



Dear Friend-

I'm pleased to bring you this edition of the 1st Congressional District newsletter as it highlights significant results I've been working and fighting for on the legislative front in Washington, D.C. and within the district – all on your behalf.

Addressing health disparities and bringing back federal resources to enhance infrastructure and improve education remain top priorities.

Back in April, I hosted an educational symposium where school administrators and No Child Left Behind representatives shared available resources for parents, teachers and students.

My demand for justice in the 1955 murder case of Emmett Till began to unfold last month when the Department of Justice assisted the state of Mississippi in exhuming the body of Mr. Till as part of their investigation efforts. A final report is expected to be released in the fall.

There is no doubt that the increased media attention surrounding postpartum depression will aid efforts in getting my bill, **H.R. 1940 – Melanie Blocker Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act** passed in this current 109th Congress. Since reintroducing the bill in May, I've been working in partnership with postpartum depression support groups, hospitals and national organizations focusing on mental health and women's issues to ensure we preserve families and erase the stigma of mental illness.

Creating opportunities for entrepreneurs and established businesses to flourish is a priority that is not only necessary, but critical to community stabilization and growth. This year alone, I've brought several business training workshops and grant resource seminars in partnership with state and federal organizations at various locations throughout the district. I also introduced two bills, **H.R. 2639 – The Small Business Intermediary Lending Pilot Program Act of 2005** and **H.R. 2640 – The SBA Microenterprise Improvement Act**, which collectively increases loan amounts, lowers interest rates and provides training for small businesses. Both of these bills await hearings in the Committee and need your support.

Lastly, I've been working to enhance communication between my offices and your home or place of business. Please visit my Web site (www.house.gov/rush), which has been upgraded with your needs in mind. As always, your feedback is welcomed as it helps facilitate addressing your concerns and identifying potential opportunities to strengthen the quality of life for you and your neighbors in the 1st Congressional District.

Bobby L. Rush

Bobby L. Rush, M.C.

\$13 Million for Transportation Projects

Congressman Rush secured over \$13 million for road, highway and other related transportation projects throughout the 1st Congressional District as part of the \$287 billion approved six-year highway and construction bill passed by Congress and signed into law by President Bush. "As part of my ongoing commitment to enhance the quality of life and stimulate economic growth in the First Congressional District, the passing of this bill will help achieve this goal through a number of transportation enhancement projects," said Rush.



Congressman Rush details transportation projects as South Suburban mayors look on. From l. to. r.: Alsip Mayor Arnold Andrews, Evergreen Park Mayor James Sexton, Orland Hills Mayor Kyle R. Hastings, Robbins Mayor Irene H. Brodie, Markham Mayor David Webb, Jr.

The approved projects were the culmination of working with South Suburban mayors, city officials and transportation representatives to better understand and identify projects.

Current projects for the 1st Congressional District include:

- **\$1,600,000** - Improve 63rd Street, Chicago.
- **\$800,000** - Improve Cottage Grove intersection, South Chicago Avenue and 71st Street, Chicago
- **\$400,000** - Upgrade traffic signal system on 87th Street, Chicago.
- **\$480,000** - Construct I-57 Bridge Overpass, City of Markham.
- **\$400,000** - Construct Streetscape Project, City of Markham.
- **\$800,000** - Construct Bridge Overpass, DuSable Museum, Chicago.
- **\$320,000** - Resurface Clifton Park Ave. and S. Louis Ave., Village of Evergreen Park.
- **\$320,000** - Resurface Trumbull Ave. and Homan Ave., Evergreen Park.
- **\$320,000** - Construct Bike, Pedestrian Paths, Orland Hills.
- **\$320,000** - Construct Streetscape Project, Orland Hills.
- **\$640,000** - Construct Streetscape Project, Village of Robbins.
- **\$560,000** - Widen and improve Pulaski Road, Alsip.
- **\$800,000** - Construct I-80, Ridgeland Ave. Improvements, Tinley Park.
- **\$4,180,000** - Construct intermodal facility at 35th Street at Metra Red Line (Northside), Chicago.
- **\$836,000** - Establish Transit Signal Priority, Cicero Ave., Pace Suburban Bus.
- **\$250,800** - Feasibility Study for intermodal station on the Metra Rock Island near Kennedy-King College, Chicago, IL

Total: \$13,026,800

Please send any comments about this story to:
rushreply@mail.house.gov



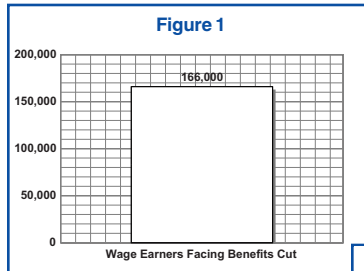


Social Security Proposed Reform Negatively Impacts the 1st Congressional District According to Report

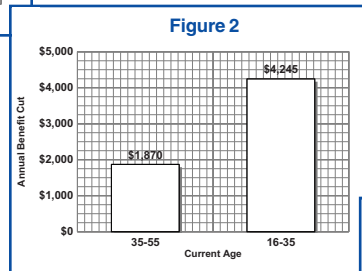
At Congressman Bobby L. Rush's request, the United States House of Representatives' Committee on Government Reform - Minority Staff prepared a report, which reveals the negative impact of President Bush's Social Security proposal on working families in Illinois' 1st Congressional District. He requested the report after hearing constituent concerns at a Social Security townhall meeting he held earlier this year.

Specifically, the report finds that Bush's plan would:

- **Cut benefits for more than 160,000 - or 68 percent of wage earners contributing to Social Security in the First Congressional District.** There are over 245,000 wage earners in the district who are currently contributing to Social Security. (See Figure 1)
- **Result in significant benefit cuts for individual wage earners in the 1st Con-**



gressional District. For wage earners between the ages of 35 and 55, the average benefit cut would be \$1,8750 per year. For younger wage earners, the average benefit cut would be \$4,245 per year. Over 39,000 wage earners in the district would face benefit cuts of over 20%. (See Fig-

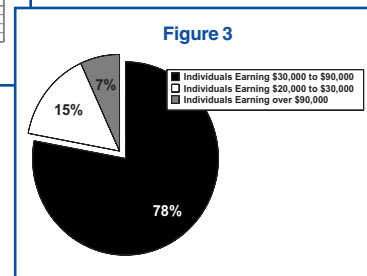


ure 2)

- **Reduce total benefits by over \$12 billion for current wage earners in the 1st Congressional District.** Over their lifetimes, wage earners in the district who are currently contributing to Social Security would lose \$12.8 billion in benefits under the

President's plan. More than 78% of this cut will come from middle-class workers who earn between \$30,000 and \$90,000 annually. (see Figure 3)

- **Leave open the option to cut benefits for widows and surviving children in the district.** Social Security benefits for surviving spouses and children are tied to the benefits earned by the deceased wage earner. Because the President has yet to explain how the benefits cuts he is proposing for wage earners will affect surviving spouses and children, no precise estimate of the impact on his proposal of sur-



viving spouses and children is possible. But the number of survivors likely to be affected is large. In coming months, Rep. Rush will continue to meet with his constituents and colleagues regarding this issue.

Rush's Quest for Justice Moves Forward with Exhumation of Emmett Till

Congressman Rush's demand for justice in the 1955 murder case of 14-year-old Emmett Till began to unfold in early June when the Department of Justice and the state of Mississippi exhumed Till's body as part of their investigation efforts. He introduced a resolution in 2004 calling on the DOJ to reopen and reinvestigate the case swiftly and thoroughly due to the amount of time that has passed and the age of any witnesses. "I remain



Congressman Rush (center) introduces resolution calling on the Department of Justice to reopen and reinvestigate Emmett Till's 1955 murder case. Pictured from l. to r.: Ald. Ed Smith, Bertha Thomas (Till's cousin), Simeon Wright (Till's cousin).

optimistic that this exhumation process is just one step of many that will ultimately lead to closure and convictions of any surviving co-conspirators involved in Emmett Till's death," said Rush. He continues to be in contact with Assistant Attorney General for the DOJ's Civil Rights Division, Alex Acosta regarding developments in the case. A final report is expected to be released in the fall.

Congressman Rush Proposes Two House Bills to Aid Entrepreneurs

U.S. Representative Bobby L. Rush recently presented two bills to the House of Representatives that will facilitate small businesses in obtaining small and mid-size loans. The Small Business Intermediary Lending Pilot Program Act of 2005 (H.R. 2639) promotes the establishment of a pilot program to provide low interest loans to nonprofit, community-based lending agencies and provide midsize loans between \$35,000 and \$200,000 to small businesses, while the SBA Microenterprise Improvement Act (H.R. 2640) calls for the revision of eligibility requirements and an increase in the maximum amount small business owners can request for microloans. If passed, these bills will not only bolster struggling business startups, but also provide employment opportunities in surrounding communities.

"Microloan programs create jobs that stay in the community, which is very important these days as we hear of increased off-shore movements by large corporations to remain competitive worldwide," Rush said. "These programs also foster entrepreneurship, opportunities for growth and economic independence."

He is currently seeking support from his congressional colleagues and his constituents. Both bills are presently at the committee level.





Your Voice in Washington

What stories/news did you find most interesting in this newsletter edition? 1 being the most interesting. 6 least interesting.

- Transportation funding
- Postpartum depression update
- Emmett Till update
- Social Security update
- Small Business Legislation
- Tsunami update

How do you currently receive city and community news?

- Local/daily newspaper (e.g. Chicago Sun-Times, Chicago Defender, Chicago Tribune, Daily Southtown)
- Television
- Community newspaper (please name) _____
- Radio

- Word of mouth
- other (please name) _____

What are the most important issues that you feel need to be addressed in the 1st Congressional District? 1 most important. 7 least important.

- email _____
- Housing
- Job creation
- Social Security
- Health
- Education
- Prisoner re-entry
- Community Improvements

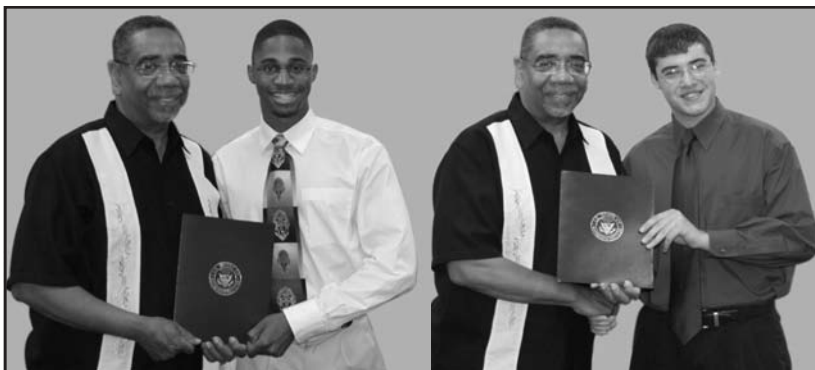
How do you usually hear about news concerning Congressman Rush? 1 most frequent. 6 least frequent.

- Local/daily newspaper (Chicago Sun-Times,

- Chicago Defender, Chicago Tribune, Daily Southtown)
- Television
- Community newspaper (please name)
- Radio
- Word of mouth
- Other (please name) _____

Additional Comments:

Thank you for your participation. Please clip on the dashed line and mail to Congressman Rush's office: You can also drop it off during regular business hours at any of our office locations.



Congressman Rush congratulates his military academy nominees on their appointments. Pictured on the left is Chauncy Gray, graduate of Bremen High School and resident of Midlothian. Gray was accepted into the Naval Academy. On the right is Adam Hillier, graduate of Oak Forest High School and resident of Midlothian. Hillier was accepted into the Air Force Academy. Not pictured is Lynn Jones, graduate of South Shore High School (2004), West Point Prep School (2005) and resident of Chicago. Jones was accepted into the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Student Zone

Congressman Bobby L. Rush in partnership with the Metropolitan Library System recently launched the Student Zone as part of upgrades to his newly enhanced Web site. The Student Zone is designed and targeted to assist students of all ages in Chicago and the surrounding suburbs. Features include:

- How various branches of the federal government work – a great research tool for elementary and middle school children
- Access to scholarships and financial aid
- Information about state colleges and universities for college bound students
- Referral sites for parents and teachers that include tips on how to keep kids safe while surfing the Internet.

These are just a few of the abounding benefits the Web-site has to offer parents, teachers and students in the Chicagoland area.

For more information, visit www.house.gov/rush and click on **Student Center**.

Military Academy Nominations

For students interested in applying to one of the service academies, our office may be able to provide nominations to those who qualify.

These academies include: U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado

U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut • U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York

U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York • U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland

For more information on applying for a Congressional Nomination, please call my Chicago District office at 773-224-6500.

Application deadline is in November.

We Want To Connect With You

In addition to calling or visiting Congressman Rush's offices, log on to his recently upgraded Web site and:

- ✓ Sign up for his e-newsletter
- ✓ View his sponsored legislation
- ✓ Plan to attend upcoming events and workshops with our updated calendar listings
- ✓ Link to areas of interest in the 1st Congressional District
- ✓ Learn how to do business with the federal government
- ✓ Get information on grant funding and how to write proposals
- ✓ Download military academy nomination applications
- ✓ Research scholarships and learn how the federal government works in our new Student Center
- ✓ E-mail questions, suggestions and concerns

www.house.gov/rush



Tsunami Relief Efforts

Congressman Bobby L. Rush hosted a Feb 18 tsunami candlelight vigil memorial service to restore hope to survivors coping with the aftermath of last December's tsunami. During the vigil, he extended his condolences and paid tribute to individuals who lost family or friends in the disaster, including Hyde Park resident Tamara Mendis, who was in Sri Lanka when the tsunami hit. "If we can come together as a city, we can bring about change for the tsunami victims and other natural disasters," Rush said.

That change was sparked when he hosted a tourism fair to increase travel to areas impacted by the



Congressman Rush meets with members of his Asian American Advisory Council to discuss tsunami relief effort plans.

tsunami, which coincided with Asian Pacific American Heritage Month three months later. "The Tourism Fair was designed to help areas impacted by the tsunami and to honor the unsung heroes who played a major role in coordinating relief efforts," said Rush. "It is also an opportunity to recognize the Asian Pacific culture." The May 13 event showcased cultural performances and Asian tourism officers, as well as recognized local community organizations and individuals that aided tsunami relief efforts.

Please send any comments about this story to: rushreply@mail.house.gov

U.S. Rep. Bobby L. Rush Continues Fight for Postpartum Depression Legislation

As part of his reintroduction of The Melanie Blocker-Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act (H.R. 1940), Congressman Bobby L. Rush held a press conference and pledged to continue fighting in support of his bill on behalf of mothers and families. Rep. Rush invited his congressional colleagues and women who have suffered from postpartum depression (PPD). Speakers included First Lady Mary Jo Codey, wife of New Jersey Acting Governor Richard Codey and PPD survivor. The event coincided with National Mental Health Month, and was driven by the increased number of reported cases of women who have either harmed themselves or their children since the bill was first introduced in 2001. Congressman Rush is optimistic that as more women speak out, his congressional colleagues will step up with support this time around.

"Postpartum depression affects up to 20% of all mothers and does not discriminate against race, class or income," said Rush. "By targeting women, my bill ensures the entire family unit is healthy and prosperous."

Last September, the Subcommittee on Health Committee on Energy and Commerce, of which he is a member, heard testimony from Carol Blocker, mother of Melanie Blocker Stokes, in support of his bill during

the "Improving Women's Health: Understanding Depression After Pregnancy" hearing.

The bill also has the support of national postpartum depression support groups, hospitals, mental health organization as well as various women and family support networks.



Congressman Rush meets with Adina Rauer, PPD survivor; Dr. Gwendolyn Puryear Keita, Ph.D., American Psychological Association; First Lady Mary Jo Codey, PPD survivor and wife of NJ Governor Richard Codey; Teresa Twomey, PPD survivor, during a press conference where he reintroduced his bill, H.R. 1940 – Melanie Blocker Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act.

Please send any comments about this story to: rushreply@mail.house.gov

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