

Congressman Christopher Shays' job is to "listen, learn, help and lead."

Since 1987, he has been listening to residents of the Fourth District to ensure our voice is heard in Congress. In more than three decades of public service, he has distinguished himself as a thoughtful and independent advocate for common-sense social and fiscal policy.

Christopher is Vice Chairman of the Government Reform Committee, Chairman of its Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations and a member of the Homeland Security Committee. An expert on terrorism who has held more than 60 hearings on the terrorist threat, he devotes much of his time to improving our nation's military, intelligence and homeland security operations through tough oversight and legislative reforms, such as implementing the 9-11 Commission recommendations.

He has also been a committed advocate for good government as the driving force behind strengthening our nation's campaign finance laws, requiring Congress to live by the laws it writes and holding elected leaders to a higher ethical standard.

Representing a largely urban district, Chris is working to clean up and redevelop industrial sites, improve our transportation system, reduce crime and stimulate the economy by getting our nation's financial house in order. With The Business Council of Fairfield County and the Bridgeport Regional Business Council, he launched the *One Coast, One Future* initiative, bringing Norwalk, Bridgeport and Stamford together to promote regional economic development and attract more businesses to the area.

As a member of the Financial Services Committee, which oversees an industry critical to our regional economy, he is an advocate for improvements in housing, community development, the securities and insurance industries, and U.S. capital markets.

Christopher is steadfast in his commitment to protecting our environment, promoting stem cell research, advocating humane treatment of animals and ending discrimination in the workplace.

Perhaps the *New York Times* summed it up best when they said "...his record reflects a rare thoughtfulness and considerable independence....Legislators with the fearlessness and principles of Mr. Shays aren't easy to come by."

Christopher and his wife Betsi -- his high school sweetheart -- grew up in Darien. After serving in Fiji as Peace Corps volunteers, they spent 27 years in Stamford and now reside in Bridgeport. He is a graduate of Principia College and received his MBA and MPA from New York University.