

DETROIT FREE PRESS

SUNDAY, JULY 22, 2012

OPINION: Letters

Rep. Conyers still keeps a very busy schedule

You are simply so wrong to assert that U.S. Rep. John Conyers' "energy and effectiveness are on a downward slope" ("Conyers gets nod by default," July 15).

Anyone who has run around with Conyers recently would see he is introducing bills and amendments (and despite the Republican obstruction, winning several just over this past year from a statement of no Iran war without congressional authorization to preservation of Detroit judges), making speeches on the floor, holding and going to meetings in D.C. and Detroit, getting grants for his district, and advocating issue after issue that helps the poor and oppressed.

His 24-7 work schedule is as full as ever, and he continues to live and be his work. Just ask his staff, who he still insists work with him nonstop to get positive things done. He is the same Conyers he's always been. Only people who want to create a straw man that doesn't exist, to try to make him vulnerable, would say he is not -- his activity and continued effectiveness are facts; saying he does not have them is a made-up myth by the opposition.

If the Democrats retake Congress, Conyers would again be the chair of the powerful House Judiciary Committee. Now, he is the Democratic leader of that committee and is Dean of the Congressional Black Caucus. If he were defeated, Detroit would lose a phenomenal ongoing resource and Congress' leading progressive intellectual in fighting for the oppressed.

Robert Weiner

*Former Communications Director for Rep. Conyers
Washington, D.C.*