

20 years have contributed greatly to the community of Rancho Santa Fe.

REBUILD LIVES AND FAMILIES
RE-ENTRY ENHANCEMENT ACT
OF 2004

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Rebuild Lives and Families Re-Entry Enhancement Act of 2004. This legislation will be the next important step in establishing policy to help the men and women emerging from our Nation's prisons and jails re-integrate into society and rebuild their lives.

While our national crime rates have fallen over the last decade, we have seen an unprecedented explosion in our prison and jail populations. Over two million prisoners are now held in Federal and State prisons and local jails. Each year, approximately 650,000 people return to their communities following a prison or jail sentence, resulting in more than 6.7 million under some form of criminal justice supervision.

Reentry refers to the return of incarcerated individuals from America's jails and prisons to the community and their reintegration into society. There is a pressing need to provide these individuals with the education and training necessary to obtain and hold onto steady jobs, undergo drug treatment, and get medical and mental health services. However, they are confronted with the "prison after imprisonment"—a plethora of seemingly endless obstacles and impediments which stymie successful re-integration into society. These obstacles have substantially contributed to the historically high rate of recidivism, with two-thirds of returning prisoners having been re-arrested for new crimes within 3 years.

This legislation is designed to assist high-risk, high-need offenders who have served their prison sentences, but who pose the greatest risk of reoffending upon release because they lack the education, job skills, stable family or living arrangements, and the substance abuse treatment and other mental and medical health services they need to successfully reintegrate into society. Title I of the bill reauthorizes and enhances our early adult and juvenile reentry programs to broaden the availability of critical ex-offender services, while Title II addresses the substantive federal barriers to successful reentry. Both titles include provisions requiring that the funded programs be rigorously evaluated and the results widely disseminated, so that reentry programs can be modified as needed, to ensure that recidivism is reduced and public safety enhanced.

A recent study by Peter D. Hart Research Associates reveals that Americans strongly favor rehabilitation and reentry programs as the best method of insuring public safety. With this changing paradigm in public opinion, the opportunity is ripe to sensibly reassess the role and impact of criminal justice policies. This legislation translates this emerging public perception into balanced policies and procedures which dismantle the structural impediments to successful reintegration into society.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOEL D.
HEDENSTROM

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to honor and pay tribute to Mr. Joel D. Hedenstrom who retired September 3, 2004, from the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe, Virginia, after more than 35 years of service to our Nation.

Mr. Hedenstrom served in the United States Army from 1969 until 1973 with the United States Army Military Personnel Center in Alexandria, Virginia. His military service included an assignment with the Office of the Secretary of Defense to support a study-group that established the Survivor Benefit Plan.

Following his military service, he resumed duties with the United States Military Personnel Center, in a civilian capacity. He later accepted a position with the Secretary of the Army's Chief of Legislative Liaison, where he subsequently became a team chief and carried an additional duty as the Congressional point of contact for mass casualties.

In 1988, Mr. Hedenstrom was selected to serve as Congressional Affairs Specialist for the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command. Mr. Hedenstrom displayed the highest level of expertise in his field and was respected throughout the Command and the Department of the Army for his sound guidance and advice.

In recognition of his dedicated service, he was awarded the Meritorious Civilian Service Award for his outstanding performance of duties. I commend Mr. Hedenstrom for 35 years of honorable service to the Nation and the United States Army and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CECIL BROOKS III

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a cultural innovator in my district, Mr. Cecil Brooks III. A world renowned jazz artist, drummer, band leader, composer, arranger, and record producer, Mr. Brooks and his wife Adreana have recently established a jazz club in West Orange. Opening in late June 2003, Cecil's is quickly establishing a reputation as one of the most prestigious addresses in northern New Jersey.

Mr. Brooks is responsible for bringing internationally acclaimed entertainers to our community, including renowned jazz saxophonist Don Braden and American comic legend Bill Cosby.

Mr. Brooks achieved international prominence as a Goodwill Ambassador, and is considered one of the most popular and innovative figures in the world of modern jazz, as well one of the most prolific record producers and band leaders on the scene today. He has been credited with numerous recordings which have been ranked in the Top Ten of the Gavin National Radio Airplay Chart and has worked

for several labels including Muse and Highnote/Savant records.

He has been recognized in the Downbeat Magazine Critic's Poll as "Producer Deserving Wider Recognition," and has performed on world tour with jazz icons such as Houston Person and Etta James, Pharoah Sanders, Stanley Turrentine, the Mingus Dynast Big Band, the Dizzy Gillespie Reunion Band, and was the drummer for The Bill Cosby Show.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my thanks to my neighbors Cecil and Adreana Brooks for their contributions to the civic and cultural life of our community, and I invite my colleagues to join me in sending our congratulations for their outstanding achievements which celebrate jazz, the truly American art form, and have brought such positive recognition to the city of West Orange.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5006) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Chairman, each year the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill is one of the most difficult measures for this body to complete. One reason is that it is often the costliest of our spending bills. Another is that the programs it funds are the most critical to the well-being of our citizens.

I want to thank the members of the Appropriations Committee, particularly Chairman YOUNG, Ranking Member OBEY, and Subcommittee Chairman REGULA for their hard work on this measure, particularly in light of the budgetary limitations on what we can accomplish for many vital domestic programs.

I am pleased that the House has increased by \$22 million the bill's funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and I want to thank the gentleman from Vermont, Mr. SANDERS, for his leadership and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their support of his amendment.

I also want to thank Mr. OBEY for his leadership on the key issue of overtime pay. American workers deserve to be paid fairly for the work they perform, and I am proud that the House has voted to eliminate damaging aspects of the Labor Department's rule.

This is a bill that in many ways improves upon the President's budget proposals, and I intend to support it. However, I am concerned about the low funding levels in several areas that I hope can be improved upon in conference.

In the area of education, this bill does not do enough for our Nation's elementary and secondary school students. In my home state of Maryland, more than 100 schools do not