

**CONGRESSMAN PUTNAM ON THE RECORD:
Association of Community Organizers for Reform Now (ACORN)**

October 15, 2009

Congressman Putnam joined twenty-four colleagues in introducing the Suspend ACORN Certification Act (H.R. 3828). The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) currently lists ACORN as a certified housing counseling agency. H.R. 3828 would require the HUD Inspector General to conduct an audit of ACORN and its affiliates, specifically focused on the use of HUD funds. Until this audit is complete, the legislation would suspend ACORN's certification as a housing counseling agency.

To view further information on H.R. 3828, please click here: [Suspend ACORN Certification Act](#)

September 21, 2009

Congressman Putnam joined twenty-eight Republican colleagues on the House Financial Services Committee in signing a letter to Inspector General (IG) Kenneth Donohue of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In this letter, they requested that the IG review the funds provided to ACORN and determine "how much, what for, and what efforts were made to find out if the funds actually accomplished what they were intended to do." The Department of Justice IG has agreed to a similar review as well.

To view a copy of the letter, please click here: [Letter to HUD IG](#)

September 17, 2009

The House passed H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act. During consideration of the bill, a Republican motion was offered that added the text of H.R. 3571, the Defund ACORN Act, of which Congressman Putnam is an original cosponsor. The motion passed by a vote of 345-75 (Roll Call Vote 718), and was therefore included in the final passage of H.R. 3221.

To view Roll Call Vote 718, please click here: [Roll Call Vote 718](#)

September 15, 2009

Congressman Putnam became an original cosponsor of the Defund ACORN Act (H.R. 3571) – legislation that would stop all funding to ACORN.

To view the full list of cosponsors, please click here: [H.R. 3571 Cosponsors](#)

May 7, 2009

During floor consideration of H.R. 1728, the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act, Financial Services Committee Chairman Barney Frank (D-MA-4) offered an amendment (Roll Call Vote 238) that would make funds in the bill eligible to ACORN for legal assistance or housing counseling grants. Congressman Putnam opposed this amendment, as it weakened the language initially adopted by voice vote and accepted by the Chairman during Committee consideration less than a week earlier. The Chairman's amendment therefore removed the ban on groups like ACORN from receiving housing counseling and legal assistance funds.

To view Roll Call Vote 238 during the 111th Congress, please click here: [Roll Call Vote 238](#)

March 11, 2009

The House Financial Services Committee considered Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Views and Estimates. During the markup, Ranking Member Bachus (R-AL-6) offered an amendment that would have placed safeguards against and restrictions to groups such as ACORN that receive taxpayer dollars. While Congressman Putnam supported this amendment, it did not gain enough support and failed by a vote of 27-37 (Recorded Vote No. FC-5).

To view recorded vote FC-5, please click here: [Recorded Vote FC-5](#)

October 14, 2008

Congressman Putnam joined twenty-eight House Republican colleagues in signing a letter to Chairman Barney Frank, requesting that he "schedule immediate hearings" in Committee on ACORN "and their alleged abuses of taxpayer dollars including the funding of fraudulent voter registration drives."

To view a copy of the letter, please click here: [Letter to Chairman Frank Requesting Hearing](#)

July 31, 2008

Congressman Putnam sent a letter to House Financial Services Committee Chairman Barney Frank, with thirty-eight fellow Republican colleagues, "requesting that the Financial Services Committee hold immediate hearings to investigate evidence that the ACORN Housing Corporation (AHC) and its affiliate ACORN may be using public funds inappropriately."

To view a copy of the letter, please click here: [Letter to Chairman Frank Requesting Hearing](#)

July 23, 2008

Congress passed – and President Bush signed into law – provisions in H.R. 3221, the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, that barred ACORN from receiving federal financial assistance under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. The provision barred funding for groups *indicted* for federal election fraud or hiring individuals *indicted* for such.

October 10, 2007

The National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act of 2007 (H.R. 2895) would create a National Affordable Housing Trust Fund with authorized funding provided through two bills (H.R. 1427 and H.R. 1852). Under the legislation, ACORN would be eligible to receive funding. Congressman Putnam opposed passage of H.R. 2895.

To view Roll Call Vote 958 from the 110th Congress, please click here: [Roll Call Vote 958](#)

September 18, 2007

Congressman Jeb Hensarling (R-TX-5) offered an amendment during floor consideration of H.R. 1852, the Expanding American Homeownership Act. The amendment would strike the allowable use of the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) savings for an affordable housing fund, as activist groups, such as ACORN, that perform some housing-related activities, would be eligible recipients. Congressman Putnam supported the amendment, but it failed by a vote of 148-280.

To view Roll Call Vote 873 from the 110th Congress, please click here: [Roll Call Vote 873](#)

March 28, 2007

Ranking Member Bachus offered an amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act of 2007, during a Financial Services Committee markup that would strike the Affordable Housing Trust Fund from the underlying legislation, as ACORN remained eligible to receive funding. Congressman Putnam supported the amendment, but it failed by a vote of 15-31.

To view recorded vote FC-27, please click here: [Recorded Vote FC-27](#)

October 26, 2005

During consideration of H.R. 1461, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act of 2005, Congressman Michael Oxley (R-OH-4) offered an amendment would ensure that eligible recipients of funds do not use such funding for political activities, advocacy, lobbying, counseling services, travel expenses, and tax return advice. Further, non-profit recipients must have affordable housing as their primary purpose and, non-profits and their affiliates cannot have engaged in federal election activity, electioneering communication, or lobbying. Congressman Putnam supported the amendment which passed by a vote of 210-205 (Roll Call Vote 541).

To view Roll Call Vote 541 from the 109th Congress, please click here: [Roll Call Vote 541](#)

ACORN: Recent Developments

September 21, 2009 – The U.S. Justice Department's Office of the Inspector General announced that it plans to review whether ACORN applied for grant funds through the department -- and if so, determine if the money was properly overseen.

September 17, 2009 – The U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that would end ALL federal funding to ACORN.

September 15, 2009 – The U.S. Senate voted 85-11 to block grant money from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) directed toward ACORN, attaching the provision to H.R. 2996 - Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

September 14, 2009 – ACORN employees at its Brooklyn, New York, office were caught on video offering prostitutes suggestions on how they can launder their earnings.

September 11, 2009 – Two more ACORN officials were fired after a video surfaced showing staffers in a Washington, D.C., office offering to help a man and woman posing as a pimp and prostitute acquire illegal home loans that would help them set up a brothel.

September 11, 2009 – The U.S. Census Bureau announced it was severing ties with ACORN, and that the controversial group would no longer participate in the collection of data for the 2010 Census.

September 9, 2009 – The FBI and Florida police arrested 11 former workers associated with ACORN in Miami for voter fraud relating to the 2008 election – accused of falsifying almost 900 voter registration cards in Miami-Dade County last year. The 11 accused individuals were working for ACORN to register people to vote, and were paid between \$8 and \$10 an hour to do so.

September 9, 2009 – Two activists released a hidden-camera video in which they posed as a prostitute and a pimp in order to elicit a response from ACORN. In the edited video, two employees in ACORN's Baltimore, Maryland, office appear to offer unethical advice to the two regarding home loans, tax evasion, and disguising the identities of underaged sex workers trafficked from El Salvador.