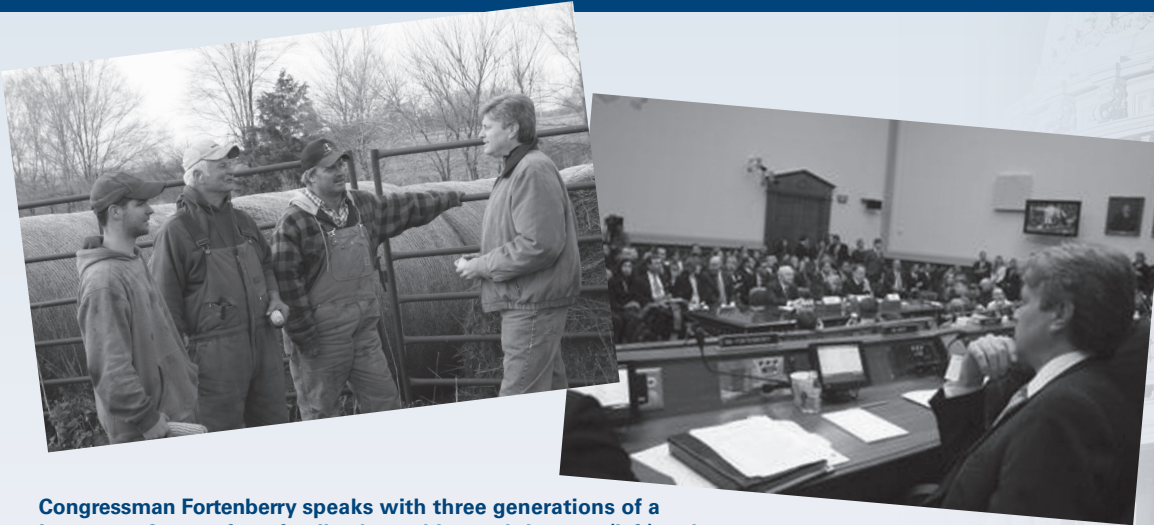


The Year-End Report

Congressman Jeff Fortenberry

December 2009



Congressman Fortenberry speaks with three generations of a Lancaster County farm family about this year's harvest (left) and examines new Afghan strategy with Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during a hearing of the Foreign Affairs Committee (right).

Dear Friends,

It is a tremendous honor to serve as your Representative in Congress. This report provides you with a commentary and summary of work involving a number of our nation's most pressing matters.

In the Heartland, we Nebraskans in many ways represent what's best about America – hard work, responsibility, commitment to family and community. Due in large part to this important cultural heritage, we have weathered difficult times with an uncommon resilience and strength.

As you know, we live in very serious times and are not immune to the ill effects of economic hardship, social duress, and international instability. To address these challenges, my work in Congress is guided by five fundamental principles: strengthening national security and global stability; creating patient-centered health care; promoting economic opportunity through small business entrepreneurship, strong local economic connectedness and rural vitality; developing clean, renewable energy sources for a sustainable energy future; and upholding family life and culture.

This report details my office's efforts over the last year. As always, we welcome your thoughts and input. Please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress

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Patient-Centered Health Care Reform

As you well know, our nation has been engaged for some time in a very important and spirited debate about the direction of our health care system. No one disputes the diagnosis – we must strengthen health care in America. I have repeatedly emphasized that our deliberations should be thoughtful and center on improving health outcomes and reducing costs – especially for families and small businesses – while protecting vulnerable persons. The question is what will be most effective.

The House Health Care Bill

On Saturday, November 7, at about 11pm, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3962, the House health care bill, by a vote of 220–215.

The vote followed a long period of public discourse, and over the past several months, thousands of Nebraskans have shared with me their thoughts on the matter. Some have raised heartfelt concerns regarding challenges of affordability and the need for reasonable reforms. Many have expressed deep unease about plans to dramatically change health care financing and the implications for public costs and quality of care.

In my view, the House bill is risky public policy. It is a mind-numbingly complex and costly prescription that is nearly 2,000 pages long with a cost of \$1.3 trillion. While I agree we should promote a health care culture that focuses on wellness and prevention, remove lifetime caps on care, and help those with pre-existing conditions, this bill will not meet the test of reducing costs, nor is it likely to improve the quality of care. Instead, it will simply shift costs to more government health care programming and reduce health care liberties. For these reasons, I voted against the measure.

Wellness and Prevention

One of my priorities is shifting the health care paradigm from a system that treats the symptoms of sickness and disease

to one that promotes lifelong wellness and prevention for all Americans.

Currently, in part due to a change in age demographics, but predominantly because of lifestyle habits and the rise in obesity, chronic diseases have displaced acute diseases as the major causes of morbidity and mortality in the U.S. Seven of every 10 American deaths are attributed to chronic diseases, and 75 cents of every health care dollar are spent on the treatment of chronic diseases.

I support creating new incentives for wellness to expand and promote a culture of health with a shift toward prevention rather than simply treatment of diseases. In so doing, we will succeed in tackling a primary driver of our health care costs while strengthening the health

of Americans. In August I hosted a field hearing of the House Agriculture Committee's Nutrition subcommittee on this matter. Held in Lincoln, the hearing titled "Addressing the 'Health' in Health Care: Nutrition, Prevention, and Wellness Practices," featured testimony from wellness experts and regional businesses that are saving money and improving health by implementing wellness programs. You can view video from the hearing at fortenberry.house.gov.

Existing Public Services, New Models for Insurance and Care

Congress must also address more cost-effective avenues of health care delivery for our most vulnerable, such as strengthening community-based safety nets, like community health centers. Similarly, home health services provide care management to the chronically ill and disabled in the comfort of their homes while lowering the costs of care. New insurance models would also address these cost issues. Commonsense reforms such as the portability of insurance, buying insurance across state lines, and creating new insurance association models for farmers, small business people, and families for more affordable options should be prioritized.

Below are some of the efforts I have led to address these significant issues:



Congressman Fortenberry addresses a question about health care policy during a town hall meeting at Faith Regional Health Services in Norfolk (top) and meets with students at Lincoln Southwest High School following a town hall meeting about health care reform (bottom).

America's Affordable Health Care Act of 2009 (H.R. 109). In America, you shouldn't have to lose your health care if you lose your job or have a pre-existing condition. This legislation would promote affordable health insurance options for individuals who do not receive health coverage through their employer, and create better health coverage opportunities for those with chronic health conditions who might otherwise be unable to secure health insurance for themselves or their families.

State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) Plus Act of 2009 (H.R. 321). This would give the families of children eligible for SCHIP an option of using SCHIP or receiving help to obtain (or retain) a family insurance plan. This sensible expansion of this government children's health care program is an efficient use of

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taxpayer dollars and would ensure participating Nebraska families have access to quality and affordable private health insurance choice.

Health and Wellness for Americans Act of 2009 (H.R. 3830). This proposal would establish a national benchmark for prevention and wellness, upon which incentives for individuals and programs may be based, to help individuals lower their risks of chronic disease and reduce the overall incidence of chronic disease on a national scale.

Hospice Support Act of 2009 (H.R. 3831). This bill would prevent reductions in the reimbursement of hospice services. Hospice is clearly a compassionate health care alternative for many patients and their families struggling with a terminal illness. By combining medical care, pain management, and emotional and spiritual support, hospice allows patients and their families the freedom to receive end-of-life care in the home or homelike setting.

Financial Stability and Economic Opportunity

Our state's economy, although not immune to the effects of the larger economic downturn, has remained resilient and relatively strong. Buoyed by a stable agricultural economy, small business innovation, economic diversification, and Nebraskans' strength of character in making fiscal decisions, our state maintains one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country. Tellingly, Nebraska is often near the top of national rankings of best places to start a business.

However, we live in uncertain economic times and it is important our nation is not again left vulnerable to financial collapse. There are several ways we can help build lasting economic recovery, including better control of government spending, encouraging small business entrepreneurship and strong local economies, and providing critical oversight of the Wall Street financial industrial complex and institutions considered "too big to fail."

Economic Stimulus

The entirety of the \$787 billion stimulus package enacted in early 2009 put us on a path of unsustainable spending that will be very difficult to reverse. After carefully deliberating on the size, scope, and sustainability of that economic package, and meeting with President Obama and members of his Administration, I could not in good conscience vote for the bill.

A number of important ideas were included, such as alternative energy, a modern electric grid, and health information technology. These are bold initiatives that I would support on their own merit. Yet a substantial portion of the stimulus assistance went to subsidizing states, which delays tough choices at the local level. Some states, like ours, have thus far responsibly

managed their budgets, even in tough times, and I could not ask Nebraskans to pay for poor governance elsewhere.

The Deficit and Budget Reform

Washington policy discussions should seriously focus on addressing the nation's fiscal imbalances. Since 2000, government spending and the national debt (now \$12 trillion) have doubled according to governmental statistics. The national debt consists of nearly \$40,000 for every man, woman, and child.

This borrow-and-spend philosophy leaves an unfair debt burden to our children and grandchildren. The bill for our excess will eventually come due in one of three ways: increased taxes on the next generation, increased inflation, and/or further dependence on foreign ownership of our public debt. None of these scenarios is healthy for the American people.

I am a cosponsor of H.J. Res. 1 which would amend the U.S. Constitution to require the president to submit a balanced budget to Congress within three years, that Congress not spend in excess of government revenues, and that a 3/5 majority vote be required to increase the debt limit.

I am also a cosponsor of the *Congressional Accountability and Line-Item Veto Act of 2009* (H.R. 1294), which would return to the President the authority to remove any limited tariff benefit or targeted tax benefit, or propose the repeal of any congressional earmark. Under the proposal, Congress would have the power to overrule the line-item veto.

Economic Recovery that Begins at Home

We should embrace a new philosophy based on the American traditions of responsibility and stewardship — of recovery and renewal based upon the solid foundation of local economic connectedness. Our economic stability cannot simply rely on bailing out those deemed "too big to fail."



Congressman Fortenberry helps Thurston County officials open the renovated courthouse in Pender (top) and addresses matters of small business entrepreneurship at a forum in South Sioux City (bottom).

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It is, after all, the individual working in his or her community, the family committed to its neighborhood or hometown, and the community leader using analysis based on proximity, who will strengthen the quality of life in the places they call home. Local businesses and local financiers best know the needs of their communities and are in their very essence more transparent and accountable. I believe it is imperative that our government's efforts be targeted toward helping these community-based entrepreneurs, whose successes are so often the bellwether of economic progress.

Small Business Entrepreneurship

Small businesses generate 60 to 80 percent of new jobs and 50 percent of private Gross Domestic Product (GDP). We need to focus attention on the small and local, rather than the big and unaccountable.

In October I supported the *Small Business Financing & Investment Act* (H.R. 3854), a bill that would help increase access to investment capital for small businesses through enhanced Small Business Administration (SBA) lending programs. The bill would expand capital investment options for new and existing small businesses. The legislation also provides new capital opportunities for small businesses in rural areas and those involved in innovative sectors of the economy such as renewable energy and health information technology.

Accountability and Oversight

As a member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, I have questioned top Treasury officials about the accountability of bailout funds. Treasury officials have agreed that there are systemic vulnerabilities in the financial sector due to financial institutions that have grown too large, and that thoughtful regulatory reform must be pursued.

One of our greatest concerns this year has been picking up the pieces from last year's financial disaster and the reckless behavior of Wall Street. We need a new paradigm shift. We should be asking, are these institutions too big to succeed?



Congressman Fortenberry speaks with employees at Hughes Brothers Incorporated in Seward about legislative initiatives to help manufacturing in Nebraska (top) and conducts a town hall meeting over the telephone with constituents throughout the First District (bottom).

Congress is in the process of rewriting regulation of the financial industry. As we move forward, we must carefully examine the systemic risk of institutions that have become too large and unaccountable.

Market Volatility

Over the last several years, we have seen market instability and the distortion of commodity markets leading to dramatic increases in the price of oil and gas as well as volatility in other financial markets. Earlier this year, I voted for legislation approved by the House Agriculture Committee that would help mitigate such risks by strengthening measures of accountability and transparency in commodities trading and certain financial instruments. At the same time, the legislation preserves legitimate futures market opportunities for farmers and manufacturers, the end-users of commodities for whom this market was originally intended.

National Security and Global Stability

National security is a fundamental duty of the U.S. government and one of my top priorities. As a member of the House Foreign Affairs and Oversight and Government Reform Committees, protecting Nebraska's families, communities, and our liberties in an increasingly complex world is of paramount concern. While securing our borders and keeping our military strong are essential obligations of Congress, fostering international stability and understanding among nations and peoples through the use of wise and effective diplomacy also remain a key priority. Upholding our longstanding commitment to inalienable human rights, especially for vulnerable populations, remains a most solemn obligation that continues to reflect the unique character of our great nation.

Afghanistan

We owe an enormous debt of thanks to our brave soldiers and their families for the steady security improvements in Iraq, and much focus now is on the situation in Afghanistan, where some 70,000 U.S. troops risk their lives each day. Throughout this tumultuous year, Afghanistan has faced a deteriorating security situation and complex governance challenges marred by allegations of widespread voter fraud in the August elections. President Obama has twice this year decided to increase America's troop commitment in Afghanistan, most recently announcing that 30,000 more American troops would soon be deployed.

In October I asked the President to direct General Stanley McChrystal, current commander of Afghan operations, to testify before Congress and present his assessment of what we and other nations must do to help stabilize Afghanistan and address global security threats emanating from the ungoverned tribal regions bordering Pakistan. The American people deserve to have a full understanding about our mission, objectives, and long-term goals in the region. These issues were

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addressed during General McChrystal's recent testimony before the Foreign Affairs Committee. Our commitment should be neither idle nor open-ended.

During the testimonies of Secretaries Clinton and Gates before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, my emphasis centered on increased commitment from other international powers, who are often content to benefit from American acts of sacrifice. The responsible community of nations must be engaged. This is not America's challenge alone; it is an international problem.

Nebraska National Guard & New Models of Diplomacy

Drawing on the diverse agricultural knowledge of Nebraska's citizen soldiers, the Nebraska National Guard last year deployed a team of experts in fields such as hydrology and soil chemistry to help Afghan people develop a viable agricultural economic enterprise, yielding more bountiful harvests and providing a practical alternative to illicit opium production. In August we welcomed those Guardsmen home after a successful deployment fostering basic agricultural processes such as crop rotation and soil analysis, which Nebraskans have long embraced as standard farming practices. This effort represents America's opportunity to share expertise and resources in hopes of setting the conditions for a lasting peace in Afghanistan.

It is important for our military and civilian experts to work more seamlessly with the State Department in the midst of combat and difficult situations. We must equip to fight, but also be ready to build. The Nebraska National Guard is leading the way in this effort.

Iraq and the Middle East

As Iraqi people look to their next national election in March 2010, their security situation has improved. Provincial elections in January 2009 were peacefully concluded. Pursuant to the Status of Forces Agreement negotiated by the U.S. and Iraqi governments in November 2008, the U.S. successfully completed the withdrawal of combat troops from Iraq's major cities by June



Congressman Fortenberry greets General Stanley McChrystal and Ambassador Karl Eikenberry before their testimony on military strategy in Afghanistan (top) and thanks veteran Lambert Mills with the Congressional Medal of Merit for his service during World War II (bottom).

30, 2009, as planned. Although several high-profile attacks in recent months underscore the delicacy of Iraq's security environment, U.S. combat brigades nevertheless remain on track to withdraw from Iraq by August 31, 2010. The Iraqi people must continue to be responsible for the stabilization of civil society and the security of all Iraqis, including the nation's vulnerable religious minorities.

Models of Peace

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, a critical event in the recent history of the Middle East. A bipartisan resolution I authored to commemorate this notable diplomatic achievement passed in the House of Representatives in March. As we continue to grapple with considerable challenges to an enduring peace in the Middle East, I hope

this effort will inspire leaders to work diligently to heal the difficult divisions that foster enmity in the region and threaten global security. Earlier this year, I also authored a successful amendment to the *FY 2010 Foreign Relations Authorization Act* (H.R. 2410), regarding the status of minority populations in the Middle East to ensure focus on their protection and survival.

Secure Borders and Immigration

While the nation's attention remains riveted on fundamental concerns about financial stability and health care, border security continues to register as a high priority for many Nebraskans. Uncontrolled borders and illegal entry into the country are serious threats to national security and good immigration policy. I remain committed to effective border security and enforcement of our immigration laws. We must also hold unscrupulous employers to account for exploiting vulnerable persons and distorting U.S. markets by creating an illicit demand for illegal labor. While the scourge of trafficking persons, drugs, and contraband into the United States continues to pose a tough challenge for our law enforcement, this past year we grew our border patrol to more than 20,000 along the Southwestern border. We should continue efforts to support our law enforcement officers, employ innovative technology, and strengthen state and federal cooperation to keep our communities safe. Yet, as we seek to enact reforms, it is important to remember that America has been a just and generous nation, opening her arms to persons — particularly those facing social or political persecution — who wish to come here and contribute to community life. Orderly immigration policies help maintain this hallmark of America's character.

Nuclear Security

The threat of nuclear terrorism remains a horrific danger to our nation, and demands ongoing focused attention by policymakers. The House Nuclear Security Caucus, which I co-founded with Representative Adam Schiff (D-CA), continues to raise awareness about global nuclear security vulnerabilities. The caucus focuses

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on initiatives to strengthen nuclear safeguards, secure fissile materials, and prevent the misuse of sensitive nuclear materials and technologies.

The caucus recently sponsored a debate with policy experts to assess the merits of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, and held an official briefing on the nuclear ambitions of extremist networks. This year I also authored a successful amendment to the *FY 2010 Foreign Relations Authorization Act* (H.R. 2410), to strengthen the International Atomic Energy Agency's nuclear safeguards capabilities, and sponsored legislation to enforce a provision of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978. This bill calls for the development of prudent, environmentally sound nuclear energy alternatives throughout the world, including the Middle East.

Military and Veterans

I deeply appreciate the dedication and commitment of our military men and women, and believe we in Congress have an obligation to serve those who have so faithfully served our country. This year I supported numerous pieces of legislation, such as the *FY 2010 Military Construction and Veterans Appropriations Act* (H.R. 3082), aimed at supporting our troops and improving the lives of our military veterans and retirees. My colleagues and I have also recognized the unique challenges women veterans encounter as a result of the changing dynamics in Iraq and Afghanistan. I am proud to have cosponsored the *Women Veterans Health Care Improvement Act* (H.R. 1211), which requires the Veterans Affairs Administration to ensure a proactive holistic approach to caring for our women veterans.

Welcoming home our troops from their deployments always provides a wonderful opportunity to visit with some of Nebraska's most outstanding individuals. At the current time, Nebraska's military personnel are serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere throughout the world. Many are toiling under harsh conditions to stabilize volatile regions and prevent them from offering sanctuary to

those who might do us harm. We must always remember their steadfast devotion, and honor those fallen heroes who have sacrificed their lives so that others may live in peace.

Remembering Those Who Served

Recently the House passed a resolution I authored commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift, a significant humanitarian relief operation in history. The House also passed my resolution honoring U.S. Embassy personnel who were taken hostage in Iran on November 4, 1979, and held for 444 days, along with the valiant soldiers who sacrificed their lives and sustained injuries in an aborted attempt to secure their rescue.



Congressman Fortenberry discusses nuclear weapons non-proliferation with members of the House Nuclear Security Caucus (top) and reviews new renewable fuels technology with former state senator Bob Dickey of Laurel (bottom).

Energy and Environmental Policy

America needs a bold new energy vision that expands clean, renewable resources. We must also greatly increase our energy efficiencies at work, at home, and on the road. These efforts will help lead our nation to a more sustainable energy future. Nebraska, which holds great potential for ag-based energy production as well as wind and solar development, can help lead the way.

Renewable Energy for Rural America

In July I successfully amended the *FY 2010 Agricultural Appropriations Act* (H.R. 2997), enhancing the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). This amendment expands help for rural communities and entrepreneurs seeking to integrate energy efficient technologies with small-scale systems using renewable sources, such as biofuels, biomass, geothermal, solar, and wind. These efforts help increase energy independence, conserve natural resources while protecting the environment, and create new economic opportunities for farmers and rural entrepreneurs.

Providing a Roadmap for Solar Development

In October I supported the *Solar Technology Roadmap Act of 2010* (H.R. 3585). This bill would help develop solar energy technologies and increase solar power's potential as a clean, reliable energy source across the country. It would refine and improve solar technologies and significantly expand resources for development. Solar power presents an important energy and economic opportunity in Nebraska, as our state ranks ninth nationally in solar energy production potential.

Harnessing the Wind's Power

Earlier this year, I joined Congresswoman Stephanie Herseth Sandlin (D-SD) to help introduce the *Rural Energy Equity Act* (H.R. 2037). This bill expands opportunities for wind energy production in rural America. Nebraska, like many states across the Midwest, has great potential in

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harnessing energy from the wind. This legislation would make construction of wind projects easier by repairing an inequity in the tax code.

Addressing Environmental Change

In June the House approved the “cap-and-trade” bill, which is intended to address climate change concerns. While I understand the interest in addressing this matter and the theoretical appeal of this approach, I have a number of serious concerns with its practicality and voted against the bill. One of the most significant problems is that the bill locks in reductions for the U.S. while other countries, including China, India, and Brazil, would have no similar restrictions.

This would likely lead to a further shift in manufacturing activities overseas with no net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. I believe that enactment of the cap-and-trade bill would put the U.S. at a serious economic disadvantage and impose added costs on families with no assurance of corresponding environmental benefits. The European Union implemented a cap-and-trade system in 2005. Early results indicate increased costs and a negligible reduction in emissions.

Several effective options exist to address emissions concerns and protect our land, water, and air. Increased energy efficiency and expanded development of clean energy, from biomass to geothermal, will most immediately help us increase energy security and environmental sustainability.

Family Life and Culture

Help for Those in Vulnerable Circumstances

This year I introduced the *Care for Life Act* (H.R. 643), a bill to help women who lack adequate family and community support during pregnancy and after childbirth. A study of why women in the United States make the decision for abortion includes these primary concerns: financial pressures; interference with work, school, or dependent care; not wanting to be a single parent; and problems with the father of the child.

Persons in vulnerable circumstances such as these must know they are not alone. This legislation seeks to help vulnerable women throughout their pregnancies and after childbirth by providing services to help alleviate financial, social, emotional, and other challenges that may otherwise compel a decision for abortion.

Protecting Human Life and Rights of Conscience

This past year saw numerous regulatory challenges to conscience rights for individuals, health care workers, and taxpayers concerned with federal funding for abortion and research that involves the destruction of human embryos. For the first time since 2001, House and Senate leadership decided to remove legal protections in legislation that would have prohibited the use

of U.S. taxpayer funds for overseas entities that provide or promote abortion.

As the author of several amendments to health care reform legislation pending before Congress and a measure to preserve conscience rights in health care, I remain deeply concerned about legislative and regulatory overreach that forces Americans to pay for or participate in ethically controversial programs.

Advancing Ethical Medical Research

The National Institutes of Health issued guidelines earlier this year revoking prior prohibitions on embryonic stem cell research, and the Department of Health and Human Services rescinded conscience protections established to ensure that health care providers are not forced to perform or promote activities that violate their deepest ethical convictions.

Regarding stem cells, it is my hope that researchers will continue to follow sound science and invest scarce federal funds in adult stem cell research, which avoids the ethically divisive issue of the destruction of human life through embryonic stem cell research. Adult stem cell research continues to advance at a rapid pace and has already led to life-saving treatments for more than 70 different conditions, including autoimmune disorders, genetic disease, heart tissue regeneration, leukemia, Parkinson’s disease, cerebral palsy, multiple myeloma, and sickle cell disease. This research is achieving results.

Healthy Recreational Opportunities for Families

Earlier this year I advocated to maintain and strengthen the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). This program has played an important role in developing trails that promote family-oriented recreation, economic growth, and environmental mitigation. Established in 1991, the RTP promotes healthier lifestyles, which can in turn lower health care costs. In Nebraska, more than 100 trails projects have received assistance as a result of this program.



Congressman Fortenberry speaks with students about current affairs and the civic process at Bishop Neumann High School in Wahoo (top) and speaks about health care and policies to protect innocent human life during a news conference on Capitol Hill (bottom).

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NEBRASKA ACTIVITIES

My office can help you in a variety of ways with federal issues. If you need assistance or have questions, please contact us. Here is an overview of some of our work in Nebraska in 2009:

- › Held Open Door meetings with hundreds of constituents throughout the First District
- › Addressed nearly 60,000 letters, e-mails, and calls from constituents regarding federal legislation
- › Conducted six public town hall meetings with constituents (in Lincoln, Norfolk, Wayne, Blair, Seward) to discuss health care reform and other federal matters
- › Conducted 11 town halls by telephone with constituents regarding health care reform and other federal matters
- › Hosted House Agriculture Committee field hearing in Lincoln – “Addressing the ‘Health’ in Health Care: Nutrition, Prevention, and Wellness Practices”
- › Conducted small business roundtable discussions of local economic conditions in Lincoln and southeast Nebraska and South Sioux City and northeast Nebraska
- › Held town hall meeting on agriculture and livestock production issues in West Point
- › Addressed 700 Nebraska business leaders at a gathering at the Strategic Air and Space Museum near Ashland
- › Addressed Nebraska schoolchildren at the annual Plum Creek Literacy Festival at Concordia University in Seward
- › Spoke with students about the civic process and current affairs at various First District high schools (Fort Calhoun High School, Norfolk High School, Lincoln Pius X, Wahoo Bishop Neumann)
- › Welcomed home Nebraska military personnel returning from service in Afghanistan and Iraq
- › Discussed energy policies and ideas with Nebraska’s First District ‘Green Team,’ an advisory council of renewable energy experts and entrepreneurs, who joined me to inspect the University of Nebraska’s “ZNETH” Project, a net zero energy home and building model for the newest clean energy technologies and energy efficiency methods
- › Assisted with important Nebraska projects involving flood control and environmental protection, transportation infrastructure, higher education, and military research and construction



Congressman Fortenberry speaks with a constituent about health care before a town hall meeting at the Lincoln People’s City Mission (left) and congratulates the Lux Middle School Science Bowl team for competing in the National Science Bowl and winning fifth place (right).



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