

DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the Day of the African Child, which has been celebrated on June 16 each year since 1991 when it was first initiated by the Organization of African Unity, the predecessor to the African Union.

This year, the African Union has designated child survival as the theme of this year's Day of the African Child.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund, sub-Saharan Africa remains the most difficult place in the world for a child to survive. Each year in sub-Saharan Africa, 1.2 million babies die in their first month of life. Roughly, one in every six children fails to reach his 5th birthday. In response to these shocking statistics, the African Union made child survival a theme for their 15th meeting coming up in 2010.

The top five killers of children under age 5 include neonatal causes such as respiratory infections, pneumonia, malaria, diarrhea, and HIV/AIDS.

So, Mr. Speaker, we encourage the legislators to support this, and I join in solidarity with UNICEF for the African child.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. RICHARDSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, America cannot afford to wait for health care reform. Right now, more than three out of four Americans are dissatisfied with the total cost of health care. That is why Congress is working hard to craft legislation to fix the health care system for American families, for American businesses, for future generations, and of course, for our own fiscal survival.

Since 2000, wages have only increased 3 percent while health insurance has increased more than 50 percent. This has caused many families to delay visits to the doctor, to skip treatments and to allow their health coverage to lapse. Despite having the most expensive health care system in the world, Americans are no healthier than many of our global partners.

President Obama and this Congress are working together to provide adequate, accessible and affordable health care now.

GOVERNMENT HASTE MAKES
TAXPAYER WASTE

(Mr. McCOTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McCOTTER. We are going to soon be facing a question of health care for Americans. We've heard about how

important it is for fellow Americans to have access to quality, affordable health care, and we hear that government is the answer. We hear that, if we spend \$1 trillion, we may be able to insure one-third of our fellow citizens. Extrapolating from that, that means, to insure all of the uninsured, it will cost us \$3 trillion. We hear this must be done by August.

Government haste makes taxpayer waste. We must do this properly. We must do this correctly. We cannot do it properly or correctly with an arbitrary deadline set by people who have, to date, passed bills they have not read and that have yet to work for the American people, whose number one concern right now is keeping a job or finding one.

□ 1230

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS OF
FORMER MEMBERS CEREMONY

Mrs. MALONEY. I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings during the former Members ceremony be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and that all Members and former Members who spoke have the privilege of revising and extending their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

NATIONAL CONSUMER COOPERATIVE
BANK ACT AMENDMENTS
OF 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1674) to amend the National Consumer Cooperative Bank Act to allow for the treatment of the nonprofit corporation affiliate of the Bank as a community development financial institution for purposes of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1674

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Consumer Cooperative Bank Act Amendments of 2009".

SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF NATIONAL COOPERATIVE
BANK AFFILIATE AS COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.

Section 211 of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank Act (12 U.S.C. 3051) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

“(e) TREATMENT AS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the nonprofit corporation established under this section shall be deemed to be a community development financial institution for purposes of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994, unless, after the date of the enactment of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank Act Amendments of 2009, the Bank, or any affiliate (as defined in section 103(3) of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994) of the Bank, participates in depository institution incentives under section 114 of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) and the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this particular legislation and to insert additional information.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1674, the National Consumer Cooperative Bank Act Amendments of 2009. This legislation is necessary to make a technical correction to the statute of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank Act.

The National Consumer Cooperative Bank was created by Congress in 1978 and is dedicated to strengthening communities nationwide through the delivery of banking and financial services, complemented by a special focus on cooperative expansion and economic development.

The National Consumer Cooperative Bank Act of 1978 established a nonprofit corporation to reach further into low-income communities and to serve disadvantaged populations. NCB Capital Impact is that nonprofit, mission-driven subsidiary of NCB that works to provide housing, education, health care, cultural centers, small businesses, and social services in economically distressed communities.

In the last 10 years alone, NCB Capital Impact has invested more than \$600 million in assistance to low- and moderate-income communities. These funds helped finance more than 33,000 affordable housing units; 8,000 affordable assisted living units for seniors and persons with disabilities; 137,000

school seats; 2.9 million square feet of community health center space serving 350,000 patients; and helped create 25,000 jobs for low-income individuals.

In my home State of New York, NCB Capital Impact has played a significant role in providing housing finance. In fact, NCB has participated in more than 600 loans in my district alone. Most of these loans are for housing, including affordable housing, as well as loans for community facilities and loans to nonprofit organizations like the Council of New York Cooperatives and Condominiums. Together, these groups are able to provide assisted living, affordable housing and services to the frail and elderly.

Presently, NCB Capital Impact is working with five community-based organizations to help finance 17 projects that will create 558 housing units. Despite their good work in serving low-income communities and disadvantaged populations, NCB Capital Impact is not eligible for assistance authorized under the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994, which is administered by the CDFI Fund. The fund has ruled it cannot certify NCB Capital Impact as a CDFI because of the corporate structure of its parent, NCB. In short, NCB Capital Impact is shut off from critical sources of financial awards that are needed to maintain their housing and community development efforts.

The interest of NCB Capital Impact in gaining CDFI certification is twofold. First, it has a track record that is comparable to other organizations that receive CDFI status; its mission is dedicated to working with low-income populations and communities. Second, increasingly in the community development finance field, CDFI certification is viewed as a Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval in working with other Federal agencies and other public and private institutions.

I think that it is important to note that this legislation does not guarantee the NCB any assistance, nor does it authorize additional amounts for the CDFI program. All it does is allow NCB to better fulfill its mission by allowing them to compete for these funds. As such, the Congressional Budget Office has determined that this legislation will have no significant impact on the Federal budget.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this technical amendment to the NCB statute so that the nonprofit, mission-driven NCB Capital Impact may continue to provide services to distressed and underserved communities throughout New York and throughout the entire country.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1674 makes a small but significant fix to the National Consumer Cooperative Bank that will have the effect of expanding financial services options to low-income communities.

The bill would give NCB Capital Impact, the nonprofit subsidiary of NCB, the opportunity to compete with hundreds of other institutions for grants from the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund administered by the Treasury Department. Today, NCB Capital Impact is not eligible for the CDFI grants even though it provides housing, education, health care, cultural centers, small businesses, and social services in distressed areas. The mission of the CDFI Fund is to expand the capacity of financial institutions to provide credit, capital and financial services to underserved populations.

So long as the activities of the NCB Capital Impact meet the letter and the spirit of the CDFI's eligibility requirements, their organizational structure should not preclude them from receiving those dollars. This bill would allow NCB Capital Impact to compete for grants and continue providing economic development support to low- and moderate-income communities.

In closing, I would like to commend the sponsor of this legislation, Mrs. MALONEY, for her work on this bill. I am in support of her statement and would urge my colleagues also to support that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1674.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOMES FOR HEROES ACT OF 2009

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 403) to provide housing assistance for very low-income veterans.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 403

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Homes for Heroes Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS IN OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

Section 4 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3533) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(g) SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS.—

"(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be in the Department a Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs, who shall be in the Office of the Secretary.

"(2) APPOINTMENT.—The Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs shall be appointed based

solely on merit and shall be covered under the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service.

"(3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs shall be responsible for—

"(A) ensuring veterans have access to housing and homeless assistance under each program of the Department providing either such assistance;

"(B) coordinating all programs and activities of the Department relating to veterans;

"(C) serving as a liaison for the Department with the Department of Veterans Affairs, including establishing and maintaining relationships with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

"(D) serving as a liaison for the Department, and establishing and maintaining relationships with officials of State, local, regional, and nongovernmental organizations concerned with veterans;

"(E) providing information and advice regarding—

"(i) sponsoring housing projects for veterans assisted under programs administered by the Department; or

"(ii) assisting veterans in obtaining housing or homeless assistance under programs administered by the Department;

"(F) preparing the annual report under section 8 of Homes for Heroes Act of 2009; and

"(G) carrying out such other duties as may be assigned to the Special Assistant by the Secretary or by law."

SEC. 3. SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to expand the supply of permanent housing for very low-income veteran families; and

(2) to provide supportive services through such housing to support the needs of such veteran families.

(b) AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall, to the extent amounts are made available for assistance under this section and the Secretary receives approvable applications for such assistance, provide assistance to private nonprofit organizations and consumer cooperatives to expand the supply of supportive housing for very low-income veteran families.

(2) NATURE OF ASSISTANCE.—The assistance provided under paragraph (1)—

(A) shall be available for use to plan for and finance the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, or moderate or substantial rehabilitation of a structure or a portion of a structure to be used as supportive housing for very low-income veteran families in accordance with this section; and

(B) may also cover the cost of real property acquisition, site improvement, conversion, demolition, relocation, and other expenses that the Secretary determines are necessary to expand the supply of supportive housing for very low-income veteran families.

(3) CONSULTATION.—In meeting the requirement of paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult with—

(A) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and

(B) the Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs, as such Special Assistant was established under section 4(g) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act.

(c) FORMS OF ASSISTANCE.—Assistance under this section shall be made available in the following forms:

(1) PLANNING GRANTS.—Assistance may be provided as a grant for costs of planning a project to be used as supportive housing for very low-income veteran families.