

to rely upon loans and credit cards to make ends meet, families can find themselves one extended hospital stay or temporary job loss away from bankruptcy. The system designed to protect families in these situations is broken, and must be mended by this Congress.

Outsourcing, once primarily a concern for manufacturing jobs, is now a growing concern for white collar jobs as well. Workers in my home state of Ohio have long known the consequences for workers when jobs are shipped overseas. The effects of trade policies such as NAFTA have led Ohio to post the sixth highest unemployment rate in the Nation in the most recent numbers reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Workers and their families are left in an insecure world, with diminishing protections and in need of a helping hand.

No longer can our Nation turn a blind eye to the effects of lax enforcement of labor laws, inadequate social support systems and faulty trade policies. This Congress must take the necessary steps to ensure that workers and their families are on stable economic ground. We have the ability to better protect and aid our constituents, and we must move towards the goal of security for workers as we begin this new Congress.

COMMENDING E. STEVEN COLLINS AND RADIO ONE FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF PHILADELPHIA

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Radio One in Philadelphia and E. Steven Collins, National Sales Manager, for their extraordinary civic-minded efforts in support of the "Groceries for Guns Initiative" during the 2007 Martin Luther King's birthday celebration.

Creative and determined promotion by Radio One through its three FM outlets in the Philadelphia market, under the direction of Mr. Collins, led directly to a successful outcome beyond anyone's expectations.

The initiative, spearheaded by Philadelphia City Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown in cooperation with my Congressional office and Business Manager John Dougherty of Local 98, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, produced the surrender of 252 weapons to the Philadelphia Police Department, including 177 handguns and several sawed off shotguns.

What better way to pay tribute to Dr. King's message and legacy of non-violence than to remove these potential instruments of crime from our streets?

And it occurred shortly after the city experienced one of its deadliest years in recent history. In 2006, the toll of homicide victims in

Philadelphia was 406. Eighty five percent of these victims were killed by firearms.

This extraordinary outpouring by the citizens of Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley would not have reached such dramatic numbers without the efforts of Radio One and its stations—100.3 The Beat, 103.9 Praise, and 107.9 R&B. Radio One and its personalities promoted an ongoing anti-violence, anti-gun, anti-drug campaign of personal responsibility on the theme, "It Starts With Me, It Starts With You."

For a week in advance of the "no questions asked" gun surrender, Radio One air personalities promoted "Groceries for Guns" through public service announcements, interviews with Councilwoman Reynolds Brown and myself and numerous appeals. Mr. Collins, a longtime respected voice in Philadelphia radio, conducted some of these interviews on his own show.

On the day of the initiative, January 15, 2007, Pooch and Laiya and other Radio One personalities provided live interviews from outside the Columbia YMCA in North Philadelphia as hundreds of Philadelphians, young and old, lined up to exchange weapons for certificates worth \$200 in groceries at The Fresh Grocer outlets.

Police officials expressed gratitude—and surprise—at the large number of weapons that were taken off the streets of Philadelphia and hauled away in the department's mobile mini-station in a single day's effort.

I thank all the participants and especially Radio One and E. Steven Collins for their efforts to bring about a "Gun Safe Philadelphia."