

Statement on Representative Edolphus Towns's Decision Not To Seek Re-election

April 16, 2012

As a veteran, teacher, minister, and Congressman, Edolphus Towns has dedicated his life to public service. In his 30 years representing the people of New York, Ed has fought tirelessly to improve the public health care system, strengthen consumer protections, and improve the public education system. He has served as chairman for the Congressional Black Caucus, the House Oversight and Gov-

ernment Reform Committee, and currently chairs the Congressional Social Work Caucus, which he created to provide a platform for over 600,000 social workers who positively impact the lives of the elderly, the disadvantaged, children, and veterans. Michelle and I join the people of New York in wishing Ed and his family all the best in the future.

Statement on the Selection of Jim Yong Kim as President of the World Bank

April 16, 2012

On behalf of the United States, I would like to offer my congratulations to Dr. Jim Yong Kim on his selection as the next President of the World Bank. I am confident that Dr. Kim will be an inclusive leader who will bring to the Bank a passion for and deep knowledge of development, a commitment to sustained economic growth, and the ability to respond to complex challenges and seize new opportunities. I appreciate the strong support offered to Dr. Kim from leaders around the world.

I am also pleased that this has been an open and transparent process and would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding qualifications and commitment of the other two candidates. I look forward to working with Dr. Kim and our partners throughout the world in support of a strong and effective World Bank.

NOTE: The statement referred to World Bank President candidates Jose A. Ocampo and Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.

Statement on Tax Code Reform

April 16, 2012

Tonight Senate Republicans voted to block the Buffett rule, choosing once again to protect tax breaks for the wealthiest few Americans at the expense of the middle class.

The Buffett rule is common sense. At a time when we have significant deficits to close and serious investments to make to strengthen our economy, we simply cannot afford to keep spending money on tax cuts that the wealthiest Americans don't need and didn't ask for. But it's also about basic fairness: It's just plain wrong that millions of middle class Americans pay a higher share of their income in taxes than

some millionaires and billionaires. America prospers when we're all in it together and everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

One of the fundamental challenges of our time is building an economy where everyone gets a fair shot, everyone does their fair share, and everyone plays by the same rules. And I will continue to push Congress to take steps to not only restore economic security for the middle class and those trying to reach the middle class, but also to create an economy that's built to last.