

## HUMAN RIGHTS and CIVIL LIBERTIES

DeFazio has been a staunch defender of civil liberties. He fought attempts by Congress and the Attorney General to overturn Oregon's Death With Dignity Act. Has been a leader in asserting Congress's Constitutional authority to commit our armed forces to hostility and declare war. He voted against the so-called USA Patriot Act, for its infringement on privacy, unnecessary expansion of police powers and damaging changes to criminal proceedings. He a strong supporter of individual rights and has been active and vocal in opposing state and local ballot measures that infringe on those rights, including an anti-gay rights measure in his hometown of Springfield. He was one of the few members of Congress to vote against the Defense of Marriage Act. He's fought efforts in Congress to limit habeas corpus and expand the death penalty.

Through his membership in the Human Rights Caucus in the House, Congressman Peter DeFazio has also been a vocal advocate for protection of human rights around the world.

"Your introduction of H.Con.Res. 350 in May of 2000 condemning human rights abuses in Mexico and calling on the Mexican government to facilitate the presence of foreign human rights observers was a very important part of the campaign. After the introduction of the resolution, the Mexican government quickly began analyzing immigration policy and taking steps to facilitate human rights observers."

Mexico Solidarity Network letter to DeFazio, January 11, 2001

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### In the 108th Congress (2003-2004):

▸ **DeFazio was one of only 66 House members to vote against the USA Patriot Act.** Since then, he has **cosponsored H.R. 1157, the Freedom to Read Protection Act, legislation which would reinstate protections for library and bookstore records.** In July 2003, **DeFazio voted for an amendment to H.R. 2799, the fiscal year 2004 Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations Act to prohibit funding in the bill to be used to implement the so-called "sneak and peak" provision of the Patriot Act,** which allows police to conduct searches and seize evidence without first notifying the subject of the investigation. While the amendment was approved by the House, the prohibition was removed in the final version of the bill.

▸ DeFazio has been active throughout his career in sending letters and to various parties and voting in favor of legislation condemning human right violations around the world, including in Colombia, Indonesia, North Korea, China, Vietnam, and Burma, among others.

▸ DeFazio is a proponent of the Code of Conduct on Arms Transfers Act. This legislation would prohibit United States military assistance and arms transfers to foreign governments that are undemocratic, do not adequately protect human rights, are engaged in acts of armed

aggression, or are not fully participating in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.

- ▶ DeFazio has proposed reductions in the Foreign Military Financing program, a program that uses U.S. taxpayer dollars to finance military purchases by foreign countries, including countries with problematic human rights records like Egypt and Pakistan.
- ▶ DeFazio joined dozens of colleagues in writing to House Speaker Dennis Hastert in support of a Senate proposal to block the Pentagon's Total Information Awareness program. This Defense Intelligence Agency program was to create a large database of consumer credit card purchases, web surfing, bank deposits, e-mails etc. to create computerized dossiers of our private lives. A provision blocking this program was included in the fiscal year 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Bill included a provision to block the Total Information Awareness program.
- ▶ DeFazio also opposed a program proposed by the Department of Justice that threatened Americans' right to privacy. Operation TIPS would enlist average Americans to spy on their neighbors and report "suspicious" activity to the government. The program was also intended to recruit home repair people, package delivery personnel, and others that could snitch on any questionable activity of their customers. Congress included a provision in the legislation establishing the Department of Homeland Security to prohibit this program.

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**In the 107th Congress (2001-2002):**

- ▶ DeFazio was honored by the Human Rights Campaign in 2002 for being one of only 20 Members of the House to have a 100 percent rating every year since the HRC began scoring congressional votes in 1990.

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**In the 106th Congress (1999-2000)**

- ▶ Led battle on the House floor against legislation designed to overturn Oregon's Death With Dignity Act. Together with the rest of Oregon's congressional delegation, DeFazio secured enough votes against the measure to sustain a presidential veto.
- ▶ Voted against extending permanent most favored nation trading status to China. One of DeFazio's reasons for doing so was China's notoriously poor human rights record. With the approval of H.R. 4444 in May 2000 (House vote) the U.S. has essentially given up all our leverage through access to our markets to improve China's dismal record on human rights.