



# Todd Platts

**U.S. Congress, 19th District**

**Adams County District Office**  
22 Chambersburg St., Gettysburg, PA 17325  
(717) 338-1919

**Cumberland County District Office**  
59 W. Louther St., Carlisle, PA 17013  
(717) 249-0190

**York County District Office**  
2209 E. Market St., York, PA 17402  
(717) 600-1919

**Washington, D.C. Office**  
1032 Longworth HOB, Washington DC 20515  
(202) 225-5836

**Toll-free Phone: 1-877-902-1919**  
**Web site: [www.house.gov/platts](http://www.house.gov/platts)**

*Todd R. Platts*  
M.C.  
PRSR-STD

**Don't miss the  
Town Meeting  
schedule below!**

**Summer 2008**

**Congressional  
Update**

*This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.*



Dear Friend,

I hope this letter finds you doing well. As always, I am pleased to update you on the major actions of Congress over the past several months. Please do not hesitate to contact one of my offices listed above if you have any questions regarding the items addressed in this newsletter or there is any other matter for which my staff and I can be of assistance to you.

Please also plan to attend one of my upcoming town meetings listed below. I sincerely enjoy interacting with the citizens of the 19th District at town meetings. The insights and concerns shared at these meetings are critically important to my effective representation of our district in Congress.

In closing, I once again ask you to join me in giving thanks to our dedicated men and women in uniform who are truly on the front lines of democracy in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere around the world on our behalf. Were it not for the courageous service of our military personnel, past and present, our freedoms would not be. Please keep these true American heroes, along with their families, in your thoughts and prayers. May God continue to watch over them and our great nation.

Sincerely,

Todd Russell Platts

*Arts Competition Winner – Each year, the Congressional High School Arts Competition recognizes the artistic talents of young citizens. The 19th District's 2008*



*winning entry was "Classic," a watercolor pencil drawing by Katy Bloom, daughter of Stephen and Sharon Bloom of Carlisle. Katy, pictured here with me, will be a junior this fall at Bible Baptist School in Shiremanstown. Information regarding the 2009 Competition can be found on my website at [www.house.gov/platts](http://www.house.gov/platts).*

## Earmark Reform Much Needed

As is well understood by the general public, the Congressional earmarking process in Washington is broken. The number of projects earmarked for federal funding has skyrocketed. Billions in taxpayer dollars have been wasted. The system has been abused on both sides of the aisle. Last year's 3,500-page omnibus appropriations bill, which I opposed, contained more than 9,000 earmarks costing taxpayers an estimated \$12 billion.

The earmarking process has long been in need of reform. I cosponsored legislation during my first term in Congress to establish a line-item veto for the President to eliminate "pork-barrel" earmarks in annual spending measures. I later introduced my own line-item veto legislation (H.J. Res. 38) and have supported legislation under both Republican and Democratic Congresses to make the earmarking process more open and accountable. Most recently, I joined with many colleagues in sponsoring and advocating for legislation (H. Con. Res. 263) which would impose an immediate and across-the-board moratorium on all earmarks while a bipartisan House-Senate Committee on Earmark Reform identifies and recommends specific reforms to the appropriations process. Unfortunately, H. Con. Res. 263 has yet to be considered by the House Rules Committee.

While significant reform of the appropriations process is clearly needed, earmarks can fund worthy endeavors. For example, at the request of local officials, I have pursued and received earmarks for a number of local transportation and economic development projects in the 19th Congressional District. Importantly, the process for submitting these projects for consideration was open and transparent. All too often, however, funds have been earmarked nationally for projects not worthy of taxpayer dollars with little or no scrutiny prior to approval. The famous "bridge to nowhere" project that would have cost American taxpayers more than \$200 million to serve an island with fewer than fifty residents epitomizes the term "pork-barrel" spending.

In an effort to raise public awareness about earmark reform efforts and to generate public pressure for the adoption of these reforms, I have joined with several dozen of my House colleagues from both sides of the aisle in adopting our own moratorium. I have thus not submitted any 19th District earmark requests as part of this year's appropriations process. If Congress fails to adopt across-the-board reforms, I plan to further strengthen the process by which 19th District funding requests will be submitted for consideration in future years.

The time for Congress to start spending the tax dollars of America's hard-working citizens in a more open, accountable, and responsible manner is long overdue. Substantive reform of the earmark process is a perfect place to begin.

## Town Meeting Schedule

**Thursday, August 28**

**Stewartstown Borough Office**  
6 North Main Street  
Stewartstown  
9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**Thursday, August 28**

**Shippensburg University Memorial Auditorium**  
1871 Old Main Drive  
Shippensburg  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**Thursday, August 28**

**S.A.V.E.S Station #1**  
238 Main Street  
McSherrystown  
7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, September 2**

**Fairview Township Municipal Building**  
599 Lewisberry Road  
New Cumberland  
9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**Tuesday, September 2**

**Camp Hill Borough Hall**  
2145 Walnut Street  
Camp Hill  
7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

## Efforts to Deter Illegal Immigration Remain Stalled in the House

Illegal immigration continues to be one of the top issues that I hear about most often from constituents. The last Congressional Update discussed legislation (H.R. 4088) that I have cosponsored aimed at enhancing border security and cracking down on illegal immigration. Unfortunately, neither H.R. 4088 nor any other substantive legislation addressing this critically important issue has been allowed to come before the House of Representatives for consideration.

Specifically, H.R. 4088, the Secure America with Verification and Enforcement (SAVE) Act, would increase the number of Border Patrol agents by 8,000, employ more Immigration and Customs Enforcement investigators, and help train local and state law enforcement officials in immigration enforcement. Moreover, the SAVE Act would require employers to participate in the federal "E-Verify" program. Under this program, employers electronically verify the legal status of their workers through a federal database – similar to federal instantaneous background checks conducted for gun purchases.

Since the discussion of the SAVE Act in the last Congressional Update, a discharge petition has been filed to force consideration of H.R. 4088 by the full House. I have joined with 189 other Members of Congress in signing this petition. If at least 218 Members of the House of Representatives sign the discharge petition, the bill will get a straight up-or-down vote on the House floor.

The time has come for Congress to do everything within its means to secure our borders and fully enforce our nation's immigration laws. We must reject efforts to provide blanket amnesty to those who have entered our country illegally. Rather, we must send a clear message that, to enjoy the benefits of America, you must cross our nation's borders in a legal manner.



*Experiencing Public Service – Each summer, local college students work in my district and Washington offices to learn about Congress and to serve 19th District residents. Interns serving with my office this summer and pictured with me from the right are: [Kristen Luciani](#), a junior at Saint Joseph's University and daughter of John and Ann Luciani of York; [Christopher Storm](#), a senior at Gettysburg College and son of John and Melissa Storm of Hanover; [Molly Johnson](#), a senior at Gettysburg College and daughter of Mark and Elizabeth Johnson of Mechanicsburg; [Francesca Rawleigh](#), a junior at the University of North Carolina and daughter of Michael and Camilla Rawleigh of Gettysburg; [George O'Connor](#), a senior at Villanova University and son of Michael and Debra O'Connor of York; [Laura Conrad](#), a junior at American University and daughter of Lynn Conrad of York; and [Sarah Shipley](#), a senior at Penn State University and daughter of Bill and Michelle Shipley of York.*



*Serving Our Veterans – As a nation, we have no greater responsibility or more important duty than caring for our courageous troops and veterans who have defended our nation and our freedoms. I was pleased to join [Robert Callahan](#), director of the Lebanon (PA) VA Medical Center, along with State Representatives [Ron Miller](#), [Keith Gillespie](#) and [Eugene DePasquale](#), during the ribbon-cutting event for the new York VA Outpatient Clinic. This new facility will help local veterans receive the treatments and services they need on a more timely basis. As a member of the Subcommittee on National Security and Emerging Threats, I have advocated strongly for necessary reforms and improvements to our VA system.*

## Home Mortgage Legislation Under Consideration

On May 7, 2008, the House voted on three major proposals meant to address the home mortgage issue. In evaluating each proposal, it was important to balance the need to help stabilize the housing market with fiscal responsibility and fairness.

The first proposal (H.R. 5818) would provide \$7.5 billion in zero-interest loans and another \$7.5 billion in grants to state and local governments to buy foreclosed properties. I supported an attempt on the House floor to amend this bill so as to strike the grants from it and instead provide \$15 billion in loans. Because this amendment was defeated by a vote of 219-190, I ultimately voted against the underlying bill.

The second proposal - an amendment to a different bill (H.R. 3221) - sought to reform Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, government-sponsored enterprises involved in the housing market, as well as the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). Having cosponsored similar legislation to reform Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and FHA, I was supportive of this aspect of the amendment. This amendment, however, also provided up to \$300 billion in federal guarantees for home mortgages. I opposed these guarantees, which would go to lenders that agreed to write-off

at least 15% of the home mortgage of borrowers in foreclosure. In many instances, the lenders who would greatly benefit from the proposed bailout helped to cause the home mortgage crisis in the first place by their irresponsible and sometimes predatory lending practices. Additionally, homeowners who sacrifice and struggle to make their mortgage payments on time would not qualify for any assistance. Finally, there is a great deal of uncertainty about the total cost to taxpayers of the federal bailout. I voted against this amendment.

The final proposal - a second amendment to H.R. 3221 - would provide a refundable tax credit of \$7,500 for first-time homebuyers. Taxpayers would then have to repay the tax credit over 15 years, effectively making it a zero-interest loan. I voted in favor of this proposal, as it would provide a necessary boost to the housing market.

H.R. 5818 passed by a vote of 239-188. The first amendment to H.R. 3221 passed by a vote of 266-154, and the second amendment passed by a vote of 322-94. The Senate has passed its own version of mortgage legislation. The House and Senate are working to resolve the differences between their various proposals.

# **“All-of-the-Above” Energy Policy Needed**

## **More Domestic Energy Production, Less Market Speculation**

### **Important Keys to Lower Gas Prices**

Just over one month ago, citizens throughout our great country celebrated the 232nd anniversary of our nation’s birth on the 4th of July – Independence Day. Yet, as citizens gathered together at family picnics, attended patriotic concerts, and took in dazzling fireworks, skyrocketing energy prices – especially at the gas pump – were greatly undermining America’s economic “independence” and noticeably impacting the daily lives of all Americans. In the first six months of this year, leading up to the 4th and the weeks since, the response of Congress to this growing economic threat has been minimal at best. Americans are rightfully outraged at Congress’ inaction.

Unfortunately, as with many issues in Washington, the adoption of a comprehensive national energy policy that will truly lessen our dependency on foreign energy supplies has been derailed by partisanship and bogged down in an either-or approach. This is how the debate goes: one side argues for more renewable and alternative energy sources; the other for domestic drilling and more traditional energy sources. Yet, there is no reason why we cannot promote greater conservation initiatives and the long term development of sustainable alternative and renewable energy supplies, while also further developing in the relative short term traditional domestic sources of energy in an environmentally-friendly manner. If we want to make a real difference for American consumers in both the short and long terms, such an “all-of-the-above” energy policy is absolutely imperative.

In 2007, our most significant progress was in the area of conservation. I was a lead sponsor on legislation to increase fuel efficiency standards for cars and light trucks by 40 percent by the year 2020 - decreasing our need to import foreign oil by 1.1 million barrels of oil per day by 2020 and 2.5 million barrels of oil per day by 2030. A version of this legislation was signed into law on December 19, 2007.

#### **Common Sense Solutions**

There are two other truly “common sense” actions that Congress can take right now to have an effect on gas prices. First, we should crack down on price manipulations within the oil futures market. I am a cosponsor of a number of bills which seek to rein in the irresponsible speculation that has played a significant role in the outrageous jump in price at the gas pump (H.R. 594, 4066, 6130, and 6264). The House Committee on Energy and Commerce recently held hearings on this issue and the full House may consider related legislation in the near future.

Second, we must allow more energy exploration here at home. While there is a great deal of debate about how long it may take for new domestic oil and natural gas reserves to be fully developed, taking action to allow more energy exploration is likely to have a positive impact on price almost immediately. Legislative action opening up new oil and natural gas reserves for exploration will certainly impact the aforementioned futures market, which continues to feed off the premise that the supply of oil and natural gas will remain severely restricted.

#### **Tapping Domestic Energy Supplies**

I am a cosponsor of the No More Excuses Energy Act (H.R. 3089). This legislation would lift the moratorium imposed on off-shore energy exploration in our own territorial waters. When Hurricane Katrina hit the oil rigs off the coast of Louisiana, no oil was spilled, demonstrating that it is possible to tap the oil and gas reserves found in the outer-continental shelf with minimal risk to the environment. Estimates by the U.S. Minerals Management Services found that the outer-continental shelf contains as much as 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and 86 billion barrels of oil. To put the numbers in perspective, America consumes about 23 trillion cubic feet of natural gas per year and imports about 4.5 billion barrels of oil per year.

The No More Excuses Energy Act would also allow energy exploration on a small portion (2,000 out of 20 million acres) of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), with leasing restrictions to ensure protection of fish and wildlife habitat. The bill would also ban any export of the recovered oil to other countries. According to the United States Geological Survey, there are about 10.4 billion barrels of oil recoverable from ANWR. Had President Bill Clinton not vetoed legislation to open up ANWR to energy exploration in 1995, I believe this source of domestic energy would already be on-line and available to help meet our nation’s energy needs.

Finally, the No More Excuses Energy Act would provide tax incentives for wind power, carbon-capture technologies, nuclear power, and the construction of new domestic oil refineries. No new oil refineries have been built in the United States since 1976. Today, about 150 refineries operate in the United States, compared with over 300 in 1981.

Unfortunately, H.R. 3089 is stuck in committee. Speaker Nancy Pelosi has not allowed it to be brought before the full House of Representatives for an up-or-down vote. Supporters of the bill, including me, have begun an effort to force consideration of the bill through means of a so-called “discharge petition.” So far, over 140 Members have signed the discharge petition. If at least 218 House Members sign the petition, H.R. 3089 will get a straight up-or-down vote on the House floor. On an issue of such immediate and significant importance to all Americans, this is the least that the House should do - debate the issue, and then let the voices of the people be heard via the votes of their elected Representatives.

America needs a comprehensive energy policy that addresses our nation’s short term and long term energy demands - an “all-of-the-above” energy policy. If we are to truly ensure our nation’s economic “independence” for generations to come, such a policy is long overdue. As with all challenges facing our great country, Congress should put sound public policy above partisanship. You have my word that I will continue to do my utmost to promote such an approach.

*For more information regarding our Nation’s energy policy and related legislation, please visit [www.gop.gov/energy](http://www.gop.gov/energy). For gas mileage tips, vehicle fuel economy ratings, and other related information, please visit [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov).*

## Traumatic Brain Injury Act Signed into Law

On April 28, 2008, President George W. Bush signed into law the Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2008 (S. 793). Representative Bill Pascrell, Jr. (NJ-08) and I, as Co-Chairmen of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, introduced the House version of this bipartisan legislation (H.R. 1418) earlier this session.

Every 21 seconds, someone in the United States sustains a traumatic brain injury (TBI). Congress has acknowledged TBI as the signature injury of our military efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2008 will help to ensure that the 5.3 million Americans currently living with TBI, especially our injured troops, will receive the services and treatments they need.

Originally passed in 1996 and reauthorized in 2000, the TBI Act represents a foundation for coordinated policy in prevention, education, research and community-living for people with TBI. The

TBI Act is the only federal law that specifically authorizes programs to support individuals with brain injuries. Prior to the 1996 law, federal agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), did not have the tools to adequately assess the number of brain injury victims or provide them with services. The TBI Act reauthorizes federal programs under these agencies through 2011.

An important new provision in the TBI Act authorizes a study by the CDC and the NIH, in collaboration with the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, to identify the incidence of brain injury among our nation's veterans, especially veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. The TBI Act was approved in the House of Representatives on April 8, 2008 and in the Senate on April 10, 2008.



*America's Finest - U.S. Army Sergeant Major David Miller, a graduate of Cumberland Valley High School, was one of the troops I had the privilege to meet during my most recent trip to Iraq. Such visits allow me to get a first-hand understanding of the progress and challenges associated with Operation Iraqi Freedom. All Americans are forever indebted to Sergeant Major Miller and all who have and are wearing the uniform of our nation's armed forces.*



*Community Service - I was pleased to join with Heather Goebeler, Director of the Red Lion Area Senior Center, to present Certificates of Special Congressional Recognition to Jim Fitzkee and Leona Deardorff of York Township as part of the center's Volunteer Appreciation Day. As a member of the Subcommittee on Healthy Communities and Families, I co-sponsored H.R. 2857, the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education Act, to improve our nation's national service programs and encourage volunteer service.*

## Stimulus Package Enacted, More Needs to be Done

By now, qualifying citizens have already received their stimulus payments of up to \$600 for individuals, \$1,200 for couples, and \$300 per child. These payments are the result of a bipartisan bill (H.R. 5140), passed 380-34 in the House and 81-16 in the Senate, intended to put money back into the economy and provide incentives for job creation. In total, this legislation provided tax relief to more than 130 million Americans, as well as temporarily increased the amount that businesses can deduct when they invest in their own expansion and growth.

Much more will have to be done, however, if we want to keep the United States economy on track. In particular, the increasing cost of energy and health care continues to burden families and employers. As discussed in greater detail in the article on the previous page, our nation needs to become more energy independent through a comprehensive approach that includes conservation, alternative and renewable energy, and using domestic energy sources in an environmentally-responsible manner. Additionally, health care inflation must be reined in by expanding health insurance options for both individuals and small businesses. Finally, we must work to open up foreign markets to American goods, enforce our trade laws against China, and maintain tax incentives for job creation.

Keeping America competitive in a global economy must be a top priority. Stimulus packages have a role to play in minimizing job losses during a downturn in the business cycle, but they are not in-and-of-themselves sufficient to ensure long-term job creation and real income growth.

## Congress Adopts Bipartisan Supplemental Appropriations and Terrorist Surveillance Measures

Earlier this summer, Congress passed two long-stalled but critically important measures related to national security. Both measures represent bipartisan compromises. The first provided much-needed funding for U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as expanded “GI Bill” education benefits for veterans. The second helps ensure intelligence agencies have the tools they need to monitor the communications of terrorists located outside the country.

### Appropriations Bill

Consideration of the troop funding bill (H.R. 2642) had unfortunately been delayed for five months. In addition to ensuring that our men and women serving in harm’s way have the resources they need to be successful in their missions, the final compromise included a significant expansion of veterans’ education benefits. Specifically, under H.R. 2642, veterans who have served since September 11, 2001 - including members of the National Guard and Reserves - will qualify for educational assistance up to the highest tuition rate of a public college or university in their state. Qualifying veterans will also receive a stipend for books and other education costs.

Importantly, the GI education benefits contained in H.R. 2642 can be transferred to a spouse or dependent child. Allowing benefits to be transferred to family members is intended to help ensure that those who decide to make a career of military service can also benefit from the expanded benefits.

Other provisions in H.R. 2642 included emergency funds to assist with flooding in the Midwest and an additional 13 weeks of unemployment benefits for certain workers. To qualify for the extended unemployment benefits, a recipient would have to have worked for at least 20 weeks prior to being laid-off.

The troop funding provisions contained in H.R. 2642 passed in the full House by a vote of 268 to 155. The veterans and domestic spending provisions passed by a vote of 416 to 12. The final, combined bill subsequently passed by a vote of 92 to 6 in the Senate and was signed into law by President George W. Bush on June 30, 2008. I joined the majority of my colleagues in voting in favor of the troop funding provisions as well as the veterans and domestic spending provisions.

### Terrorist Surveillance Bill

The terrorist surveillance bill (H.R. 6304) restored authority previously given to intelligence agencies to quickly and easily monitor overseas terrorist communications. It is important to emphasize that H.R. 6304 does not pertain to the surveillance of American citizens here at home. Rather, it concerns the surveillance of foreign terrorists overseas.

Specifically, in 2007, legislation called the Protect America Act was enacted in response to changes in technology that have blurred the distinction between foreign surveillance, which does not require a warrant, and domestic surveillance, which does. For example, even though two terrorists may both be located overseas, their e-mail to each other may be routed through a United States-based server. The Protect America Act clarified that a warrant is not necessary when the targets of surveillance are located outside the United States.

The authority contained in the Protect America Act had lapsed in February 2008 due to a disagreement over whether or not telecommunications companies that began cooperating with the terrorist surveillance program after September 11, 2001 should be subject to lawsuits. The compromise bill provides immunity from lawsuits so long as a telecommunications company relied on the assurances of the federal government that the terrorist surveillance program was legal. This immunity provision is necessary to ensure future cooperation with the terrorist surveillance program.

The full House passed H.R. 6304 by a vote of 293 to 129. The Senate passed the bill by a vote of 69 to 28. President George W. Bush signed the measure into law on July 10, 2008. I joined the majority of my colleagues in voting in favor of this important legislation.



*Brave Young Man – Nicholas Stem of New Freedom is one of 7.5 million Americans suffering from psoriasis, a debilitating disease affecting the skin and joints. Nicholas’ courageous advocacy for greater awareness and research for psoriasis led me to co-sponsor H.R. 1188, the Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Research, Cure, and Care Act. I was also honored to join Nicholas when he made a presentation about psoriasis to his Cub Scout troop.*



*Rising to the Challenge – I was pleased to recently join with career firefighters from the York City Fire and Rescue Service and the York Area United Fire and Rescue for the Firefighter Combat Challenge in Washington, D.C. This event encourages firefighter fitness and demonstrates the physical demands of real-life firefighting to the public. I strongly commend these firefighters and all emergency personnel who risk their own safety to protect and serve our communities. I have been pleased to work with fire departments throughout the 19th District to secure federal funding for equipment and personnel.*

## Help Available for Over-the-Air Broadcast TV Transition

After February 17, 2009, all broadcast television stations will begin transmitting solely in digital signals. This means that, if you currently receive free over-the-air television broadcasts from an antenna, you will likely need a digital television (DTV) converter box as of that date.

Coupons for \$40 are available from the federal government to assist in buying DTV converter boxes. For more information regarding coupons, visit [www.DTV2009.gov](http://www.DTV2009.gov) or call 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-877-530-2634 for individuals with impaired hearing). For more information on how the transition to digital broadcasts may impact your specific antenna reception, visit [www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/dtvantennas.html](http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/dtvantennas.html).

**Importantly, you should not be affected by the transition to digital broadcasts if you receive your television programming from a cable or satellite television provider. Cable and satellite television subscribers should thus not need to purchase a DTV converter box.**

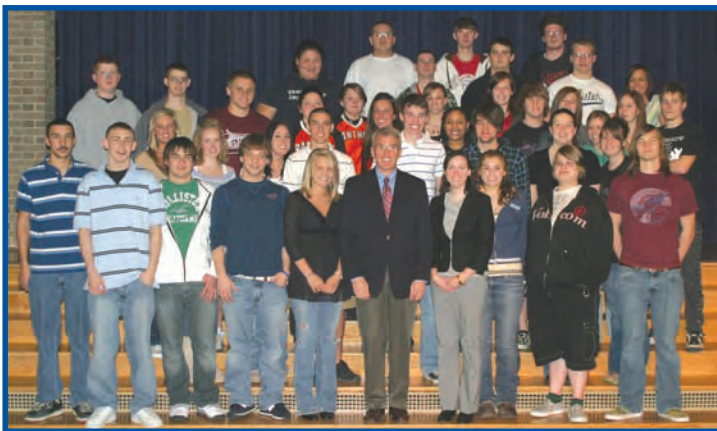
The scheduled conversion from analog to digital television broadcasts is the result of legislation enacted in 2006. Digital broadcasting allows for clearer pictures and more programming options. Moreover, the transition will free up much-needed radio spectrum for other purposes, including emergency and public safety communications. The coupons for purchasing DTV converter boxes will be funded by a portion of the revenues generated by the federal government from the sale of the newly available radio spectrum to broadcasters.

## Congress Acts to Ensure Student Aid

Earlier this year, unstable conditions in the financial sector led several major student loan providers - including some in Pennsylvania - to announce that they could not raise the capital they needed in order to provide new student loans this year. Thankfully, Congress acted to pass the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act (H.R. 5715).

Currently, in order to ensure access to student loans, the United States Department of Education authorizes certain institutions to act as lenders-of-last-resort. H.R. 5715 temporarily expands this authority, as well as temporarily allows the Department of Education to become more involved in ensuring liquidity within the student loan market through purchasing agreements. I offered an amendment to H.R. 5715, ultimately adopted as part of a larger amendment, which permits these agreements to take place over a number of years in order to guarantee long-term access to capital that is necessary for stability in the student loan industry.

H.R. 5715 also: contains a provision allowing parents to defer repayment on their children's loans for up to six months after their child leaves school; temporarily recognizes falling behind on a home mortgage as a possible "extenuating circumstance" that still allows a parent to obtain aid for their child; and, increases the federal student loan limits by \$2,000. H.R. 5715 was passed by a vote of 388-21 in the House and by voice vote in the Senate. President George W. Bush signed the bill into law on May 7, 2008. I joined the majority of my colleagues in voting in favor of H.R. 5715.



*Discussing Public Service – As a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, it is helpful for me to interact with students firsthand and encourage their academic success and civic engagement. I recently met with American Government classes at East Pennsboro High School to discuss issues facing the local, state and federal governments, as well as the importance of young people serving an active role in our democracy.*



*Boosting the Local Economy – I recently toured Snyder's of Hanover to learn about the plant's daily operations and to meet with Snyder's employees such as Mark Hadra and Larry Leffler II (pictured from the left). These visits provide valuable insights into the economic realities facing local employers and the impact that legislation in Congress has on our business community.*

*The discussions on this day included how energy and health care costs have become a daunting challenge for Snyder's and all local businesses.*

## Receive Congressional Updates on the Web or Via E-Mail

If you are interested in learning more about legislation pending before Congress, or you need assistance regarding federal issues, I encourage you to visit my web site at [www.house.gov/platts](http://www.house.gov/platts). The website has been redesigned to give you easier access to a wide range of information, such as programs and services available from my office and the federal government, voting records, or information about the 19th Congressional District.

Additionally, citizens interested in receiving regular updates on what is happening in the U.S. House of Representatives should consider signing up for my monthly E-Newsletter. You need only provide your name and e-mail address. **This information will be used for the E-Newsletter only and will not be disseminated to others in any way.**

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