



Congressman Wally Herger



Reports from Washington

109th Congress - Second Session

Volume One

Dear Friends:

As Congress considers an important agenda this year, we should reflect on the considerable progress our nation has made in improving the safety and prosperity of Americans since September 11, 2001.

Our men and women in uniform can be proud of their critical role in fighting terrorism, defeating dangerous regimes, and bringing forth new democracies. Afghans voted to elect a democratic government to replace the regime that harbored al-Qaeda in Afghanistan. And Iraqis ignored threats of violence and voted in overwhelming numbers to replace a brutal and aggressive regime that actively supported terrorism in the heart of the Middle East. The spread of democracy makes our nation safer, because free governments typically don't harbor terrorists--they pursue them.

At home, the tax relief of 2001 and 2003 has benefited virtually every American taxpayer, and continues to spur economic growth. Nearly five million new jobs have been created since May of 2003. Pro-growth policies have laid the groundwork for a strong economy and continued growth in the future.

Recognizing the need for greater fiscal responsibility, Congress recently passed a measure to save \$40 billion in federal spending. It also extended and expanded the extraordinarily successful 1996 welfare-to-work law, helping to elevate even more vulnerable families out of poverty and toward self-sufficiency. As chairman of the subcommittee of jurisdiction, I worked actively to pass this measure.

And because much more needs to be done to curb illegal immigration, the House passed a measure to improve our nation's border security. We also passed legislation to improve the Endangered Spe-

cies Act by allowing our communities to pursue a sensible environmental policy without compromising public health and safety. These measures await Senate approval.



I will continue to support legislation to reform government programs that are growing at an unsustainable rate, update our environmental policy, and strengthen our nation's immigration policy. And I'll continue to support our troops and back measures that provide them the resources needed to win the War on Terrorism.

My number one priority continues to be representing the interests of Northern California. This report contains a questionnaire that I hope you will fill out and return. It also includes the schedule for spring town hall meetings throughout our district. I encourage you to attend one of these meetings and voice your opinions. Knowing your viewpoints and concerns helps me better represent you.

Sincerely,

Wally
WALLY HERGER
Member of Congress



Above, Congressman Herger joins Siskiyou County Sheriff Rick Riggins and Jeff Kennedy, whose home was completely destroyed by recent flooding. Flooding caused considerable damage throughout the North State. Herger will continue to work to secure flood control funding for Northern California.

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Town Hall Schedule



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Town Hall Meeting Schedule

I will be holding a series of town hall meetings throughout our District. These meetings are an excellent opportunity to influence what happens in Congress. I hope you will come and participate by asking questions, offering comments, and sharing your concerns.



Monday, March 20

Weaverville

Noon - Trinity County Library (Conference Room)
211 North Main Street

Hamilton City

6:00 PM - Hamilton High School (Cafeteria)
Highway 32 and Canal Street

Tuesday, March 21

Woodland

9:00 AM - Woodland Public Library Office
250 First Street

Williams

1:00 PM - Williams City Hall
810 E Street

Yuba City

4:00 PM - Flower House, Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds
442 Franklin Avenue

Wednesday, March 22

Durham

6:00 PM - Durham Memorial Hall
9319 Midway

Friday, March 24

Red Bluff

4:00 PM - City Council Chambers
555 Washington Street

Saturday, March 25

Redding

9:00 AM - Board of Supervisors Chambers
1450 Court Street

Weed

1:00 PM - City Council Chambers
550 Main Street

Reforming our Government

Growth in "mandatory spending" jeopardizes the future of our nation's financial health. As enrollment in entitlement programs increases with the retirement of the baby boomers, mandatory spending will skyrocket.

In 1963, it comprised only 25 percent of federal spending. Today, it accounts for 54%. By 2014, it is expected to reach 60%. The number will get larger every year.

Growth in mandatory spending limits the amount of federal funding available for national defense, energy, and infrastructure. If not addressed, it will be detrimental to our nation.

The growth in mandatory spending compels us to reform our government. Ignoring it will place an unjust financial burden on our children and grandchildren, and threaten the viability of these important "safety net" programs.

In 2005, Congress took a good first step toward reforming government and removing fraud in mandatory programs, but much more needs to be done.

Addressing this challenge won't be easy. But it is the responsible thing to do.



Above, Congressman Herger joins Governor Schwarzenegger and other California leaders at the dedication of the Northern California State Veterans Cemetery. Herger was an early advocate of increasing the federal share of the cemetery's construction costs. The effort was successful, as federal funding paid for 100% of these costs.

2006 Questionnaire - Offer Your Voice!

Please mark your responses, cut out this page and fold so return address on other side faces outward.

Immigration - With my strong support, the House recently passed a tough border enforcement measure. Later this year, the House may consider adding a guest worker program to this legislation. I would greatly value your feedback regarding possible guest worker proposals.

Constituent #1

Constituent #2

YES NO UNSURE

YES NO UNSURE

(1) Would you support a program whereby individuals currently residing in foreign countries could enter the U.S. legally, work temporarily (as farm labor, for instance), and then return to their native country after a limited period?

Regarding the ten to fifteen million illegal immigrants currently in the U.S., which of the following potential guest worker proposals would you support? Feel free to answer "YES" to more than one, or none, of the possible proposals.

(2) Require them to return to their homeland immediately and reapply through a well-monitored process, before being allowed to work temporarily in the U.S?

(3) Allow them to stay in the U.S. permanently, not be penalized for their current presence in the U.S., and be placed on track to obtain American citizenship?

(4) Allow them to stay in the U.S. and be given a temporary work permit, but require that they identify themselves, pay a considerable fine, and then leave the country once their permit expires (subject to immediate deportation for not doing so)?

Additional Thoughts: _____

War on Terrorism

(1) Do you believe the National Security Agency (NSA) should continue its current program of monitoring international communications between suspected terrorists abroad and individuals in the United States?

Additional thoughts: _____

(2) Do you believe the United States should continue its military presence in Iraq until our mission is complete?

Additional thoughts: _____

Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit - (REMINDER: Enrollment for the plan continues through May 15, 2006. For more information, call 1-800-MEDICARE, or visit www.medicare.gov on the Internet).

(1) Have you or a relative signed up for drug coverage under the new Medicare prescription drug plan?

(2) If so, will you or your relative save money on your prescription drug costs?

Feel free to provide additional details about your potential savings under the plan, or anything else about your individual experience with the new program.

Congressman Wally Herger
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Return Address (please print)
Name
Street
City
State
Zip Code

Place
Stamp
Here

America Remains A Nation At War

As debate rages regarding the National Security Agency (NSA) intercepts of international communications of terrorists with individuals in America, some have accused President Bush of breaking the law. I disagree, and believe he has taken the right action.

Osama bin Laden's recent threats reveal a terrorist network that, while weakened, still plots to murder innocent Americans. Due to the efforts of our military and improved intelligence gathering, there have been profound victories in the War on Terrorism in recent years, and we have thwarted attacks. But make no mistake, we are still a nation at war.

That is why I believe it is entirely appropriate and wise to continue the NSA surveillance program. To disrupt possible threats, we must be able to monitor the international communications of all suspected terrorists. Only Americans who are talking to suspected terrorists need be concerned about the NSA monitoring their calls.

The president is not above the law, and safeguarding the constitutional rights of Americans shouldn't be an afterthought during war. But I firmly believe President Bush acted within his authority when he instituted the NSA program. John Schmidt, former associate attorney general under President Clinton, agrees, noting that the program "is consistent with court decisions and with the positions of the Justice Department under prior presidents."

The NSA surveillance program has reportedly helped prevent a missile launcher from being smuggled into America, and a fertilizer bomb from blowing up in London. Put simply, the program has helped save lives.

Al-Qaeda and its allies are listening to this debate, with the hope of finding that the American people are losing the will to do what is needed to defend our nation. We must take every lawful action to listen to their communications, with the hope of bringing them to justice and protecting Americans.

"We must take every lawful action to listen to (Al-Qaeda's) communications, with the hope of bringing them to justice and protecting Americans," Herger said.



Above, Congressman Herger speaks with guests at the National Guard "Support Our Troops" event in Chico. Herger thanked our men and women in uniform for defending our nation's freedom. He also strongly defended our mission in Iraq, pointing out that the country has seen tremendous progress since becoming a democracy. He indicated he would oppose any legislation calling for immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops.

Congressman
Wally Herger



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House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
Official Business

Wally Herger
M.C.
Presorted Standard

Reports from Washington
2006 Questionnaire