



# Congressman Bob Goodlatte

SERVING THE SIXTH DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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Dear Fellow Americans,

I am pleased to report that in the past year, Congress has acted on an ambitious agenda with the goal of bringing more prosperity and security to American families.

To secure America's future, the House passed legislation to promote energy independence, keep criminals and pedophiles out of our schools, give relief from the double and triple taxation known as the death tax, strengthen our nation's borders and ports, fund the war on terror, support our troops and eliminate waste and abuse in government spending.

In addition, our economy is strong and continues to grow. The Commerce Department recently announced that the economy grew at a robust 5.6 percent in the first quarter of 2006, the fastest in two and a half years and even stronger than economists originally predicted. Currently, more Americans are working and more businesses are hiring. This strong economy has created 5.3 million new jobs since August 2003.

I am committed to responsible spending and tax relief for American families and businesses that ultimately fosters a strong economic environment and will keep our country on the right economic track.

I invite you to take a few minutes to read through this newsletter, highlighting many of the critical issues facing our country. I also encourage you to visit my website, where you can sign up for monthly e-newsletters from my office, covering a variety of topics and legislative priorities.

In addition, I hope you can find time to join me at either the Seniors Conference or the Innovation and Technology Conference I am hosting this month. These conferences are an excellent opportunity for you to gather information and ask questions from a wide array of local organizations. More information on both the Seniors Conference and the Innovation and Technology Conference can be found inside this newsletter. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Very Truly Yours,

*Bob Goodlatte*

## 2006 SUMMER REPORT

Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter: [www.house.gov/goodlatte](http://www.house.gov/goodlatte)





## **CRACKING DOWN ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND SECURING OUR BORDERS**

Illegal immigration is not a new issue. It has plagued our nation for decades, costing our taxpayers billions of dollars each year, and jeopardizing our nation's security.

There are estimated to be over ten million illegal aliens currently living in the U.S. and the numbers continue to rise. This trend cannot be allowed to continue.

The fight against illegal immigration starts at our nation's borders. But it should not end there. Nearly half of those who are illegally in the U.S. entered legally and then violated the terms of their visas by simply not leaving. Weak enforcement in the interior of our country and confusing provisions in immigration law have allowed illegal aliens to stay in the country for years without punishment.

In order to crack down on illegal immigration, the House passed a strong immigration enforcement and border security bill, which I cosponsored. This legislation combats the hiring of illegal workers by providing all employers with a reliable method of determining whether employees are legally eligible to work, increases penalties for alien smuggling and stiffens penalties for aliens who re-enter the United States after having been previously deported.

In addition to dealing with illegal immigration, we must also scrutinize current immigration policies that threaten our national security. During consideration of this legislation, I offered a bipartisan amendment to eliminate the controversial visa lottery program through which approximately 50,000 permanent resident visas are handed out to foreign nationals on the basis of pure luck. I am pleased that my amendment to eliminate this outrageous program was included in H.R. 4437 when it passed the House.

Legal immigration has blessed our country with diversity and talent; however, illegal immigration makes a complete mockery of our system and the people who abide by the rules. Now is the time to crack down on illegal immigration and to secure our borders. As your Congressman, I will remain committed to these principles and the rule of law.

## **AMERICA'S ENERGY POLICY**



As the summer travel season continues, families must factor in a higher cost: the price of gasoline.

With every passing day, as gasoline hovers around \$3 a gallon, our dangerous dependence on foreign oil grows more and more apparent.

Recently, I introduced a resolution calling for increased renewable fuel development and production. This resolution sets a goal of producing 25 percent of total energy consumed in the U.S. on America's farms, ranches, and forests by the year 2025. Increased development of renewable fuels opens new markets for our nation's producers and provides consumers with a safe, sustainable,

environmentally-friendly, and renewable source of energy. It also will decrease our nation's dependency on foreign oil thereby likely lessening the negative effects of severe spikes in oil prices on consumers. We are fully committed to making sure this goal becomes a reality by 2025.

Energy is vital to every sector of the U.S. economy, including homes, small businesses and industries. When energy supplies are tight, families and businesses are severely impacted by the resulting increase in energy costs. Through a comprehensive energy policy based on exploration, innovation, and conservation, we can grow our economy, create quality jobs, and make America stronger.

# **PLEASE ATTEND: Congressman Goodlatte's Seniors Conference and the Innovation and Technology Conference. DETAILS INSIDE.**

**SERVING THE SIXTH DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA**

UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

  
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To stay updated, please sign up for our  
monthly e-newsletter. You may do so at:  
[www.house.gov/goodlatte](http://www.house.gov/goodlatte)

## CONGRESSMAN GOODLATTE IS HERE TO HELP



### **FEDERAL AGENCIES**

One of my most important responsibilities is to make sure the federal government is working for you. If you can't get an answer from a federal agency in a reasonable time or you've been treated unfairly, we're here to help resolve the problem or get you the information you need. Please don't hesitate to contact one of my four district offices or my Washington office if you are having trouble receiving your Social Security benefits, you lost your passport, you need replacement military service medals, or any number of issues concerning the federal government.



### **FLAGS**

United States flags may be purchased through my office and flown, at your request, over the U.S. Capitol. Please contact my one of my offices or visit my website, at [www.house.gov/goodlatte](http://www.house.gov/goodlatte), for more information.



### **TOURS**

Capitol Tours: Tours of the Capitol given by the U.S. Capitol Guide Service can be taken from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Visitors must obtain free tickets for tours on a first-come, first-served basis, at the Capitol Guide Service kiosk located near the intersection of First Street, S.W., and Independence Avenue. Ticket distribution begins at 9:00 a.m. daily. You may obtain gallery passes to watch the House of Representatives any time it is in session by contacting my Washington office.



### **WHITE HOUSE TOURS**

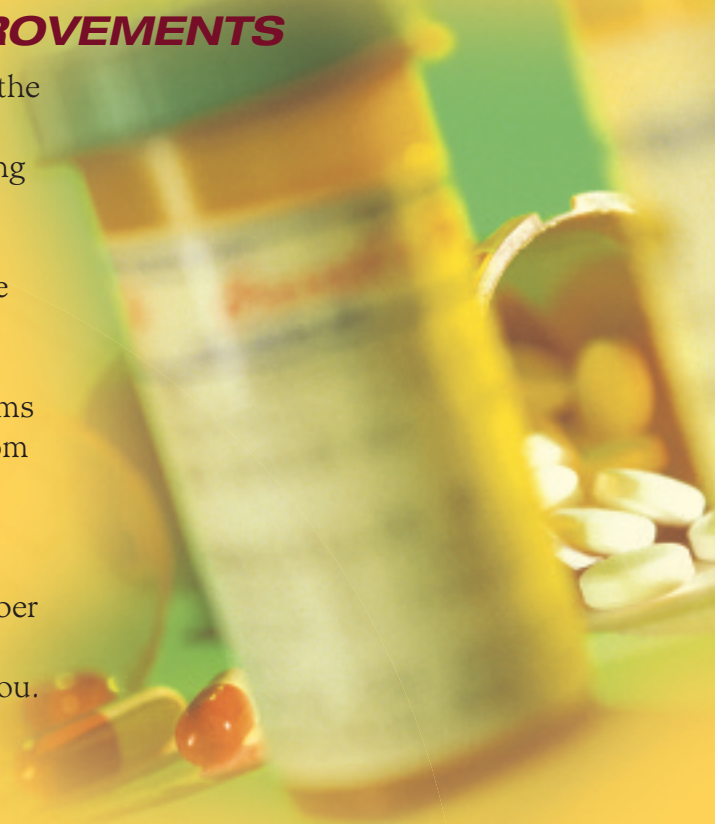
Tours of the White House are available on a limited basis. My office may request White House tours for groups of 10 or more people. Tickets should be requested from my Washington office 6 months in advance.

## **SUCCESSFUL MEDICARE IMPROVEMENTS**

For the first time since Medicare was established, the program is offering comprehensive prescription drug coverage. More than 3.5 million prescriptions are being filled each day under this new plan, and the cost of monthly premiums is nearly 40% lower than original estimates. In Virginia, 88% of seniors on Medicare are now on a prescription drug plan.

Competition among plans is working, and premiums are now expected to average \$25 per month, down from prior estimates of \$37 per month.

Although the first deadline has passed, your next opportunity to enroll without penalty is from November 15, 2006, to December 31, 2006. You can start researching now for the plan that will work best for you. If you need additional information, visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or call 1-800-MEDICARE.



## ***Please Attend***

### ***Rep. Goodlatte's 2006 Seniors Conference***

***Thursday, August 17th  
10:00 AM to Noon***

***Roanoke College, Colket Campus Center  
Wortmann Ballroom, 221 College Lane, Salem***

The Seniors Conference will cover issues like Social Security and Medicare and feature experts on issues of concern to nearly all seniors. Guest speakers will cover topics including prescription drugs, avoiding scams targeted at seniors, and general financial security and retirement advice. Both before and after the speakers, you will have the opportunity to visit booths, gather information and ask questions of representatives from a wide array of local organizations providing services to seniors.



# Bolstering America's Competitive Spirit

The Internet and other exciting new technologies have made our world better. Access to more information is providing people all over the world with more educational and economic opportunities. This is certainly true in the United States. But with this has come increased competition and serious challenges. Here in the U.S. we must work harder than ever to maintain our competitive edge.

Today, foreign companies and inventors account for nearly half of all U.S. patents. By 2010, more than 90 percent of all scientists and engineers could be living in Asia. Current 12th grade students perform below the international average on general math and science tests, and the number of engineering degrees awarded in the U.S. has declined by 20 percent since 1985. This is a major challenge but America must keep pace by ensuring

we have a skilled workforce that can compete in the world marketplace.

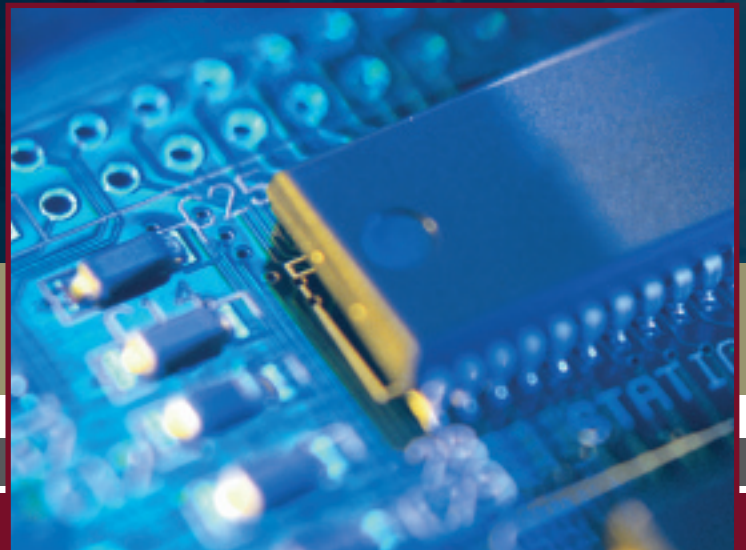
Earlier this year, I introduced the Innovation and Competitiveness Act to promote and expand critical research and development, improve math and science education, and promote health information technology. This Act will also reduce overly burdensome regulations. By cutting out the red tape, we can create an environment more conducive to innovation by American businesses and entrepreneurs.

The Innovation and Competitiveness Act is a comprehensive piece of legislation to get Congress engaged in promoting innovation in America. It's time for us to take action to ensure America's competitive spirit is not lost.

## *Innovation and Technology Conference* *Tuesday, August 15th* *10:00am to Noon*

*James Madison University*  
*Festival Conference and*  
*Student Center*  
*Highlands Room*

Join Congressman Goodlatte with guest speakers on technology related issues such as technology education and training, cyber security and the deployment of high-speed data networks.



**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Recently, the House passed legislation I introduced to crack down on the growing problem of illegal Internet gambling. H.R. 4411, the Internet Gambling Prohibition and Enforcement Act, passed by a strong bipartisan vote of 317-93.

Illegal internet gambling sucks billions of dollars per year out of the U.S. economy, serves as a vehicle for money laundering, undermines families, and threatens the ability of states to enact and enforce their own laws. Internet gambling is a serious problem that must be stopped and this legislation will help eliminate this harmful activity before it spreads further.

## **CRACKING DOWN ON METH IN THE SIXTH DISTRICT**

Methamphetamine is a serious and growing problem. The ease with which meth can be produced from common household items and its highly addictive nature have led to the rapid proliferation of meth labs across the United States, including our region. The consumption of meth threatens the lives of those who use it. The production of meth is extremely dangerous as well. It leaves behind hazardous waste and does not discriminate between producers and their innocent children, who are often exposed to the waste products.

Meth is particularly a problem for Southwest Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley as the I-81 corridor has been described as a major route for meth trafficking. Congress has been hard at work to combat the scourge of this dangerous drug. I strongly supported legislation, the Combat Meth Act, which strengthens criminal penalties, provides additional resources for law enforcement, and restricts the sale of the legal ingredients necessary to produce meth. This legislation was just signed into law by President Bush in March of this year.

As a member of the House Judiciary Committee, as well as the Congressional Caucus to Fight and Control Methamphetamine, I will work to ensure that this law is efficiently and effectively implemented. I look forward to continuing to work with local, state, and federal agencies to combat meth production and use in our communities.

## **SCRAPPING THE TAX CODE**

Our current tax system has spiraled out of control. Virginians simply trying to follow the letter of the law when filing their federal tax returns are confronted with a 17,000-page behemoth in the Internal Revenue Code. A few years ago, Money magazine asked 50 professional tax preparers to file a return for a fictional family. No one came up with the same tax total, nor did any of the preparers calculate what Money magazine thought was the correct federal income tax. The results varied by thousands of dollars. At a time when Americans devote a total of 7.4 billion hours each year to comply with the tax code, we need tax simplification.

For this reason, I have introduced the Tax Code Termination Act. This bipartisan legislation, which currently has over 80 cosponsors, is quite simple. It will repeal the entire tax code, except portions that deal with Social Security and Medicare by December 31, 2009, and calls on Congress to approve a new Federal tax system by July of the same year.

Today's tax code is unfair, discourages against savings and investment, and is impossibly complex. We can all agree that the current tax system is broken, and keeping it is not in America's best interest. Whatever form the new federal tax system takes, it should be a simpler, fairer, and less burdensome tax code which will ultimately benefit not only the national economy but the citizens who make America the greatest nation on Earth.

