

Stowe Center for their tireless work to continue to inspire the public will to eliminate racial disparities in America and the world. Happy 200th Birthday Mrs. Stowe.

GOOD INTENTIONS GONE HAYWIRE

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit an article which explains some of the problems and unintended consequences of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (P.L. 111–203).

[From Forbes Magazine, by Mallory Factor]

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform & Consumer Protection Act is supposed to shield consumers from problems in the financial services sector that many believe led to the financial meltdown. But Section 342 of the act introduces a brash example of social engineering that masquerades as consumer protection and financial reform. This section imposes gender and racial employment quotas on the financial services industry, which accounts for one-tenth of our economy. The quota provisions will affect over 50,000 financial services firms and other businesses, and the consequences will be enormous.

Dodd-Frank requires at least 29 federal bureaus to open Offices of Minority & Women Inclusion, involving ten branches of the Treasury Department, the Federal Reserve and its 12 regional banks, the Securities & Exchange Commission and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. The new diversity offices will implement rules to ensure “the fair inclusion and utilization” of minorities and women in all firms doing business with each agency. The offices will terminate contracts with any service provider that fails to meet these as yet undetermined standards. Just running these offices is estimated to cost over \$58 million annually, says David Patten in a recent story on Newsmax.com.

These new offices will also assess the “diversity policies and practices” at all entities that fall under their regulatory eye, including banks, broker-dealers, registered investment advisors and now hedge funds. Along with more than 40,000 financial services firms, another 10,000-plus businesses, including accounting and law firms that do business with these government offices, will be subject to this new diversity oversight of their hiring.

What does this mean for the financial services sector? Assuming each firm hires at least one new worker to satisfy the new law, this provision could raise costs \$4 billion or more annually, depending how far forthcoming regulations will extend. Firms doing business with the government will face additional expenses because they will now have to monitor the hiring practices of their subcontractors as well. In addition to these reporting burdens, firms must prove to their regulators and to government offices with which they do business that they are meeting or working toward racial and gender hiring guidelines. In many cases this will require additional hiring beyond the needs of the business.

Forcing America’s private firms to hire on the basis of racial and gender “guidelines,” rather than solely on need and qualifications, is inefficient and makes our businesses less competitive than their global counterparts. Moreover, four out of the eight members of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

wrote a letter to Congress stating that this section of the act would likely “promote discrimination,” and urged its removal from the bill.

There is a better, more cost-efficient solution: Let private companies come up with their own approaches. Deloitte’s 19-year-old Women’s Initiative, for example, has boosted the percentage of female partners, principals and directors from 7% in 1994 to 23% in 2010. And minorities and females currently make up 60% of kpmg’s workforce.

While the idea of encouraging greater participation of minorities and women in the financial services sector is admirable, the government is overreaching when it mandates gender and racial quotas for private businesses. An affirmative action provision has no place in a financial services reform bill and puts additional government burdens and costs on an already struggling sector of our economy, putting our recovery at risk.

The megabills that fly through Congress provide legislators the opportunity to insert politically motivated provisions—under the radar. As Rahm Emanuel famously said after President Obama had been elected, “Never allow a crisis to go to waste.” The financial crisis has given the President and Congress cover to impose their political agenda on private business activity. Watch out: Your industry could be next.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 332, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1657, Revising Fraud Penalties, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

IN RECOGNITION OF MR.

COURTNEY C. BROWN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor, recognize, and celebrate Mr. Courtney C. Brown.

Courtney C. Brown is a long time resident of Manhattan, a staple of Harlem, and a tireless advocate for human rights. He received a Bachelor of Arts from Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina and a Masters in Social Work from Hunter College, School of Social Work in New York City. He completed his post graduate work in Education at City College and Columbia University Teachers College, and completed the New York Seminary Program at the New School for Social Research.

Mr. Brown has been active in Harlem and throughout New York for many years. His employment experience has ranged from a case-worker for the New York City Department of Welfare in 1965, to academic Professor, to Regional Director of the Urban League of Westchester County, Inc. from 1976 until 1983. In the mid 1970’s, Mr. Brown began working at the New York State Division of Human Rights as a Director of Community and Voluntary Services. In May of 1987, he earned the Position of Human Rights Spe-

cialist, a position he holds today. He was honored with the 2006 Governor’s Tribute to African American Leaders of Excellence in Service State Award. Mr. Brown’s dedication to our community is outstanding to say the least, and I am most proud of all the contributions to my Congressional District that Courtney C. Brown has made.

Mr. Brown’s civic priorities have earned him a well regarded reputation of devout social dedication. He has served as Warden and Clerk of the vestry at St. Phillip’s Episcopal Church, Vice President of St. Philips Housing Corporation, Trustee of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, Chairperson of New York Chapter, Union of black Episcopalians, as well as belonging to numerous Boards of Directors. He is a member of the Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Mr. Brown has been honorably recognized for his many deeds, including in 1988, when he received the Ellen Lurie Award for thirty-five years of community and civic work in New York City, a twenty thousand dollar award, which he donated to St. Phillip’s church.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Courtney C. Brown has provided mentorship to our youth and much needed guidance for our elderly. He stands for the empowerment of our community and healthy development of our families.

I ask my colleagues and our Nation to join me in this special Congressional Recognition of Mr. Courtney C. Brown.

HONORING THE REACTIVE MATERIALS TEAM

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Reactive Materials Team from the Indian Head Division of the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Maryland’s Fifth District. Nine scientists composing the Reactive Materials Team were recently awarded the 2010 Dr. Delores M. Etter Top Scientists and Engineers of the Year Award.

This highly competitive and prestigious national award is given annually to Navy civilian and military personnel who exemplify exceptional scientific and engineering achievement. The Department of Navy established this award to honor scientists and engineers attaining superior technical accomplishments and to promote continued scientific and engineering excellence in research. It is named after an outstanding public servant, Dr. Delores M. Etter, former Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition.

Today, I am proud to recognize and congratulate the team—Richard J. Jouet, Joel R. Carney, James M. Lightstone, Richard J. Lee, John H. Wilkinson, Joseph P. Hooper, Sam C. Thuot, Jonathan G. Rogerson, and Edward A. Lustig, Jr.—for their exceptional achievement in developing reactive materials to be used in the explosive cases of our next generation weapon systems. These fine scientists and engineers have are committed public servants—dedicating themselves to research vital to our national security. As Americans, we thank them for their efforts and applaud them on their accomplishments.