

Congressman Jim Kolbe

8th District Arizona

Newsletter

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Inside This Issue...



Time to Hang up the Spurs

After long consideration, Rep. Kolbe announced he will retire from Congress at the end of this term. Hear his thoughts on what he will do next, and what remains in store for the rest of his time in Congress.

Page 1



While touring the earthquake affected areas in Pakistan, Rep. Kolbe meets soldiers from Arizona who are providing disaster assistance to the region.

Legislative Update

Year in Review

It's been a busy year in Washington. The first session of the 109th Congress faced and overcame many challenges. Congress worked to keep our children safe, secure our homeland, fund the continued fight against the war on terror, provide disaster assistance in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina & Rita, honor our veterans, fight crime and prevent lawsuit abuse, protect small businesses, homeowners, and investors, and promote democracy, freedom and prosperity around the world.

Page 4

IN EVERY ISSUE:

Contact Me

Have a question on legislation or my views? Coming to Washington DC and want a tour?

PAGE 3

Jim's Mailbag

Our office has received hundreds of calls on Senator McCain's amendment regarding the treatment of prisoners. Hear my thoughts on this issue...

PAGE 3

Casework Corner

It happened several years ago, but Rep. Kolbe's office won't forget the story of a mother's struggle to reach her dying son in another country and how they were able to help...

PAGE 2

TIME TO HANG UP THE SPURS



It has been my singular honor and privilege to represent southern Arizona in Congress for nearly the last 22 years.

However, I have concluded that it is time for the people of southern Arizona and me to walk down different paths. With this thought in mind, I have decided that I will retire from Congress in 2006.

I make this decision not out of despair or discouragement. I have both the energy and the enthusiasm for the job I do. Rather, this decision is simply about what is best for me and for the people of southern Arizona. I am making the announcement now so that there will be adequate time for the many talented people who might serve in Congress to come forward and make their views known to voters, as well as give time for people to make their own thoughtful evaluation and choice.

In my 21 years in Congress, I have been privileged to serve with four Presidents and five Speakers; to have served in the majority and the minority; to serve as chairman of two critical Appropriations subcommittees; to help shape our foreign policy and to reshape homeland security in the wake of 9/11; to nominate hundreds of young men and women to our service academies and to see many of them serve our country with distinction; to help craft the North American Free Trade Agreement strengthening the economic and political ties between Mexico and the United States; to assist more than 20,000 people and groups in their interaction with the federal government; to create a National Park and

three National Conservation Areas in our district; to propose bold, comprehensive legislation to preserve Social Security and overhaul our immigration policy--legislative proposals that I am convinced will be the standard Congress will use in the future, hopefully even in the current Congress with respect to immigration reform.

There is much to be done in the remaining thirteen months that I serve in Congress--crafting a budget for our nation's foreign operations for Fiscal Year 2007 and helping guide immigration reform into law. I intend to be very active and fully engaged during these remaining months.

I am grateful to the people of the Eighth Congressional District who have afforded me this great honor and privilege to serve them. My heart is in Arizona and always has been. Now, however, my person can be where my heart is--amongst the cactus and mountains and grasslands of this beautiful state. I look forward to continuing to be involved in our community and to finding new avenues of service.

Thank you southern Arizona for 22 great years.

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CASEWORK CORNER

Several years ago, Rep. Kolbe's office received a call from a mother whose son had gone on a high school trip to France. He had been hit by a car and was gravely ill. The mother desperately wanted to get to France to be with her son, but she had no passport and no birth certificate. The mother contacted Rep. Kolbe's office. Within one day, Rep. Kolbe's office was able to get her birth certificate from the State of Arizona. Rep. Kolbe's office continued to help the mother by assisting her in getting an expedited passport. The mother made it to France in time to be with her son before he passed away. Although the son died, the family remembers the efforts of Rep. Kolbe's office. The mother recently sent a letter to Rep. Kolbe that read in part: "May the spirit of this season—harmony, love and understanding—become a way of life. . .and may the coming year bring hope and peace to all mankind. There are no words that can let you know how much you mean to me and my family. Your years of service and care are a legacy to be proud of. I am honored to know you."



Rep. Kolbe shakes hands with The Dalai Lama during his visit to Washington, D.C. in November. Rep. Kolbe and His Holiness discussed steps needed to bring peace to Tibet.

KOLBE AIDE TO BE IN GREEN VALLEY, SAHUARITA

District Aide Bev Collier will be available to meet with Green Valley and Sahuarita residents on January 19 to discuss concerns about federal agencies such as the Social Security Administration, the Veterans Administration and the Internal Revenue Service.

Also available will be information regarding Presidential greetings and flag requests, as well as Congressional Tours of the White House, the U.S. Department of State, the Kennedy Center, the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the Washington National Cathedral and Mount Vernon.

Collier will be available to meet with residents from the Green Valley area from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Green Valley Community Coordinating Council office in the Green Valley Mall. She will also be available to meet with residents in the Sahuarita area from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Sahuarita Town Hall. The GVCCC office is located in Suite 14B on the southwest side of the mall. The Sahuarita Town Hall is located at 725 West Via Rancho Sahuarita, just south of the Sahuarita Post Office.

Although appointments are not necessary, you may schedule an appointment by calling (520) 881-3588.

From Jim's Mailbag

Dear Congressman Kolbe,

I urge you to support Sen. McCain's amendment on the treatment of prisoners.

Sincerely,
Douglas, AZ

Thank you for contacting me regarding legislative proposals affecting the treatment of detained persons. I consider myself a strong supporter of human rights around the world, and I share your concerns.

I strongly support efforts of those who seek to establish uniform standards for interrogation and to prohibit cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment of detainees. Article VII, section 8 of the Constitution states that Congress shall have the power to "make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water." I am convinced, at least in part because of my own experience in the Vietnam conflict, that we must establish clear guidelines to ensure that our troops, often working in the most ambiguous of circumstances, understand the acceptable standards of conduct. Our armed forces deserve nothing less from us.

In December 2005, Congress passed the Defense Appropriations Bill (HR 2863) and the National Defense Authorization Act (HR 1815) for fiscal year 2006, both including amendments introduced by Senator McCain. The identical amendments would do two things: first, establish the Army Field Manual on Intelligence Interrogation (currently FM 34-52) as the uniform standard for the interrogation of Department of Defense detainees; and second, prohibit cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment of prisoners in the detention of the U.S. government. As a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, I am worked to include Senator McCain's amendments in the final version of the Defense Appropriations Bill. President Bush signed both bills into law.

However, one point deserves clarification. "Torture" is already prohibited under current federal law. The United States has ratified the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), which requires signatory parties to take measures to end torture within their territorial jurisdiction and to criminalize all acts of torture. CAT generally defines torture as inflicting severe physical and/or mental suffering when committed under the color of law. CAT allows for no circumstances or emergencies where torture could be permitted. In order to ensure compliance with CAT obligations, the United States enacted sections 2340 and 2340A of the United States Criminal Code, which prohibit torture occurring outside the United States (torture occurring inside the United States was already prohibited under several federal and state statutes of general application prohibiting acts such as assault, battery, and murder). Further, the United States is prohibited from transferring any person to a country where torture may be used in interrogation proceedings, and the federal government must receive assurances that transferred detainees will be treated humanely.

Senator McCain's amendment would prohibit "cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment," a broader set of activities that do not meet the definition of torture. Whereas the prohibition against cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment has been a well defined, long-standing principle in both law and policy within the United States, Senator McCain's amendment codifies the prohibition "regardless of nationality or physical location." In other words, it is intended to ensure that persons under U.S. custody or control abroad cannot be subjected to treatment that would be deemed unconstitutional or illegal if it occurred in U.S. territory.

I firmly believe that as a world leader, our foreign policy should strive to deepen respect for the rule of law and the rights and sanctity of the individual. We also must ensure that our moral leadership in the eyes of the rest of the world is not compromised by cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment of individuals.

Sincerely,



If you have a question or comment, log onto www.house.gov/kolbe.
Click on the "Contact Jim" link and simply fill out the form with your comments!

MEETING AMERICA'S NEEDS

- ✓ **H.R. 3, SAFE, ACCOUNTABLE, FLEXIBLE, AND EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT: A LEGACY FOR USERS**, provides funding for our nation's highways & transit systems, creates millions of new jobs and addresses the ever-growing challenges of congestion and safety, while continuing to improve freight mobility and public transportation. (Public Law)
- ✓ **H.R. 5, THE HELP EFFICIENT, ACCESSIBLE, LOW COST, TIMELY HEALTH CARE (HEALTH) ACT OF 2005**, makes changes to the health care liability system, including compensation for injured patients and other issues arising out of health care lawsuits. The measure provides for a three-year statute of limitations with certain exceptions for minors, fraud, intentional concealment, and the presence of a foreign body. It provides for a \$250,000 cap on non-economic or "pain and suffering" damages. Guidelines governing the award of punitive damages provide that awards not exceed the greater of \$250,000 or twice economic damages. Damages are governed by a "fair share" rule, by which damages are allocated fairly, in direct proportion to fault. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005**, ensures jobs for our future with secure, affordable, and reliable energy by encouraging more domestic production of oil and through conservation and better environmental options, helping bring America's energy system into the 21st Century. (Public Law)
- ✓ **H.R. 8, DEATH TAX REPEAL PERMANENCY ACT OF 2005**, extends the Death Tax repeal permanently beyond 2010, simplifying tax law and facilitating long-term financial planning. Given the current structure of the Death Tax, it is nearly impossible for taxpayers to make long-term financial decisions as they relate to the tax. Enactment of the Death Tax Repeal Permanency Act promotes fairness and simplification by giving taxpayers the certainty they deserve. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 3893, GASOLINE FOR AMERICA'S SECURITY ACT OF 2005**, in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita this bill will increase refinery capacity for gasoline, heating oil, diesel fuel, and jet fuel and coordinate permitting requirements affecting refineries. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 4096, STEALTH TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2005**, amends the Internal Revenue Code to extend through 2006 the increased alternative minimum tax exemption amount for individual tax payers; and adjust such increased exemption amount for inflation beginning in 2006. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 4297, TAX RELIEF EXTENSION RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2005**, one year extension of tax relief provisions expiring in 2005: AMT Relief for Personal Tax Credits, State and Local Sales Tax Deduction, Modified Research and Experimentation Tax Credit, Above-the-Line Deduction for Higher Education Expenses, Above-the-Line Deduction for Teacher Classroom Expenses, Authority to Issue Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZABs) for School Modernization, Enhanced Deduction for Donations of Computer Equipment, Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), Welfare to Work (WTW) Tax Credit, Tax Incentives for Business Activity on Indian Reservations, Fifteen-Year Depreciation for Leasehold Improvements, Fifteen-Year Depreciation for Restaurant Improvements, Archer MSAs (Medical Savings Accounts), Suspension of Limit on Percentage Depletion for Oil And Gas from Marginal Wells, Tax Incentives to Revitalize the District of Columbia, Possession Tax Credit for American Samoa, and Excise Tax for Enforcing Mental Health Parity Rules. Two-Year Extension of other expiring provisions: Savers' Credit Enhanced Section 179 Expensing for Small Business, Brownfield Expensing, Active Financing Exception, & Reduced Rates on Capital Gains and Dividends. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 2830, PENSION PROTECTION ACT OF 2005**, includes tough new funding requirements to ensure employers adequately and consistently fund their pension plans, provide workers with

meaningful disclosure about the financial status of their benefits, and protect taxpayers from a possible multi-billion dollar bailout of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) should the agency's financial condition continue to deteriorate. (House Passed)

- ✓ **H.R. 4241, DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT**, provides \$39.732 billion in savings by reforming the government, reducing the deficit, and renewing our commitment to hardworking American taxpayers. (Conference Report passed in the House)

SECURING AMERICA'S NATURAL RESOURCES

- ✓ **H.R. 3824, THE THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY ACT (TESRA) OF 2005**, updates and improves the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973. Replaces the critical habitat program with a more integrated recovery planning process that includes the identification of specific areas that are of special value to the conservation of the species, which are then given priority in recovery efforts. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 2864, WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2005**, authorizes and provides for specified water resources development and conservation projects. The bill authorizes the Secretary of the Army to carry out specified projects for navigation, environmental restoration, ecosystem restoration, hurricane and storm damage reduction, and flood damage reduction. It directs the Secretary to conduct studies and carry out specified projects for emergency streambank protection, navigation, improvement of the quality of the environment, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and shoreline protection. (House Passed)

FIGHTING CRIME AND LAWSUIT ABUSE

- ✓ **H.R. 3402, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE APPROPRIATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FY 2006-2009**, establishes the direction and spending levels of programs within the Department of Justice for fiscal years 2006 through 2009. Also reauthorizes the Violence Against Women Act.

(House and Senate Passed, awaiting Presidential action)

- ✓ **S.5, CLASS ACTION FAIRNESS ACT OF 2005**, reforms current law related to class action lawsuits, allowing such suits to be removed to federal courts, and reducing the potential for abuse of settlement awards by attorneys. (Public Law)
- ✓ **H.R. 420, LAWSUIT ABUSE REDUCTION ACT OF 2005**, discourages lawsuit abuse by requiring plaintiffs to pay the attorneys' fees of defendants when the judge determines that a frivolous lawsuit was filed and reduces "court-friendly shopping" by requiring personal injury cases to be filed either where the plaintiff lives or was injured, or where the defendant's principal place of business is located. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 554, PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN FOOD CONSUMPTION ACT OF 2005**, prohibits obesity or weight gain-related claims against the food industry. The bill prohibits new and dismisses pending civil actions by any person against a manufacturer, marketer, distributor, advertiser, or seller of food or a trade association for any injury related to a person's accumulated acts of consumption of food and weight gain, obesity, or any associated health condition. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 1279, GANG DETERRENCE AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT 2005**, modifies and expands prohibitions against criminal street gang activity, including forfeiture provisions. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 1751, SECURE ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND COURT PROTECTION ACT OF 2005**, provides enhanced criminal penalties where the victim is a United States judge, federal law enforcement officer or a federally funded public safety officer. (House Passed)
- ✓ **S. 397, PROTECTION OF LAWFUL COMMERCE IN ARMS ACT**, provides protections for those in the firearms industry from lawsuits arising out of the criminal or unlawful acts of people who criminally or unlawfully misuse their products. (Public Law)

IMPROVING AMERICA'S COMPETITIVENESS

- ✓ **H.R. 27, JOB TRAINING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2005**, enhances the workforce investment system of the nation by strengthening one-stop career centers, providing for more effective governance arrangements, promoting access to a more comprehensive array of employment, training, and related services, establishing a targeted approach to serving youth, and improving performance accountability. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 28, HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING REVITALIZATION ACT OF 2005**, strengthens U.S. supercomputing capabilities by requiring the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy to ensure U.S. researchers access to high-performance computers, and by prescribing a comprehensive, balanced approach to the nation's computing strategy. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 250, MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2005**, reauthorizes the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program, establishes an Interagency Committee on Manufacturing Research and Development to coordinate Federal manufacturing research and development efforts, and an Advisory Committee to guide those efforts. (House Passed)

PROTECTING SMALL BUSINESS, HOMEOWNERS AND INVESTORS

- ✓ **H.R. 436, INCREASED CAPITOL ACCESS FOR GROWING BUSINESS ACT**, amends the Investment Company Act of 1940 to provide incentives for small business investment. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 739, OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH SMALL BUSINESS DAY IN COURT ACT OF 2005**, gives the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission (OSHRC) additional flexibility to make exceptions to the 15-day deadline for employers to file responses to OSHA citations when a small business misses the deadline by mistake or for good reason. Under current legal interpretation, employers who fail to meet this 15-day deadline may lose their right to a day in court, regardless of whether there were intervening circumstances that inadvertently

caused an employer to miss the deadline. The bill restores some common-sense and flexibility to the law. (House Passed)

- ✓ **H.R. 740, OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2005**, increases the membership of OSHRC from three to five members to ensure cases are reviewed in a timely fashion. Increasing membership to five Commissioners will help ensure that cases are reviewed in a more timely fashion. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 741, OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF OSHA CITATION ACT OF 2005**, restores independent review of OSHA citations by clarifying that OSHRC is an independent judicial entity given deference by courts that review OSHA issues. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 797, NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005**, amends the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act to make Indian tribes, tribally designated housing entities, or other agencies primarily serving Indians eligible for Youthbuild grants. (House and Senate Passed, awaiting Presidential action)
- ✓ **H.R. 1077, REAL-TIME INVESTOR PROTECTION ACT**, improves the access of investors to regulatory records with respect to securities brokers, dealers, and investment advisers. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 1025 MORTGAGE SERVICING CLARIFICATION ACT**, amends the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to exempt from mandatory debt collection disclosures (that the debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose) any servicer of federally-related mortgage loans secured by first liens that include loans in default at the time such servicer became responsible for servicing such loans. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 1461, FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE REFORM ACT**, creates a regulator with strong safety, soundness and mission powers to oversee housing government sponsored enterprises (GSEs). The bill merges OFHEO (Fannie

Mac/Freddie Mac regulator) and FHFB (Federal Home Loan Bank regulator) into a new independent agency, funded by assessments on the GSEs. (House Passed)

- ✓ **S. 256, BANKRUPTCY ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2005**, amends federal bankruptcy law to revamp guidelines governing dismissal or conversion of a Chapter 7 liquidation, instilling a greater level of personal responsibility by closing various loopholes and eliminating incentives in the current bankruptcy system that encourage opportunistic consumer bankruptcy filings and abuse. (Public Law)
- ✓ **H.R. 749, EXPANDED ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SERVICES ACT OF 2005**, lowers the costs paid by consumers for basic banking services through increased competition in the marketplace by permitting federal credit unions to offer check cashing and money transfer services to non-members of the credit union as long as the individual is within the credit union's field of membership. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 1185, FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE REFORM ACT OF 2005**, requires the merger of the Bank Insurance Fund and the Savings Association Insurance Fund into the Deposit Insurance Fund. The bill amends the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (FDIA) and the Federal Credit Union Act to increase the amount of deposit insurance coverage. (House Passed)

PROTECTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- ✓ **S. 167, FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT AND COPYRIGHT ACT OF 2005**, amends the Federal criminal code to prohibit the unauthorized, knowing use or attempted use of a video camera to make a copy of a motion picture in a movie theater. (Public Law)
- ✓ **H.R. 748, CHILD INTERSTATE ABORTION NOTIFICATION ACT OF 2005**, makes it a federal crime to transport a minor across state lines to obtain an abortion in another state in order to avoid a state law requiring parental involvement in a minor's abortion decision. The bill makes it a federal crime for the abortion provider to fail to give one of the minor's parents, or a legal guardian if necessary, 24 hours' notice of the

minor's abortion decision before the abortion is performed. It makes an exception if the abortion was necessary to save the life of the minor. (House Passed)

- ✓ **H.R. 3132, CHILDREN'S SAFETY ACT OF 2005**, addresses the growing epidemic of violence against children. It enhances the safety of children from convicted sex offenders through coordinated state sex offender registration and notification programs. For the first time, the sex offender law will cover "federally recognized tribal lands." (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 798, METHAMPHETAMINE REMEDIATION RESEARCH ACT OF 2005**, provides for a research program for remediation of closed methamphetamine production laboratories. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 972, TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005**, amends the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to direct The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department of State, and the Department of Defense (DOD) to incorporate anti-trafficking and protection measures for vulnerable populations, particularly women and children, into their post-conflict and humanitarian emergency assistance and program activities. It also includes provisions focused on ending the demand for sex trafficking in the U.S. (House Passed)
- ✓ **S. 467, TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE ACT OF 2005**, raises the property and casualty insurance loss threshold that qualifies for certification by the Secretary of the Treasury as an act of terrorism. (House and Senate Passed, awaiting Presidential action)

IMPROVING HEALTHCARE AND EDUCATION

- ✓ **H.R. 525, SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH FAIRNESS ACT**, addresses both the access and cost issues at the heart of the healthcare reform debate. The bill allows small businesses to join together through association health plans (AHPs) to purchase health insurance for their workers at a lower cost. The measure would increase small businesses' bargaining power with health care providers and

give them freedom from costly state-mandated benefit packages. (House Passed)

- ✓ **H.R.1812, PATIENT NAVIGATOR OUTREACH AND CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION ACT OF 2005**, authorizes the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to make grants to eligible entities for the development and operation of demonstration programs to provide patient navigator services. (Public Law)
- ✓ **H.R. 3204, THE STATE HIGH RISK POOL FUNDING EXTENSION ACT OF 2005**, helps people obtain affordable health insurance policies. The bill authorizes federal grant money to support the operation of high-risk pools and provide health insurance for individuals who have been unable to purchase coverage due to pre-existing conditions, chronic illnesses or conditions that make them too expensive to insure. (House and Senate Passed, awaiting Presidential action)
- ✓ **H.R. 3205, THE PATIENT SAFETY QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACT**, offers narrow liability protection to encourage the anonymous reporting of errors to newly-created patient safety organizations, which will analyze the information and work with doctors to identify the changes necessary to prevent these errors. In a groundbreaking 1998 report, the Institute of Medicine estimated that between 44,000 and 98,000 Americans die each year as a result of medical errors. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 2123, THE SCHOOL READINESS ACT OF 2005**, introduces greater competition into the federal Head Start early childhood program and uses it to strengthen school readiness, increase the role of states and local communities in Head Start, and protect children and taxpayers against the abuse and mismanagement of federal Head Start funds. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 366, VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE ACT**, helps states better utilize federal funds for secondary and postsecondary vocational education programs, increases accountability and emphasizes student achievement, and strengthens opportunities for coordination between secondary and postsecondary vocational and technical education. (House Passed)

- ✓ **H.R. 2520, STEM CELL THERAPEUTIC AND RESEARCH ACT OF 2005**, provides for the collection and maintenance of human cord blood stem cells for the treatment of patients and research, and to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program. (Public Law)

RESPONDING TO NATURAL DISASTERS

- ✓ **H.CON.RES. 240, SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND REMEMBRANCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA AND ENCOURAGING ALL AMERICANS TO OBSERVE THAT DAY**, resolves that Congress supports the goals and ideals of a national day of prayer and remembrance for the victims of Hurricane Katrina and encourages all Americans to observe that day. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.RES. 437, ESTABLISHING THE SELECT BIPARTISAN COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE PREPARATION FOR AND RESPONSE TO HURRICANE KATRINA**, establishes the Select Bipartisan Committee to conduct a full and complete investigation and study regarding the development, coordination, and execution by local, State, and Federal authorities of emergency preparation and response plans. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 889, COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2005**, reauthorizes the Coast Guard in FY 2006, and includes language to help the service deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. It provides an additional \$60 million to reimburse the Coast Guard for the cost of rescuing approximately 6,500 people stranded by the hurricane. (House and Senate Passed, awaiting Presidential action)
- ✓ **H.R. 2132, EXTENDING THE WAIVER AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION WITH RESPECT TO STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE DURING A WAR OR OTHER MILITARY OPERATION OR NATIONAL EMERGENCY**, extends through September 30, 2007, the waiver authority of the Secretary of Education with respect to student financial assistance during a war or other military operation or national emergency. (Public Law)

- ✓ **H.R. 3169, PELL GRANT HURRICANE AND DISASTER RELIEF ACT**, permits the Secretary of Education to provide a waiver for students required to repay Pell Grants because they were forced to withdraw from classes due to a natural disaster as declared by the President. (Public Law)
- ✓ **H.R. 3645, EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA 2005**, provides \$10.5 billion for immediate needs in response to Hurricane Katrina and the flooding. (Public Law)
- ✓ **H.R. 3650, FEDERAL JUDICIARY EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSIONS ACT**, authorizes federal courts to conduct special sessions outside their respective geographic boundaries if their normal operations are interrupted because of emergency conditions. (Public Law)
- ✓ **H.R. 3668, STUDENT GRANT HURRICANE DISASTER RELIEF ACT**, permits the Secretary of Education to provide a waiver for students required to repay grant aid (TRIO, GEAR UP, LEAP, SEOG) because they were forced to withdraw from classes due to a natural disaster as declared by the President. (Public Law)
- ✓ **H.R. 3669, NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM ENHANCED BORROWING AUTHORITY ACT OF 2005**, increases FEMA's borrowing authority for the National Flood Insurance Program by \$2 billion to ensure prompt response to claim holders. (Public Law)
- ✓ **H.R. 3672, TANF EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACT OF 2005**, provides all states immediate access to their next quarter's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant and immediately makes available \$4.2 billion in flexible funds to all states for use in supporting those families with children affected by Hurricane Katrina. (Public Law)
- ✓ **H.R. 3673, SECOND EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA 2005**, provides \$51.8 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Disaster Relief Fund (DRF), \$1.4 billion for the Department of Defense, and \$400 million for the Army Corps of Engineers to repair damaged infrastructure. Additionally, Congress included reporting and accountability requirements to ensure spending of taxpayer dollars are spent wisely towards disaster relief. (Public Law)
- ✓ **H.R. 3736, KATRINA VOLUNTEER PROTECTION ACT OF 2005**. The measure makes clear that everyone who helps those who have suffered harm in the wake of Hurricane Katrina will be covered by some basic legal protections. Volunteers who act in good faith to assist the victims of Hurricane Katrina without compensation, do not have to worry about lawsuits unless they act in a willful, wanton, reckless, or criminal manner. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 3761, FLEXIBILITY FOR DISPLACED WORKERS ACT**, adds significant new flexibility to the National Emergency Grant (NEG) program, which provides temporary disaster relief employment and training of up to six months. It makes NEG funds outside the designated Hurricane Katrina disaster area and permits previously-awarded NEG funds to be directed to workers impacted by Hurricane Katrina. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 3768, KATRINA EMERGENCY TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2005**, holds families harmless against the loss of tax benefits due to temporary relocations; ensures that families are not taxed on forgiven debt; provides tax relief for housing assistance to dislocated persons; allows full deductibility of personal casualty losses; waives 10-percent tax on early distributions from IRAs and pensions for individuals affected by the hurricane; extends the Work Opportunity Tax Credit; provides an Employee Retention Tax Credit; and expands the availability of below-market mortgages in the disaster areas. It includes several charitable giving provisions that encourage donations by individuals and corporations. (Public Law)
- ✓ **H.R. 3827, IMMIGRATION RELIEF FOR HURRICANE KATRINA VICTIMS ACT OF 2005**, provides humanitarian relief to law-abiding legal aliens and their families. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 4133, NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM ENHANCED BORROWING AUTHORITY ACT OF 2005**, increases FEMA's

borrowing authority for the National Flood Insurance Program from \$3.5 billion to \$18.5 billion to carry out the flood insurance program. (Public Law)

- ✓ **H.R. 4440, THE GULF OPPORTUNITY ZONE ACT OF 2005**, increases incentives to rebuild housing, raises the Rehabilitation Tax Credit to help restore commercial buildings, provides Employer Housing Incentives, expands the availability of below-market mortgages in the disaster areas, provides 50-percent bonus depreciation to help businesses rebuild in the Zone, provides enhanced section 179 expensing to assist small businesses, extends the Net Operating Loss (NOL) carry back, speeds rebuilding efforts by temporarily reducing demolition and cleanup costs, provides incentives and relief for small timber owners. Expands and extends the Employee Retention Tax Credit, doubles the Hope Scholarship and Lifetime Learning Credit, provides New Markets Tax Credit, creates additional tax-exempt bond authority to help rebuild devastated infrastructure in the GO Zone, allows states and municipalities to reduce costs by restructuring outstanding debt, authorizes GO Zone States to issue Gulf Tax Credit Debt service bonds, and expresses the sense of Congress that one or more series of savings bonds should be designated as “Gulf Coast Recovery Bonds.” (House and Senate Passed, awaiting Presidential action)

FUNDING AMERICA’S PRIORITIES

- ✓ **H.CON.RES. 95, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FY 2006**, establishes the congressional budget for the United States Government for FY 2006, revises appropriate budgetary levels for FY 2005, and sets forth appropriate budgetary levels for FY 2007- 2010. (House and Senate Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 2744, FY2006 AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2006**, provides \$17.1 billion in total discretionary resources to protect human health and safety, fulfill commitments to important food and nutrition programs, and support farmers, ranchers, and rural America. (Public Law)

- ✓ **H.R. 2863, FY2006 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT**, provides the following funding: Military Personnel \$84.1 billion; Operation and Maintenance \$116.1 billion; Procurement \$76.8 billion; Research, Development, Test and Evaluation \$71.7 billion; Revolving and Management Funds \$2.8 billion, other Department of Defense Programs \$2.5 billion; Emergency Wartime Appropriation \$45.3 billion. (Conference Report passed in the House)
- ✓ **H.R. 2419, FY2006 ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT**, provides a total of \$30.5 billion for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Civil, the Department of Interior including the Bureau of Reclamation, the Department of Energy, and several Independent Agencies. (Public Law)
- ✓ **H.R. 3057, FY2006 FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS ACT**, provides \$20.9 billion for the highest priorities of our country’s foreign assistance portfolio, including \$2.8 billion global assistance to combat HIV/AIDS; record level funding for the Millennium Challenge Corporation; and significant increases in security assistance to our allies in the global war on terrorism. (Public Law)
- ✓ **H.R. 2360, FY2006 DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FY 2006**, provides \$30.8 billion for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) including \$19.1 billion for border protection and immigration enforcement; \$3.3 billion for first responders; \$6.3 billion for TSA, including Federal Air Marshals (FAMs); and \$625 million to enhance Infrastructure Protection and Information Security’s work to protect our critical infrastructure and key assets.(Public Law)

- ✓ **H.R. 2361, FY2006 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT**, provides \$26.2 billion for the Department of the Interior for: the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Minerals Management Service, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Office of Special Trustee for American Indians, and natural resource damage assessment and restoration. (Public Law)

- ✓ **H.R. 3010, FY2006 DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT**, provides \$142.514 billion to protect priority education programs, medical research and health programs. (Conference Report passed in the House)

- ✓ **H.R. 2528, FY2006 MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT**, provides \$6.2 billion for military construction, \$5.1 billion for active duty construction and \$1.1 billion for reserve components. It provides \$22.5 billion for Veterans Medical Services. Over the last two years, funding for Veterans medical care has increased by 18 percent. Veteran's Benefits are increased \$1.9 billion over last year. (Public Law)

- ✓ **H.R. 2862, FY2006 SCIENCE AND DEPARTMENTS OF STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT**, provides \$57.85 billion for the Department of Commerce, Science Agencies, State Department and the Broadcasting Board of Governors, Federal Communications Commission, Securities and Exchange Commission, Legal Services Corporation, and the Small Business Administration. (Public Law)

- ✓ **H.R. 3058, FY2006 TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE JUDICIARY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT**, provides \$65.9 billion for highway spending, supports aviation, addresses critical housing needs, supports National anti-drug efforts, and provides for smarter, more efficient Amtrak operations. (Public Law)

- ✓ **S. 1281, NASA AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005**, reauthorizes the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for FY06 and FY07. The bill fully funds exploration, the Space Shuttle, the Space Station, and increases funding for aeronautics, and a Hubble Space Telescope Servicing Mission. (House and Senate Passed, awaiting Presidential action)

- ✓ **H.R. 1815, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006**, authorizes appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, and to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year. (Conference Report passed in the House & Senate, awaiting Presidential action)

SECURING THE HOMELAND

- ✓ **H.R. 418, REAL ID ACT OF 2005**, establishes and implements regulations for state driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence. (Public Law)

- ✓ **H.R. 841, CONTINUITY IN REPRESENTATION ACT OF 2005**, requires States to hold special elections to fill vacancies in the House of Representatives not later than 45 days after the vacancy is announced by the Speaker of the House of Representatives in extraordinary circumstances. (House Passed)

- ✓ **H.R.1544, FASTER AND SMARTER FUNDING FOR FIRST RESPONDERS ACT OF 2005**, amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to set forth provisions governing Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant funding for first responders. (House Passed)

- ✓ **H.R. 2475, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FY 2006**, continues the commitment to the Global War on Terrorism and to ensuring that intelligence resources are directed in a balanced

way toward threats to our national security.
(House Passed)

- ✓ **H.R. 1400, SECURING AIRCRAFT COCKPITS AGAINST LASERS ACT**, amends the federal criminal code to prohibit knowingly aiming the beam of a laser pointer at an aircraft, or at the flight of an aircraft, in the special aircraft jurisdiction of the United States. Makes such act punishable by a fine, up to five years' imprisonment, or both. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 3199, USA PATRIOT IMPROVEMENT AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005**, amends the USA PATRIOT Act to require an order granting roving surveillance authority under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (FISA), if the nature and location of each of the facilities or places at which the surveillance will be directed and the identity of the target are not known, to include sufficient information to describe a specific target with particularity. (Conference Report passed in the House)
- ✓ **H.R. 4437, BORDER PROTECTION, ANTITERRORISM, AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION CONTROL ACT OF 2005**, amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to strengthen enforcement of the immigration laws, and to enhance border security. (House Passed)

SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS, HONORING OUR VETERANS

- ✓ **H.CON.RES. 191, COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONCLUSION OF THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC AND HONORING VETERANS OF BOTH THE PACIFIC AND ATLANTIC THEATERS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR**. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.CON.RES. 36, EXPRESSING THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF CONGRESS FOR EQUAL ACCESS OF MILITARY RECRUITERS TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**. Discourages Congress and the executive Branch from issuing federal contracts and grants to institutions of higher education that prevent military recruiters from having access to their campus. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.RES. 119, RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE US MARINE CORPS ON THE 60TH**

ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA.
(House Passed)

- ✓ **H.RES. 120, COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING EFFORTS BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI OF DECEMBER 26, 2004**. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.RES. 256, EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE BRAVE SERVICEMEN WHO PERISHED IN THE DISASTROUS APRIL 24, 1980, RESCUE ATTEMPT OF THE AMERICAN HOSTAGES IN IRAN**. Recognizes the bravery, sacrifice, and patriotism of the soldiers, airmen, sailors, and Marines who participated in Operation Eagle Claw and commends all of the Special Operation Forces currently in service. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 458, MILITARY PERSONNEL FINANCIAL SERVICES PROTECTION ACT**, amends the Investment Company Act of 1940 to make it unlawful for any registered investment company to issue any periodic payment plan certificate; or for such company or any depositor or underwriter of such company, or other person, to sell such a certificate. States that existing certificates are not invalidated. (House Passed)
- ✓ **S. 1234, VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2005**, provides a cost-of-living adjustment to the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and to the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans effective December 1, 2005. (Public Law)
- ✓ **H.R. 3665, VETERANS HOUSING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2005**, authorizes a five-year pilot program to provide for specially adaptive housing assistance to certain severely disabled veterans residing temporarily in housing owned by a family member. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 4388, TAX REVISION ACT OF 2005**, amends the Internal Revenue Code to extend through 2006 the taxpayer election to include combat zone

compensation as earned income for purposes of computing the earned income tax credit; the increased cover over (payment) to the Treasuries of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands of distilled spirit excise tax revenues; the authority for certain Internal Revenue Service (IRS) undercover investigative operations; and the authority for disclosure of tax return information for combined employment tax reporting, for combating terrorist activities, and for student loan repayment. It allows, through 2006, the tax deduction for income attributable to domestic production activities for taxpayers with income from sources in Puerto Rico and amends the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (CAFTA-DR) to revise formulae for determining the regional value-content of certain import/export goods. (House Passed) *The provision extending a special rule allowing military personnel the option of including their combat pay – which is tax-free – when computing their eligibility for the Earned Income Credit (EIC) has been included in H.R. 4440 and is awaiting presidential action.*

PROMOTING DEMOCRACY, FREEDOM AND PEACE

- ✓ **H.RES.60, RELATING TO THE FREE ELECTION IN IRAQ HELD ON JANUARY 30, 2005**, congratulates the people of Iraq, in particular those individuals who participated in the political process as voters, poll workers, observers, party workers, or candidates for the Transitional National Assembly, for having taken part in the historic and inspiring Iraqi election of January 30, 2005 (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.RES. 135, HOUSE DEMOCRACY ASSISTANCE COMMISSION RESOLUTION**. House commission to work with the parliaments of selected countries that have established or are developing democratic parliaments. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.RES. 356, CONDEMNING IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THE TERRORIST ATTACKS IN LONDON, ENGLAND, ON JULY 7, 2005**. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 912, HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE CODE OF CONDUCT ACT**, requires that United States government assistance for humanitarian relief

operations will be available only to organizations that have adopted a code of conduct incorporating the core principles of the United Nations Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Humanitarian Crises. (House Passed)

- ✓ **H.R. 1973, WATER FOR THE POOR ACT OF 2005**, amends the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to authorize the President to furnish assistance for programs in developing countries to provide affordable and equitable access to safe water and sanitation. (Public Law)
- ✓ **H.R. 2601, FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FY 2006-2007**, authorizes funding for the U.S. Department of State, U.S. international broadcasting activities, and security assistance to America's allies. The bill strengthens the U.S. government's development and coordination of nonproliferation and export control policy to counter proliferation of dangerous missile and nuclear technology, and to assure that export law is integrated with U.S. national security interests in the war on terrorism. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 2745, UNITED NATIONS REFORM ACT**, highlights mandating U.N. budget oversight, inserting accountability and ethics into the U.N., reforming the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, strengthening the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and accountability in peacekeeping. (House Passed)
- ✓ **H.R. 3045, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (CAFTA)**, approves the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA), entered into with the governments of the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. (Public Law)