

increases funding for the Department by 19 percent. The budget matches this aggressive budget authorization and to support large investments into the Community and Regional Development and the Income Security functions in order to account for increases in Affordable Housing programs.

The budget supports the Administration's proposal to fund the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund at \$1 billion and to fully fund the Community Development Block Grant program. It funds HUD's housing programs for the elderly, disabled, and Native Americans, as well as for those programs that prevent homelessness. It increases funding for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, which allows states, localities, and nonprofits to buy up and rehabilitate abandoned and foreclosed properties.

JUSTICE PROGRAMS

The budget accounts for funding efforts to combat and reduce juvenile crime and efforts to rehabilitate ex-offenders. Removing barriers to reentry has proven to reduce recidivism, which in the long run reduces crime. In addition, the budget accounts for much needed increases in youth crime intervention programs. Research has shown that targeting funding towards intervention rather than incarceration is more effective at reducing crime and saving the taxpayer money in the long run.

I have long supported efforts to increase funding for the Justice Assistance Program, the Juvenile Justice Program, Civil Rights Enforcement, the COPS Program, the Byrne Justice Grant Program, and State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance. The budget accounts for sustaining many of the important increases for these programs that was included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

EDUCATION

As the Chairwoman of the Children's Caucus, I support the budget's effort to reform and expand the Pell Grant program. Pell Grants are way to make education affordable to disadvantaged youth. This is very important to me.

The budget has sustained increases in education funding, especially for Title I and IDEA. Even though Congress is to consider the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act this year, the Budget Committee should still account for the need to address the substantial funding shortfalls of this program over the last eight years. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act made substantial increases, the budget accounts for sustaining many of these new investments.

The budget also account for needed increases in funding for Head Start, TRIO (including Upward Bound), GEAR UP, Youth Build, and vocational education programs. The budget accounts for funding for expanded grants to states for workplace and community transition as authorized in the Higher Education Opportunity Act. These grants will better assist and encourage incarcerated individuals who have obtained a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent to acquire educational and job skills.

The budget accounts for funding for the historic increases in funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions authorized in the Higher Education Act reauthorization enacted last year.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The budget supports the President's initiatives to provide increased funding for

infrastructural projects. The President's priorities are reminiscent of the New Deal where this country invested in building up our Nation and the budget reflects this. The President has made a significant effort at achieving this by his signing of HR 1, the Stimulus Act.

In the Stimulus Act, the President authorized money to be spent on infrastructural projects that were shovel ready, i.e., ready to be stated within 120 days. I know that America could use this money.

Indeed, Houston would benefit. Houston's Metro Rail needs to complete its RAIL service in certain quadrants of Houston. The project has been twenty years in the making. I have worked with Leadership and Chairman OBERSTAR to ensure that METRO Rail projects get the funding that they need to be completed.

Completion of this mobility project would decrease congestion and pollution as Houstonians would travel via rail instead of using their cars. This would increase Houston mobility and the health of Houstonians as they would be forced to walk around instead of using their private transport.

VETERANS

The budget provides increased funding for veterans over the next five years.

OTHER PRIORITIES

Fully fund the Community Development Block Grant.

Increased funding for the Public Housing Capital Fund to continue to address eight years of stagnant funding under the Bush Administration.

Fully fund the Child Care and Development Block Grant.

Fully fund the Social Services Block Grant. Increased funding for HOPE VI.

Fully fund the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

Increased funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Support for the creation of a National Infrastructure Bank.

Continued funding for Hurricane Katrina recovery and rebuilding efforts.

Increased funding for the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program.

Increased funding for the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program at the National Park Service. This is important to me. I worked to get funding for urban parks in the Stimulus bill. This increases the health and overall well being of constituents. It is necessary in urban Mecca's like Houston.

HANG UP ON THE TELEPHONE TAX

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to support the Telephone Excise Tax Repeal Act of 2009, which I introduced today along with Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. The telephone tax is deceptive, archaic, unfair and regressive.

This tax was first imposed in 1898 to fund U.S. involvement in the Spanish American War. That conflict is long over, and now elimination of this tax is long overdue. But it is not for want of trying.

Similar pieces of legislation have won bipartisan support in previous sessions of Con-

gress—127 cosponsors in the 110th Congress and 220 in the 109th Congress—but have routinely been stalled. Let's not let that happen again.

I suspect many Americans would be surprised to learn that they are paying a three percent tax on their local telephone, toll, and teletype exchange services. As an excise tax, there is no direct payment made to the government; the tax is collected by the phone companies and remitted to the federal government.

Although the amount is itemized on each phone bill, it is one of many taxes, fees and surcharges listed and can be easily overlooked on the multiple pages of an average telephone bill.

With advances in technology, this tax has become punitive for those without the ability, financial means or desire to upgrade their telecommunications services. Cellular phone and long distance landline telephone services were exempted from the tax in 2006. Bundled services that do not differentiate between local and long distance services, such as Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services, also are exempt. The only service still being subjected to this antiquated tax is local telephone service, which is the predominant means of communication used by the disabled, lower-income families and senior citizens.

Eliminating this regressive tax would be consistent with the actions we already have taken so far in this Congress to provide hundreds of billions of dollars in tax relief to hard working Americans. I ask my colleagues to join us in hanging up on the telephone tax.

HONORING DANIEL C. GILLIAM

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Daniel C. Gilliam upon his retirement from the position of Deputy Senior Acquisition Executive at the National Security Agency (NSA). In this position Mr. Gilliam has been responsible for all of NSA's acquisitions and management of the Acquisition Directorate's senior leadership. Mr. Gilliam oversees all procurements, liaisons with key industry partners, and directs resources to optimize the organization's effectiveness. Working closely with Acquisition's customers, Mr. Gilliam maintains strategic partnerships with NSA's mission elements to ensure their needs and requirements are met.

After earning a Bachelor's degree in Business Management from the University of Maryland, and a Master's degree in Public Administration from the George Washington University in 1979, Mr. Gilliam graduated from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 1993. He also attended the Federal Executive Institutes Leadership for a Democratic Society Program in 1996.

In 1976, Daniel began his career at NSA as a management support intern. Since then, he has worked on a variety of acquisition and contracting positions to include contracting specialist, contracting officer, and cost/price analyst as well as managing those same disciplines. While participating in NSA's executive development program, Mr. Gilliam worked in