

AFFORDABLE HOUSING BILL

Funding restricted

Continued from page 1A

in this country that most need the housing that the fund would help subsidize," he said.

U.S. Rep. Mel Watt (D-N.C.), chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, said he supports the bill, but hasn't read the possible "voter participation" amendment in its entirety. He said opponents can't let a bill pass with erroneous provisions in it and encourages people to contact their congressman and voice their opposition.

"When we start discouraging people from engaging in the political process as a means for getting funding to do anything for addressing economic issues, then we still have a problem," Watt said.

The original bill passed through the House Financial Services Committee with unanimous vote, but organizations say a back-room deal between Ohio Representative

Michael Oxley and the Republican Study Committee has resulted in a nonprofit gag provision.

North Carolina Reps. Walter Jones (R-3rd) and Patrick McHenry (R-10th) are among the 19 co-sponsors of the bill introduced by Rep. Richard Baker of Louisiana. They did not return phone calls concerning the bill and possible provisions.

Some conservatives and Republicans argue that the provision is necessary to ensure money doesn't end up in the hands of liberal advocacy groups. Supporters of the amendment fear that funds would be used with a partisan or bias motive.

Jim Dixon, a member of the American Association for People with Disabilities, said non-profit organizations are mandated to offer voter registration services to poor and disabled in order to receive state funds. He said he doesn't think this provision is aimed at non profit organizations. He thinks it's aimed at poor, low-income individuals who are not registered to vote.

"The IRS monitors organizations and makes it very clear, we can do nonpartisan activities

and non partisan work, and if not, the I-R-S will pull our federal funding," Dixon said.

Sheila Crowley, president of the National Low Income Housing Coalition has been a social worker for 30 years in the low income housing realm. She said the Coalition's role is to keep a keen eye on the way funds are being used to benefit low-income housing and that non-profit groups are a necessity for this bill to be effective.

"If non-profit organizations are not involved, then, yes, it will be ineffective. The non-profit is what's driving the building of low-income housing. The non-profit sector has to be relied on to make this work," Crowley said.

Crowley said she's spoken with non-profits who say they would not give up their voter rights to fund affordable housing. Organizations support the bill aside from the proposed provision. Rev. Dr. Willi Gable Jr. is executive vice chairman of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. in New Orleans. His organization provides affordable housing to seniors in 27 housing sites and 12 states. He hopes it will not come to the point where his organization has to choose between providing affordable housing and registering voters.

"We would not give up our civic duty to encourage people to engage in their rights, for a few houses," he said. "When New Orleans residents return to the city, they might be affected by this bill. 63 percent of New Orleans residents were renters. We want them to be homeowners."

According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, in 2003, there were an estimated 94.2 million Americans living in unaffordable or inadequate housing or, at worst, without any housing at all. Crowley urges everyone to push for the exclusion of the provision to this bill, to ensure the most effective outcome.

"I expect certainly that every democrat would vote to strike the amendment, and every responsible, reasonable, sensible Republican would, too," she said.

The bill is expected to be sent to the House floor next week.

RECRUITING FOR FOURTH CLASS

Program develops civic leaders

Continued from page 1A

with us. Then, we look for sponsorships for scholarships to go through the program," said McMoore.

When classes start, students will learn how to write grants, economic development, African-American leadership, communications skills, government/political awareness, area growth and development, financial management and a volunteer community initiative that is mandatory for graduation.

Past facilitators of these classes include Latrelle McAllister, JCSU's human resources director, attorney Danielle Bess Obiorah, president of the Black Political Caucus and District 2 councilman James Mitchell Jr.

Kevin Geter, FOFL's Vice President and graduate of the second class, explains that you get all of your monies worth in the program.

"I thought the class was extremely exciting, which I never really expected. I think that's a lot of people's perspective. When people hear about

a six-month class, they think of a grueling class and some lectures. After the first class, I was like this is really interactive and a good mixture of people. It was also a great network environment for us.

Anthony Foxx, who is running for at-large seat on City Council, is another noteworthy graduate of FOFL.

As leaders of FOFL, McMoore and Jeter were inspired to become entrepreneurs.

McMoore owns an independent consulting firm and Geter owns a clothing company that specializes in men's and ladies' formal wear.

"After being a part of Focus, I knew I was ready to go to the next level and own my own business. If I can help run this organization and then I can get a business started," said McMoore.

For more information about Focus on Future Leaders, log on at www.FOFL.org.

The Law Offices of

MARCIA BURTON
- Specializing In -
BANKRUPTCY



"Laws Change Oct. 17th,... If you're at risk, call today!"

704-609-6888

FAX: 704-295-5148 • E-Mail: atbyburton@mburtonlaw.com
412 W. Trade St., Ste 136-C, Charlotte, NC 28202

Also, Ask Us About...

• Credit Restoration • Foreclosures • Family Law

www.thecharlottepost.com

Styles for every occasion.
Prices for every budget.

Over 45,000 pairs of the hottest styles for men, women and kids from the best brands - all at up to 60% off retail!

Open Tuesday - Sunday
www.srshoes.com

SRI SHOE WAREHOUSE
Fresh Fashions Every Day!
Tyvola Road & South Boulevard . Charlotte, NC . 704/527-1910

6% APY

Special offer for New Members Only
1 year term, non-renewable CD.
Minimum balance \$1000, maximum balance \$2500.
For new members only, must open a checking account.

Great CD Rates
Ripe for the Picking

IRA CDs for all members	REGULAR CDs for all members	FOR SENIORS aged 50 or better
4.5% APY 2-year term \$1000 minimum	4.75% APY 3-year term	4.0% APY 6-month term \$1000 minimum
		4.25% APY 1-year term
		4.5% APY 18-month term \$5000 minimum

Announcing a fresh crop of giant rates for everybody. It's just one of many reasons to join Charlotte Metro Credit Union, where becoming a member is as easy as pie. It's the smart thing to do if you want safe options for growing your money. But this is a limited-time offer, so sign up today. After all, rates this big don't pop up every day.

704.375.0183 www.cmcu.org
CHARLOTTE 718 Central Avenue HUNTERSVILLE 16649 Statesville Road North
MATTHEWS 11110 East Independence Boulevard

*Membership in Charlotte Metro Credit Union is open to people who live, work, worship or attend school in Mecklenburg, Union and Iredell counties. Must open a \$25 Share Account to join. APY=Annual Percentage Yield. Current yields are as of 10/11/05. Rates and terms subject to change. Mail-in or online applications require notarization with signature. Insured up to \$350,000.

NCUA Insured

BOBCATS
OPEN HOUSE

OCTOBER 22-23, 2-6PM
presented by **The Charlotte Observer**

REGISTER TO WIN ONE-OF-A-KIND PRIZES*

- Season Tickets To The Arena
Two tickets to all arena events for one year, including club level Bobcats, Sting and Checkers season tickets, CIAA Tournament, concerts, family shows and more! *Visit BobcatsBasketball.com for prize information.
- Bobcats Player Classroom Visit
- Open Practice With Your Office
- Night In A Party Suite With 50 Friends
- Bobcats Ticket Packages

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!

SELECT YOUR SEATS FOR THE UPCOMING BOBCATS SEASON
Purchase any ticket plan during the Open House and receive a unique autographed Bobcats item

GET CLOSER TO THE NEW ARENA WITH BOBCATS TICKETS
704-BOBCATS • BOBCATSBASKETBALL.COM

CHARLOTTE TORONTO OHIO

BOBCATS