

Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you information about different issues I have been working on in the US House of Representatives which I feel are important to the residents of South Florida.

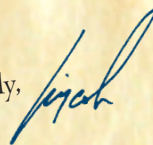
Earlier this year, with my support, Congress passed an "Economic Stimulus Package" which will provide direct rebates to many residents in our community. In conjunction with the local IRS office, my staff and I have held several workshops throughout our district to assist residents in filling out the required paperwork in order to receive their rebate checks.

I strongly supported the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Act, which creates a national standard for mortgage lending, requires that mortgage lenders provide a range of financing options to potential homebuyers, and that they fully disclose the costs and benefits of these financing options. We are currently working on additional bipartisan legislation to further assist homeowners. Legislation, for example, to help homeowners keep their homes by providing significant new guarantees from the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) to insure refinanced mortgages and with homeowners in adjusting the terms of their loans to avoid foreclosure, as well as legislation to provide tax credits for first-time homebuyers and credits to encourage investment in low income housing.

In addition, I was very pleased to have secured millions of dollars in funding for improved healthcare in our community, and \$100 million in federal funds for a permanent facility for the Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) in South Florida.

It is an honor for me to have the opportunity to work on your behalf in Congress. I encourage you to contact my office with any questions and to visit www.house.gov/diaz-balart to subscribe to my e-newsletter.

Cordially,



CONGRESSMAN
LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART
SPRING 2008 NEWSLETTER

Worried About Foreclosure?



HOPE NOW Alliance can help.

HOPE NOW alliance is a partnership between counselors and numerous homeownership organizations created to assist homeowners in preserving their home and avoiding foreclosure.

The help the hotline offers is free. Each call is handled by HOPE NOW counselors. These counselors are HUD-approved experts in foreclosure prevention that are trained to assist in formulating a plan of action designed to address each individual and specific situation. Counselors not only offer advice; they help formulate an action plan to overcome immediate financial issues.

HOMEOWNER'S HOPE
HOTLINE:

888-995-HOPE



Congressman Diaz-Balart has fought a successful 10 year battle to keep SOUTHCOM in South Florida, along with its over 2,700 jobs and more than \$300 million annually to the local economy. He obtained \$100 million in fiscal year 2008 for a permanent SOUTHCOM facility.

Congressman Diaz-Balart has delivered millions of dollars in federal funds in a continued effort to fund quality healthcare in our community.



Congressman Diaz-Balart at a local tax rebate workshop which helped the elderly in our community obtain free assistance with their tax returns in order to benefit from the Economic Stimulus Law.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

Congressman Diaz-Balart has made outreach to the community a cornerstone of his public service. So far this year he has hosted four workshops where hundreds were assisted with their tax returns to qualify for the Economic Stimulus Package.

Congressman Diaz-Balart invites you to join him and his staff at the next two workshops:

Tuesday, May 27 – 9 a.m. to noon

– West Dade Regional Library, 9445 Coral Way, Miami, FL 33165

Friday, May 30 – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

– Southwest Regional Library, 16835 Sheridan St., Pembroke Pines, FL 33331

Important facts regarding the Economic Stimulus Law:

- Individuals that pay income tax will get up to a \$600 tax rebate check.
- If they filed as a couple the check could be for as much as \$1,200.
- Families with children will get an additional \$300 per child.
- Individuals who made more than \$3000 in 2007, but not enough to have to file a tax return, will receive \$300.
- Individuals who made more than \$75,000 and couples who made more than \$150,000, will receive a partial rebate. These income caps are slightly higher for those with children.



CONGRESSMAN LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART