



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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*Lincoln Diaz-Balart* M.C.  
PRSRT STD

C O N G R E S S M A N

**LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

21ST DISTRICT OF FLORIDA



**Your Voice in Washington** *Spring, 2005*

## CONSTITUENT OUTREACH PROGRAM

My staff is dedicated to being as accessible as possible. Thus, we offer weekly "outreach" hours. Residents of Florida's 21st District are welcome to meet with a member of my staff to discuss any problems you may have with a federal agency.



### First Wednesday of every month:

Pembroke Pines  
Southwest Regional Library  
16835 Sheridan Street  
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### Second Wednesday of every month:

Richmond Heights  
Martin Memorial AME Church  
14700 Lincoln Blvd.  
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

### Second Wednesday of every month:

Sweetwater City Hall  
500 S.W. 109th Avenue  
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### Third Wednesday of every month:

Miami Springs City Hall  
201 Westward Drive  
2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### Fourth Wednesday of every month:

Miami Lakes Town Hall  
6853 Main Street  
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### District Office:

8525 Northwest 53rd Terrace  
Suite 102  
Miami, Florida 33166  
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Office hours are  
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Monday through Friday.

[www.house.gov/diaz-balart](http://www.house.gov/diaz-balart)

## CONSTITUENT SERVICES



### ASSISTANCE WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES

Sometimes questions may arise regarding your access to federal services and benefits. My staff is available to help you find the answers you need. We can contact the appropriate agency to inquire about the cause of your problem and attempt to find a solution.



**MILITARY ACADEMY NOMINATIONS.** To receive an appointment to a military academy you must have a congressional nomination from your home-state Senator or from the Representative for the district where you reside. To apply for a nomination, you must submit a written request for nomination and complete a nomination application form by November 1 of your senior year in high school. The selection process is non-partisan and based on merit.



**FLAG REQUESTS** U.S. flags can be flown over the Capitol to commemorate a special occasion or to honor someone. To ensure timely receipt, you should place your order one month in advance.



**WASHINGTON, DC TOURS** My staff can help make your trip to Washington, D.C. memorable by helping to arrange tours of federal government buildings and providing information on some of our capital's most popular attractions. All tours are limited in space, so please contact us early when planning your trip.

Dear Friends,

I am honored to be returning to Washington to serve the people of the 21st District of Florida. It is a privilege to represent you and to be able to work on issues of importance to our South Florida community in Congress.

As this next session of Congress begins, I wish to take this opportunity to highlight some legislative accomplishments from last year, as well as to outline some of my priorities for 2005. From securing federal funding for our local transportation needs, to supporting efforts to preserve and protect social security, I look forward to advancing our shared priorities in the coming months.

This year, I will be undertaking a new challenge and opportunity as the Vice Chairman of the Rules Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives. I also have assumed the Chairmanship of the Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process. This new role will afford me a unique ability to weigh in on legislation before it is considered on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. I intend to utilize this leadership position in order to have an impact on legislation of importance to our community, making certain your voice is heard on critical issues coming before Congress. As Chairman of the Budget Subcommittee, my priority will be to make certain that legislation moves forward to keep our economy growing, while keeping government spending within fiscally responsible limits, all with the goal of maintaining job growth strong.

I thank you for again giving me the opportunity to work to advance our South Florida agenda during the 109th Congress. Please feel free to contact my office with any questions or suggestions you may have.

Cordially,

*Lincoln*  
Lincoln Diaz-Balart



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# South Florida

## 2004 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

By working in Congress to advance our shared priorities for the 21st District, I was proud have successfully secured federal funding for South Florida's needs. This funding allows us to make a sound investment in important projects that serve the diverse needs of communities throughout the District. Below are some of those key projects.

### South Florida is an educational hub—We must strive to offer preeminent educational opportunities at all levels.

- At my request, \$2 million was dedicated to support the University of Miami Lehman Injury Research Center and Ryder Trauma Center—funding that will address the health care needs of our area, while also assisting the men and women of our military.
- An additional \$1.7 million was obtained to help support programs at important community based institutions in education throughout the district, assisting our regional universities.
- I also proudly joined the bi-partisan effort to pass the Child Nutrition Improvement and Integrity Act. This legislation was designed to ensure that America's most vulnerable children receive the assistance they need by investing billions of dollars in child nutrition and related programs in communities nationwide.

### Miami-Dade and Broward Counties continue to grow at a rapid pace. While growth can bring benefits to a region, it also places strains on local services.

- Last year, I worked to ease congestion on area roads and helped provide for the continuity of water services in the 21st District.

Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart presents Dr. Michael Gordon, Associate Dean for Research in Medical Education at the University of Miami, with federal funds to support expansion of the Center for Research for Medical Education.



- \$5.4 million in federal funding was secured to help expand and improve local highways and transit service and to support the expansion of a water treatment facility.

### Providing employment opportunities and expanding economic prosperity throughout our region is a top priority.

- In 2004, tens of thousands of jobs were created throughout Miami-Dade and Broward counties.
- I was proud to help pass the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 which helped keep the economy growing and provided job opportunities for those seeking employment throughout our area.

### One of the most important tasks facing our nation is to make our country safe from terrorist attacks.

- In the wake of the 9/11 attacks, the Homeland Security Committee was established to help coordinate the resources dedicated to protecting our nation from a terrorist attack and, in part, to oversee the Department of Homeland Security. As the Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee's Subcommittee on Rules, I was responsible for providing the legislative framework for making the Homeland Security Committee a permanent reality, providing guidance and leadership to the new, important department.
- Making certain our local emergency personnel have the resources needed, in addition to providing funding for increased security costs at our air and sea ports, is a shared responsibility for all levels of government. South Florida has benefited from a wide array of homeland security funding for local first responders and related operations at our local air and sea ports.

# Looking Forward

## 2005 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

We have achieved great progress on behalf of the people of the South Florida—but there is still much to be done. I look forward to working on your behalf on an aggressive legislative agenda to protect America and assist our community.

### Protecting America

- Under the leadership of President Bush, our nation has made great strides toward protecting all Americans from terrorist attacks. Just this month, I helped secure \$20 million in federal funding for Miami International Airport's explosive detection system. This system is used by MIA to facilitate the screening of checked bags and for the screening bulk-break cargo. It is vital that the lines of communication remain open among local, state and federal officials regarding potential threats and that emergency personnel have access to the resources necessary to prevent and respond to crises. I will continue to work to strengthen the security of our nation and local community.

Congressman Diaz-Balart at a Rules Committee hearing. The Congressman was recently named Vice-Chairman of the Committee and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process.



### Protecting Social Security for Today's Seniors and for Generations to Come

- As Congress begins to examine ways to make certain that Social Security is preserved, protected and strengthened for those entering retirement—and for future generations—many issues and ideas will undoubtedly be discussed. I intend to review all proposals for their merits, but will not waiver in my commitment to current and future retirees to protect Social Security. A truly thoughtful debate should yield the most benefit for beneficiaries today and for generations to come.



### Ensuring Taxpayer Dollars Are Spent Wisely

- I have always supported legislative initiatives designed to support small businesses and to help provide job opportunities for those seeking employment. Making certain that your hard earned tax dollars are spent appropriately is a top concern. I will continue to support tax relief for working Americans and incentives to spur small business growth. Working with our community leaders to identify economic priorities, I will remain a strong advocate for a pro-jobs, pro-growth agenda for South Florida in Congress.



Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart meets with employees of Boston Scientific during a visit to the facility on February 28th. Congressman Diaz-Balart also received an award for Legislative Excellence from the National Association of Manufacturers.