it is important to remember that there are real people behind them. During the April recess, two cities in my district, Warren and Southfield, Michigan, were kind enough to show me the impact that CDBG funds have had in their communities.

They have used these CDBG resources to make a real difference in the lives of countless families. I was particularly impressed by the housing rehabilitation programs that represent the largest CDBG-funded program in both communities. These efforts, along with CDBG-funded investments in local parks and roads, have helped maintain vibrant neighborhoods in both cities. I ask that summaries of these programs be included in the record, but I want to share with my colleagues just one example of the powerful difference that CDBG funds have meant to individual families.

Through its Residential Rehabilitation Loan Program, the City of Warren was able to help Michelle Amburgy and her son. I quote:

Michelle Amburgy is a single mother employed by a catering service. When her furnace stopped working before Christmas and she and her son were living without heat, Ms. Amburgy did not have the resources to purchase a new furnace. She says she, "... tried everywhere to get money for a furnace. . . ." and was unable to find a program to help her. Luckily the application she submitted to the City of Warren for a rehabilitation loan was being processed and according to her, "... the City put a rush on it . . ." in order to get a new furnace so she and her son could have heat. In addition to the furnace, various other improvements were done to her home, including an update of the electrical and plumbing systems which she says

were definitely needed but she, "... never would have been able to afford on my own".

I hope that the House will remember Ms. Amburgy and her son, and the thousands of other families touched by the CDBG program when we consider funding for the CDBG program in the coming weeks.

CITY OF WARREN RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION
LOAN PROGRAM—CDBG

The City of Warren has spent over \$14,370,000 of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding it has received since 1982 on an owner occupied rehabilitation loan program, which has assisted over 1,000 households. The low or deferred interest loans are offered to eligible households for necessary home improvements, including the correction of dangerous structural defects and the elimination of unhealthy living conditions. The program provides households who may otherwise not be able to improve their homes and living conditions with a means for doing so. For example, Michelle Amburgy is a single mother employed by a catering service. When her furnace stopped working before Christmas and she and her son were living without heat, Ms. Amburgy did not have the resources to purchase a new furnace. She says she, "... tried everywhere to get money for a furnace ..." and was unable to find a program to help her. Luckily the application she submitted to the City of Warren for a rehabilitation loan was being processed and according to her, "... the City put a rush on it ..." in order to get a new furnace so she and her son could have heat. In addition to the furnace, various other improvements were done to her home, including an update of the electrical and plumbing systems which she says were definitely needed but she, "... never would have been able to afford on my own".

In order to qualify for the program, the household must meet the definition of low or moderate income which is adjusted based upon household size. For instance, the total income for a household of two would have to be below \$27,950 in order to be considered low income. If the household qualifies as low income, payments on the loan are deferred and no interest is charged. The total income for a moderate income household of two would have to be below \$44,750. If the household is determined to be moderate income, monthly payments on the loan are due at a 4 percent interest rate. All loan payments and loan payoffs are placed into a revolving account used to fund future rehabilitation loans.

The rehabilitation loan program not only provides funding needed to make home repairs, it also provides expertise and guidance through the home improvement process. The City's inspectors perform a thorough inspection of the home and determine all items which must be corrected in order to bring the home into compliance with current housing codes, which may include updating electrical, plumbing and heating systems. This work must be addressed through the program. The homeowner, in consultation with City staff, may also identify other items which should be done in order to improve the condition of the property. This may include the installation of new windows, roofing, and modest kitchen and bath updates. The City oversees the preparation of specifications, the bid process and the actual rehabilitation to ensure that the appropriate work is being done by qualified individuals.

Arthur and Gloria Huard are a retired couple living in Warren. Mr. and Mrs. Huard were faced with a leaking roof that was causing structural damage to a portion of their home. Mrs. Huard says that she and her husband are living on a fixed income and, "... didn't have the money to pay ..." for a new

roof and the necessary repairs to the home. She and her husband received a rehabilitation loan from the City of Warren which funded a roof and repair of the structural damage. They were also able to have new windows installed and their bathroom updated, including the replacement of flooring which had been sinking. Mr. and Mrs. Huard were relieved to have the work done and she says that they were, "... very pleased ..." with the work and that, "... the men that worked were very nice and helpful". Mrs. Huard says that the pension and social security they receive must go to pay medical bills for her ailing husband and she's relieved that the loan funds do not have to be repaid to the City until they sell their home because they are retired senior citizens.

Many different types of households are assisted with the City of Warren's CDBG funded loan program. Of the 62 households receiving loans within the past two years, 22 were female head of household/not elderly, 19 were female head of household/elderly, 7 were elderly/not female head of household and 14 were classified as "other". For example, Kevin and Kelly Sorlien are a young couple with three children of their own. In addition, the Sorlien's also have custody of Kelly's teenage sister and are responsible for her care. Mr. Sorlien works full-time and Mrs. Sorlien takes care of the children and has picked up a part-time job to help support the family. The Sorlien's needed some improvements done to their home and Mrs. Sorlien says they couldn't afford to do them on their own. They applied for a rehabilitation loan through the City because she says that, "... the interest rates were lower with the City's loan ..." than they would have been able to get had they gone elsewhere for a loan. With the City's loan, the Sorlien's were able to get a new roof and siding and updates elsewhere in the home. Mrs. Sorlien says that she, "... loves the way my house turned out ..." and was happy that the City was able to make this program available to her family.

SOUTHFIELD HOME IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
(SHIP) CDBG FUNDED RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The City of Southfield, over the past 32 years, has spent close to \$7,000,000 of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding on the Southfield Home Improvement Program (SHIP). Since 1975, SHIP has assisted over 930 households. The program is designed to assist low and moderate income homeowners afford structural repairs to their home who may not otherwise qualify for a bank loan.

The loans we give range from small emergency repairs to large scale structural problems. Although the average loan amount is \$15,000 it is not unusual to have a \$25,000 loan on one property which includes roof repair, plumbing, electrical and new windows. The clients of SHIP range in income from extremely low; those on fixed incomes due to age or disability; and those families with moderate incomes who are not classified as poverty stricken but don't have sufficient income for amenities outside of basic living necessities.

Sherry Crammer is a 59 year old widow of 16 years to a Detroit police officer and has lived in her Southfield home for 30 years. Her yearly income is \$23,868 comprised primarily of her husband's pension. As a result of poor health issues, the homeowner incurred high medical bills and credit card balances forcing her into bankruptcy. In the early part of January 2006, the homeowner smelled a slight burning odor coming from her furnace. Upon calling the gas company, they red tagged the furnace after showing her the plastic coating on the wires that were melt-

ing. The act of 'red tagging' means that the gas appliance is determined to be a hazard and is not to be used until repaired or replaced. The call from the homeowner was received by SHIP on a late Friday afternoon. At 5 p.m. the Housing Inspector went to her home to examine the crisis and to assist with the application process. During this initial contact it was learned that she had an unused wall space heater in a spare bedroom. The Housing Inspector, with the help of some caring neighbors was able to get the space heater running until a contractor quote could be finalized that following Monday and a new furnace installed. The homeowner was very grateful for all of the personal attention and service. Before assistance from SHIP, Mrs. Crammer had contemplated moving into a senior citizen apartment. SHIP afforded her the opportunity to continue living in the home she loved.

The Andersons are a young couple who had in the past 2 years gotten married, bought a home in Southfield and started their own landscaping business. The business was doing okay, but there wasn't any extra money, most of the profits went back into the business. The home needed a new roof as well as electrical and plumbing repairs. With SHIP, the couple was able to get a 3 percent interest loan that wouldn't require monthly payments which would have added another strain to their already tight budget. They will be able to defer payment of the loan until the sale of their house. Without a program like SHIP being available this couple would probably not have qualified for a conventional loan and may have been the target of predatory lenders.

Mr. and Mrs. Willie Hunter are a family of seven. Their income consists of a pension, supplemental security insurance and child support. They just purchased their house a little over a year ago and needed to make some improvements. However, they quickly found out the house had more extensive problems than their budget would permit them to fix, including a leaking roof. In addition, while the Hunters were in the process of replacing the kitchen floor, they discovered under the linoleum and deteriorated subfloor that they had structural floor framing problems. Application to the Southfield Home Improvement Program addressed both of these major issues for the Hunters. They are now able to sit all together at the kitchen table to enjoy their meals under a roof that doesn't leak.

The focus of SHIP is "make a difference in the life of a family one house at a time". Total home inspections are performed to identify housing code violations as well as abate any lead based paint hazards. The entire process is coordinated by the equivalent of 1½ staff positions. Staff prepares the specifications, reviews bids, communicates with contractors and oversees the actual rehab work in addition to processing the completed loan documents and tracking an average of 800 active loans. The goal is to complete 20-25 loans per year; making a difference one house at a time.

Note: Names have been changed to protect the privacy of program participants.