

Oversight & Government Reform

National Intelligence Reform Act | H.R. 5150, 108th Congress, passed as S. 2845 | The largest reorganization of our nation's intelligence community since the National Security Act of 1947, this law implemented the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. [Public Law 108-458, signed 12/17/04]

Contractors and Federal Spending Accountability Act | H.R. 3033, 110th Congress | This bill's major provisions were then included in S. 3001. It establishes a central database of those awarded federal contracts and grants worth over \$500,000, tracking all civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings involving the vendor. This will help keep fraudsters away from government contracts. [Public Law 110-417, signed 10/14/08]

Improving the Freedom of Information Act | Language I wrote was included in S. 2488, the OPEN Government Act of 2007, which provides greater disclosure to a FOIA requester about the exemption under which a deletion has been made from requested material. [Public Law 110-175, signed 12/31/07]

The Protection of Civil Liberties Act | H.R. 1310, 109th Congress | Establishes an independent Privacy and Civil Liberties Board with subpoena power. [Public Law 110-53, signed 8/3/07]

The National Security Foreign Investment Reform and Strengthened Transparency Act | H.R. 556, 110th Congress | Strengthens and reforms the process by which the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) reviews foreign direct investment in U.S. companies for national security issues, in response to the proposed sale of U.S. ports to investors including the government of Dubai. [Public Law 110-49, signed 7/26/07]

The Debbie Smith Act | Authorizes \$151 million per year to help reduce DNA test backlogs nationwide and authorizes forensic exam grants. Named for Debbie Smith, who was unable to identify her masked attacker. He was only apprehended six years later after a DNA test matched her rape kit. Originally passed in 2004, the Debbie Smith Act was reauthorized for a second five-year period in late 2008. [Public Law 110-360, signed 10/8/08]

The Prevent Deceptive Census Look-Alike Mailings Act | H.R. 4621, 111th Congress | This bill is meant to curb non-governmental mailings labelled "Official Document" and "Do Not Destroy" that confuse people into believing they are official census forms. These mailings risk depressing the response rate for the real census forms, which increases cost to the government by \$85 million for every 1% reduction. [Approved by the House and sent to the Senate, 3/9/10]

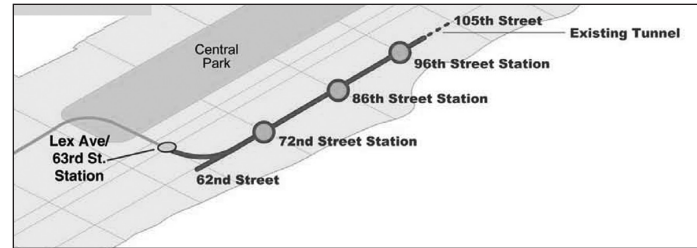
Fighting for a Fair share for New Yorkers

The James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act | H.R. 847, 111th Congress | The serious health effects of the 9/11 disaster affected thousands of Ground Zero responders and community members. This bill would provide health care, medical monitoring and compensation for those who are sick with World Trade Center illnesses. [Approved by House Judiciary Committee 7/29/09; awaiting House Energy and Commerce Committee approval]

Two of the largest public infrastructure projects in the country are located in the 14th Congressional District:

Second Avenue Subway | New York City's subway system has not added capacity in over 60 years, and we need to expand. Passengers on the Lexington Avenue line have the dubious distinction of riding on the most overcrowded subway line in the entire nation. There is a limit to the number of people that can be crammed into one subway car, but the Lex line has exceeded that limit. The new Second Avenue Subway will offer a much-needed alternative for East Side commuters, from 125th Street to the Lower East Side. I'm proud to have consistently been able to obtain funding for the Second Avenue Subway from the Federal Government at every step of the way-- to date, such planning and construction funding totals over \$550 million. Phase One of construction, mapped below, is underway now. Ultimately, a total of \$1.3 billion in federal funds will be invested in the first phase. **To find out more, visit http://maloney.house.gov/index.php?option=com_issues&task=view_issue&issue=251&parent=15&Itemid=35**

New subway stops along 2nd Avenue:



East Side Access | The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) proposes to build a new rail link to provide direct access for Long Island Railroad riders to Grand Central Terminal. The project would bring approximately 160,000 new passengers, including 5,000 residents of Western Queens, into midtown Manhattan. Funding for this project has totalled over \$400 million to date. **To find out more, visit http://maloney.house.gov/index.php?option=com_issues&task=view_issue&issue=252&parent=15&Itemid=35**

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

Maloney Legislative Agenda 2010

I've built a record in Washington on issues ranging from financial services, to government oversight and reform, to women's rights at home and abroad—all while working for New York's fair share of federal support.

But the 2010 session of this Congress may become the most important.

With a new president and new majorities in the House and Senate beginning last January, we are slowly moving toward real change in the midst of "The Great Recession." Washington has acted or is poised to act on many of the crucial, structural challenges facing the nation.

Health Care. As this edition of my Legislative Agenda goes to press, the House has voted to end the decades-long anti-trust exemption for the health insurance industry, and is poised to vote on passage of the final compromise that will cover millions of the uninsured and put us on a path toward controlling costs and improving care for all Americans. This chance at increasing coverage is a once-in-a-lifetime legislative opportunity.

Regulatory Restructuring. The President has proposed and the House has passed a major restructuring of the regulatory agencies that oversee the financial services industry, including the creation of a Consumer Financial Product Agency to protect consumers from questionable products and practices. At the moment, the Senate is still working on its version of financial reforms, and the path of this issue in the upper chamber makes health care look easy. The financial services industry and their regulators both want to protect their turf, despite the manifest flaws in the hands-off policies they both preferred in the run-up to the crisis of 2008.

I believe that if we are to avoid the kind of calamity we risked in 2008—which resulted in the current deep recession—we simply must address the gaps and flaws in current regulations.

Climate Change. The House has already passed a groundbreaking bill which invests in clean energy technology and establishes standards for energy consumption while also cutting America's use of foreign oil by some five million barrels a day in the next 20 years. If the Senate passes this legislation—a big "if" right now—it would curb our dependence on foreign oil, create well-paying jobs here in the U.S., and improve our national security stance all at once.

Please don't hesitate to contact me about these or any of the other issues described inside this newsletter.

Sincerely,
Carolyn B. Maloney
CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

Working for Economic Recovery

Joint Economic Committee | I chair the Joint Economic Committee (JEC), which is comprised of members of both parties from the House and the Senate. The JEC monitors the economy and evaluates policies being debated by Congress. In 2009 the JEC held 30 hearings, many of which focused on the causes of the financial crisis and its role in intensifying “The Great Recession.”

In 2010, the top priority of the JEC will be to examine policies that create jobs and reduce unemployment. The JEC will also focus on the health of the housing markets and predatory lending practices, emerging high-growth sectors of the economy—with a particular focus on green jobs—and exploring the role women play in our economy and its recovery.

The recovery plan passed by Congress and the financial restructuring plan passed by the House are crucial steps in getting the economy back on track. But keeping a rejuvenating economy on solid footing will occur only after a thorough examination of what got us to this point, which is why the JEC is conducting an examination of the roots and consequences of the ongoing recession and financial crisis.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act | H.R. 1, 111th Congress

I believe that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has spurred the process of bringing our economy back to health, blunting the effects of the recession and helping families in need. New York State is expected to receive \$31.9 billion for updating our infrastructure, improving our schools and training our unemployed. According to Administration figures:

- Over 6 million New York working families will be receiving “Make Work Pay” tax credits;
- Almost 60,000 homebuyers in New York will receive a tax credit through the first-time homebuyer credit;
- Over 390,000 jobs for New Yorkers will have been saved or created by the end of 2010;
- Over 800,000 New York children covered by the Child Tax Credit;
- Approximately 460,000 NYS college students will receive increased Pell Grants.

[Public Law 111-005; signed into law 2/17/09]

Regulatory Restructuring | H.R. 4173, 111th Congress

I supported the House plan to revamp our financial regulatory infrastructure. The government’s regulatory mechanisms are too segmented and too archaic to properly oversee today’s financial products and their interconnections. The House plan created a new Consumer Finance Protection Agency which would consolidate the consumer-protection function now spread across seven federal agencies. [Passed by the House 12/11/09 and sent to the Senate]

Protecting Consumers in Financial Services



President Obama signs Rep. Maloney’s credit card reform bill in May.

The Credit Cardholders’ Bill of Rights | H.R. 627, 111th Congress

Signed into law by President Obama in the Rose Garden in May, my credit card reform bill levels the playing field between cardholders and card issuers by banning practices that have been determined to be unfair, deceptive and anti-competitive by the Federal Reserve. The law bans most retroactive rate increases on existing balances, requires 45 days notice of all rate increases going forward, ends double-cycle billing and so-called “universal default,” among many other provisions. [Public Law 111-024; signed into law 5/22/09]

The Overdraft Protection Fair Practices Act | H.R. 1456, 111th Congress

This bill brings overdraft protection plans under the Truth in Lending Act, requiring that banks get consumers’ permission to enlist them in any overdraft plan. It requires notice to customers when an ATM or point-of-sale debit card transaction triggers an overdraft fee, and requires that banks post transactions in chronological order. [Public Hearing held 3/19/09] **Find out more at http://maloney.house.gov/index.php?option=com_issues&task=view_issue&issue=312&parent=8&Itemid=35**

The Financial Consumers Hotline Act | H.R. 1455, 111th Congress

Would establish a single toll-free telephone number consumers can call if they have a question or complaint and want to speak to the bank’s regulator. [Prior version passed the House on 4/30/08, in the 110th Congress]

Notice of ATM fees | Amendment to H.R. 10, 106th Congress

An amendment I wrote requires that ATM users receive disclosure of the usage fee before a transaction triggers a fee. [Public Law 106-102; signed into law 11/12/99]

TARP Accountability and Disclosure Act | H.R. 1242, 111th Congress

Requires the creation of a centralized, public database on the web of all reported government and non-government data about recipients of TARP funds, providing the crucial ability to monitor implementation of the TARP. [Passed by the House 12/2/09 and sent to the Senate]

Working Toward equal Rights for all

The Equal Rights Amendment | H.J. Res. 61, 111th Congress

Over thirty years have elapsed since Congress passed the Equal Rights Amendment, intended to ensure equality for women and men in all areas of society. During the last 30 years, women have made extraordinary strides toward achieving equality—but without the ERA, women have often been denied the ability to seek justice when they have experienced discrimination. This is why I continue to work for passage of the ERA, introducing it each Congress since I came to Washington.

Supporting Gay Marriage | I support the New York State legislation which would legalize gay marriage. I voted against the Defense of Marriage Act, which unfortunately passed and was signed into law in 1996. (See also **Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act** under “Work-life Balance for Families”)

The Glass Ceiling Reports | Sometimes the best thing a member of Congress can do is simply get the word out. I requested a Government Accountability Office investigation into the reasons why women continue to lag behind men in the wages they earn. The report, “A New Look Through the Glass Ceiling,” helped reveal the impact of personal and external factors behind wage inequality. A second report tracked 18 years of data on over 9,300 Americans and found that women working full-time today are paid an average of 80 cents for every dollar that men are paid. This 20% earnings gap cannot be explained due to differences in work patterns or histories. **Find out more at http://maloney.house.gov/index.php?option=com_issues&task=view_issue_docs&issue=268&Itemid=35**

End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act | H.R. 2012, 109th Congress

Combats unlawful commercial sex activities by targeting demand; protecting children from those who use them in commercial sex activities; assisting State and local governments in their enforcement of existing laws; and requires a Biennial Statistical Review to provide a more accurate picture of the problem. Part of this legislation was incorporated into H.R. 972, the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act. [Public Law 109-164, signed 1/10/06]

Runaway Reporting Improvement Act | H.R. 4129, 111th Congress

This bill would improve the system of reporting runaway children by requiring that law enforcement agencies certify that they have entered all reports of runaway children into the National Crime Information Center database.

Access to Birth Control Act | H.R. 2596, 110th Congress | Requires pharmacies to fill a valid prescription for birth control in a timely manner, and to provide over-the-counter emergency contraception (“Plan B”). [Introduced on 6/6/07]

Better work-life balance for families

Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act | H.R. 626, 111th Congress

Would provide four weeks of paid parental leave for federal employees to care for a newborn or newly adopted child. In addition to the four weeks, under the bill, federal employees would also be allowed to use any accrued annual or sick leave for parental leave. [Passed the House on 6/4/09; awaiting Senate action.]



New Yorker Sonya Lopez, and Rep. Maloney at Beth Israel Hospital to discuss Maloney’s Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act.

Working Families Flexibility Act | H.R. 1274, 111th Congress

Would help working families by putting a process in place for employees to request a change in their work schedules and providing job protection when making the request. Modeled after successful legislation adopted in the United Kingdom.

Family & Medical Leave Inclusion Act | H.R. 2132, 111th Congress

Would bring couples in domestic partnerships, civil unions, and same-sex marriages under the terms of the landmark 1993 Family and Medical Leave Act, which allows workers at companies with 50 or more employees to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for newborns, or to seek emergency medical care for themselves, parents, children under 18 or a legal spouse.

Family and Medical Leave Enhancement Act | H.R. 824, 111th Congress

Would allow more people to benefit from the Family and Medical Leave Act by allowing employees in companies with 25 employees (rather than 50) to take such a leave. Would also provide 24 hours of leave for parents or grandparents to attend school-related activities or to take family members to doctors’ appointments.

Breastfeeding Promotion Act | H.R. 2819, 111th Congress

The U.S. has one of the lowest breastfeeding rates in the industrialized world and one of the highest rates of infant mortality; mother’s milk is the best nutrient for new babies. This bill would assist new mothers who decide to breastfeed by providing for unpaid breaks in the workday and private areas in the workplace to pump breast milk, and encourages employers to support workplace lactation programs.



Rep. Maloney, speaking, accompanied by many nursing mothers, Senator Jeff Merkley (OR), and Rep. Lois Capps (CA) at the introduction of the Breastfeeding Protection Act