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13th DISTRICT UPDATE

TOP NEWS:

Congressman Scott Fights for Homeowners July 23



Congressman David Scott continued the fight to help families refinance their bad home loans, save neighborhoods under assault from foreclosures and provide liquidity to the housing mortgage market. The House gave final approval to H.R. 3221, American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act.

“Georgians are facing a wave of foreclosures that threaten families’ stability and the safety of entire neighborhoods,” Congressman Scott said. **“This housing crisis needs to be addressed with aggressive action. We have responded by passing the most significant housing bill in a generation to fight predatory lending, allow families to refinance**

their mortgages, and provide neighborhood sustainability. I will continue to fight to help families keep their homes and ensure that good credit is available to future borrowers.”

Several major housing bills have been combined into a comprehensive bill to expand FHA programs and reform Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The bills will allow eligible homeowners to renegotiate the terms of bad mortgages. Further, the measure will provide \$4 billion in grants and loans to state and local governments to purchase, rehabilitate, and resell or rent foreclosed homes. Tax credits will also be made available to first time homebuyers. Finally, the measure will provide an additional \$180 million for housing counseling and additional licensing for mortgage originators.

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Congressman and Mrs. Scott Award \$10,000 in Education Scholarships July 28

Congressman David Scott (GA-13) and Mrs. Alfredia Scott announced the selection of 5 area students to receive \$10,000 in scholarship awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000 through the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Spouses Scholarship program. Congressman and Mrs. Scott honored these outstanding young people and their families during a special reception held in the Jonesboro District Office.

This year’s recipients include:



Congressman & Mrs. Scott Award
LaTasha McCracken

Congressional Black Caucus Spouses Education Awards:

- Jessica Solomon, Douglasville resident, Georgia College & State Univ.-\$3,000
- Rachel Noel, Douglasville resident, Berry College- \$2,500
- Shirley Taylor, Ellenwood resident, Spellman College- \$2,000
- LaTasha McCracken, Douglasville resident, Berry College- \$1,500
- Mohammed A. Saibu, College Park resident, Georgia Southern Univ.- \$1,000

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Congressman Scott Salutes Increase in Minimum Wage July 24



The federal minimum wage rose from \$5.85 to \$6.55 an hour today. This is the second step in the three-step minimum wage increase enacted by Congress in May 2007, to incrementally raise the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 an hour over a two-year period. Last year the minimum wage was increased from \$5.15 to \$5.85, this year it increases to \$6.55, and next year it will increase to \$7.25.

“As consumer costs – from gas prices to food to health care costs – continue to rise, it is important that we continue to fight to help millions of Americans working full-time, year round, trying to make ends meet and still living in poverty,” said Rep. Scott.

“At \$5.85 an hour, a full-time minimum wage worker still brings home only \$12,168, well below the 2008 federal poverty level of \$17,600 for a family of three,” points out Rep. Scott. **“Without dispute, the numbers show that raising the minimum wage is a vital step to strengthening and growing our economy over the long-term and this month’s increase serves as another step to make a real difference in the lives of America’s working families.”**

The federal minimum wage increase to \$7.25 an hour will mean an additional \$4,400 per year for a minimum wage worker’s family – helping them to keep up with rising costs as they raise the more than 6 million children of low-wage workers.

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Congressman David Scott Calls for Increased Fiscal Responsibility July 18

Congressman David Scott issued the following statement in response to a report released yesterday by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

“Yesterday, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released a report providing analysis of the long-term economic effects of forgoing the pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) budget rules,” stated Congressman Scott. **“The report uncovered an alarming fiscal 2008 deficit that is likely to be one of the largest in history. In a time when our national economy is deeply in a recession and many parts of our country are hovering around a depression, we must think about long-term solutions. We must think about solutions for our children and grandchildren. And we must find solutions that will decrease the \$31,000 of individual debt that every American is carrying around today.”**

“As members of Congress, we must do a better job of working together between both the Senate and the House, and on both sides of the aisle. We must ensure that we are being fiscally responsible when debating and voting on bills and we must hold true to our commitment to PAYGO.”

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U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to Open Vet Center in Cobb County July 9

The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that Cobb County will be home to one of 39 new VA Vet Centers to open in late 2009. The actual sites of the Vet Centers will depend on market availability of space. The additional VA resources will address the growing need for readjustment counseling services to existing and new combat veterans and their families to include families of those killed while on active duty and veterans experiencing military related sexual trauma.

“I am pleased that the VA has selected Cobb County to be the site for one of the new Vet Centers”, said Congressman David Scott. **“My district offices have been busy working on cases for veterans who need assistance dealing with the VA. The steady increase in veterans cases shows that more outreach is needed by the VA and I am hopeful that this new facility will alleviate some of the case backlogs.”**

According to the VA, Vet Centers provide readjustment counseling and outreach services to all veterans who served in any combat zone. Services are also available for their family members for military related issues. Veterans have earned these benefits through their service and all are provided at no cost to the veteran or family.

[\[Read the Article\]](#)

In Other News:

Congressman Scott will Host 4th Annual Health Fair: Saturday, August 16

Come out and join Congressman David Scott at the 4th Annual 13th Congressional District Health Fair. This free event is open to the public and will take place on Saturday, August 16 from 10am - 2pm at Mundy’s Mill High School in Clayton County.

Congressman Scott is teaming up with leading area hospitals and health organizations to provide free health screenings including: cholesterol, blood pressure, dental, HIV, diabetes, vision, and many, many more! Attendees may also enroll on-site in various state and federal health assistance programs, sign-up for low cost mammograms, and donate blood.

Participants include Georgia Cancer Foundation, the American Heart Association, Southern Regional Health System, Grady Health System, West End Medical Center, AARP, AID Atlanta, American Red Cross, Social Security Administration, Department of Veteran’s Affairs, Nanston Dental, Resurgens Orthopedics, Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia, and many others!

For more information, including directions and a complete list of participants, visit www.davidscott.house.gov or call 770-432-5405.

Representative Scott Invites You to Nominate a Friend or Neighbor Who Has Been an ‘Angel in Adoption’

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) has asked members of Congress to nominate “Angels in Adoption,” constituents who have demonstrated a commitment to enriching the lives of foster children and orphans. Congressman Scott invites you to nominate a friend or neighbor whom you believe deserves this honor. On September 16, CCAI will hold a gala dinner in Washington, D.C. to honor the 2008 award recipients.

To submit a nomination, please contact Congressman Scott's Congressional Aide for adoption and foster care issues, Amy Schultz (amy.schultz@mail.house.gov), with the nominee's contact information and reasons for which this person is deserving of this award.

For more information about this program and CCAI, you are encouraged to visit <http://www.ccaainstitute.org>.

Congressman Scott Reminds Constituents to Get Ready for the Nationwide Transition to Digital Television- February 17, 2009

With the nationwide transition to digital television just six months away, Rep. Scott reminds constituents that on *Tuesday, February 17, 2009* analog television sets that receive signals over the air, and not from cable or satellite, will need a digital-to-analog converter box to display digital signals. Every household is eligible to apply for up to two \$40 coupons, each of which may be applied toward the cost of one converter box.

For more information on the digital television transition visit <https://www.dtv2009.gov/> or call 770-210-5073.

Local Grant Awards

The Federal Transit Administration

The Alternative Analysis Program grant is intended to fund tasks associated with the exploration of transit alternatives, system expansions, potential environmental impacts and public transportation improvements.

- *Clifton Corridor Alternatives Analysis - \$995,800*
- *Beltline Environmental Impact Study- \$294,000*

The Office of National Drug Control Policy

The Drug Free Communities Support Program (DFC) grant is intended to provide funds to local organizations mobilizing individuals and other organizations against youth drug use.

- *Osborne Prevention Task Force (Marietta, GA)- \$100,000*

Legislative News:

Recent Votes by Congressman Scott:

⌘ H.R. 6515 – Drill Responsibly in Leased Lands Act

Amends the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an oil and gas competitive leasing program in the National Petroleum Reserve, Alaska that includes at least one lease sale each year during the period 2009 through 2013. Instructs the Secretary of Transportation to facilitate pipeline construction to transport oil and gas from or through the National Petroleum Reserve. Prohibits the Secretary of the Interior from authorizing any new lease for exploration or production of oil or natural gas unless the lessee: (1) certifies for each existing lease that the lessee has diligently developed the pertinent federal lands in order to produce oil or natural gas, or is producing oil or natural gas from them; or (2) has relinquished all federal oil and gas leases that are not being diligently developed.

⌘ **DS voted FOR H.R. 6515; H.R. 6515 failed 244 - 173 (7-17-2008) ***

⌘ H.R. 3221 – Foreclosure Prevention Act

Establishes the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), an independent

agency, to oversee Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Home Loan Banks. Empowers FHFA with broad supervisory and regulatory powers over the operations, activities, corporate governance, safety and soundness, and mission of the GSEs, provides new and more flexible authority to establish minimum and risk-based capital requirements. The bill increases Treasury's authority under existing lines of credit to Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae, and the Federal Home Loan Banks for the next 18 months, giving Treasury standby authority to buy stock or debt in those companies. Also raises the GSE loan limits in high cost areas (to 115% of the local area median home price, not to exceed a nationwide loan ceiling of \$625,500), and establishes an affordable housing fund. Provides for Affordable Housing Programs, which includes the creation of a permanent Housing Trust Fund to increase and preserve the supply of rental housing and homeownership opportunities for extremely low and very low income families. This title establishes the "Hope for Homeowners Program" to enable the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) to refinance the mortgages of at-risk borrowers living in their only home if (1) mortgage holders write-down the principal of the mortgage; (2) borrowers agree to share future equity with the federal government; and (3) the borrower can afford to repay the new loan. This title also clarifies the fiduciary duty of mortgage servicers when making loan modifications; and improves appraisal standards for FHA loans. The bill establishes and sets minimum standards for a nationwide mortgage licensing and registration system for mortgage brokers and bank loan officers.

⌘ **DS voted FOR H.R. 3221; H.R. 3221 passed 272 - 152 (7-23-2008)**

⌘ **H.R. 6578– Consumer Energy Supply Act**

Instructs the Secretary of Energy to publish a plan to: (1) sell prescribed amounts of light grade petroleum from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) and acquire an equivalent volume of heavy grade petroleum; (2) deposit cash proceeds from those sales into the SPR Petroleum Account; and (3) withdraw from such proceeds the administrative and operational costs of the sale and acquisition. Requires an offer for sale of 70 million barrels of light grade petroleum from the SPR. Requires the sale to: (1) commence within 30 days after enactment of this Act, regardless of whether the Secretary's plan has been published; and (2) be completed within six months after enactment, with at least 20 million barrels offered for sale within the first 60 days after enactment. Sets forth an acquisitions schedule for heavy grade petroleum to replace the light grade petroleum sold under this Act. Encourages the Secretary to grant requests to defer scheduled deliveries of petroleum to the SPR if deferral will result in a premium paid in additional barrels of oil which will reduce the cost of oil acquisition and increase the volume of oil delivered to the SPR or yield additional cash bonuses.

⌘ **DS voted FOR H.R. 6578; H.R. 6578 failed 268 - 157 (7-24-2008) ***

⌘ **H.R. 6604 – Commodity Markets Transparency and Accountability Act**

Prohibits the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) from permitting a foreign board of trade to provide its U.S.-located members with access to the CFTC electronic trading system and order matching system for energy or agricultural commodities unless such board meets requirements similar to those imposed upon U.S. exchanges. Subjects swap transactions, transactions for agricultural and energy commodities, and large traders in over-the-counter contracts to reporting and recordkeeping requirements. Directs the Commission to: (1) set position limits for any one person with respect to designated contract markets, derivative transaction execution facilities, and electronic trading facilities; (2) convene a Position Limit Agricultural Advisory Group and a Position Limit Energy Group; (3) appoint at least 100 new full-time employees; (4) review prior actions to ensure compliance with this Act; and (5) review over-the-counter markets. Revises the core principles applicable to position limits for contracts in agricultural and energy commodities to require position limits for speculators. Directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a study of: (1) the international regime for regulating the

trading of energy commodity futures and derivatives; and (2) speculators' effects on agriculture and energy futures markets and prices. Directs the Commission to: (1) require regular reporting of fungible over-the-counter agricultural and energy transactions; and (2) determine if such transactions have the potential to disrupt market liquidity or cause market or price disturbances, and if so, to use its discretion to impose position limits.

⌘ **DS voted FOR H.R. 6604; H.R. 6604 failed 276 - 151 (7-30-2008) ***

⌘ **H.R. 1108 – Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act**

Amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for the regulation of tobacco products by the Secretary of Health and Human Services through the Food and Drug Administration, including through disclosure, annual registration, inspection, recordkeeping, and user fee requirements. Allows the Secretary to restrict the sale or distribution of tobacco products, including advertising and promotion, if the Secretary determines that such regulation would be appropriate for the protection of the public health. Prohibits such regulations from: (1) limiting product sales or distribution to authorization of a practitioner licensed to prescribe medical products; (2) prohibiting product sales in face-to-face transactions by a specific category of retail outlets; or (3) establishing a minimum age greater than 18 years of age for product purchases.

⌘ **DS voted FOR H.R. 1108; H.R. 1108 passed 326-102 (7-30-2008)**

⌘ **H.R. 4137 – College Opportunity and Affordability Act**

This legislation not only increases the maximum Pell Grant award to \$8,000 per year by 2014, but also creates a higher education price index to help families compare tuition increases at various colleges, as well as establish a website to inform parents of expenditures they can anticipate in sending their child to college. The Higher Education Opportunity Act also includes Congressman Scott's John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act, which will create a student loan repayment program for law school graduates who commit to serve for at least three years as criminal prosecutors or public defenders. The Higher Education Opportunity Act also authorizes grant funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Predominantly Black Institutions—a newly created category of minority-serving institutions created by the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (P.L. 110-84). These institutions must serve at least 40 percent Black American students, very needy and first-generation college students.

⌘ **DS voted FOR H.R. 4137; H.R. 4137 passed 380-49 (7-31-2008)**

⌘ **H.R. 1338 – Paycheck Fairness Act**

Amends the portion of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (FLSA) known as the Equal Pay Act to revise remedies for and enforcement of prohibitions against sex discrimination in the payment of wages to: (1) add non-retaliation requirements; (2) increase penalties; and (3) authorize the Secretary of Labor (the Secretary) to seek additional compensatory or punitive damages. Requires the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs to train EEOC employees and affected individuals and entities on matters involving wage discrimination. Authorizes the Secretary to make grants to eligible entities for negotiation skills training programs for girls and women. Directs the Secretaries of Labor and Education to issue regulations or policy guidance to integrate such training into certain programs under their Departments.

⌘ **DS voted FOR H.R. 1338; H.R. 1338 passed 247 - 178 (7-31-2008)**

⌘ **H.R. 6633 – Employee Verification Amendment Act**

Extends the E-Verify program for an additional five years. The E-Verify program is a voluntary Internet based system operated by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in partnership with the Social Security Administration (SSA) that allows participating employers to electronically verify the

employment eligibility of their newly hired employees.

• **DS voted FOR H.R. 6633; H.R. 6633 passed 407 - 2 (7-31-2008)**

* These measures required two-thirds support for passage.

