

**Congressman Trent Franks, 2nd District of Arizona**[Website](#) | [Biography](#) | [Constituent Services](#) | [Issues & Legislation](#) | [Press Office](#) | [Contact](#)

Dear Friend,

It is a profound privilege to continue representing the Second Congressional District of Arizona. As we are now well-progressed into the 110th Congress, I wanted to take a moment to let you know some of the major legislation currently being considered in the House of Representatives.

Hate Crimes: Last week, the House of Representatives passed the *Local Law Enforcement Act of 2007*, otherwise known as the "Hate Crimes" bill. I heard from literally thousands of constituents like you urging me to vote against this legislation, and I do so appreciate hearing from you on important issues like these. If you are not familiar with the Hate Crimes act, let me take a brief moment to explain why I voted against it. The bill would codify separate and distinct treatment for the very same violent crime, singling out members of society based on "sexual orientation and gender identity" (not defined in the bill.) I believe that every individual deserves *equal protection under the law*, and the provisions in this bill would instead offer discriminatory protections that would, by default, be denied to other victims of the same crime —completely destroying the basic concept of equal justice engrained in our Republic. While this bill did pass the House of Representatives, the White House has issued a Statement of Administration Policy saying that senior officials of the Administration will urge the President to veto the bill, should it pass the Senate.

Supporting our Troops: You may also have heard last week about the President's veto of the Iraq War Supplemental, the authorization providing funding for our troops on the battlefield in Iraq. The need for these funds is undisputed; however, the Supplemental emerged from Congress laden with "pork barrel" spending, or earmarks, which had absolutely no relation to provision for our troops. Citing this, as well as the withdrawal deadlines imposed upon our generals and war-fighters, the President vetoed this bill, and I joined with over 145 fellow Members of Congress in voting to sustain the veto. The courageous men and women fighting to preserve our freedom deserve our unequivocal support; and I remain committed to doing everything possible to ensure they receive exactly that. However, the previous Supplemental sent a message that

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Congress would rather choose to subsidize peanuts and spinach over providing the resources needed to preserve the lives of American men and women on the battlefield.

Grassroots lobbying: This next week, the House will consider H.R. 2093, the Lobbying Reform Bill. Once again, I have received overwhelming feedback from citizens like you in response to this legislation. As suspected, H.R. 2093 contains provisions which would have the effect of regulating grassroots coalitions and other small activist groups that disseminate information en masse regarding the current action being taken by Congress. The right of free speech, as well as the right to petition the government, are fundamental tenets of the document enshrining human liberty in America which we call the Constitution; and I believe that grassroots lobbying is the very lifeblood of a democratic society. This legislation would allow Washington to speak to the people but would *deny one of the most effective methods by which the people speak to Washington*. With this in mind, I will continue to oppose provisions that would restrict American citizens from exercising their First Amendment rights.

Many challenges remain in the future, and your opinions are invaluable to me as we seek to defend the constitution, undertake immigration reform, strengthen border security, address entitlement reform, curb federal spending, and defeat the dangerous ideology of jihadist terrorism. I encourage you to communicate your concerns with me, and I thank you for your support as I continue seeking to preserve the principles of our Constitution, ensure the security of our nation, and protect the hearts and futures of our children.

Most Sincerely,



Congressman Trent Franks

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