

also found time to letter in varsity track; the mile relay team of which he was a part won their conference championship.

Dr. Irons graduated from the University of Alabama Medical College at Birmingham with a straight "A" record. While in medical school, he was selected by the American Medical Association as one of the top two medical students in the country. For his superior scholastic record, leadership and service he received the Alabama Medical School's Stuart Graves Award.

Since then his professional accomplishments have been truly phenomenal. After duty as flight surgeon (Captain, U.S. Air Force), and internship, Barnes Hospital, St. Louis, Missouri, Dr. Irons served as Chief Resident in Cardiology, University of Chicago (Billings Hospital). Dr. Irons then joined the Duke University Medical School Faculty in 1964, where he was named Fellow in Cardiovascular Diseases. Since 1966, he has been in active practice in Charlotte, North Carolina, as the first board certified cardiologist in western North Carolina. Dr. Irons is Founder and President of Mid-Carolina Cardiology, the premiere coronary care provider in the Carolinas, serving some ten cities in several states. He begins his sixth decade of active practice.

Having published in leading medical journals here and internationally, he was honored by induction as a Fellow into the American College of Cardiology and received a special citation Award of Merit from the National Association of Cardiologists for his research contributions to the science of coronary disease. For distinctive scientific accomplishments, he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Alpha Epsilon Delta National Pre-Medical Society.

He has served the Nation in numerous medical associations, such as the Alabama Medical Association, American Society of Internal Medicine, Council on Clinical Cardiology (Fellow), American College of Physicians (Fellow), American Heart Association (Fellow), and the American Board of Internal Medicine (Diplomate), Alpha Omega Alpha (President).

Recently the State of North Carolina honored Dr. Irons for his half-century of service as eminent cardiologist, President and Founder Mid-Carolina Cardiology, and as the first board certified cardiologist in western North Carolina. He was also honored by his home state. The State of Alabama, on February 28, 2007, by Joint House Senate Resolution, honored him for his lifetime of achievements as distinguished cardiologist and for his notable research contributions to the science of coronary disease.

Madam Speaker, I commend Dr. Irons lifetime scientific achievements, distinguished research and his superior devotion to optimal patient care. His dedication and exploration in the science of coronary diseases to provide a better life through improved medical technology and treatment, reflect great credit upon all who serve our Nation in his profession.

Madam Speaker, I view Dr. Irons as America's foremost cardiologist and proudly salute him for the nationwide impact of his work.

HONEST LEADERSHIP AND OPEN
GOVERNMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, Section 213 provides that Congress will receive annual reports regarding the extent to which lobbyists, lobbying firms and other registrants are complying with the amended Lobbying Disclosure Act.

Under Section 213(a), the Comptroller General will annually review random samples of publicly-available registrations and reports filed by lobbyists, lobbying firms, and registrants and evaluate compliance by those individuals and entities with the Act. The use of the term "publicly available" in Section 213(a) is designed to ensure that the registrations and reports that the Comptroller General samples are the same registration and reports that are available to the public. Furthermore, the term "publicly available" also requires the Comptroller General to obtain copies of the registration and reports from the same public websites and in the same manner as the public obtains that information. This will better ensure that the information evaluated by the Comptroller General will be identical to the information the public obtains. Accordingly, Section 213 does not authorize the Comptroller General to request information from the Clerk of the House of Representatives or the Secretary of the Senate, except pursuant to the same methods and procedures by which the public requests or obtains such information. Section 213 therefore does not authorize the Comptroller General to audit, investigate or review the Clerk's and/or Secretary's compliance with the Act, or their receipt, compilation, or dissemination, and/or review of information filed under the Act.

The Comptroller General is expected to use appropriate judgment in assessing the size of the random sample and the manner of identifying the sample. The Comptroller General should ensure that the size and manner of its random sampling are designed to ensure that the sample adequately represents a fair and complete cross-section of all registrations and reports filed pursuant to the Act.

Section 213(b) provides that the Comptroller General will submit annual reports by each April 1 to the Congress identifying the results of its analyses of the random samples, and also providing recommendations to the Congress to improve compliance with the Act by lobbyists, lobbying firms, and registrants. The reports shall also assess whether and to what extent the Department of Justice has sufficient resources and statutory authority to enforce the Act and, if not, recommendations regarding what specific resources or authorities Congress should provide to the Department of Justice. In complying with this Section, it is expected that the Comptroller General will consult with the Department of Justice.

Section 213(c) provides the Comptroller General with the tools necessary to evaluate whether the information included by lobbyists, lobbying firms and registrants in the reports filed under this Act is accurate and complete, and thus whether these individuals and entities are complying with the Act. This sub-

section thus authorizes the Comptroller General to request and receive information from lobbyists, lobbying firms and registrants (and their employees). The information the Comptroller General may request from lobbyists, lobbying firms and registrants is broad and need only relate to the purposes of the Act. In other words, the Comptroller General is expected to request sufficient documentation from lobbyists, lobbying firms and registrants to fully evaluate whether the information contained on the registrations and reports filed by the lobbyists, lobbying firms and registrants is accurate and complete. This will often necessarily entail more information from the lobbyists, lobbying firms and registrants than is contained within the reports.

Section 301 prohibits House Members from engaging in any agreements or negotiations with regard to future employment or salary until his or her successor has been selected unless he or she, within 3 business days after the commencement of such negotiations or agreements, files a signed statement disclosing the nature of such negotiations or agreements, the name of the private entity or entities involved, and the date such negotiations commenced with the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. It requires senior staff to notify the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct within 3 days if they engage in negotiations or agreements for future employment or compensation. The prospective employment or compensation negotiations or agreements in Section 301 are intended to refer only to those conducted with a private entity or private entities. Additionally, the negotiations and agreements referenced are intended to refer to actual bargaining over the terms of possible employment.

Section 305 provides that Members shall be prohibited from attending national political convention parties that are held in their honor if such parties have been paid for by a lobbyist, or an entity that employs lobbyists, unless the Member is the party's presidential or vice presidential nominee. This provision will have the effect of preventing lobbyists or an entity employing such lobbyists from directly paying for a party to honor a specific Member.

SUCCESS OF TITLE V FUNDING IN
SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Title V Abstinence Education program, and support its reauthorization. Without action by Congress, this important program will expire on September 30, 2007. This program provides the States that choose to accept these dollars with funding to implement abstinence education programs. In FY 2006, the State of South Carolina received over \$750,000 in Title V funding.

Abstinence education is working in South Carolina. A sharp decline in teen pregnancy began in 1996 after the South Carolina law established a policy that all the Title V, Section 510 dollars were to be used to implement a statewide strategy that stresses the importance of abstaining until marriage. Additionally,