

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2007*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 178, passage of H.R. 740—Preventing Harassment through Outbound Number Enforcement (PHONE) Act of 2007, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2007*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was not able to attend a number of votes that took place March 21, 2007 on the House floor. I take my responsibility to vote very seriously and had I been present I would have voted: “Yea” on rollcall 167, Motion to Permit to Proceed in Order on This Day; “Nay” on rollcall 168, Neugebauer of Texas Amendment; “Nay” on rollcall 169, Price of Georgia Amendment; “Yea” on rollcall 170, Al Green of Texas Amendment, as Modified; “No” on rollcall 171, On Motion to Re-commit with Instructions; “Aye” on rollcall 172, On Passage, Gulf Coast Hurricane Housing Recovery Act of 2007; “Yea” on rollcall 173, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, Hawaiian Homeownership Opportunity Act; “Yea” on rollcall 174, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, Joshua Omvig Veterans Suicide Prevention Act; “Yea” on rollcall 175, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, Dr. James Allen Veteran Vision Equity Act; “Yea” on rollcall 176, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2007; “Yea” on rollcall 177, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, Judicial Disclosure Responsibility Act; and “Yea” on rollcall 178, On Passage, Preventing Harassment through Outbound Number Enforcement (PHONE) Act of 2007.

IMMIGRANT ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
FUELS AMERICAN ECONOMIC  
GROWTH**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, the Center for an Urban Future recently released a report titled, “A World of Opportunity.” The “report reiterates the fact that immigrant entrepreneurs are key engines of growth for many cities in the United States. Every census taken from 1880 to 1990 has revealed that immigrants were self-employed significantly more than American-born natives. The number of immigrant entrepreneurs in 2005 was 350 out of 100,000, compared to 280 of 100,000 for those born in the United States. Research maintains that immigrant entrepreneurs have

made positive contributions to the U.S. economy for more than a century.

Nowhere are the contributions of self-employed immigrants, to urban economies, more visible than in New York City, where people migrate from almost every part of the world. Despite ethnic differences, New York City immigrants often arrive with an entrepreneurial determination. Over the past 10 to 15 years, immigrant entrepreneurs have fueled much of the overall growth in new businesses across the City and have triggered dramatic turn-arounds in neighborhoods. Communities such as Sunset Park, Flushing, Richmond Hill and Washington Heights have all reaped from the seeds of growth powered by immigrant owned businesses. There is no doubt that Immigrants will continue to make significant contributions to the City’s economic growth in the future.

There are several reasons why immigrants start their own businesses and in such record numbers. The risk of a business venture appears comparatively minimal to the surmountable risk immigrants have already taken when packing up their homes and moving to a country where the majority of the people do not speak their native language. Another motivation for immigrants to open up their own businesses is the recognition that they can offer a variety of products and services that many other entrepreneurs cannot. Similarly, many immigrants prefer the solace that comes with owning a business instead of having to deal with the numerous struggles and frustrations of participating in the large business work force where immigrants are often discriminated against, paid unfairly and required to work uncommon hours.

The stereotype that immigrant businesses represent small “mom-and-pop shops” such as restaurants and local grocery stores no longer holds true. Immigrant entrepreneurs have a growing presence in several vital sectors of the New York City’s economy such as: biotechnology, construction, food manufacturing, mass transportation, telecommunications and restaurant equipment sales. Every year, Inc. Magazine publishes what they call the “Inc. 500,” a list of America’s fastest growing privately owned businesses. In 2005, 55 of Inc. Magazine’s 500 business owners were immigrants. Collectively their companies employed more than 14,000 individuals and contributed almost \$1.4 billion to the U.S. economy.

At a time in which outsourcing and corporate mergers are on the rise, it is likely that small, home-grown businesses will only become more integral to New York City’s future economic success. However, while celebrating these successes and contributions it is important to remember that many immigrants face considerable challenges when deciding to open a business. New York’s regulatory environment can be daunting to any entrepreneur. The addition of language and cultural barriers, in many cases, exacerbate this process. Nonetheless, there are numerous organizations dedicated to educating entrepreneurs about how to start a business and overcome obstacles to growth, such as Seedco and the Economic Development Corporation, which offer classes on how to start a business, in Spanish and Chinese.

I commend all of those who have migrated to the United States in search of the American dream, pursuing happiness by establishing their own businesses and contributing positively to the fabric of our country’s economy.

## TRIBUTE TO PAMELA BATES

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2007*

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Pam Bates, of Bronx, NY. Ms. Bates is being honored for her leadership and service to the community by the Committee for Effective Leadership and the New York State Democratic Committee. Ms. Bates is the mother of one daughter and two sons and the grandmother of nine wonderful additions to her family. She is a Graduate Student at Queens College pursuing a Master’s Degree in Political Science and belongs to the CUNY Coalition for Disabled Students and the Queens College Committee for Disabled Students.

Ms. Bates is president of 504 North Star Democratic Club and sits on the executive board of the 504 Democratic Club which focuses on disability issues and rights. She is also on the Board of Directors of Center for Independence of the Disabled in New York and is a member of the executive board of Disabled in Action.

Ms. Bates serves on the Paratransit Advisory Committee and the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Commission, two positions which are appointed by the New York City Council. She is a member of the Manhattan Borough President’s Disability Task Force and the Disability Network of New York City where she devotes much of her time conducting press conferences and attending hearings concerning disability rights and issues. She has testified at all levels of government on issues impacting the rights of the disabled. Additionally, Ms. Bates lobbies in Albany on behalf of the rights of disabled students.

Ms. Bates is a devout activist and advocate for the rights of people with mobility, sight, hearing, and mental impairments. As a result of her personal experiences as an African American, a woman, and a wheelchair user, she has given public lectures and written papers on the topics of disability and activism and our legislative process.

Madam Speaker, I join to wish Ms. Bates best wishes and good fortune in her future projects.

INTRODUCTION OF FEDERAL  
HOMELAND SECURITY PROCURE-  
MENT LEGISLATION**HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2007*

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, as chairman of the Homeland Security Committee’s Subcommittee on Management, Investigations and Oversight, I am very concerned with the potential for waste, fraud and abuse at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

As we have heard all too often in recent months, the Department is spending increasing amounts of its resources on outside contractors to help fulfill its job of preparing, preventing and mitigating any future large-scale catastrophic events on our soil.

Unfortunately, the contracts are numerous, as are the dollars being doled out. Congress