

Asst. Chief John Roland, Wayne Evans, Allen Douglas, Donovan Tucker, Phillip Brown, David Dowlen, Carolyn Brown, Douglas Caroland, Will Goodman, Troy Head, Paul Crumley, Harold Jacobs, Matt Vogle, William Bryant, Kim Dowlen, Jeffery Lux, Michael Jones, William McKinney, and Joshua Love.

MORTGAGE REFORM AND ANTI-PREDATORY LENDING ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3915) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to reform consumer mortgage practices and provide accountability for such practices, to establish licensing and registration requirements for residential mortgage originators, to provide certain minimum standards for consumer mortgage loans, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act and applaud Chairman BARNEY FRANK for his work to end predatory lending and strengthen consumer protections.

The United States is currently facing a subprime mortgage crisis. Right now, nearly 1,200 homes are vacant in Saint Paul due to foreclosures. These foreclosures harm the vitality of our neighborhoods. Further, foreclosures mean a loss of property tax revenue, placing a burden on local and State governments. The social and financial costs of this serious problem affect everyone.

H.R. 3915 is an important step to protect American families from predatory lenders by requiring lenders to ensure that borrowers have a reasonable ability to repay and establishing a licensing system for mortgage brokers and bank loan officers. This legislation requires lenders to disclose more about loans such as, the maximum amount a consumer could pay on a variable rate mortgage and the amount of charges included in the mortgage. It also bans financial incentives for subprime loans and holds lenders in the secondary mortgage market accountable for home loans by allowing consumers to seek redress directly from the firms that "securitize" mortgages.

The pre-loan counseling in this bill will protect families from predatory lending in the future. This legislation also establishes an Office of Housing Counseling, which will certify computer programs so consumers can evaluate home mortgage loan proposals, and it will also provide technical and financial support for States and local governments educating consumers about buying a home.

Predatory lending harms our families, our neighborhoods, and our communities. We must do more to ensure that all individuals and families have safe and stable housing. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, the decorations are up, the parties are planned, and the nation's capital had its first snow fall—the holiday season is officially upon us.

Along with the joy and reflection this time of year brings, children are waiting hopefully for that one gift that will make their holiday complete. As the dutiful, doting parents that we are, we are more than happy to oblige.

But we may be giving our children more than they bargained for; recent studies have found more than one in three of the season's most popular toys have tested positive for traces of lead.

While I may not know Dora the Explorer from Hannah Montana, I do know my grandchildren and great-grandchildren deserve toys that won't make them sick.

This year has seen too many recalls, too many toys slipping through the cracks of the watchdogs at the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and too many shelves still stocked with toys that pose a risk to our kids. This is wholly unacceptable!

Back in the Bay Area, the San Francisco Department of the Environment has taken matters into its own hands, testing children's toys for lead, cadmium and other dangerous chemicals. With an instant-read testing device parents will know whether the toys on their list put their kids at risk.

It is inconceivable that the agency put in charge of consumer protection for all Americans has so completely ignored its responsibility. It is an embarrassment that local government must rectify the ineptitude of the CPSC, though I congratulate San Francisco for its forethought and ingenuity.

Madam Speaker, this is a dereliction of duty by the CPSC that I am not prepared to accept. I have cosponsored a resolution introduced by my friend from Connecticut, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, calling for the resignation of Nancy Nord, the current head of the Commission.

Government watchdogs, retail outlets and the manufacturers themselves must take responsibility for the toys that end up on our shelves, and I will continue to demand that this holistic approach to keeping children safe is not ignored.

Parents take their children's safety most seriously, and the resources that exist online and through numerous publications are a gift themselves. I hope all my constituents, and gift-givers across the country, will take advantage of the information available to them.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy new year, and I hope everyone gets what they want for the holidays—without the lead.

HONORING THE DIXBORO FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Dixboro First United Methodist Church, located in Superior Township, MI. This year marks the 150th anniversary of this proud institution. The Dixboro United Methodist Church has a long and honorable history of service to its community, one which has both strengthened the faith of its members and solidified the church's place as an integral part of the Dixboro area.

The earliest known religious service in the recently-formed Village of Dixboro took place in 1828 and subsequent services throughout the next three decades were led by Methodist Circuit riders. Traveling a 40-mile route stretching from Nankin (Canton) to Ann Arbor, these preachers on horseback would arrive every 3 to 4 weeks, lead worship in a private home or 1-room schoolhouse, then move on to the next point on the circuit.

The dedication of these traveling preachers inspired those they served and in 1857 a group of local citizens met and formed a board of trustees to authorize the building of the church. Dixboro United Methodist was then built the following year, in 1858. The original building is now listed in the National Registry of Historical Buildings and Places and it is still utilized as the sanctuary for services.

Dixboro United Methodist has historically had a strong rural congregation, made up largely of local farmers. The rural character of Dixboro began changing with the advent of the building boom of the 1950s. New subdivisions and residential developments have brought fresh perspectives into the community and growth to the congregation. The present Dixboro United Methodist congregation is a diverse mix of young and old, traditional and contemporary; many are descendants of the original congregation.

The people of Dixboro United Methodist put their motto, "People Helping People" to work. A strong commitment to mission and community outreach is a hallmark of this congregation. Throughout a century and a half of growth, change and development, Dixboro United Methodist Church has remained a warm and welcoming member of its community. With such a rich history, one full of service, compassion and fellowship, I am proud to recognize Dixboro First United Methodist Church as it celebrates its first 150 years.

HONORING THE DEFEATED CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Defeated Creek Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.