

## Brady Appointed House Administration Committee Chair (3/25/07)

Washington, DC --- Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced today that Congressman Robert A. Brady (D., PA) has been named Chairman of the House Administration Committee, filling the vacancy left by the passing of Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald.

At a Democratic Caucus meeting this morning, Congressman Brady was nominated as Chair by the Speaker and approved by the Democratic Caucus.

Congressman Brady has served as interim Chair of the Committee since the death of Chairwoman Millender-McDonald. He is also Chair of the House Administration's new Subcommittee on Capitol Security and Chair of the Joint Committee on Printing.

Speaker Pelosi said "Congressman Brady's experience as a leading member of the House Administration Committee for three years and his in-depth knowledge of the internal functions of the House will make him a powerful voice as Chairman," Speaker Pelosi said. "I know Congressman Brady will expand upon the efforts of Chairwoman Millender-McDonald to promote equality and diversity on Capitol Hill."

"I appreciate Speaker Pelosi's support and will continue the legacy of Congresswoman Millender McDonald to correct oversights from the past," said Congressman Brady. "One of my priorities will be to make every effort to keep the Capitol Complex as secure as possible while remaining accessible for the millions of visitors every year."

Congressman Brady said his added priorities as CHA Chairman will include increased oversight of the Committee's close to a \$1 billion budget and the several critical problems inherited by Democrats when they assumed the majority in January 2007. Those problems include cost overruns and construction delays on the \$548 million Capitol Visitor Center project, scandals at the Smithsonian Institute and the National Zoo, and the lack of contracts for union employees at the Government Printing Office. He also emphasized that in order to provide increased security for the public who visit the Capitol campus completion of the merger of the U.S. Capitol Police and the Library of Congress Police will be a major priority. "These are all fundamental issues that require the Committee's urgent attention," said the Congressman.

Congressman Brady is the first Philadelphian to chair either a full or subcommittee since then-Congressman Bill Gray was Chairman of the Budget Committee in the 99th and 100th Congresses.

Earlier this month, Congressman Brady chaired the CHA's first substantive markup, preparing HR 811, the Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2007, for floor action. The bill, sponsored by Congressman Rush Holt (D., NJ) requires that all voting equipment produce a paper ballot that can be verified by the voter and also serves as the official ballot in any recount or audit. As a federal requirement, it mandates that each state set up special audit boards separate from existing voting administration systems and requires that they carry out an audit of each federal election by sampling select precincts for discrepancies between electronic vote counts and hand counts of paper ballots. The bill was passed by the CHA.

The Congressman is also a member of the House Armed Services Committee. He also serves as a Senior Majority Whip with the responsibility to strategically plan and shape consensus on legislation.