

Jul 17 2009

Crenshaw Secures \$790,000 for Jacksonville's Operation New Hope

(WASHINGTON, DC) – Congressman Ander Crenshaw today (7/17) announced that the House of Representatives has approved his recommendation of \$790,000 for Jacksonville's Operation New Hope as part of the Fiscal Year 2010 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act.

"Operation New Hope is a key component of Jacksonville Journey's mission to reduce violent crime in the city and help ex-offenders reintegrate into the community and find long-term employment," said Crenshaw, a member of the House Appropriations Committee. "By matching qualified ex-offenders with employers, the Ready4Work Division assists the needs of small businesses and helps participants gain valuable workplace skills. In doing so, they play a first-hand role in revitalizing and sustaining city neighborhoods – a worthwhile investment now and for the future."

Operation New Hopes' Ready4Work is an offender re-entry workforce development program that mobilizes local coalitions to work together for sustainable offender reintegration into the community. The organization is committed to developing strategic partnerships in businesses, faith-based and community non-profits, and criminal justice agencies that will lead the way in successfully reintegrating offenders and reducing recidivism.

Separately, the legislation contains a provision, supported by Crenshaw in committee, that will force Chrysler and General Motors to restore franchise agreements that were killed in bankruptcy proceedings or terminated by automakers. The measure requires that franchise agreements be restored for automakers that are at least partially owned by the federal government.

The House passed the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act by 219 – 208 on Thursday evening (7/16), and the legislation now moves to the United States Senate for consideration. The bill provides funding for the Treasury Department, the Executive Office of the President, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia and related agencies.

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