

Health Care Reform

I supported the historic Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which was signed into law this past spring. The American people have already begun to reap the rewards of this important piece of legislation. In its first year, the new law will:

- Prevent health insurance companies from discriminating against children with pre-existing conditions.
- Allow children to stay on their parents' insurance plans until age 26.
- Create a high-risk pool for adults who have been locked out of the insurance market because they have a pre-existing condition;
- Provide seniors who fall into the Medicare "donut hole" with a \$250 rebate.
- Eliminate lifetime caps on insurance plans.
- End the practice of terminating policies after policy holders get sick.

Bringing Home Federal Funds

Congressman Conyers made requests on behalf of many local organizations to receive federal funding from the Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriations. These projects that were submitted by Congressman Conyers and selected to receive funding by the Appropriations Committee will bring over \$4.8 million to Southeastern Michigan.

- **United Way for Southeastern Michigan**
\$1,500,000 for foreclosure prevention program
- **S.A.Y. Detroit Family Health Clinic**
\$300,000 for equipment
- **Wayne County Community College District**
\$500,000 to train dislocated workers in advanced manufacturing technologies
- **City of Hamtramck**
\$1,000,000 for Water and Sewer Line Rehabilitation



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FOURTEENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
MICHIGAN

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

Official Business

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Report from CONGRESSMAN JOHN CONYERS, JR.

To Michigan's Fourteenth CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



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Report to Michigan's Fourteenth

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Pursuing Justice

Earlier this year, I asked the Justice Department to investigate the circumstances of two tragic shootings in the Detroit area. In January, I wrote to Attorney General Eric Holder to request that the Department investigate the shooting death of Imam Luqman Ameen Abdullah during an FBI raid at a Dearborn warehouse. The Department agreed, and confirmed in a letter in March that the Department's Civil Rights Division is conducting an independent review of the incident. In May, I wrote to the Attorney General about the tragic death of seven-year old Aiyana Jones during a police raid on her family home. I asked whether, in addition to the scheduled review by the Michigan State police, the Justice Department would review the case, along with evaluating the increased use of paramilitary police practices around the country. I look forward to a response from the Department.



Conyers holds a town hall meeting on job creation and discusses foreclosure prevention with Judge Cylenthia Miller.

RACIAL PROFILING

On June 17, 2010 I invited experts to testify before the Judiciary Committee about findings of racial profiling in our law enforcement and what reforms we can produce to end the use of suspect classifications in law enforcement. Following this hearing, I introduced H.R. 5748, the "End Racial Profiling Act of 2010" on July 15, 2010 to address this issue which seriously threatens our civil liberties in America. This critical legislation will eliminate law enforcement practices of singling out people for heightened scrutiny, based on their race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin. Reports of racial profiling has increased in number and in frequency in many communities. Arizona's reaction to the recent court opinion blocking parts of its new immigration law has also illuminated the profiling debated and creates great concern when racial profiling and law enforcement mix. Members of Congress are working provide remedies for victims of racial profiling in America and strengthen our Justice Department's policies to provide greater transparency in order to eliminate racial profiling.

Haiti

I have authored legislation that will ensure that the United States' response to the tragic earthquake in Haiti is comprehensive, coordinated, and efficient. The "Haiti Empowerment, Assistance, and Rebuilding Act of 2010" will establish benchmarks for success and a clear reporting and accountability system for transparency so that we know where US spending in Haiti is going and whether or not it is achieving its desired impact.

Forcing Corporations to Disclose Campaign Spending

The Supreme Court issued a decision that lets corporations spend as much money as they can to support candidates who will represent corporate interests, and not the interests of regular voters. The decision lets the corporations do this by flooding the market with television and radio ads. I cosponsored legislation to make corporations own up to their political spending, so that voters know who is talking to them – and why. This bill, called the DISCLOSE Act, passed the House on June 6th. President Obama said that this legislation will determine how much influence special interests should have in our democracy. I will continue to fight to make sure these special interests do not drown out the views of regular people.



Congressman Conyers meets with a group of Detroit students about Congress and its role in government.

Cracking Down on Wall Street

The effort continues in Washington to combat excesses on Wall Street. In late April, more than 60 House members joined me in writing directly to Attorney General Eric Holder to ask him to open a criminal investigation against Wall Street's Goldman Sachs & Company, which had already been charged with civil fraud by the SEC over improper mortgage securities deals. Within a day of the delivery of our letter, news came that the Justice Department *has* opened a criminal investigation of Goldman Sachs. As our letter pointed out, it is crucial that there be vigorous investigation and prosecution of Wall Street banks and firms that were bailed out by American taxpayers but victimized the public and broke the law. And in late July, President Obama signed the historic Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which I was proud to support. The Act will provide stronger oversight, greater transparency, and much better protection of consumers in our nation's finance system.



Conyers speaks at the White House's auto summit and discusses the need to create a full employment economy based on green manufacturing jobs.

In order to reduce the cost of goods for consumers, I introduced H.R. 2695, the "Credit Card Fair Fee Act of 2009." The Judiciary Committee recently held a hearing on my legislation where we learned that these hidden fees that banks charge merchants wind up being passed along to consumers. Furthermore, a study released by the Hispanic Institute found that the interchange fee structure transfers billions of dollars from lower-income, minority consumers to higher-income, non-minority consumers. I applauded the inclusion of interchange fee reform for debit cards in the Wall Street reform legislation that is now law.