



Congressman JIM DAVIS



Representing the People of the 11th District of Florida

Winter 2004

Dear Friend:

It is my honor to represent you and residents of Florida's 11th Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives. If you would like to find out more about what I am working on in Congress and our community, please visit my website at www.house.gov/jimdavis and sign up for my periodic e-mail updates! You can also add your name to my e-mail list by calling the Tampa office at (813) 354-9217 or visiting my offices' monthly mobile offices across the Tampa Bay area (see page 3 for more details).

Sincerely,
Jim

Budgeting for a Brighter Tomorrow

In November, Congress passed an \$800 billion increase to the federal debt limit. So, as parents across the country are working hard to save money for their children's college education, Congress is allowing the government to run the debt up to \$8.18 trillion and expecting our kids to pick up the tab. Congressman Davis, who voted against this debt limit increase, is reaching out to his colleagues from both parties to lift this heavy burden on America's children. Davis is fighting for a plan to bring the budget back into balance by requiring Congress to follow Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) rules that prohibit the government from spending more than it collects. Paying down the debt will promote economic prosperity and help keep interest rates low for young people struggling with credit card or student loan debt, families trying to pay their mortgages and small businesses seeking loans.



In February, Congressman Davis invited Tampa Bay leaders from the financial, real estate and academic communities to participate in a federal deficit roundtable. Participants discussed the impact of the debt on the local economy.

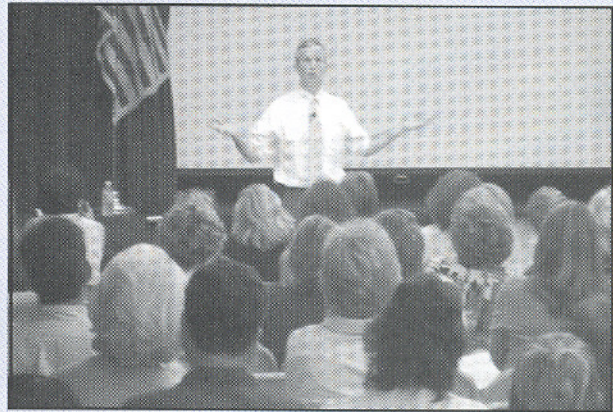
Training for the New Economy

A recent study by the University of South Florida Globalization Research Center said that employees with greater education and skills training will be better able to adapt to changes in the job market, including the offshoring of jobs. Congressman Davis' Up-Skilling Tax Credit Act would improve access to the job training that workers need to meet the challenges of the new economy and attract better jobs to

Florida. The Up-Skilling Tax Credit Act encourages employers to provide valuable lifetime learning opportunities for their employees. Employers could use 20 percent of the costs of providing technical training to their employees as a credit against their income tax expenses. Eligible employers could receive a credit of up to \$1,000 per employee per year over the next five years.

Education Reform that Passes the Test

The federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) established strong school accountability measures and provided flexibility to our states and school districts to determine how best to meet these new standards. But in 2004, although 68 percent of Florida's public schools received an 'A' or 'B' under Florida's A+ education plan, 77 percent failed under NCLB. With these schools facing their first year of penalties from the federal government, Rep. Davis has been meeting with parents, teachers, students and school board members in Hillsborough, Pinellas and Manatee counties to discuss the impact of NCLB on our schools and students. As Congress prepares to debate education reform, Davis will be working on a plan to fix the problem.



At his education town hall meeting in Bradenton, Rep. Davis talks with community members about the impact of No Child Left Behind on Florida's schools.

Rx for a Better Medicare Drug Law

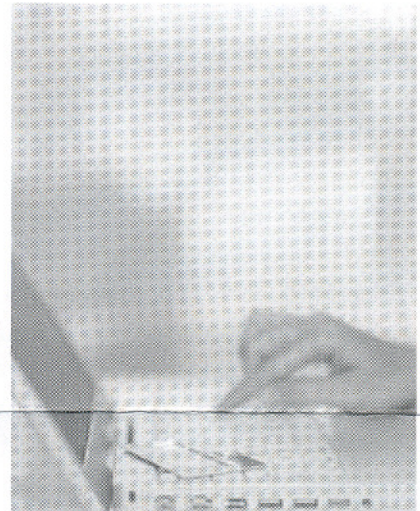
In 2003, Congress passed a Medicare prescription drug benefit, but the new law does not combat the spiraling cost of prescription drugs or ensure relief is available for all seniors struggling with the high cost of medicines. Rep. Davis is working to fix two of the program's most pressing problems. He supports repealing a provision in the law that prohibits the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services from negotiating lower drug prices for Medicare



beneficiaries, just as a discount shopping club does for its members. In addition, he is fighting to ensure that a reliable, national Medicare "fallback" drug program is available to seniors in areas where there are not enough private plans offering benefits.

Safer Online Rx Purchases

The General Accounting Office recently reported that consumers who purchase prescriptions online run the risk of receiving drugs that are counterfeit or lack proper warning labels.



To protect Internet customers from the risk of receiving unsafe, ineffective or illegal drugs, Congressman Jim Davis joined Congressman Greg Walden (R-OR) in introducing the Safe Online Drug Act. The bill would establish uniform safety standards for U.S. based Internet pharmacies and prohibit web search engines from accepting advertisements from online pharmacies that are not properly certified by the Food and Drug Administration.

LIGHTNING STRIKES CONGRESS

In honor of the Tampa Bay Lightning's victory in the 2004 National Hockey League Stanley Cup Championship, Rep. Davis introduced and passed a resolution celebrating the fighting spirit of the Lightning players, the team's extraordinary season and their tremendous accomplishment in winning Florida's first Stanley Cup.

Fighting for Families

In 2004, President Bush enacted new restrictions cracking down on Cuban-Americans who visit and support their relatives in Cuba. Under the new rules, Cuban-Americans can only visit their families once every three years, and they are no longer permitted to visit their aunts, uncles or cousins in Cuba. Congressman Davis introduced legislation and offered several amendments to overturn these policies which undermine families and jeopardize innocent Cubans who depend on their Cuban-American relatives for their livelihood. Although the House of Representatives passed his amendments to repeal these provisions, the Senate did not act on the amendments before Congress adjourned for the year. Rep. Davis, who believes the government should be supporting families, not tearing them apart, plans to reintroduce his legislation in 2005.



Congressman Davis joins Anthony Zollo and his parents in front of Anthony's "Dreams of a Disenchanted Elephant," winner of the 2004 11th Congressional District High School Art Competition's Choice Award. Submissions for the 2005 art competition are due by January 24th. For more information, please visit <http://www.house.gov/jimdavis/ArtBrochure.htm> or call Suzanne Knapp at (813) 354-9217.

Making Our Community Safer

Congressman Davis has been working to ensure that Tampa Bay's first responders have the tools they need to keep us safe. In 2004, he helped secure federal support for the University of South Florida's Center for Biological Defense, which is aiding the war on terrorism through research and training programs for first responders. He has fought to save the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, which has allowed our State to put nearly 7,500 additional police officers and sheriff's deputies on the street. And since September 11, 2001, he has assisted the Port of Tampa in obtaining more than \$9 million in federal funds to help improve the Port's surveillance system and construct a new secured gate for trucks coming in and out of the Port.

Problems with Federal Agencies

If you are having trouble dealing with a federal agency, my offices may be able to help. Please call the Tampa office at (813) 354-9217 or Florida Toll Free 1 (888) 266-0205 or the St. Petersburg office at (727) 867-5301. You may also visit one of our monthly mobile offices. One of my representatives will be available to serve you at the following locations and times (para personas que habla Español llamen a la oficina en Tampa (813) 354-9217):

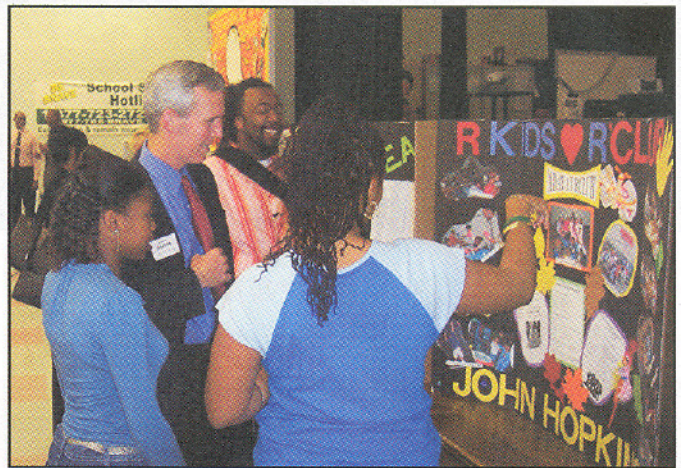
Bradenton Office Hours
2nd Wednesday of
every month
11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Bradenton Community
Development Agency,
912 7th Avenue East

Palmetto Office Hours
4th Wednesday of
every month
11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Palmetto Community
Redevelopment Agency,
715 4th Street West
(New Location!)

Town 'N Country
Office Hours
4th Wednesday of
every month
11:30 am to 1:00 pm
West Gate
Regional Library,
7606 Paula Drive

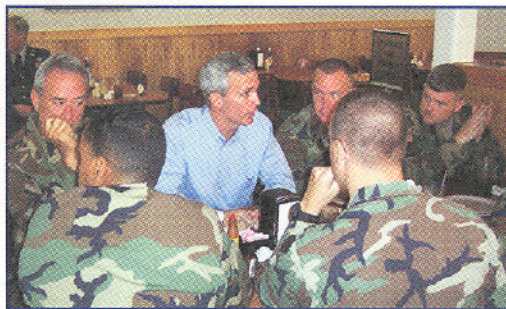
Temple Terrace
Office Hours
2nd Wednesday of
every month
11:30 am to 1:00 pm
Temple Terrace
Public Library,
202 Bullard Parkway

On a recent visit to John Hopkins Middle School in St. Petersburg, Congressman Davis hears from students about R'Club, a before and after school program that is teaching students the importance of the Four R's – respect, responsibility, resourcefulness and responsiveness.



Giving Our Troops Our Best

As our nation's service men and women are giving their best abroad and at home, Congressman Davis is doing his best to ensure that our troops and their families have America's full support. In 2004, he joined his colleagues in fighting to ensure that soldiers are provided with the protective gear they need in the field and that our troops are reimbursed for any ex-



Rep. Davis hears from members of Florida's 810th Military Police Unit about their tour of duty in Iraq.

penses they incur when traveling home from duty. After hearing from family members of Tampa Bay's 810th Military Police unit, Davis contacted U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld to bring to his attention their concerns about the need for better body armor and other resources, as well as the burden that extended tours of duty place on the families of our Guard and Reserve members.

Check out my home page for all the details: www.house.gov/jimdavis

11th District Congressional Offices

Washington:
409 Cannon House
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3376
(202) 225-5652 Fax

Tampa:
3315 Henderson Boulevard, #100
Tampa, Florida 33609
(813) 354-9217
(813) 354-9514 Fax
Florida Toll Free
1 (888) 266-0205

St. Petersburg:
1186 62nd Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33705
(727) 867-5301
(727) 867-5302 Fax

Internet: www.house.gov/jimdavis/
Email: www.house.gov/jimdavis/contact.html



CONGRESSMAN JIM DAVIS



Official Business

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515



Jim Davis
M.C.
PRSRT STD