

TRIBUTE TO PRESTONSBURG, KENTUCKY SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the staff of the Prestonsburg Social Security Office for their strong, effective, and compassionate service to the people of Kentucky.

Social Security plays an important role in the lives of more Americans than any other federal program. Whether providing a Social Security number for a newborn baby, mailing a check to a retired worker, or helping a disabled individual receive benefits, the Social Security Administration touches the lives of just about everyone.

The field office in Prestonsburg, Kentucky, is a shining example for this massive federal agency. The Prestonsburg staff consistently goes beyond the call of duty to provide valuable benefits to the people of Kentucky. Because of this unwavering commitment to helping others, the Social Security Administration recognized the Prestonsburg Office as the Best Level I Field Office in the Atlanta Region for fiscal year 2005.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, I want to thank the staff at the Prestonsburg Social Security Office for their hard work and dedication to serving the people of Kentucky. These fine Americans are an inspiration to us all, and I salute them for their commitment to helping others.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD the following letters in support of H. Res. 737, a bill "Recognizing the Goals and Ideals of Financial Literacy Month" that falls in April of each year. The bill was reported to the House favorably by the Committee on Government Reform and passed the House on April 6, 2006 by a recorded vote of 423-1. The documents I am submitting include letters of support for the bill from the Texas Credit Union League, the Texas State Securities Board, the Credit Union National Association, and the National Association of Mortgage Brokers.

TEXAS CREDIT UNION LEAGUE,
Dallas, TX, April 10, 2006.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA: On behalf of the Texas Credit Union League, I would like to thank you for your work to pass H. Res. 737 and your commitment to improving financial literacy in our country. Credit Unions see financial education as a cornerstone of financial independence. Knowledge of financial products, with their benefits along with their disadvantages, allows con-

sumers to make better decisions and improve their lives and the lives of their families.

Recognizing Financial Literacy month helps in the effort to educate our citizens about financial products and services. We look forward to working with you on this important issue in the future and applaud your leadership in bringing it to the forefront of the Congressional agenda.

Respectfully,

DICK ENSWEILER
President and CEO,
Texas Credit Union League.

TEXAS STATE SECURITIES BOARD,
Austin, TX, April 13, 2006.

Re House Resolution 737.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
Congressman,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA: Congratulations on being awarded the Federal Legislator Award from the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy. Texas investors are fortunate to have someone in Washington who understands the need for financial education and awareness and works so hard to help address that need.

I also want to thank you for cosponsoring H. Res. 737, which supports the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month. As the Resolution details, the need for financial education in the United States has never been greater. By teaching our state's investors about personal finance, we can encourage Texans to focus on saving, investing, and home ownership and help them avoid investment fraud.

The Texas State Securities Board will join in celebrating "Financial Literacy Month" by reaching out to Texans of all ages. As you know, it is important to make individuals more knowledgeable about personal finance, the capital markets, investment choices and fraud. Our staff continues to make presentations throughout the state to help educate Texans about investing and preparing for retirement.

Enclosed are brochures both in English and Spanish that exemplify our investor education initiatives. We look forward to working with you in the future regarding this and other important securities-related issues.

Very truly yours,

DENISE VOIGT CRAWFORD,
Securities Commissioner.

CREDIT UNION NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, April 3, 2006.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE HINOJOSA: On behalf of the Credit Union National Association (CUNA), which represents 87 million credit union members, I would like to thank you for your introduction of H. Res. 737, which supports the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month.

CUNA strongly supports H. Res. 737 which supports financial literacy initiatives by calling on schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, government entities on the federal, state, and local levels, and citizens to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

To aid in this endeavor, CUNA establishes a yearly National Credit Union Youth Week, this year scheduled to take place April 23rd-29th. To date, 278 credit unions have committed to participating in CUNA's Youth Savings Challenge for that week, and are estimating to tally 50,000 youth deposits valued at \$3.6 million.

CUNA provides financial literacy resources to credit unions year-round to assist young people and help them manage their own money wisely, and has partnered with the

National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) and the Cooperative Extension Service to provide schools with free workbooks on financial literacy that can easily fit into an existing curriculum. Many credit unions have volunteered their time to teach the materials to better prepare students for college, covering issues such as credit cards, interest, minimum payments, and checking accounts. Additionally, CUNA recently developed a program called "Thrive by Five" which offers free materials on our website for parents to work with pre-school, aged children on basic financial concepts such as spending and saving.

Again, CUNA and its member credit unions strongly support H. Res. 737, as well as your leadership with the Congressional Caucus on Financial and Economic Literacy. We look forward to working with you and greatly appreciate your efforts to bring financial literacy to students nationwide.

Sincerely,

DANIEL A. MICA,
President & CEO.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
MORTGAGE BROKERS,
McLean, VA, April 7, 2006.

Rep. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

REPRESENTATIVE HINOJOSA: On behalf of the 27,000 members of the National Association of Mortgage Brokers (NAMB), I would like to thank you and your colleagues for your work on House Resolution 737, supporting the goals of National Financial Literacy Month.

At a time when home buyers and consumers in general face the hurdles of a complicated marketplace and predatory lenders, your work educating consumers is invaluable. As you know, an educated consumer is a protected consumer.

Too often, home buyers and other consumers are neither educated nor protected when it comes to making sound financial decisions. As H. Res. 737 makes clear, smart financial management is the result of a lifetime of sound spending habits and financial education. Encouraging consumers to develop these good habits is essential to ensuring strong credit and a healthy financial outlook. NAMB is dedicated to maintaining the highest commitment to consumer education on mortgage and home-buying issues.

NAMB works to improve the financial understanding of consumers across the country in a variety of ways. First, our work with Freddie Mac's CreditSmart and CreditSmart Español has helped lower-income workers and families better manage their financial futures. Second, we inspire a commitment to consumer education in the next generation of mortgage brokers through our work with Delta Epsilon Chi (DECA). DECA is an international association of high school and college students studying business and entrepreneurship.

NAMB also works closely with the financial services industry as part of its on-going commitment to consumer education, and to helping all Americans realize the American dream of homeownership. For example, NAMB has created the Industry Partners Program to make it easier for a wide range of financial professionals to collaborate with mortgage brokers and bring greater professionalism to the industry.

NAMB applauds your commitment to this issue and your dedication on behalf of consumers in Texas and across the nation. We salute your efforts to improve the lives and financial futures of hard-working Americans.

Sincerely,

JIM NABORS II, CRMS,
President,
National Association of Mortgage Brokers.