

2011

Getting Arizona & the United States Working Again

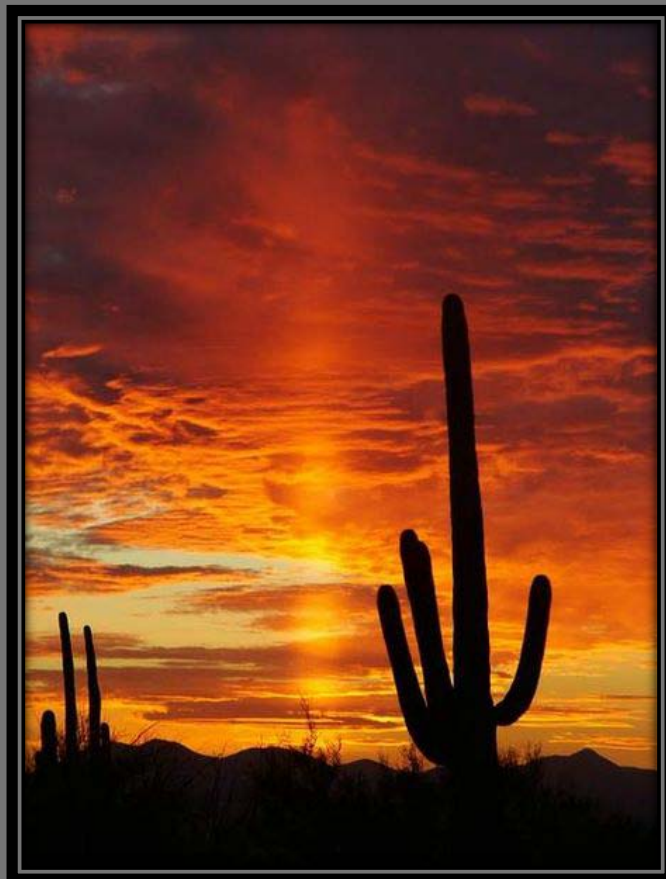


TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. WELCOME LETTER FROM REP. GRIJALVA

2. LEGISLATION AND POLICY

A. STRENGTHENING OUR ECONOMY AND OUR PEOPLE

- I. Rebuilding the Economy
- II. Fixing the Housing Market
- III. Protecting Social Security
- IV. Health Care is Your Right
- V. Fighting for Veterans

B. NEW JOBS FOR ARIZONA

- I. Small Business
- II. Border Commerce
- III. Direct Assistance

C. BETTER SCHOOLS AND TRAINING

- I. Early Childhood Education
- II. Elementary and Secondary Education
- III. Higher Education and Occupational Training

D. INVESTING IN OUR WORKERS

- I. Jobs and the Workforce
- II. Worker Training
- III. Employment Protections
- IV. Ensuring Equity

E. IMMIGRATION AND FOREIGN POLICY

- I. Afghanistan
- II. Iraq
- III. Immigration Reform

F. PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

- I. Enhancing America's Public Lands
- II. Conserving Arizona
- III. Climate Change and Renewable Energy
- IV. Clean Air and Water

G. NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

3. CONSTITUENT SERVICES

A. MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK BETTER FOR YOU: HELP WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES

- I. Saving You Money
- II. Talking With You
- III. Grant Support Letters

B. GOVERNMENT WORKING FOR YOU: CONSTITUENT SERVICE SUCCESS STORIES

Dear friends,

The story we've all been hearing is that Congress is broken and out of touch. Well, there are two sides to every story, and this report is that other side. In the following pages you'll see everything my hard-working staff and I did in 2011 – the bills I introduced, the forums we held, the hundreds of constituents we successfully helped with federal government issues, the money we helped save, the jobs we pushed to create. I'm proud of my record, and I believe voters deserve to know everything about how their representatives are acting on their behalf. That's why this report leaves nothing out.

When the House majority was voting to cut Medicare and unemployment insurance last year, I was fighting alongside my Congressional Progressive Caucus colleagues to protect working families and create millions of real jobs. When we were told to vote for corporate giveaways and put more of the burden on the middle class, I led the fight for a People's Budget that created jobs, balanced the books in 10 years and put some fairness back in the tax code. It was a busy year and it didn't always go the way we wanted, but being in the minority is no excuse not to fight hard every day for the working people of Southern Arizona. So that's what I did.

Our state has been through some tough times lately. Last June, *Phoenix Business Journal* ran a story headlined "Arizona among worst job creators in past five years, losing 253K jobs." We're still number two in the nation in home foreclosures. Instead of helping, the state legislature has responded by passing corporate tax giveaways and divisive laws like SB 1070. It can be hard to know where to look for some good news.

That's another reason I put together this report. Fighting for working families in Congress is a full-time job, but a lot of what my colleagues and I do in Washington is invisible to the public. Once a vote is cast or a letter is sent, Congress and the media move on. But it's important to remember everything that happened in the past year – not just the trials, but the triumphs. We put the national focus squarely on economic fairness. We prevented public lands giveaways to mining companies that aren't interested in keeping jobs in our state. As much as we continued to struggle economically, there were reasons to keep looking forward. I think 2012 is going to be even better.

I hope that by learning what we focused on in 2011 – creating jobs in our community, keeping hospitals open, putting more teachers in classrooms, protecting the Grand Canyon from uranium mining, and more – you'll be inspired to join the push for a stronger Arizona and a national economy that works for everyone.

Thank you for pushing me to do right by our community every day. Thank you for believing that government can be a force for good in people's lives. And thank you for taking a moment to learn more about all we did in 2011 and all that remains to be done to make Southern Arizona a better place to live.

Peace,
Raúl

2011

Legislation and Policy



STRENGTHENING OUR ECONOMY AND OUR PEOPLE



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Every day in Congress, I help lead the fight to protect America's working families and put Americans back to work. A strong progressive agenda will get our nation back on track, and I help shape this as co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. The CPC is the largest formally organized group of Representatives within the House Democratic Caucus. We promote *The Progressive Promise – Fairness For All*, and our core principles include:

- Fighting for economic justice and security for all
- Protecting and preserving our civil rights and civil liberties
- Promoting global peace and security
- Advancing environmental protection and energy independence

These same principles have guided my service to Southern Arizona for the past forty years. As we work to improve our economy, I have focused on several federal policy areas over the past year:

Rebuilding the Economy – We cannot tinker around the margins and hope that things get better. We need to go big. Focusing on serious job creation projects right away will help prevent further unemployment and underemployment. We cannot afford to disappoint an entire generation of American workers with a weak economy. Some in the new Congress have sought to cut taxes for the largest corporations, wealthy oil companies and the richest one percent of the population. This is a recipe for continued economic decline. Over the past year, I have introduced and supported legislation that takes a direct approach to job creation.

Keeping Americans in Their Homes – The ongoing foreclosure crisis largely was caused by fraudulent and predatory bank lending practices that have sparked large-scale state and federal investigations across the country. Millions of Americans have lost their homes. This year I introduced the Right to Rent Act and other measures to keep our economy strong and keep people in their homes, stabilize property values and reduce homelessness.

Social Security – I will always fight to protect Social Security. Even in this down economy, some lawmakers in Congress are intent on cutting benefits for the millions of retired and disabled Americans who are most in need. Social Security is not a piggy bank we break open to support welfare for oil companies, big corporations and millionaires. I will continue to preserve and protect Social Security for our seniors and future generations.

Health Care – Some of my colleagues in Congress want to slash Medicare and Medicaid right now, when families in need most need these programs. This is unacceptable and unnecessary. We need to guarantee health care for all Americans, which is why I continue to fight for a public option and single-payer health care.

Our Veterans – Our armed forces put their lives on the line in service to our nation, and we owe them a great debt. America’s federal policies and programs should honor our veterans’ service and ease their transition when they reenter civilian life. Whether it’s housing assistance, medical care, education, job training or spousal support, we must take care of our veterans and ensure they are never forgotten.

REBUILDING THE ECONOMY

I have spent the past year working hard to get our economy going again. I put job creation at the top of my agenda by fighting on behalf of Southern Arizona, and in my capacity as co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, I introduced and promoted good legislation, organized a nationwide jobs tour to hear real people talk about their experiences in this economy, and held job fairs throughout Southern Arizona. You can learn more about my local and regional economic initiatives in the “New Jobs for Arizona” section. Keep reading below for information about my work on the national economy, including health care, housing and Social Security policy.

THE PEOPLE’S BUDGET

As CPC co-chair, I authored and introduced The People’s Budget proposal to eliminate the deficit and create a \$21 billion surplus by 2021. This plan was offered as an alternative to the House Republican budget, which sought to end Medicare as we know it, give hundreds of billions of dollars in tax cuts to the wealthiest few and raise taxes on the middle class. Experts estimated it would have cut 1.7 million jobs in the first two years alone. An ideological belief in making government disappear won’t improve our economy. We need job creation measures that work and a tax code that supports working people, not just CEOs.

The People's Budget has received widespread praise from top economists like Paul Krugman of the *New York Times* and Dr. Jeffrey Sachs of Columbia University. The People's Budget works to build the American economy from the ground up, investing in training teachers, restoring schools, promoting clean energy and broadband infrastructure, and rebuilding roads and bridges that users help pay for. The People's Budget restores our economic competitiveness by making smart investments in our infrastructure and our future. The conservative House majority failed to pass the bill, but my colleagues and I continue to fight for several key provisions.

(LEARN MORE AT [HTTP://WWW.THEPEOPLESBUDGET.ORG](http://www.thepeoplesbudget.org))

REBUILD THE AMERICAN DREAM JOBS TOUR

This summer I traveled across the country for the “Speakout for Good Jobs Now: Rebuild the American Dream Tour” to listen to Americans – many of whom cannot travel to Washington, DC to make their voices heard – talk about what our struggling economy has meant to them. Americans used to know that if they worked hard and played by the rules, they would be able to take care of their families, send their kids to college and enjoy a secure retirement. Sadly, for the first time in our nation's history, a majority of Americans believe their children will have *fewer* opportunities than they did.

Whether they are single parents juggling two jobs, families facing foreclosure by big banks, or people who want to work but can't find good jobs, more Americans are falling out of the middle class than joining it. Understanding the challenges and priorities of everyday Americans is the first step toward rebuilding our shrinking middle class. At every stop of the tour I heard what Americans think should be done to improve our economy. The CPC brought this message back to Congress, and we've shaped our legislative proposals around what we heard ever since.

REBUILDING THE AMERICAN DREAM JOBS FRAMEWORK

I led the CPC effort to make the federal government address economic recovery and encourage job creation. The “Rebuild the American Dream Framework” identifies six guiding principles to get Americans back to work and get this country back on track:

- “Make it in America Again” – Re-establishing the U.S. as a manufacturing leader
- “Rebuild America” – Upgrading our infrastructure for a twenty-first century economy
- “Jobs for the Next Generation” – Training students and workers for the future
- “Lead the Green Industrial Revolution” – Embracing clean technology and innovation
- “Not Just Jobs – Good Jobs” – Pay and benefits should meet working peoples' needs
- “Fair Taxes – Shared Sacrifice” – We need a tax code that rewards work, not greed

These principles will help put America on the fast track to recovery.

Legislation I Have Introduced

The Prioritize Emergency Job Creation Act – Right now, a law called the Budget Control Act prevents Congress from appropriating the money necessary to spur new, innovative job creation measures. I introduced this bill to remove that cap on funds for emergency job creation measures, which are stalled because of these artificial limits. The Majority has invented arbitrary job creation restrictions at a time of historic unemployment, and we need to take the straitjacket off as soon as possible.

Legislation I am Cosponsoring and Programs I Support

Emergency Jobs to Restore the American Dream Act – We must get Americans back to work and invest in our infrastructure. The Emergency Jobs to Restore the American Dream Act creates more than 2 million jobs in two years and addresses some of our most critical economic and social needs. Passing this bill will put teachers, construction workers, health care providers and young people to work making real progress in our country.

Humphrey-Hawkins 21st Century Full Employment and Training Act – Ensuring full employment in the United States is an essential role of our government. I support this important bill to set aside federal dollars purely for job creation and direct hiring in times of high unemployment. We need to make sure everyone who wants a job is able to find one.

Rebuilding America's Schools Act – Fixing and renovating our schools is essential in preparing our students for an ever-more-competitive job market. Without high-quality schools, we can't expect high-quality public education. This bill extends bond programs to improve school facilities and help give our students the best chances possible for success.

Emergency Unemployment Compensation Expansion Act – In a crisis driven by lack of consumer demand, unemployed Americans must have the means to create demand for American businesses while they search for work. This bill extends unemployment insurance compensation until September of 2012 to make sure long-term unemployment doesn't put families in the street or set back our economic recovery.

National Infrastructure Development Bank Act of 2011 – This bill creates a National Infrastructure Bank that can provide a new way to objectively fund our nation's critical infrastructure projects at a time when fiscal constraints at all levels of government are making financing projects by conventional means difficult.

FIXING THE HOUSING MARKET

The ongoing mortgage and housing crisis is affecting the entire nation, and Arizona has seen the worst of it. Through no fault of their own, millions of homeowners nationwide have ended up underwater on their mortgages. Many banks refuse to assist in refinancing or restructuring debt, and fraudulent foreclosure schemes continue to come to light at banks all over the country. Unfortunately, the remedies proposed and enacted by the federal government to tackle this issue have so far been inadequate. Initiatives such as the Home Affordable Modification Program have miscalculated the scope of the problem, while many culpable bankers have received massive subsidies through the Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP).

Legislation I Have Introduced

Right to Rent Act of 2011 – My bill will give immediate relief to millions of families facing foreclosure and help prevent the spiral of vacancy, neglect, blight, and lowered property values for neighbors who have managed to keep their homes. “R2R” grants foreclosed homeowners the option to remain in their homes as renters for up to five years and pay a fair market rent set by a judge. The bill aims to give relief to middle-income homeowners, not speculators or people living in unaffordable mansions. It allows families to keep the house they call home and stops neighborhood blight from spiraling further out of control.

Legislation I am Cosponsoring and Initiatives I Support

Transparency and Security Mortgage Registration Act of 2011 – I support this legislation to prohibit Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and Ginnie Mae from owning or guaranteeing any mortgage assigned to the troubled Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems (MERS) Corporation, or for which MERS is the mortgagee of record. The *New York Times* and other media have written extensively about MERS’ unclear financial footing, and we shouldn’t gamble a second time with the bedrock of our economy.

Preserving Homes and Communities Act – This legislation would increase transparency in the foreclosure process and hold banks and mortgage servicers accountable for mitigating losses by qualified homeowners.

Homes for Heroes Act – Nearly 300,000 veterans may experience homelessness at some point during the course of a year. This bill would provide shelter for homeless veterans and homeless veteran families, and help prevent low-income military families from falling into homelessness.

Principle Reduction – My colleagues and I have taken the lead on pushing for mortgage principle reduction as a way to halt the foreclosure crisis. I sent a letter to the Federal Housing Finance Agency in November asking that they consider the long-term economic impacts of principle reduction to halt foreclosures across the nation and stabilize the housing industry.

HUD Homelessness Assistance Programs – This year I fought for an increase in funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants. Nearly 650,000 people are homeless on any given night in America, including 241,000 persons with families and 76,000 veterans. It is unacceptable for our nation’s heroes, families with children, and others to be sleeping on the streets.

Foreclosure Practices – In July, I asked regulators involved in the interagency foreclosure review process publicly to explain enforcement actions against mortgage servicers that followed improper foreclosure procedures. This information is needed to ensure the independence and accuracy of foreclosure reviews, many of which have resulted in illegal foreclosures.

PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY

I strongly oppose reducing Social Security benefits, increasing the retirement age, or privatizing any part of the program. Social Security is successful and prohibited by law from contributing to the deficit. No commission or Member of Congress ought to reduce the entitlement benefits already promised to every American citizen.

Social Security was created as a safety net to ensure that seniors have a livable income after they retire. It guarantees that every American who works hard will have a decent retirement. For more than 75 years, Social Security – in the form of Supplemental Security Income, survivor benefits, and retirement benefits – has helped countless Americans care for themselves and their families. Social Security is a successful and necessary program that we must strengthen, not dismantle.

Legislation I Have Introduced

The People's Budget – The Congressional Progressive Caucus budget plan protects Social Security benefits and adds to the trust fund. Under the current system, income above \$106,800 is not subject to any Social Security tax, meaning that high-income individuals pay less as a share of their income than everyone else. The People's Budget raises the maximum taxable amount to \$170,000 in 2012 and eliminates the maximum that employers pay on behalf of their high-income employees. Future benefit computations would reflect all earnings up to the new taxable maximum on the employee side. This policy raises \$445 billion over five years, and approximately \$1.2 trillion over 10 years for the trust fund.

Legislation I am Cosponsoring and Programs I Support:

Preserving Our Promise to Seniors Act – This bill strengthens Social Security for the next 75 years while improving benefits by fixing the outdated Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) formula. This is achieved by gradually phasing out the payroll tax exemption on incomes over \$106,800 and keeping Social Security's tradition of increased benefits for increased contributions. The bill indexes the COLA formula to seniors' living costs by creating a Consumer Price Index for the Elderly. It also provides a supplemental payment to all COLA-tied retirees in years when there is no COLA increase for seniors.

H.Con.Res 72 – This non-binding resolution expresses the sense of Congress that any legislative language potentially approved by the now-defunct Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction (the co-called Super-Committee) should not reduce benefits for Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid recipients.

HEALTH CARE IS YOUR RIGHT

Every American, regardless of age, community, or income level, deserves to live a healthy life. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) passed in 2010 made big strides in reducing health care access disparities, but much more needs to be done to keep a lid on ever-increasing health care costs and eliminate persistent racial and ethnic minority health disparities.

The federal government plays an important role in helping states and communities make health care more accessible. Access to affordable preventative care services, which the ACA expands

for children, women, Medicare recipients and eventually everyone, keeps workers on the job and students in school. A strong and fully funded Medicaid program is vital to ensure each state's children get the vital pediatric care they need. Scholarships and grant programs for health professionals help maintain a qualified health care workforce.

Legislation I Have Introduced

Amendment to Retain the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) – The IHCIA helps Native American tribes increase health care program enrollment, provides scholarship and loan programs that attract health professionals to Indian Health Service facilities and tribal sites, addresses deficiencies in health care facilities, sanitation systems, and construction backlogs, and increases preventive screening capacity. I have fought for the reauthorization of this important law since I came to Congress, and was proud to see it included in the ACA. This year the conservative House majority tried to repeal the entire ACA, which would have wiped out the IHCIA along with it. I introduced an amendment to the Republican bill that would have maintained the IHCIA even if the rest of the law were repealed. I believe in our federal obligation to help provide health services to members of federally recognized tribes.

Legislation I am Cosponsoring and Programs I Support

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) – I voted for the ACA because of the needs of the district I represent and the needs of the American people. On top of the improvements already made in insurance regulation and other areas, when it goes into full effect in 2014, the ACA will go a long way toward ending medical insecurity for 32 million currently uninsured working. Insurers will be required to treat everyone more equally regardless of age, race and gender, and many insurers already are no longer able to rescind coverage because they want a bigger profit margin. The ACA commits significant support to community health centers around the country that provide medical care to the most vulnerable in society. The Medicare Part D prescription drug payment “doughnut hole” is steadily being closed so that seniors do not have to choose between medicine and their meals. This law establishes once and for all that health care in this country is a basic right, not a privilege. Our system can be improved in the future, and it will be. I will make fighting for those improvements a priority as long as I am in Congress, because as much work as we've done over the past year, more remains before us.

Expanded and Improved Medicare For All Act (HR 676) – While the ACA is a step in the right direction, we must do much more to contain health care costs in the United States. I am a strong supporter of single-payer universal health care. This bill will establish a single-payer system that provides primary and preventative care as well as coverage for medically necessary oral surgery, nutritional, and dietary health care services. Single-payer health care systems are effective in delivering high-quality healthcare and containing costs. We need to transition from our current for-profit, costly health care environment to a high-quality, simple, affordable health care system that meets the modern health needs of our families.

Insurance Regulations – I support insurance market regulations that keep premiums reasonable and end abusive practices. Steps I support include prohibiting insurance discrimination based on age, gender or condition, a measure included in the ACA; disclosure, review and regulation of

premium increases, which is still being implemented; repeal of the health insurance industry exemption from antitrust laws, which hasn't happened yet; administrative simplification of the insurance enrollment process; and mandating a minimum percentage of health care premium dollars be spent on medical care, among other reforms.

Public Insurance Option – The CPC's Rebuilding the American Dream framework includes a proposal for a Public Insurance Option. This would be the perfect mechanism to transition to a better universal health care system. To reduce insurance premiums and make health care more accessible to all Americans, I support offering a public health insurance plan alongside private plans. This public option will inject greater competition in the health insurance market, thereby reducing total health expenditures and public sector costs. The government's low administrative costs and ability to negotiate provider reimbursement rates will cut the price of health insurance.

STRENGTHENING MEDICAID

Medicaid provides health coverage for low-income children and adults, medical and long-term care coverage for people with disabilities, and assistance with health and long-term care expenses for low-income seniors. In the current economic downturn, more families are relying on Medicaid to insure their children. We should be strengthening and extending Medicaid coverage to ensure our community remains healthy and productive. I oppose Arizona's ongoing Medicaid cuts, which endanger the health of children and adults throughout the state.

I have spent the last year fighting to protect the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), the state Medicaid program that has suffered devastating cuts from the legislature and governor in recent years. Because the federal government matches every state dollar spent on Medicaid, each dollar of state cuts actually costs the state two dollars. This only increases taxpayer costs, hurts Medicaid enrollment, and causes economic damage throughout the state.

State Medicaid programs are protected under a provision in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) requiring states to maintain current Medicaid eligibility until 2014. Gov. Jan Brewer and the state legislature passed huge cuts to the state program regardless. In July, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) allowed Arizona to freeze enrollment by childless adults indefinitely, violating the voter-approved Proposition 204 that authorized coverage for the same population. CMS gave final notice to Arizona Oct. 21 allowing the state government to move forward with the newly cut Medicaid program.

I attempted to block these counterproductive AHCCCS cuts and avoid losing jobs, federal funds and health care access for Arizonans. I made several request to CMS to slow down the process to allow for proper evaluation of the impact on my constituents. Specifically, I asked the agency to:

- open a 90-day public comment period before any cuts were implemented
- hold an impact hearing with concerned entities in the state
- conduct an economic assessment prior to any action on the state's push to modify the Medicaid program

CMS did not act on my request. An Arizona State University estimate (available at <http://bit.ly/tQXaVi>) of an earlier proposal similar to the current AHCCCS cuts found they would cost the state more than 30,000 jobs. I fear the painful consequences of these cuts are already being felt, and if not reversed they will be felt deeply throughout the state.

TIMELINE OF ATTEMPTS TO STOP HARMFUL AHCCCS CUTS

- June 27, 2011 – I sent a letter to HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Medicare/Medicaid Administrator Don Berwick stressing Congress' intent that Medicaid eligibility not be reduced at the state level
- May 4, 2011 – I sent a letter to Cindy Mann, Director of the Center for Medicaid and State Operations, on the need to reject Arizona's request for a waiver to freeze Medicaid enrollment and reduce existing benefit rolls
- March 4, 2011 – I sent a letter to Cindy Mann, Director of the Center for Medicaid and State Operations, requesting a 90-day public comment period before any Arizona Medicaid cuts take effect
- February 4, 2011 – I sent a letter to HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius encouraging her to reject proposed cuts to Arizona's Medicaid program

Legislation I Have Introduced

Enhanced Medicaid and Emergency Job Creation Act – Falling state and local tax revenues have led to the layoffs of tens of thousands of public sector employees every month. More than 600,000 jobs have been lost in state and local government during the past two and a half years. This bill uses one of the most straightforward ways to support state governments: restoring the increased federal Medicaid matching rates from the Recovery Act, which provided \$88 billion in additional Medicaid funds to states. Estimates show that this would create between 440,000 and 1.6 million jobs in the public and private sectors nationwide. It would also restore desperately needed funding and eligibility for AHCCCS.

STRENGTHENING MEDICARE

Retirees who worked hard their entire lives need access to affordable health care and medicine. No one in the United States of America should be forced to decide between taking necessary medication or paying a grocery bill.

Legislation I Have Introduced

The People's Budget – I introduced the People's Budget as an alternative to the conservative House majority's budget that would have ended Medicare as we know it and sent seniors into the hands of private insurance companies with no more than a voucher. The People's Budget protects and strengthens Medicare. It fixes our economy by making sure millionaires, billionaires, oil companies and Wall Street pay their fair share rather than making deep and unnecessary Medicare cuts.

Legislation I am Cosponsoring and Programs I Support

Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Services Act – Seniors that experience a stroke, hip fracture, or traumatic brain injury, or who deal with an ongoing condition such as arthritis, multiple sclerosis, or Parkinson’s disease, often need therapy services that go beyond the current Medicare cap. This bill permanently repeals the \$1,870 cap for all physical therapy and speech-language pathology services in outpatient settings.

Negotiate Drug Prices with Pharmaceutical Companies – This bill allows the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate drug prices directly with pharmaceutical companies, reducing the deficit by an estimated \$156 billion over 10 years and saving seniors an estimated \$27 billion over the same time period, according to a 2008 House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform study. Under current law, federal Medicare officials are strictly prohibited from negotiating cheaper prices for Medicare beneficiaries. This policy costs taxpayers and the federal government billions of dollars each year, and drug company CEOs pocket the difference.

FIGHTING FOR VETERANS

We need to improve benefits for our current and past service members and ensure their health and prosperity not just while they serve, but when they return to civilian life. Our troops put their lives at risk to protect us. As a nation we must honor the sacrifice that our troops and their military families make by making life easier for those on active duty and those who have defended our nation in the past.

Legislation I am Cosponsoring and Programs I Support

Veterans, Women, Families with Children, and Persons With Disabilities Housing Fairness Act – This important piece of legislation asks the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to look into potential discrimination against individuals attempting to rent or buy property. It requires HUD to assist those with potential discrimination complaints.

Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act – Being true to our veterans includes being true to their spouses and families. This bill repeals limitations on the payout of military annuity plans to surviving family members and requires the military to transfer control to children if there is no surviving spouse. Commitment to our men and women in uniform does not stop even when they make the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

Homes for Heroes Act – The Homes for Heroes Act orders the government to proactively work to find a home for every veteran who cannot find one. There are an estimated 107,000 veterans sleeping on the street on any given night. No veteran of our armed services should face homelessness. I will continue to fight for this important legislation and to make sure veterans receive the housing support they need.

Helping Homeless Heroes Act – Similar to the Homes for Heroes Act, this piece of legislation helps our veterans find a place to call home. The bill directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to issue grants for new facilities to house veterans, in addition to providing mental health services for veterans in need.

Wounded Veteran Job Security Act – We need to ensure our veterans receive the support they need to reintegrate into civil society when discharged from their military service. This legislation ensures fair treatment from employers and guarantees that as long as a veteran is completing his or her work, medical leave will not cost him or her a job.

“STRENGTHENING OUR ECONOMY AND OUR PEOPLE” MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

TELEVISION AND VIDEO

Jan. 13 – Watch my speech on the floor of the House of Representatives opposing the Republican effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act at <http://bit.ly/eycFgo>. Key quote: “I urge my colleagues to stop protecting insurance companies and finally, finally take a step toward empowering the American people.”

April 14 – Watch my appearance on *Jansing & Co.* on MSNBC discussing the Progressive Caucus “People’s Budget” proposal and economic fairness at <http://bit.ly/s9nuhI>. Key quote: “What happens in Washington is, we negotiate around the edges. The core issues about our financial crisis and economic policies remain the same: the tax breaks given and extended, corporations that don’t pay taxes, the top two percent that are going to get increased tax breaks. We’re going after those areas, and I think you’re going to see public opinion is on our side.”

April 26 – Watch my speaking appearance with a Tucson senior citizens group about protecting Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security at <http://bit.ly/saMqsZ>. Key quote: “We’re not just saying no, don’t cut Medicare, leave it alone. No, don’t cut Social Security – fix it but don’t ruin it. No, don’t dismantle Medicaid. We also have a solution to deal with the deficit and preserve these programs. The American people in survey after survey agree these key programs should be left alone. [. . .] Okay, maybe the top one percent has had it pretty good for ten years – maybe it’s time they paid their fair share.”

June 15 – Watch my interview with Cenk Uygur on MSNBC discussing the Progressive Caucus “Speakout for Good Jobs Now” national listening tour on the economy and unemployment at <http://bit.ly/j7WH5K>. Key quote: “If we don’t embrace the idea that jobs are part of the cure for this recession – that good jobs are part of the cure for this economy – we’re going to miss the boat. The America people care about jobs.”

July 7 – Watch my appearance on *The Rachel Maddow Show* on MSNBC discussing his strong opposition to Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security cuts at <http://bit.ly/rkw84a>. Key quote: “This is not a time to step back and concede or compromise to the lowest common denominator. This is an opportunity we have as Democrats, especially with controlling the White House and Senate, to push back.”

July 18 – Watch my appearance on *The Early Show* on CBS discussing the economy and why progressives have put job creation first all year long at <http://bit.ly/n0IHeY>. Key quote: “The

American public has said very clearly that they want essential programs – Social Security, Medicare – protected and enhanced for the future. I believe firmly that can be done without sacrificing benefits and coverage. The American people are also saying you need to roll back those Bush tax cuts and corporate tax cuts by overwhelming numbers.”

Sept. 7 – Watch my interview on MSNBC daily news about the need for a bigger job creation plan ahead of President Obama’s economic speech at <http://bit.ly/pJdw5V>. Key quote: “This is a moment for the president to take the agenda of economic recovery and jobs, a bold agenda, to the American people. Let the American people begin to dictate to Congress what needs to be done.”

Oct. 17 – Watch my interview on *The Daily Rundown* on MSNBC discussing the Occupy Wall Street movement and the need for a fairer economy at <http://bit.ly/pJdw5V>. Key quote: “This is not some fringe element. This is a cross section of America concerned about issues, with very common sense opinions about things. I think what’s going on across this nation is necessary, it is peaceful, and it’s a counterpoint to the lack of discussion about fairness in this country.”

OP-EDS AND PRINT MEDIA

Jan. 19 – Read my op-ed in *Huffington Post* on why repealing the Affordable Care Act is politically motivated and hurts working families at <http://huff.to/hm3cit>. Key quote: “The fact is that insurance companies need to treat everyone fairly. Repealing the Affordable Care Act would strip Americans of new freedoms and take us back to the days when big insurance companies had the power to dictate the cost and quality of care to the American people.”

March 15 – Read my op-ed in the *Arizona Daily Star* on how cutting Arizona’s Medicaid program is devastating the state economy and health care system at <http://bit.ly/un4hxL>. Key quote: “Gov. Jan Brewer means to revoke health services for 280,000 low-income people and hope all goes well. If one of those 280,000 gets sick, or their child is injured, they will not magically stop needing medical care. They will go to the emergency room, and costs for everyone will go up. The savings generated by these draconian cuts will disappear very quickly.”

August 16 – Read my op-ed in the *Arizona Daily Star* on how federally guaranteed loans to private companies help create jobs at no cost to taxpayers at <http://bit.ly/rjEZAc>. Key quote: “The truth is that no one creates jobs without investing upfront, and the federal government can help make that possible for many small businesses. Federally guaranteed loans, which cost taxpayers nothing and help businesses around the country expand and hire new employees, are a proven way for federal agencies to help our economy.”

Sept. 8 – Read my op-ed in *The Hill* newspaper on why Social Security and Medicare shouldn’t be slashed for political reasons at <http://bit.ly/qaY2iZ>. Key quote: “Cutting Social Security benefits and raising the Medicare eligibility age will do much more harm than good. The campaign to wipe them out is ideological, not economic. When you get down to it, opponents describe them as ‘welfare,’ and they oppose ‘welfare’ in all its forms. The rest is details. The real elephant in the room is a lack of jobs. Our policies should employ more teachers, firefighters, nurses, and police in communities across the nation. [. . .] The sooner we can all stop wasting time on the argument that cuts to Social Security and Medicare are the answer, the better.”

NEW JOBS FOR ARIZONA



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Job creation is the most pressing issue for Southern Arizona families and my top priority in Congress. While there are many indications that our economy is beginning to recover, far too many of our neighbors are out of work and unable to find a new job. We won't have a meaningful recovery until Southern Arizonans can provide for themselves and their families.

Since coming to Congress, I have worked to make sure our community has good jobs not just today, but well into the future. By focusing on job creation, small businesses, and border commerce, we can re-energize our economy in a way that puts Arizona – and Americans everywhere – back to work. My efforts have focused on three main areas:

Small Business – Small businesses are one of our country's most powerful engines of opportunity and economic growth. The small business community in Arizona includes 107,490 small employers and 389,134 self-employed people. These entrepreneurs create jobs, bring innovative ideas to fruition, and help our economy expand.

Border Commerce – More than 290,000 Arizonans need full time work, including those who are underemployed or have grown too discouraged to continue looking. A strong trade relationship with Mexico is critical to leading Arizona out of recession and creating good middle-class jobs. Trade between Arizona and Mexico creates and supports jobs for thousands of Arizonans and Mexicans. 235,700 jobs in Arizona depend on trade with Mexico. Last year alone, Arizona-Mexico trade totaled roughly \$10.7 billion.

Direct Assistance – In addition to writing and supporting legislation in Congress, I have hosted a variety of events for Southern Arizonans looking to find work, go back to school, learn new professional skills and meet potential employers in their neighborhoods. Providing this kind of direct assistance for the community is one of my favorite parts of being a Member of Congress.

SMALL BUSINESSES

The fastest way to spur economic growth in our community is to reemploy our workers so they can use their earnings to put dollars right back into our local economy. Creating an environment where individual entrepreneurs with good ideas can access the tools they need to create jobs, innovate and strengthen our economy is my top priority in Congress.

Legislation I Have Introduced

Border Infrastructure and Jobs Act – I introduced this comprehensive economic revitalization bill in September. It establishes the United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Commission (EPC) to strengthen border economic development and commerce; creates a Port Security and Trade Facilitation grant program to expand trusted shipper program access to small and medium-sized businesses; fully funds the expansion and modernization projects at Arizona’s ports of entry; and adds 500 Customs and Border Protection officers to Arizona’s land ports of entry, among other measures. The bill makes sure jobs stay local by mandating that at least 30 percent of labor for any federal contract or subcontract is performed by a local subcontractor.

Legislation I am Cosponsoring

Small Business Credit Card Act – To help create jobs and rejuvenate our economy, I am a co-sponsor of this bill to protect small businesses from unfair interest rate changes, deceptive practices, and unnecessary fees. Small businesses are not afforded the same protections as individuals from abusive and deceptive credit card practices, and we should fix this right away.

Small Business Lending Enhancement Act – During this difficult period in our economy, many small businesses need capital to stay afloat, remain competitive and continue to hire. Due to lending caps, many small businesses cannot access these needed funds. I co-sponsor the Small Business Lending Enhancement Act to raise business lending caps for credit unions and allow our small businesses to keep creating new jobs.

BORDER COMMERCE

Food and goods consumed all over the country come through our Southern Arizona land ports of entry. Millions of jobs and tens of billions of dollars nationwide rely directly on trade with Mexico and Central America, and we need modern infrastructure and the right regulatory framework to handle such a high volume of demand. Upgrading our ports of entry, ensuring adequate staffing, and preventing traffic backlogs will have immense economic and social benefits not just for Southern Arizona, but for the entire country. When we realize our southern border’s full economic potential, we will be glad we invested the right way.

Legislation I Have Introduced

Border Infrastructure and Jobs Act – To make our state a better place to live and get Arizonans back to work, I introduced this legislation in September to strengthen cross-border trade, modernize and expand border infrastructure, adequately staff ports of entry, invest in innovation and revitalize small business. This legislation builds on my previous work in Congress to help our local and regional economy and is part of my longstanding efforts to help small businesses and American workers.

Legislation I Am Cosponsoring

Putting Our Resources Toward Security (PORTS) Act – Our ports of entry are a critical component of Arizona’s economy, which is threatened today by a severe lack of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) manpower. The PORTS Act would provide funding for an additional 5,000 Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents to improve inspections and reduce traffic congestion.

Letters I Have Written

Letter to House Speaker John Boehner and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, 6/15/2011 – This letter urges Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi to increase funding at border ports of entry, citing the high economic cost of understaffing and a chronic shortage of infrastructure. Border wait times at five of the nation’s busiest southern ports average more than an hour, which results in an average of loss of \$116 million per minute of delay, according to a draft Department of Commerce study. In 2008 this cost U.S. 26,000 jobs and \$6 billion in output.

Letter to Arizona Congressional Delegation, 10/13/2011 – This letter urges the members of Arizona’s Congressional Delegation to support the Border Infrastructure and Jobs Act, citing a recent study by the Arizona Office of Tourism that confirmed that Mexican visitors spend more than \$7.3 million per day in Arizona.

DIRECT ASSISTANCE

Helping Southern Arizona is about more than casting votes and promoting bills. I’ve spent the past year hosting a series of employment and small business boot camps throughout Southern Arizona. Events like this give job-seekers an opportunity to network, share information and connect with real employment opportunities. To complement these events, I recently introduced a Southern Arizona Employment Resource Handbook available in hard copy and on my Web site. This guidebook helps Arizonans pinpoint people and organizations in our community ready to help.

Southern Arizona Employment Resource Handbook – The guidebook provides Southern Arizonans with information on unemployment benefits, food stamps, foreclosure assistance, free financial counseling, retraining programs and other assistance designed to help people in times of need.

Yuma County Job-Seekers Boot Camp – This one-day workshop brought together Southern Arizona’s most knowledgeable career counselors, human resources managers and business leaders and provided job seekers practical advice on resume improvement, interviewing and effective job searches. Job-seekers had the opportunity to participate in one-on-one career counseling sessions.

Santa Cruz County Job-Seekers Boot Camp – This one-day workshop provided job-seekers the opportunity to learn more about using the Internet to enhance job-seeking techniques and on-site resume review and critique.

Pima County Green Careers: Where Are They and What Are They? – This one-day workshop brought together expert panelists who told job-seekers how to better position themselves in a green economy. Topics included how to identify green jobs, where to find green jobs in particular industries, and how to take advantage of training opportunities.

Yuma County Social Media Boot Camp – This one-day workshop brought together social media experts who shared with small business owners how to navigate Facebook, Twitter, and other social media sites to help increase public visibility.

Pima County Mobile Marketing Boot Camp – This one-day workshop brought together marketing experts who introduced small business owners to mobile marketing and how to engage consumers to expand business opportunities.

“NEW JOBS FOR ARIZONA” MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

TELEVISION AND VIDEO

April 25 – Watch speaking and Q & A highlights from my Tucson town hall with a group of unemployed veterans at <http://bit.ly/s6AzUC>. Key quote (on cutting job training and education funding): “You’re not going to take care of the deficit doing that. You’re going to make the economic situation even worse than it is, because you’re going to cut people that are working and you’re going to make it harder for people to be able to find a job.”

April 28 – Watch speaking highlights from my Nogales job fair at <http://bit.ly/spINZ6>. Key quote: “We have to have a public works jobs program that puts people to work immediately. Not in six months, not in three months – right away. Because key to family security is, ‘I have a job.’ Key to turning this economy around is, ‘I have a job.’ We’re here to highlight those two things.”

June 27 – Watch speaking highlights from a Global Solar Energy event in Tucson at <http://bit.ly/sNWsDk>. Key quote: “If we’re going to talk about alternatives and renewable energy, I think the federal government needs to play a very significant role in stimulating the private sector to make an investment. For every dollar the federal government puts in, whether it’s a tax credit or loan guarantee, we get thirteen dollars of investment by the private sector.”

August 10 – Watch speaking highlights from my Small Business Administration workshop for local businesses at <http://bit.ly/tHQRPl>. “Any politician worth their salt can give a speech about

how important education is. Four years later, the funding and the support for that doesn't occur. You hear any politician worth their salt talk about the strength small businesses provide to a community and why they're essential, and then the resources get left behind. When I go back [to Washington], that's the issue I'm going to talk about: what's the investment in this effort?"

August 18 – Watch my interview on *Countdown With Keith Olbermann* on Current TV about my Border Infrastructure and Jobs Act of 2011 and creating local, regional and national job opportunities at <http://bit.ly/tB7Cnt>. Key quote: “While we hear all about what is bad – the violence, the drugs, the enforcement policies along the border – there's a legitimate need to use economic growth as a means to begin to turn around the situation. Create jobs and stimulate economic growth, which is what we all want. [. . .] If the federal government doesn't directly intervene and become a job creator, and just waits for the trickle-down to happen, we're not going to create the kind of change in the unemployment rate that we need to.”

August 23 – Watch speaking highlights from my green jobs fair in Tucson at <http://bit.ly/vcDe1m>. Key quote: “You're going hear for the next couple of months coming out of where I work in Washington a lot of talk about jobs and the economy. A lot of talk. What we're hoping to do is take the lessons back and say the American people are telling us to be real about the talk. To begin to put together the strategies and public investment to create jobs. Real jobs. [. . .] We can't do it the same way my dad did. We have to work hard like he did, take care of our families, but the jobs will be different. This session today is about that difference and the preparation we have to have for the future.”

OP-EDS AND PRINT MEDIA

Sept. 7 – Read my written Q & A with *Washington Post* readers on domestic and economic policy at <http://wapo.st/qLQX6r>. Key quote: “AgJOBS legislation has support from the Chamber of Commerce to the unions -- it would make these jobs stable and attractive to all. The more exploitation we remove from those jobs, the more attractive they become to workers who expect and demand high American standards of worker treatment. I don't support exploitative labor practices at all, and we have to make the decisions that will *really* end them. Building walls is a fantasy solution, and everyone needs to decide whether they want serious solutions that will work economically or easy answers that make them feel good in the short term.”

Sept. 16 – Read my op-ed in *Roll Call* about why the terms of Congress' economic debate need to shift to really helping working people at <http://bit.ly/vpFZtp>. Key quote: “If voters were ever consulted, Congress would have been working to create jobs all year. Some of my progressive House colleagues and I went on a multicity jobs tour during the summer, listening to the stories of working people, unemployed people, family people, single people, all asking us how the economy failed them through no fault of their own but keeps working for CEOs making a hundred times their own salaries. This is the ‘real America’ we keep hearing about.”

Sept. 29 – Read an in-depth *Arizona Daily Star* article about my Border Infrastructure and Jobs Act at <http://bit.ly/sTH8jz>. Key quote: “Saying the government has been too cautious in responding to the economic crisis in the country, U.S. Rep. Raúl Grijalva is promoting a bill that would improve cross-border trade. [. . .] Grijalva said Americans don't want short-term

gimmicks, adding that his plan is a way to bolster the 200,000 jobs in Arizona dependent on trade with Mexico. He cited Arizona Office of Tourism statistics indicating Mexican visitors spend an average of more than \$7 million a day in Arizona.”

Oct. 21 – Read my op-ed in the *Nogales International* about local education standards and creating job opportunities at <http://bit.ly/uJlhhB>. Key quote: “The Congressional Progressive Caucus, which I co-chair, has proposed a budget that invests directly in job creation – putting nurses, firefighters, teachers, police and other professions at the forefront of our economic recovery. I’ve also personally introduced the Border Infrastructure and Jobs Act of 2011, which would upgrade our land ports of entry and improve commerce for the entire region and the nation by making sure goods and shoppers can cross efficiently. There are issues of substance that need a serious public hearing.”

Nov. 16 – Read a transcript of my interview with Keith Olbermann on Current TV about the Progressive Caucus hearing on making job creation our top priority at <http://bit.ly/uKUEaz>. Key quote: “Our hearing was about bringing experts economists to talk about the reality in America. And one after the other — including the Millionaire Patriot Organization that was present as well — indicated that we must create jobs, we must have a fair tax system, and the rich have to pay their share, that they have not been paying for a decade plus.

BETTER SCHOOLS AND TRAINING



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Education is the most important factor in economic growth, both at the individual and community level. Since coming to Congress, I have emphasized a strong federal commitment to making quality education available at all stages of a person's life and career. In recent years, Southern Arizona has faced high unemployment rates and a smaller state government commitment to education, from early childhood to adult learners. Making important investments in education at the federal level can help turn this around. I value my membership on the House Education and Workforce Committee as a unique opportunity to help define education policy at the federal level.

The United States of America has always stood for the principle that all people should be given an equal opportunity to succeed. There is no greater equalizer or gateway to equity than education. Educational equity is a fundamental test of our democracy.

The federal government began strong investments in education in the 1960s, motivated largely by the visible inequities in quality education across the country. The goal was to improve access to quality education for the poor and communities of color. This remains one of our greatest federal responsibilities. We must do all we can to provide equal access to quality education in each of these areas:

Early Childhood Education – Access to preschool education has well-documented long-term academic performance benefits. We should make sure that all communities have access to affordable, high-quality early education to narrow the gap for children entering the K-12 system prepared for school.

Elementary and Secondary Education – We must fundamentally reform the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) by removing many of the harmful elements of the failed No Child Left Behind law. Our policies should ensure equity of access to high-quality education for all children, help schools meet the unique needs of their particular communities, and improve support for middle grades and high schools to prevent dropouts and recover students who have dropped out.

Higher Education – We have a responsibility to improve access to higher education for people of color and low-income students, who are currently highly underrepresented at the college and university level. We must improve support services for these students to raise completion rates, but we cannot be satisfied with simply increasing the number of students. We have a fundamental responsibility to ensure that higher education is affordable, so that when a student completes a program he or she is well prepared for the workforce and has manageable school-related debts.

Workforce Investment and Training – We must improve access to workforce and professional training for individuals beyond school age and those already in the workforce. Available programs should run the gamut from adult basic education and language literacy programs to specialized training for high-level skills. Adult basic education and remedial education can help adults and families get basic literacy and education skills to make them self-sufficient and able to find jobs. Skill and technology training can help workers retool their knowledge to adapt to a changing workforce. All of these investments can improve America’s competitiveness and help build long-term economic stability.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

High-quality early education provides an important opportunity for long-term academic success. It is also, unfortunately, an area with glaring inequities based on economic status.

The first few years of life are critical for a child’s cognitive development and learning. Many studies have shown long-term benefits for children exposed to high-quality early care and education programs. Children placed in well-run pre-kindergarten programs are less likely to drop out of school, repeat grades, or require special education than their peers not exposed to the same programs. By making early education available to every American child, we can help ensure that all our children acquire the fundamental skills they need to succeed in school.

As a member of the House Education and Workforce Committee, I am committed to universal early education programs, family literacy, and support services for preschool.

Legislation I Have Introduced

FLUEnT Act – I am a strong supporter of family literacy programs such as Even Start, a program Congress stopped funding despite its economic and educational importance. I introduced the Families Learning and Understanding English Together Act to promote family literacy with an emphasis on English language acquisition. Making such programs available

helps young children develop learning skills early, aids parents in language acquisition and fluency, and promotes parents as teachers of their children.

Legislation I am Cosponsoring and Programs I Support

Pre-K Act – This legislation promotes high-quality early education programs to help ensure that all children are given the resources they need to prepare for schooling at a critical developmental phase. This bill, introduced by a colleague of mine, would establish an important federal commitment to early education. I was an early supporter of the bill and remain a strong proponent.

Head Start – We must expand and strengthen the Head Start program to provide quality support services to low-income families. Currently, 70 percent of families with children include two working parents or one unmarried working parent. Head Start provides working families with comprehensive education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to help their children acquire the critical skills they need to succeed once they enter school. In May and June of 2011, I joined my colleagues in sending letters to appropriators, House leadership, and the president to advocate for the continued funding of Head Start.

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

More than 7,000 students drop out of school every day in this country. This adds up to 1.3 million children leaving school without a diploma every year. Of those who do complete school, one third of students and more than half of all students of color do not graduate on time. Many students graduate high school without the necessary skills to enter higher education or the workforce. This failure significantly affects our society and our national economic security. We are failing our children if we do not reverse this dangerous trend immediately.

The current K-12 federal education policy known as No Child Left Behind has hurt schools and school districts all across Southern Arizona. I have had many opportunities to hear from educators and school leaders about their concerns and critiques of the current law. To anyone with an interest in public education, it has been clear for many years that changes are needed.

I have been advancing efforts to increase local flexibility and control while maintaining accountability to our students and their families. This flexibility must reflect the realities of different populations and regions. Tucson city-based schools have different needs than schools in Nogales, Yuma, Ajo or Sells. Our policy should reflect this diversity rather than try to force each school into the same unworkable model.

Educational success depends on well-prepared, qualified, and effective teachers, leaders and other support professionals. Establishing and continuing to improve programs that train, develop, and support these professions must be integral in elementary and secondary education.

Studies prove that a student's experience in middle school is critical in determining the likelihood that he or she graduates from high school, goes to college, and successfully enters the workforce. Career and college readiness can be significantly improved when students develop

successful habits in the upper elementary grades and in middle school. Yet middle school funding is continually overlooked, leaving many middle schools without the resources their students need. This problem is especially apparent in low income communities and middle schools with a majority of African American or Latino students, where disparities in resources are especially apparent and dropout rates are disgracefully high. We must address the needs of all middle school students to ensure they get the proper support to succeed in middle school and onward.

High schools also need significant support and accountability to help our children succeed. Currently 2,000 low-performing schools – 12 percent of all high schools – generate almost half of the nation’s dropouts. While we focus on raising the level of accountability and resources in high schools across the nation, we must place a special emphasis on the schools struggling the most. Every child, no matter where he or she is born or attends school, should be able to graduate high school with the skills to succeed.

It is time to eliminate the harmful aspects of the No Child Left Behind law and transform our commitment to elementary and secondary education to ensure fair accountability, provide local flexibility, and guarantee the support and resources that schools and students need to succeed.

Legislation I Have Introduced

Success in the Middle Act – I introduced the Success in the Middle Act to ensure that federal funds are available to help middle grades develop an academically rigorous curriculum and identify and support struggling students. This will help prepare students for college and career readiness and address the foundations of the dropout crisis at the point when students usually begin to fall behind.

PRIDE Act – In order to address the needs of students in ethnically diverse communities, I introduced the PRIDE Act to expand access to and support for dual-language educational programs. Dual-language educational programs are especially important for children in low-income and ethnically diverse communities. The PRIDE Act supports dual-language programs for children between preschool and fifth grade to ensure that they have the same proficiency as their English-only peers.

SKILLS Act – Sustaining modern school libraries is one of my top priorities. I cosponsor the Strengthening Kids’ Interest in Learning and Libraries (SKILLS) Act because it effectively supports and sustains twenty-first century libraries in our nation’s schools with a qualified school librarian, providing our students with the resources necessary to be life-long learners.

Legislation I am Cosponsoring and Programs I Support

Graduation Promise Act – The Graduation Promise Act provides support, similar to that provided by my Success in the Middle Act, for high school students effectively to prepare for careers and college and reduce dropout rates. To address low-performing high schools, the Graduation Promise Act creates a federal-state-local school reform partnership to support improvement in low-performing schools across the country.

Student Non-Discrimination Act – Our schools ought to demonstrate our nation’s values of equality and opportunity. The Student Non-Discrimination Act preserves these values by prohibiting schools from ignoring harassing behavior toward students based on their sexual orientation or gender identity and prohibiting discrimination on the same bases. This bill directly responds to the alarming increase of teen suicides. It ensures that schools remain a safe, welcoming space for every child to learn.

Post 9/11 Troops to Teachers Enhancement Act – I support alternative means of teacher certification for professionals to impart their knowledge to children. The Post 9/11 Troops to Teachers Enhancement Act expands program eligibility to streamline the process of getting our nation’s veterans into the classroom as teachers.

FIT Kids – The Fitness Integrated with Teaching Kids (FIT) Act incorporates physical education programs into our children’s general education. This bill ensures that our kids learn to lead healthy, active lives, regardless of their income or background. Healthy eating and exercise habits increase students’ alertness and comprehension in the classroom.

Educational Success for Children and Youth Without Homes Act – The Educational Success for Children and Youth Without Homes Act supports school efforts to enroll homeless youth and help them succeed in the classroom. A child without a home should not be refused a high-quality education. This legislation helps schools overcome bureaucratic barriers to ensure that homeless students receive an education. This legislation is especially important in our current economic downturn. Economic circumstances should not hurt any student’s educational opportunities.

Every Student Counts Act – The Every Student Counts Act sets meaningful high school graduation rate goals and targets for student growth across the country. This legislation creates guidelines for uniform, accurate graduation rate calculations in addition to testing to ensure schools are addressing their students’ needs.

No Child Left Inside Act – The No Child Left Inside Act places emphasis on environmental education in the classroom curriculum. This legislation encourages teachers to incorporate hands-on field investigations and lessons on environmental issues like global climate change and pollution. Teaching our children about the environment helps them build a greater appreciation for the world and prepares them for the jobs of the future.

Hawkins Centers of Excellence – The Hawkins Centers of Excellence promote and develop teaching professionals at minority-serving institutions. The overall goal is to increase the diversity of the teaching profession and to encourage local teachers to remain in their communities. I worked hard with my colleagues to ensure that this program was passed as part of the most recently passed Higher Education Act; today, we must ensure that this program is fully funded.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING

The jobs of today and tomorrow require some degree of post-secondary education. We have a responsibility to ensure that post-secondary programs and institutions are high-quality and affordable. Our colleges and universities have been deeply hurt by state budget cuts. To help offset these losses, I have worked hard to secure access to loans, Pell Grants and support services for students throughout the district.

I am also working to develop and fund supports for community colleges throughout the region, both in the development and construction of programs to help them respond to the needs of the local economy and in providing resources to train and prepare our community for job opportunities. I have worked to help develop and strengthen workforce training programs through adult education. Unfortunately, many of these efforts have been blocked by the elimination of state programs that would allow federal funds to reach Arizona.

Job training is a fundamental part of overall job growth and the long-term economic health of our community. Job training can make an individual better prepared and eligible for employment and can create a more robust workforce to aid employers. Training can take the form of adult basic education, technical education, certification, or the update of individual skills to meet the needs of emerging fields.

Legislation I am Cosponsoring and Programs I Support

Workforce Investment Act - I will soon be introducing legislation to amend the Workforce Investment Act to create partnerships between non-profit organizations and minority-serving institutions to prepare individuals with multiple barriers to employment to enter the workforce.

Post 9/11 GI Bill Payment Restoration Act – Preserving our commitment to our veterans is essential. The Post 9/11 GI Bill Payment Restoration Act ensures that student veterans do not lose their GI Bill money as a result of GI Bill modifications in the Post-9/11 GI Bill passed last year.

Pell Grants – Successful job growth requires broad access to high-quality and affordable higher education. I have long supported increased funds for Pell Grants to low-income students. We committed billions of new dollars to Pell last Congress by transforming the student loan system to a direct loan format that saves students and parents money. We need to ensure those funds are used to promote our economic growth through access to education.

Community College Program Development Grants – I am working to amplify the efforts of community colleges to provide affordable access to training for newly emerging fields and to accommodate a growing need for post-secondary education.

Improving Community College Capacity – I continue to support competitive grants to build community college and business partnerships and to provide funds for renovating and upgrading facilities. These improvements will aid in developing a well-prepared workforce for the twenty-first century.

STEM: The Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education component of the America COMPETES Act, which became law with my support in 2010, supports America's technological and scientific progress. This support is key to a competitive economy and helps maintain our position as a global economic leader. STEM resources from the American COMPETES Act are vital to our educational and economic future.

TRIO/GEAR UP – TRIO and GEAR UP programs help first generation and non-traditional college students receive the support they need to succeed academically and complete higher education programs. These programs must be protected from elimination.

“BETTER SCHOOLS AND TRAINING” MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

TELEVISION AND VIDEO

Feb. 5 – Watch speaking highlights of my town hall at Tucson's El Pueblo Center, where I discuss my support for Tucson Unified School District's Mexican American Studies program, at <http://bit.ly/uxe5yL>. Key quote: “What Raza Studies has done is a very American thing: it's taught students to be value themselves, to value their families, to value who they are, to know who they are, and to be proud of that identity. That is part of the fabric of this nation. What the ethnic studies programs are doing is enriching. [. . .] This nation is made up of many of us – different, special. And we need to share those difference and special traits we all have. By sharing them, we make ourselves and this nation stronger.”

April 25 – Watch speaking highlights of my conversation with the Arizona Student Association about education and the federal budget at <http://bit.ly/tssywF>. Key quote: “With the drop in [budget] support for research and development, it begins to hurt places like the University [of Arizona] that make their cachet being research. With the reductions in math and science at the secondary level, your pool becomes smaller and smaller. You compound that with the state of Arizona's budget issues, and you've got a perfect storm in terms of higher education.”

April 27 – Watch speaking highlights of my town hall with GED students at Tucson's El Rio Learning Center at <http://bit.ly/uy2EYK>. Key quote: “As we help more people toward literacy and capital education and retention, we're also multiplying opportunity and their ability to do well with their lives. It's hard sometimes to get people to understand the dividend payoff for the investment now, but we have to because there's so much at stake.”

April 29 – Watch speaking highlights of my conversation with University of Arizona student veterans at <http://bit.ly/sv7b4X>. Key quote [on the GI Bill]: “We're requesting that we repair the flaws in the benefits package in the new bill. At the bare minimum we want to allow recipients to move back to the old benefits instead of locking them out of that, but altogether we want a permanent fix.”

May 9 – Watch my acceptance speech for the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations 2011 Public Service Award at <http://bit.ly/toKBtO>. Key quote: “The two great indicators of how good we are as a nation, to me, are two wonderful institutions we should all be proud of. Our vast and accessible library system across this nation, whether it's

state, public, university, private – the accessibility of that information to the American people is a great example of what our democracy is. And our great public schools that teach us and give us the opportunity to be more than what people expect of us.”

OP-EDS AND PRINT MEDIA

April 14 – Read my op-ed at CNN.com (co-authored) on a fairer economy and making sure people have the opportunities they need at <http://bit.ly/uFeZ9w>. Key quote: “Fiscal responsibility does not require gutting social programs and public investments that promote economic security and generate growth. Instead, it requires standing up to the powerful lobbies whose special interests are not in our national interest and abandoning unfair tax policies that favor the wealthy and privileged. [. . .] The budget deficit is not an excuse to wage ideological war against government and the social programs that have delivered economic security, health and progress for the better part of a century.”

June – Read my op-ed in *Latino Lubbock Magazine* on the importance of the DREAM Act for students in immigrant families at <http://bit.ly/uRtUcv> (see page 5). Key quote: “The DREAM Act creates a path to legal permanent residence for undocumented children who arrived in the U.S. when they were 15 years of age or younger, have lived in the U.S. for at least five years, have good moral character, have graduated from high school or obtained a GED, and attend college or serve in the military for two years. That’s it – a straightforward approach that helps everyone. It gives these students powerful incentives to stay in school, do well and graduate. These aren’t people we should be ‘punishing.’ These are people who are going to help build the next American economy.”

Sept. 10 – Read an in-depth *Arizona Republic* story about environmental studies courses and my support for expanded outdoor education at <http://bit.ly/rSD08l>. Key quote: “‘Federal law is requiring schools to narrow their curricula more and more’ and teach uniform basics that are included on standardized tests, said U.S. Rep. Raúl Grijalva, a southern Arizona Democrat who champions teaching kids about the outdoors and its ecology. ‘These days classes in the environment are left as options,’ he said.”

INVESTING IN OUR WORKERS



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The federal government must do its part to ensure that our workers and future workers can continue to have access to good jobs and compete with the global workforce. We need to create jobs through much needed public works projects, facilitate job growth through infrastructure investments and development and enforce regulations that make good-paying, high quality employment a reality for everyone, regardless of income.

I believe that we have a responsibility to ease the suffering of the worst off. Whether during times of prosperity or hardship, we need to ensure that everyone who contributes to our community sees the full benefits of their efforts and enjoys their fair share of the public good. Extreme differences between rich and poor, like the ones we see in our own country today, are signs that the majority of working families are not protected by the economy. We need to fix this.

Federal government priorities for workforce investment and labor law touch on several areas. The government has a responsibility to enforce workplace fairness and protect the rights of workers. It also has a duty to invest in projects that lead to economic growth and development, and to ensure that economic opportunity does not become restricted to a lucky few.

Jobs and the Workforce – Now more than ever, we need to take big, bold steps that revitalize our economy, reduce unemployment and build confidence and stability. The most important way to do this is to create jobs, particularly in avenues of investment that will encourage and support private sector economic growth.

Worker Training – We cannot have a strong economy without a well-prepared, well-trained and versatile work force. Low numbers of professionals trained for the jobs of the future and inadequate investment in the resources to train Americans for these jobs have led to corporate development and recruiting overseas instead of here in the U.S. A major commitment to workforce training at all levels of the American economy is desperately needed to keep us from being left behind as a nation.

Employment Protections – We must ensure that the hardworking men and women of our country are treated fairly and given reasonable workplace protections. A personal sense of economic and professional security is a vital part of restoring our nation’s confidence. We must ensure decent wages for hard work, access to affordable, high-quality health care, and protections for health and safety while on the job. The survival and success of the middle class in America depends on a fair economy and a fair workplace where wages and benefits reflect a worker’s contribution, not the whims of the CEO.

Ensuring Equity – We must work to ensure that the principals of fairness protect the rights of all members of our society to have access to stability, security and success and that the American dream is not denied to anyone based on their race, ethnicity, beliefs, or gender or sexual identity. Hard work should still lead to prosperity, not just mounting debt and frustration, no matter who you are.

JOBS AND THE WORKFORCE

Our nation is experiencing the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Nationwide, almost 25 million Americans are unemployed or underemployed. Unemployment numbers are disproportionately worse for communities of color. Congress should have taken major action months ago to address this crisis. However, the leaders of the majority in the House of Representatives continue to sit on their hands and refuse to consider a large number of job creation bills that have been introduced in Congress. From the President’s proposed jobs bill to numerous other approaches that invest in our communities, their answer is “no.”

Beyond the crisis itself, I believe that making critical investments in infrastructure, in the green economy, and in the technologies of the future are fundamental responsibilities of the federal government. Our current businesses can only thrive and grow - and we can only remain economically viable as a nation – if we have federal policies that make it possible. The market can’t work if the government disappears.

Legislation I am Cosponsoring and Programs I Support

Pathways Back to Work Act – This bill addresses our deepening, long-term unemployment crisis by supporting job creation for working families, providing opportunities for young Americans in summer and year-round employment, and creating a nationwide competitive grant for work-related training programs.

21st Century Green High-Performing School Facilities Act – This bill, which I have supported through multiple sessions of Congress, creates grants to schools to help them update their

facilities. This would have several benefits for the country: creating jobs in green building construction and repair, helping to repair failing schools and facilities where children are trying to learn in sometimes dangerous conditions, and establish long-term energy cost savings for schools, districts and states.

21st Century Civilian Conservation Corps Act – I support robust investment in civilian conservation efforts. This bill would open up millions of jobs to create and maintain public spaces, revive our economy, improve our neighborhoods and green places and invigorate national and community pride. The bill promotes forestation of U.S. and state lands, prevention of forest fires, floods, and soil erosion, and repair of National Park trails. It would give preference for Conservation Corps employment to unemployed veterans and others who have been out of work.

Keep Teachers Teaching Act – Demands on teachers are growing as the expectations of our students grow. I support this legislation to help strapped states and localities keep well-trained teachers in the classroom. Setting ourselves up for a chronic teacher shortage won't help anyone in the long run.

Urban Revitalization and Livable Communities Act, Put America to Work Act, Local Jobs for America Act – These are examples of jobs bills I support. They provide grants to local governments for parks and recreation revitalization and construction, including building programs for at-risk youth and recovery action programs and to help build and repair public facilities such as schools and libraries.

The Serve America Act – This important bill became law in 2009, and I was proud to be a cosponsor. Investments in community service and volunteer activities are great ways for our communities to provide employment opportunities with identifiable local benefits.

VET (Veterans Engaged for Tomorrow) Corps Act – Our veterans and their families have made enormous sacrifices for our country, and we as a nation owe them assistance when they seek jobs and return to the civilian workforce. This bill, introduced in 2009 and expected to be introduced again, would expand the National and Community Service Act to train and equip veterans and their families in employment opportunities related to national and community services.

WORKER TRAINING

Investments in education and workforce training help ensure long-term economic stability. Congress should help make work a possibility for the unemployed, and providing resources for training and updating the workforce is an important part of meeting that responsibility.

Many of the policy changes we need are simple and straightforward. Modest changes to unemployment insurance could help workers better continue their professional training and job searching while unemployed. We need innovative ways to address particular employment challenges faced by women entering and re-entering the workforce, provide expanded opportunities for young people entering the workforce for the first time, offer needed resources to support veteran employment and training, and address the particular circumstances of older

Americans who are out of work. Different individuals have their own employment experiences and face significantly different barriers to employment; federal policy should reflect the reality of the economy instead of taking a one-size-fits-all approach.

Legislation I Have Introduced

Promoting Partnerships to Transform Opportunities Act – I have focused on the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act, which is an excellent vehicle for resources to help train, retrain and prepare individuals for jobs available in their community. I introduced this bill to create grants to facilitate partnerships between higher education institutions and local businesses so they can design work training programs that address those businesses’ particular needs.

Legislation I am Cosponsoring and Programs I Support

Community College Energy Training Act – This legislation would provide grants through the Department of Energy to community colleges to provide workforce training and education in sustainable energy industries.

Women and Workforce Investment for Nontraditional Jobs Act – This legislation directs the Department of Labor to support state programs to recruit, train, place and retain women in high-demand, high-wage nontraditional occupations.

Expanding Opportunities for Older Americans – This bill, introduced in 2010 and hopefully coming up again this Congress, would expand the Senior Community Service Employment Program to support and expand high-quality employment opportunities for older Americans.

Employing Youth for the American Dream Act – Our down economy has led to an exceedingly high unemployment rate among youth looking for their first entry-level job. This bill, introduced in 2010 and hopefully coming up again this Congress, would raise the age of eligibility for Workforce Investment Act youth opportunity grants to 24. This would raise young peoples’ employment prospects and help smooth their entry into the workforce.

EMPLOYMENT PROTECTIONS

Americans have worked too long and too hard for many generations to be satisfied with “just having a job.” We’ve built a modern economy that shouldn’t treat working families like production widgets. We must work to create new high-quality jobs, ensure worker safety, and protect the rights of workers to organize, associate, and bargain collectively. The efforts of organized labor unions created and sustained the middle class throughout the last century. Those efforts ensured that many employees today have secure incomes, wage and hour protections, health care, and other needed benefits. Recent attacks on organized labor are nothing short of an attack on the middle class and the history of what has made the United States such a special place to live.

Congress has an unquestionable duty to protect the rights of workers and to ensure that work environments are safe and healthy. I believe in enforcing regulations, where necessary, to make sure employers do not exploit or take advantage of their employees.

Legislation I am Cosponsoring and Programs I Support

Ensuring Worker Safety Act – This bill would amend Occupational Safety and Health Administration rules to ensure that safety and health plans at the state level are monitored and checked to protect employees.

Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation – This bill, which was introduced in 2009 and will hopefully come up again, would provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by states or local governments.

Employee Misclassification Prevention Act – I have strongly supported efforts, which this bill would put into law, to end the misclassification of many employees as “independent contractors.” This label makes it easier to pay workers lower wages and offer reduced benefits. Misclassification threatens workers’ rights and protections, puts responsible employers at a competitive disadvantage, and cheats taxpayers.

Employee Free Choice Act – I have long supported efforts to make it easier for employees to bargain collectively and form unions if they wish. This bill from the 111th Congress, which will hopefully come up again, would have changed the National Labor Relations Act to streamline and simplify outdated union formation rules.

ENSURING EQUITY AND FAIRNESS

Democracy in America is founded on the principals of fairness and participation. In each successive generation, we have tried to correct the inequities and shortcomings of the past to try to expand access and fulfill that promise of fairness for all.

Congress, as protectors of the principals of our democracy, has a fundamental responsibility to protect our ideals of fairness of equal opportunity. In support of these ideals, I have worked on behalf of legislation that promotes employment and income fairness for our entire society.

Legislation I am Cosponsoring and Programs I Support

Paycheck Fairness Act – This bill would end wage discrimination against people who work in female-dominated or minority-dominated jobs by establishing equal pay for equivalent work.

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act – This bill would prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

Federal Firefighters Fairness Act – This bill updates rules regarding firefighters with heart- or lung- related diseases, making the illnesses presumed job-related unless specific evidence shows otherwise for the purpose of medical coverage.

Family Fairness Act – This bill, which was introduced in 2009 and will hopefully come up again, would expand Family and Medical Leave coverage for employees who have worked for an employer for at least twelve months.)

“INVESTING IN OUR WORKERS” MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Note: Job creation highlights are in the “Strengthening Our Economy and Our People” section.

TELEVISION AND VIDEO

Nov. 16 – Watch highlights from the Progressive Caucus job creation and fair economy hearing at <http://bit.ly/up2Js1>. Key quote: “The Progressive Caucus has a function to perform: we have to represent the majority of the American people in this discussion. We have to be the ones that add the truth, as simple and as real as it is, and we’re the ones that have to provide the constructive, smart alternatives in the discussion that’s going on.”

OP-EDS AND PRINT MEDIA

March 17 – Read his op-ed at *Daily Kos* on protecting the unemployed from hiring discrimination at <http://bit.ly/vcbjzx>. Key quote: “This is more than just a civil rights issue. It’s a question of improving our economy and making sure we don’t create a permanent crop of economic second class citizens. It would be sheer foolishness for the government to allow companies to discriminate against the currently unemployed -- the downturn we’re still clawing our way out of has meant many people are out of work through no fault of their own, and if we condemn them to *permanent* unemployment because of a superstition that they’re less capable employees, we’ll all suffer for it.”

IMMIGRATION AND FOREIGN POLICY



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Whether we look just over our own borders or thousands of miles away, we need policies that improve our relationships with other countries and make us stronger as a nation in the world community. We've seen the disastrous human cost of starting wars with no end in sight, and we've seen the terrible economic and social costs of punishment-first immigration policies that do nothing to help unify American society.

Look at what we've spent on these wars and consider the tradeoffs. Too many of our neighbors and friends are out of work and struggle to pay their bills. Southern Arizonans know the more than \$1.7 billion they've paid for these wars since 2001 has hasn't made their lives better. According to calculations explained at CostOfWar.com, the money spent on the wars by Arizona's Seventh Congressional District alone could have paid for:

- 1.3 million households converted entirely to wind energy for one year
- 819,526 people to have groceries for one year
- 743,828 children receiving low-income healthcare for one year
- 223,532 military veterans receiving VA medical care for one year
- 207,503 Head Start slots for children for one year
- 32,586 elementary school teachers for one year

As we work to make the twenty-first century a success story of peace and stability, we don't just need to make better decisions – we need to update our perspective on the rest of the world. Our foreign and immigration policy has to focus right now on three main areas:

Afghanistan – If we want to bring peace to this troubled nation, we need to lend material assistance in building basic infrastructure and help poor communities establish the roads,

schools, hospitals and police stations they need. We also need to let local decision-making reassert itself wherever possible. The central government is weak because it has no constituency.

Iraq – I am proud to have opposed the invasion of Iraq all the way. The costs of the war to Americans and Iraqis – both blood and treasure – have been far too great. With President Obama’s announcement that troops are coming home the end of 2011, I am grateful that this goal, however long overdue, will finally be reached.

Immigration Reform – Our bottom line has to be what works best for us as a nation. Instead of building Fortress America and wasting money on unworkable sensor systems, we need comprehensive immigration reform that creates a system for earned citizenship, updates the agricultural worker visa program, allows undocumented students and soldiers to continue making a life here after serving their communities, and addresses the other crucial human needs that border fences and expensive radar nets will always miss.

AFGHANISTAN

I am proud to have urged a quick military exit from Afghanistan from the beginning. It is easy after years of military and civilian casualties and hundreds of billions of dollars we couldn’t afford to say we should bring our troops home. It was harder in 2003 to stand up to conservative rhetoric and ask, “What are we really doing here?” Thanks to hundreds of years of foreign invasions, Afghans share a deep-seated mistrust of outside military powers and were never eager for us to stay. Our policies and war planning never accounted for this – an expensive blunder we can never make again.

The devastation to the United States and Afghanistan as a result of the occupation has been tremendous. More than 1,850 American service members have lost their lives. Arizona families alone have seen more than 300 dead or injured. The economic cost of this occupation to our country has been staggering – almost \$460 billion with no definite end in sight.

President Obama announced this summer that 10,000 troops would withdraw by the end of 2011 and another 23,000 will leave by late 2012. This decision was a profound disappointment. I had hoped the President would implement the significant, swift, and sizeable withdrawal we need. We cannot afford to station troops in Afghanistan indefinitely, especially if they no longer have any mission related to our reasons for being there. We need to bring our troops home now.

In September 2012, if the president doesn’t change his plan, there will still be nearly 70,000 American troops in harm’s way in Afghanistan. I cannot tell those soldiers and their families why our government keeps them overseas fighting an unaccountable war without end.

Legislation I Am Cosponsoring

The Responsible End to the War in Afghanistan Act – The war in Afghanistan has now entered its tenth year. It is already the longest war in our nation’s history, dragging on longer than Vietnam or World War II. I am a proud co-sponsor of this bill to direct the Pentagon to spend

money in Afghanistan only in order to withdraw our troops and military contractors, because it's well past time we said enough is enough.

The United States-Afghanistan Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) Act – Passing this bill would start a formal process to negotiate the end of our military presence with the Afghan government, much as we negotiated a SOFA with the Iraqi government that set our withdrawal deadline at the end of this year. The bill directs the Pentagon not to build any permanent bases in Afghanistan, which has been a sore spot with the Afghan people since our invasion.

IRAQ

We have been at war in Iraq since early 2003. Nearly nine years later, we have yet to hear a convincing reason thousands of Americans had to die there.

While I stood against the invasion and continue to believe it was a mistake we could not afford to make, I honor the sacrifice of every American who has served in Iraq over the last nine years and look forward to their happy reunions with their families. As our occupation of Iraq ends, I will continue to pressure President Obama to honor his commitment to bring every single soldier and military contractor home. At the same time, I will continue to support diplomatic and humanitarian initiatives working to re-establish peace and stability in the lives of the Iraqi people.

Legislation I am Cosponsoring

Iraq Withdrawal Accountability Act – This bill would withdraw all U.S. soldiers and military contractors from Iraq by December 31, 2011. It prevents the Pentagon from spending any money to establish any permanent base or military installation in Iraq prevents us from exercising control over any sovereign Iraqi oil resources.

IMMIGRATION

Federal immigration policy has suffered from some of the same mistakes that drew us into unwinnable wars abroad. Rather than appreciating the reasons people come here, and trying to ensure the unification of immigrant families already living in the United States, too many state and federal lawmakers have taken an “attack first” approach that has helped ruin Arizona’s economy and is undermining the labor force in states across the country. As we address our broken immigration system, we must bear in mind that while the faces of immigrants have changed, their pioneering spirit, courage, ability to thrive, and dreams of securing a better future for their children remain the same.

Our current system is broken. Everyone agrees on that much. It takes too long to process visa applications, families are being unnecessarily separated – often for years at a time – and seasonal labor is restricted in ways that make no economic sense.

The impact of this outdated and inefficient immigration system on American society has been far-reaching. As problems have grown, so too has the level of emotion. Inflamed rhetoric often obscures the genuine problem and therefore hinders consensus on effective solutions.

The way to fix our broken immigration system is through common-sense, comprehensive immigration reform.

Our goal must be to create an immigration system that serves our economic, security, and humanitarian interests. Such a system must combine tough border and workplace enforcement with practical reforms that promote economic growth, protect all workers, and reunite immediate family members. We have to establish a realistic program to require undocumented immigrants to register with the government while creating legal immigration channels that are flexible, serve the national interest, and curtail future illegal immigration.

Legislation I Am Cosponsoring

Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act – Current immigration law punishes the highly motivated children of undocumented parents just for pursuing the American dream. These children have no say in their parents’ decision to come to this country illegally but are routinely denied basic civil and legal protections. I am a co-sponsor of the DREAM Act because it would restore the American ideal of equal opportunity for young people who attend school or serve in the military, regardless of the status of their parents.

Reuniting Families Act – This bill reduces family immigration visa backlogs and promotes the humane and timely reunification of immigrant families. Family members often wait too long to be reunited with their spouses, children, and other loved ones overseas. Imagine being separated from your spouse, children, and family member for years or even decades due to bureaucratic backlogs and visa quotas and this bill becomes a no-brainer.

HELP Separated Children Act -- This bill protects children and families separated by immigration enforcement actions. When parents are apprehended at homes or worksites or during minor traffic violations, it triggers a complex series of events that can end in separation from their children and families. The Department of Homeland Security often does not allow parents the chance to make arrangements for their children, who sometimes end up in the state welfare system. The HELP Separated Children Act requires DHS to allow licensed social workers, case workers or local non-government organizations to screen individuals *at the time of apprehension* to determine if they have children in the United States. DHS would be required to consider the welfare of these children before making a decision regarding the detention, release, and transfer of a parent.

Uniting American Families Act of 2011 – Our immigration system has always recognized the value of keeping families together, but when it comes to legally married same-sex couples and domestic partners our immigration law says those families don’t count. I am pleased to support the Uniting American Families Act to protect the unity of all families.

“IMMIGRATION AND FOREIGN POLICY” MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

TELEVISION AND VIDEO

Feb. 10 – Watch part one of the hearing I chaired on violence against immigrant women and strengthening the Violence Against Women Act at <http://bit.ly/rtSxKX>, watch part two at <http://bit.ly/rJM7I2> and watch part three at <http://bit.ly/uNyJCi>. (See my op-ed below describing what I learned at this event.)

Feb. 18 – Watch my statement on the floor of the House of Representatives opposing a budget amendment to cut funds for the Justice Department’s lawsuit against Arizona’s SB 1070 law at <http://bit.ly/vNqd1s>. Key quote: “People that believe in the Constitution, as we all do, would want to know that the law in Arizona passes constitutional muster. This is what this lawsuit’s about. This is why we have separation of powers. This is why we have a Constitution, to protect the interests of all people.”

June 22 – Watch my response to President Obama announcing a small withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan at <http://bit.ly/uk910U>. Key quote: “What we’re asking for, those of us disappointed with the number – and I certainly am – is that this had to be significant. We had to demonstrate not only to the American people but to the world that we’re getting out. If we time this out, at this rate we’ll be there until 2016 or 2017. [. . .] The American people need their roads fixed. They want their kids educated. They want that money reinvested here. They want to bring those troops home and reintegrate them back into our society.”

Oct. 18 – Watch my interview with Martin Bashir on MSNBC discussing Herman Cain’s threats to build an alligator-filled moat along our Mexican border at <http://bit.ly/uURCJ1>. Key quote: “This nation still has the strains and the stains of violence. The issue of race relations in this country remains an issue. For him to stir, for him to indicate that violence is a means to solve a very complex and vexing social problem, which is immigration reform, is to go back to those times where we use the issue of violence as a club as opposed to realizing, as Dr. King taught us, that we have to go in a whole different direction.”

OP-EDS AND PRINT MEDIA

Feb. 12 – Read my op-ed at the *Huffington Post* on my hearing on stopping violence against immigrant women and improving the Violence Against Women Act at <http://huff.to/fm2q1w>. Key quote: “This issue cannot and must not become an occasion for demagogues to spin their wheels. Abusive relationships are not a political issue – they’re a public health and human rights issue. Making sure women don’t have to suffer beatings in silence, whatever their immigration status, has to be a priority. No one deserves to be beaten. No child deserves to grow up in an abusive environment. Whatever other laws may apply to a family’s situation, VAWA must ensure that abuse cannot continue in silence.”

May 31 – Read my op-ed for *The American Prospect* called “Get Off the Warpath” about the need to end our wars overseas at <http://bit.ly/vsjfUB>. Key quote: “Some pundits think Afghanistan will be obscured by the economy and won’t play a big role in the 2012 election. I doubt it. Americans are connecting the dots between federal spending priorities and the pain they feel at home. In 2012, key Democratic voters may find themselves lacking money to heat their

homes through the winter, struggling to put their kids through college without Pell grants, or running out of unemployment benefits with no new job on the horizon. Meanwhile, more than 100 billion of their tax dollars – as much as \$2 billion per al-Qaeda member in Afghanistan, by the administration’s own estimates – are going to a war they feel is not worth the cost.”

June 14 – Read my op-ed for *The Hill* newspaper about listening to Hispanic voters on immigration reform at <http://bit.ly/j3FFDu>. Key quote: “What do today’s numbers really say? A poll of Hispanic voters released June 9 by Latino Decisions and impreMedia found the following. Seventy-four percent support ‘stopping the deportation of any undocumented immigrant who has not committed a crime, and is married to a U.S. citizen or legal resident.’ [. . .] Forty-three percent said congressional Democrats are ‘ignoring or avoiding’ immigration reform. That’s a call for action, not ignoring the issue or turning to anti-immigrant rhetoric.”

Nov. 22 – Read an article in the *Arizona Daily Star* about my fact-finding trip to Alabama to learn more about the state’s new anti-immigrant law at <http://bit.ly/rtmfup>. Key quote: “Because Birmingham was the birthplace of the civil-rights movement for African-Americans, it is only fitting that a similar movement for immigrants starts here, House Democrats said Monday. Birmingham has ‘a historic significance ... that changed the very character of this country,’ said U.S. Rep. Raúl Grijalva, D-Ariz. He is in Alabama this week with nine other congressional Democrats to help start a campaign to repeal the state’s immigration law, known as HB 56. Because the law is modeled after Arizona’s SB 1070, Arizona has a lot to teach Alabama, Grijalva said.”

Dec. 1 – Read my op-ed for First Focus Campaign for Children on what I learned about Alabama’s new anti-immigrant law on my fact-finding mission at <http://bit.ly/vreTei>. Key quote: “The law doesn’t just require police who ‘reasonably suspect’ someone of being an undocumented immigrant to check their status. It also directs school districts to check the immigration status of every student at every level of education. It even prohibits landlords from renting to someone who may be an undocumented immigrant. It creates an intentional climate of fear well beyond any attempt to make the community safer or more prosperous. It’s already tearing the state apart.”

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We Americans have a right to a clean and safe environment, and Congress is responsible for protecting our air and water. I am always looking for ways to promote responsible environmental stewardship and improve our national standard of living. We need smart policies that develop our economy, improve public health and conserve natural spaces. Far from being mutually exclusive, these goals go hand in hand and over the long run can only be achieved together.

Since coming to Congress, promoting responsible environmental stewardship and land management policies that emphasize conservation over short-term economic gains have been one of my top priorities. We have a responsibility to ourselves and future generations to guarantee that the unique American heritage of clean open spaces retains its natural beauty.

In my role as the top Democrat on the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, I have the honor of overseeing decisions about how we manage millions of acres of public property both on land and offshore. My guiding principles in this work include balancing short- and long-term economic and conservation goals; improving public access to these public spaces, particularly for underserved communities; and ensuring that public resources are not given away to private companies without public benefits. My work on the environment and our open spaces can be broken down into four broad categories:

America's Public Lands – One of my top priorities is making sure American taxpayers are able to enjoy the land held in the public trust and ensuring they get fair value for the resources private companies extract from that land.

Preserving Arizona – One of my greatest responsibilities is promoting the responsible stewardship of the environment and natural resources throughout our state.

Climate Change and Renewable Energy – We have to provide good economic conditions for investment in renewable energy and take other steps to end our dependence on fossil fuels.

Clean Air and Water – If we want to leave a livable world behind for our children, we have to provide clean air, clean water and a clean environment for all Americans.

ENHANCING AMERICA’S PUBLIC LANDS

One of my top priorities is protecting the conservation legacy of Theodore Roosevelt and other early visionaries who had the foresight to establish National Parks and recognized the value of America’s natural heritage. From the Grand Canyon in Arizona to the tree-lined Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park, America’s public lands are part of a long tradition of conservation, and protecting their integrity is a fundamental part of my work in Congress.

America’s public lands are an important financial resource. Economic activity generated by outdoor recreation – including hiking, hunting, fishing, cycling, and camping – support small businesses across the country. At the same time, there is great spiritual and cultural value in protecting treasured natural places. This is why I wrote and introduced the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) Act, which passed in 2009 as part of a larger public lands omnibus law. My bill created a permanent network of 27 million acres of protected land throughout the western portion of the country, including the Agua Fria and Sonoran Desert National Monuments in Arizona. In order to advocate for these lands and the resources needed to manage them effectively, I co-chair the Congressional NLCS Caucus.

Many people speak of the economy and the environment as existing in tension with each other. This is the wrong way to look at our natural world. We can create high-quality, sustainable jobs by conserving land rather than exploiting it. In areas with rich mineral and resource deposits, we have to make sure American taxpayers get fair value for resources extracted from public lands. Billions of dollars in resources are removed from publicly owned land in the United States each year, but little of that money goes to the public treasury.

Because of the antiquated Mining Law of 1872 that established the formula for leasing federal land to mining interests, no royalties are paid for the tremendous amount of hard rock minerals extracted from the thousands of mining claims held on land owned by the US government. Oil companies – which report new record profits seemingly every year – pay a 12.5 percent royalty on the value of oil they remove from our land. Mining companies should pay their fair share as well. The true value of resources extracted remains unclear, which is why I asked the Government Accountability Office in September 2011 to determine the total value of resources taken from our public spaces and how much the public received in related rents, royalties and fees. We need to know whether current policy maximizes public benefit, and in order to know that we need the facts. This study, likely complete in mid-2012, will help inform my work on modernizing our mining and drilling laws.

Legislation I Have Introduced

Public Lands Service Corps Act – As we recover from the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, jobs creation is a national focus, and rightly so. We need to return our economy to sustainable levels of employment and train future generations for a new economic landscape. There are significant opportunities for job creation on our public lands. This legislation authorizes an existing program to continue to train the land managers and conservations of the future, increasing exposure to public lands among youth and underserved communities that do not always have the opportunity engage in the natural places that make our country so unique.

Legislation I am Cosponsoring and Programs I Support

Fair Payment for Energy and Mineral Production on Public Lands Act – By generating public revenue and guaranteeing the public is paid a fair market price for natural resources private companies extract from public land, this bill will reduce the federal budget deficit and promote responsible extraction. The bill also guarantees that responsible parties pay their fair share for cleanup efforts and use the extraction permits they have before seeking new ones.

No Child Left Inside Act – Making environmental education an important component of the nation’s core school curriculum is a critical step in getting future generations engaged in managing and conserving natural spaces throughout the country. No Child Left Inside is a Department of Education program that makes this a reality. I am an original cosponsor of this bill, which guarantees that the funding for this program is available in perpetuity.

America’s Great Outdoors – Many important decisions about land use and conservation have to be made at the local level. This White House-led initiative puts local stakeholders – community residents, land owners, farmers, small businesses, conservation groups, and local governments – in the driver’s seat to create a conservation agenda that will last for generations to come.

CONSERVING ARIZONA

Arizona is home to some of the most iconic landscapes in the entire United States. The Grand Canyon, the Painted Desert, Saguaro National Park and Coronado National Forest, just to name a few, attract millions of visitors each year and hold a special in the hearts of the American people.

Growing up in Arizona, I always knew it was a special to live that deserves to be protected. Our state is one of the fastest-growing in the nation, and we need to make sure that growth doesn’t outpace our ability to protect and preserve what makes our land so beautiful and unique.

We have to make sure the Arizona we knew growing up will be around for our grandchildren, and their grandchildren, to enjoy. Whether through establishing new parks and refuges or strengthening existing protections, conserving Arizona has guided my career since serving on the Pima County Board of Supervisors.

Legislation I Have Introduced

Grand Canyon Watershed Protection Act – The Grand Canyon is the crown jewel of our National Parks System and an iconic symbol of the United States. This special place, acknowledged as a World Heritage Site by the United Nations, is recognized throughout the world for its striking beauty. The Grand Canyon is cut in two by the Colorado River, an important water source for more than 25 million residents of the Southwest. Mining around the edges of Grand Canyon National Park – near tributaries that form the Colorado River watershed – threatens the integrity of Arizona’s most significant natural wonder. I introduced this legislation to withdraw approximately 1 million acres of federal land adjacent to the park from future hard rock mining claims. If we can’t agree to protect the land around the Grand Canyon, we can’t agree to protect anything.

Southern Arizona Public Lands Protection Act of 2011 – The natural landscapes of Southern Arizona, from wildlife in the Sonoran Desert to the rugged Santa Rita Mountains, are a big part of what makes life here so attractive. Allowing a foreign mining company to dump mine waste known as tailings in the Coronado National Forest is not in the best interest of the community. This bill withdraws all federal lands in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties from future mining claims, ensuring our cherished desert ecosystem is not threatened by mining proposals (like the Rosemont Copper project) that benefit a few at public expense.

Saguaro National Park Boundary Expansion and Study Act of 2011 – Saguaro cacti are native to the Sonoran Desert and an iconic part of life in Tucson. While Saguaro National Park was only proclaimed in 1994, Herbert Hoover created Saguaro National Monument in 1933. It quickly became a refuge for wildlife, tourists and residents right in the heart of Southern Arizona. It is home to the endangered spotted owl and attracts thousands of visitors every year. Making sure Saguaro National Park has the resources it needs to thrive has been a priority of mine since coming to Congress. This bill allows the Secretary of the Interior to expand the Park and to partner with the State of Arizona to acquire land within the park boundaries, consolidating protected areas and strengthening the conservation legacy of this unique area.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Protecting our environment over the long term will depend on using clean energy sources to drive our economy and power our homes. Fossil fuels deplete the Earth’s atmosphere, pollute water sources and dirty the air. Our dependence on fossil fuels permanently ties us to foreign suppliers whose interests may not overlap with ours. As the global population surpasses seven billion, the only sensible way to ensure a clean domestic energy supply is to invest in and develop renewable energy technology. Energy security is a fundamental part of national security. We need a coherent national energy supply strategy not only to mitigate the impacts of climate change, but to reduce our dependence on politically unstable sources of oil.

Greenhouse gas emissions are one of the most significant man-made sources of climate change, and the one that we have the power to do the most about. The transition to renewable energy is only part of the comprehensive strategy we need to slow and, eventually, reverse the harmful effects of climate change. The United States, as a world leader and responsible neighbor, has to take a strong stance internationally and commit to significant international carbon emission standards. I recently cosigned a letter to President Obama encouraging the government to take a

strong and just position at the meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Durban, South Africa, that took place in November 2011.

Arizona is uniquely situated to take advantage of one of the most sustainable resources known to exist: the sun. With the support of the Department of Energy and Department of the Interior, solar energy projects have been developing around Southern Arizona and much of our state. This significant contribution to Arizona's economy will continue to pay dividends as projects evolve and technology improves over time.

Legislation I am Cosponsoring and Programs I Support

Save Our Climate Act – Climate change is a serious challenge we must address on a national level. We cannot continue to grant a free pass to polluters that contribute to the significant warming trend. By taxing carbon emissions at the point of sale, this legislation ensures that we move toward cleaner, more carbon-neutral forms of energy.

The Federal Renewable Energy Expansion Act – This bill increases the amount of energy the federal government purchases from renewable sources. By changing consumption standards, federal agencies can improve the market for renewable energy, drive down costs and promote production on federal land.

Grants for Renewable Energy Education for the Nation Act – Part of moving the economy away from fossil fuels and toward renewable energy is establishing a workforce trained for the technology of the future. This legislation provides universities and educational institutions with the resources they need to establish necessary programs and train Americans to work in the renewable energy field.

Job Creation and Energy Efficiency Act – Energy efficiencies in both residential and commercial properties bring savings to the nation and individual property owners. I am an original cosponsor of the bill to provide Americans with financial support for making important efficiency retrofits to their homes and businesses. Using less energy makes sense for the both our environment and our pocketbooks.

New Alternative Transportation to Give Americans Solutions Act – Changing the fuel in our vehicles and the way we get around town will not happen overnight. I cosponsor this legislation along with 180 of my colleagues to provide tax credits for Americans who make the effort to drive an alternative fuel vehicle. This is the sort of smart government solution that will assist our transition to the next generation of cleaner vehicles.

Solar Energy Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Solar PEIS) – The Department of Energy (DOE) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are in the process of identifying “solar zones” throughout Arizona and five other Western states. By identifying specific areas that are pre-screened for environmental review, BLM and DOE are streamlining the process for establishing renewable energy on our public lands.

CLEANING UP THE OIL INDUSTRY

Over the past several years, high oil prices – which translate to higher prices at the pump – have been a big factor in our family economic planning. As we transition the economy away from fossil fuels, it is important that oil producers pay their fair share. Even as the economy continues to struggle, the big five oil companies have reported record profits. I cosponsor several pieces of legislation that ensure major oil corporations and financial speculators aren't taking advantage of the American consumer.

The 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill led to the release of 4.9 million barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico. This environmental catastrophe wreaked havoc on the Gulf ecosystem and the local economy, costing small businesses millions in rebuilding expenses and lost revenue (not to mention the millions in cleanup costs absorbed by American taxpayers). To make sure that the oil companies clean up the messes they make, I am a cosponsor of the the **Big Oil Bailout Prevention Act of 2011**. This bill removes the economic damages liability cap for parties responsible for an oil spill. The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 caps economic recovery liability at \$75 million for companies whose oil spills harm local economies. In today's economy, that figure is far too small.

Large oil companies enjoy generous government subsidies even as they announce record profits. The largest oil companies – those with over \$50 million in taxable revenue per year – are nothing like the smaller operators those subsidies were originally designed to assist. Congress never intended to shovel taxpayer money to large multinational corporations until the end of time. As a cosponsor of the **End Big Oil Tax Subsidies Act**, I support reforming subsidies for major integrated oil companies who seem to be doing just fine on their own.

Gas prices keep going up not because supply is too low, but because elite commodity traders speculate on oil futures in a severely under-regulated marketplace. Oil production on US federal land is the highest it has been since 2003. We don't need more drilling or speculation to bring prices down. The **End Excessive Oil Speculation Now Act** will guarantee significant oversight of the reckless games invisible financial traders play with the value of oil.

CLEAN AIR AND CLEAN WATER

The United States Constitution is the fundamental basis for our government and the foundation of our democratic society. It guarantees the rights and liberties of every American. Throughout our history, the Constitution has been amended to extend existing rights and establish new ones. As American society matures, so does the Constitution. I am a proud cosponsor of House Joint Resolution 33: **Proposing an amendment the Constitution of the United States respecting the right to a clean, safe, and sustainable environment**. Amending the Constitution is not common, but guaranteeing our environmental health through an amendment is a worthy occasion.

Congress passed both the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act with substantial bipartisan support. These two landmark pieces of environmental legislation have protected and promoted a clean environment throughout the country, saving untold millions of dollars and thousands of lives. Despite their tremendous track record, these and other fundamental environmental

protections are under attack by the Republican-controlled House of Representatives. Through legislative initiatives that aim to undermine the regulatory authority of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), they have put narrow corporate interests ahead of public health and environmental protection. This year, I made it a priority to stand up to this anti-environment crusade and signed several letters to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson supporting the regulations under attack.

TransCanada, a Canadian oil company, is trying to build the massive **Keystone XL pipeline** to transport oil from the tar sands of Alberta directly through the heart of the Midwest. The proposed project will be built adjacent to the Ogallala aquifer, a water source for millions of Americans, the protected Sand Hills wetland area, and 27 percent of the nation's irrigated land. Even a small spill from a pipeline this size would present significant risks to this critical water supply and wildlife habitat. At the same time, oil extraction from tar sands emits significantly more greenhouse gases than traditional oil extraction. The United States should not promote this irresponsible practice, and earlier this year I sent a letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton asking that she find the proposed pipeline not in the national interest.

Legislation That I Cosponsor

Ban Poisonous Additives Act – Ever since groundbreaking works like Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* exposed unclean meat processing conditions a century ago, the federal government has played an active role in protecting and inspecting America's food supply. It is important that we actively identify new threats to food safety and quality. This bill protects American consumers from food packaging that leaches dangerous toxins and authorizes the Food and Drug Administration to study potential hazards from packaging materials.

School Environment Protection Act – Children are the most precious and vulnerable members of our society. This bill helps schools adopt pesticide-free pest management programs, limiting our children's exposure to noxious chemicals. Kids spend their formative years in and around schools; it is important that these schools are safe places for them to grow up.

Superfund Reinvestment Act – From mining to energy creation, private companies often leave trails of hazardous chemicals that leach into our water supply and dirty our air. The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act – commonly known as 'Superfund' – authorized the Environmental Protection Agency to clean up hazardous sites when the culprit cannot be identified. This is an important function of government, and it is critical that the resources needed to carry it out are not jeopardized by political games. When responsible parties don't clean up after themselves, whether for legal or financial reasons or because they no longer exist, the federal government needs to be able to clean up blighted areas so they don't permanently damage public health and destroy property values. This bill makes funds available in perpetuity for critical cleanup activities.

“PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT” MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

TELEVISION AND VIDEO

March 2 – Watch my remarks at a gathering of lawmakers opposing budget cuts for environmental programs at <http://bit.ly/sxl0lv>. Key quote: “This budget, to the environment, is an ideological assault as much as anything else. It is targeted, it is meant to hurt, to be mean and to be punitive to the programs that have taken decades to establish, to nurture and to make stronger. [. . .] This has nothing to do with a fiscal crisis and everything to do with a political agenda.”

July 8 – Watch my remarks on why I oppose HR 1505, a bill to waive environmental regulations in perpetuity within 100 miles of our borders, at <http://bit.ly/vUsyCg>. Key quote: “The ruse is enforcement and controlling illegal immigration. That’s the excuse and that’s the political cover for this discussion. What we have to do, all of us collectively, is peel away that misconception and that lie and deal with the real agenda. And the real agenda is to undo these laws.”

July 26 – Watch my comments at a press conference on protecting the Grand Canyon from an amendment to a funding bill allowing uranium mining claims at <http://bit.ly/tDkwMW>. Key quote: “The Grand Canyon, being the crown jewel of our national park system, deserves much more than a little rider snuck in on an appropriations bill through the back door. [. . .] This is an issue that a huge percentage of the American people support the withdrawal [of land] that Secretary Salazar recommended.”

Sept. 22 – Watch my comments at a press conference announcing a Government Accountability Office study of public benefits and corporate profits from mining and drilling on public land at <http://bit.ly/u7ipuK>. Key quote: “Everything is built on an assumption that as we create a less regulatory environment, as we undo the National Environmental Policy Act, as we undo other protections, that there’s going to be a miraculous blossoming of jobs and extraction activities. That hasn’t come to pass in the last eight years, when all those regulations were loosened for a long time. [. . .] There is a taxpayer responsibility that we have as elected officials, especially in these fiscal times, that there’s indeed a net benefit and a cost benefit for the American taxpayer.”

Nov. 3 – Watch my comments at a Natural Resources Committee hearing on whether to withdraw about one million acres in the Grand Canyon area from mining claims at <http://bit.ly/tGSACY>. Key quote: “The Coconino County Board of Supervisors is on record supporting withdrawal [of the land]. So is the City of Flagstaff. The Navajo Nation in 2005 not only banned uranium mining on their land, but banned all processing on their land. In this debate about what to do with this withdrawal, the opposition is not isolated to one or two people. There were three hundred thousand-plus [public] comments, the vast majority of them favorable.”

OP-EDS AND PRINT MEDIA

June 7 – Read my op-ed for *The Hill* on the need for stronger federal prohibitions on wild horse slaughter at <http://bit.ly/rELHPR>. Key quote: “Horse and burro protection occupies a very special place in the big idea known as ‘animal welfare.’ Wild horses embody the Western spirit that has animated our national conversation about protecting animals and open spaces. [. . .] There are really two issues when it comes to horse slaughter: the private domestic market for horse meat and federal management of wild horses. The former, although it’s been shrinking, is certainly not gone. The latter remains a major issue for lawmakers, federal agencies, activists, and everyone who cares about wildlife and public land. Both need more congressional attention.”

July 19 – Read my op-ed for *The Hill* on why letting Homeland Security officials ignore environmental laws within 100 miles of the U.S. border makes no sense at <http://bit.ly/nvVO8j>. Key quote: “This is a moment when we need a Teddy Roosevelt like never before. He’d have known how to blow the whistle on this extreme agenda. He’d remind us, as he wrote in 1916, that ‘our duty to the whole, including the unborn generations, bids us restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations.’ I hope conservation-minded [Americans] will join me in holding the line. If you enjoy the outdoors, these bills just don’t make sense.”

Oct. 31 – Read my op-ed for the *Arizona Republic* on why opening the Grand Canyon area to further uranium mining claims is a bad idea at <http://bit.ly/uTtuzm>. Key quote: “This withdrawal has no effect on existing claims. Any company that so much as filed the paperwork by July 20, 2009, to mine near the Grand Canyon will still be able to do so. The issue is whether we're going to keep letting new mines open every day, every month, every year from now on. Republicans are circumventing a long-established public input process so a few companies get their way. When it comes to the Grand Canyon, let's make a reasonable decision based on facts, not big claims about doing it all for the little guy.

Nov. 19 – Read my op-ed for *Indian Country Today* on how mining interests’ troubled history with Native American tribes is still with us at <http://bit.ly/sMWma7>. Key quote: “Resolution Copper has proposed to exchange 4,500 acres of land in northern Arizona for the 3,000 federally owned acres it wants to mine. The land the company wants includes not only Oak Flat Campground, a protected site since 1955, but the nearby Apache Leap area sacred to the San Carlos Apache Tribe. Once you take a good look, it’s not even a good deal on paper. Current mining law says the public would receive no royalties on the estimated 1.6 billion tons of copper the company would extract and sell. Worse, Resolution Copper is jointly owned by troubled mining giants BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto. [. . .] Neither cares about the local economy or has shown an interest in Indian sovereignty.

NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Arizona's 7th Congressional District is home to seven sovereign tribal nations, and representing the interests of the first Americans in the district is a very important part of my work in office. As the relationship between the federal government and tribal nations across the country continues to evolve, it is critical to provide tribal governments with the tools and resources they need to flourish while respecting the sovereignty of each individual tribe.

The resources found throughout the state require responsible management that accounts for more than their monetary value. Arizona is full of natural wonders held sacred by Native American communities, and our policy needs to reflect that. Uranium mining near the Grand Canyon and copper mining throughout Southern Arizona are opposed by most tribal nations in these regions. The Navajo, Hopi, Hualapai and other tribal governments have banned uranium mining and processing on their lands. Each is aware of the risks to water supplies and public health posed by hardrock mining, including at the ongoing development of the Rosemont mine in the Santa Rita Mountains and the proposed Resolution Copper mine near Superior. Resolution Copper – a subsidiary of two international mining giants with troubling records – seeks to build a mine adjacent to Oak Flat and Apache Leap, sites of particular cultural and religious importance to several area tribes. Despite the efforts of Arizona's Republican lawmakers, these projects continue to face significant tribal and popular opposition.

By sponsoring legislation and raising awareness about the dangers of this activity in our backyards, I continue to oppose projects that threaten tribal resources. I prefer to promote development that protects the interests of Native Americans and all Arizonans. My representation of Native American interests is guided by the following principals:

- **Sovereignty** – First and foremost, tribal nations must be recognized as sovereign entities and treated with the dignity that status deserves.
- **Consultation** – All federal actions that impact Native American land require accountable and appropriate consultation.
- **Level Playing Field** – Federal law must ensure that tribal communities have equal access to government programs and services.
- **Conservation** – We need to protect tribal cultural, religious and historical resources.

Legislation I Have Introduced

Requirements, Expectations, and Standard Procedures for Executive Consultation with Tribes (RESPECT) Act – Legitimate and comprehensive consultation has to be the foundation of the relationship between the United States and the sovereign tribal nations found within its borders. Consultation not recognized as adequate by the affected tribal governments is not sufficient. This legislation codifies the consultation process and guarantees that, moving forward, consultation will be an accountable process that honors tribal sovereignty and considers all impacted

stakeholders. By outlining and guaranteeing the format for consultation, this bill will benefit both the federal government and tribal nations, making negotiations more efficient and transparent.

Fair Allocation of Internal Revenue Credit for Renewable Electricity Distribution by Indian Tribes (FAIR CREDIT) Act – Tribal lands can often help meet our country’s need for clean, renewable power. At the present time, however, they are at a disadvantage in the renewable markets because they are unable to benefit from the standard federal clean energy production tax credit, or transfer it to a taxable entity. This bill would level the playing field for tribes that want to produce renewable power on their lands.

Cocopah Lands Act – At the request of the Cocopah tribe, this legislation would instruct the Secretary of the Interior to take certain land in Yuma County into trust for the tribe. This land would become part of the Cocopah’s original reservation and would be restricted from gaming.

To allow the Pascua Yaqui Tribe to determine the requirements for membership in that tribe – This legislation guarantees that any person determined to be a member of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe by the tribe is eligible to receive any federal services and benefits offered to any other federally recognized tribe.

Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act – I first introduced this bill in 2007 to protect the Grand Canyon – the crown jewel of our national parks – from the expansion of uranium mining in the area. If enacted, the bill would remove the approximately 1 million acres of federal land adjacent to Grand Canyon National Park from future uranium mining claims. The Obama administration – through a public land order and public involvement process that drew more than 300,000 comments in favor of withdrawal – recently decided to protect these very same acres for the next 20 years. This decision and my bill are supported by several area tribal nations who oppose uranium mining for the damage it does to water and cultural resources.

Legislation That I Cosponsor

Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Home Ownership (HEARTH) Act – Home ownership is a central component of the American dream, and it should be extended to all members of our society. By extending the authority to approve trust land leases to tribal governments, this bill removes barriers to home ownership in tribal communities.

“NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES” MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

OP-EDS

March 15 – Read my op-ed in *Indian Country Today* on the troubled history of mining companies breaking faith with tribal communities at <http://bit.ly/sMWma7>. Key quote: “In reality, it’s all about profits for a handful of uranium mining companies that don’t hire local labor, don’t keep their profits in the state (or in some cases the country) and don’t sell their product domestically.”

2011

Working for You



MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK BETTER FOR YOU: HELP WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES

OVERVIEW

My job is to help constituents get the services and benefits they earn from the federal government. Whether it's a passport, a late Social Security check, a missed Medicare payment, an immigration paperwork request, a mortgage modification, or any other business with a federal agency, my staff and I are ready to assist. Everyone living in the Seventh Congressional District is entitled to as much help as we can provide. Call my Tucson office any time at (520) 622-6788 or my Somerton office at (928) 343-7933 for more information.

This year we closed more than 200 cases with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, more than 100 cases with the Social Security Administration, and nearly 100 mortgage modification requests. A breakdown by agency and county of origin is available on the next page.

SAVING YOU MONEY

My office saved Southern Arizonans more than \$1.4 million this year by recovering funds, getting checks released, preventing foreclosures and helping with agencies. This figure includes assistance with Department of Labor Office of Workers Compensation claims, Social Security Administration disability claims, claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs, tax credit applications with the Internal Revenue Service, and mortgage loan modifications savings.

SUCCESS STORIES

When we're able to help, that means a check gets sent on time, a wrongful foreclosure is prevented, a family is reunited or a veteran gets long overdue recognition for service. Ahead, you'll see some very gracious thank you notes and success stories we've been able to share this year from constituents who thought they'd hit a brick wall until they called our office.

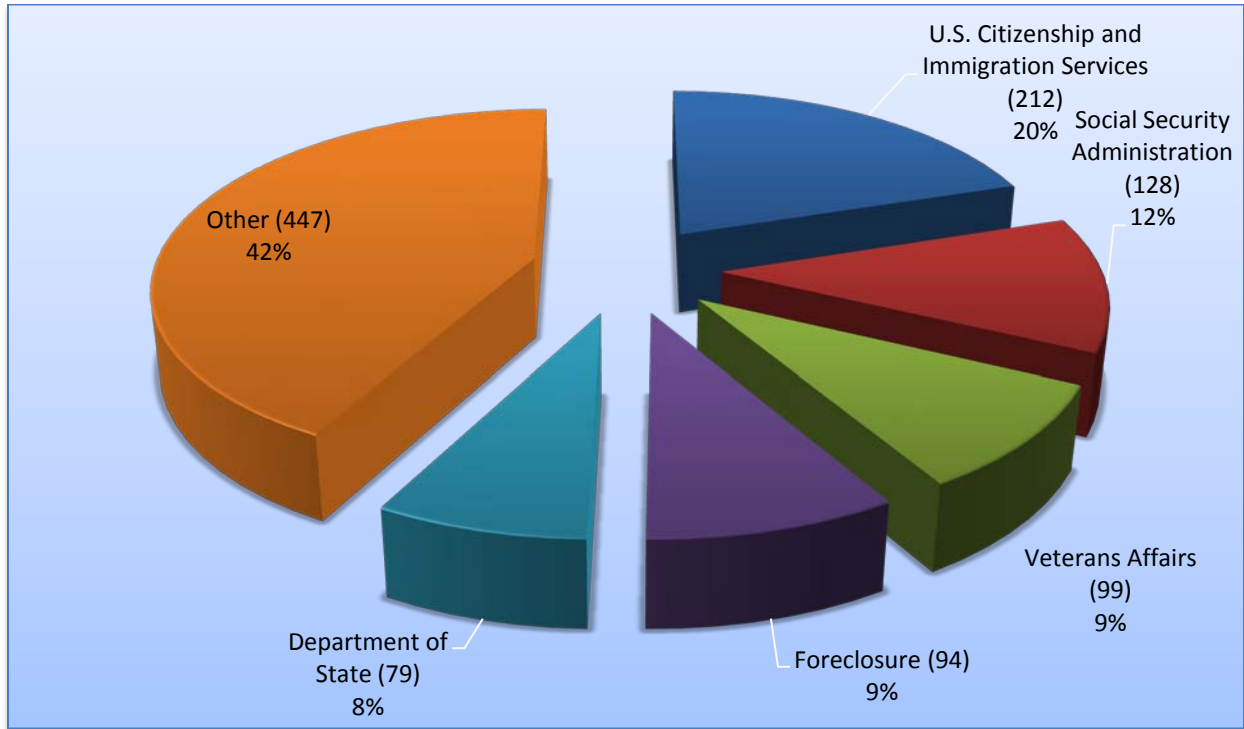
COMMUNICATING WITH CONSTITUENTS

This year we responded to more than 34,000 constituent e-mails and more than 1,800 printed letters – questions, requests for information, thanks, criticism and everything else you sent us.

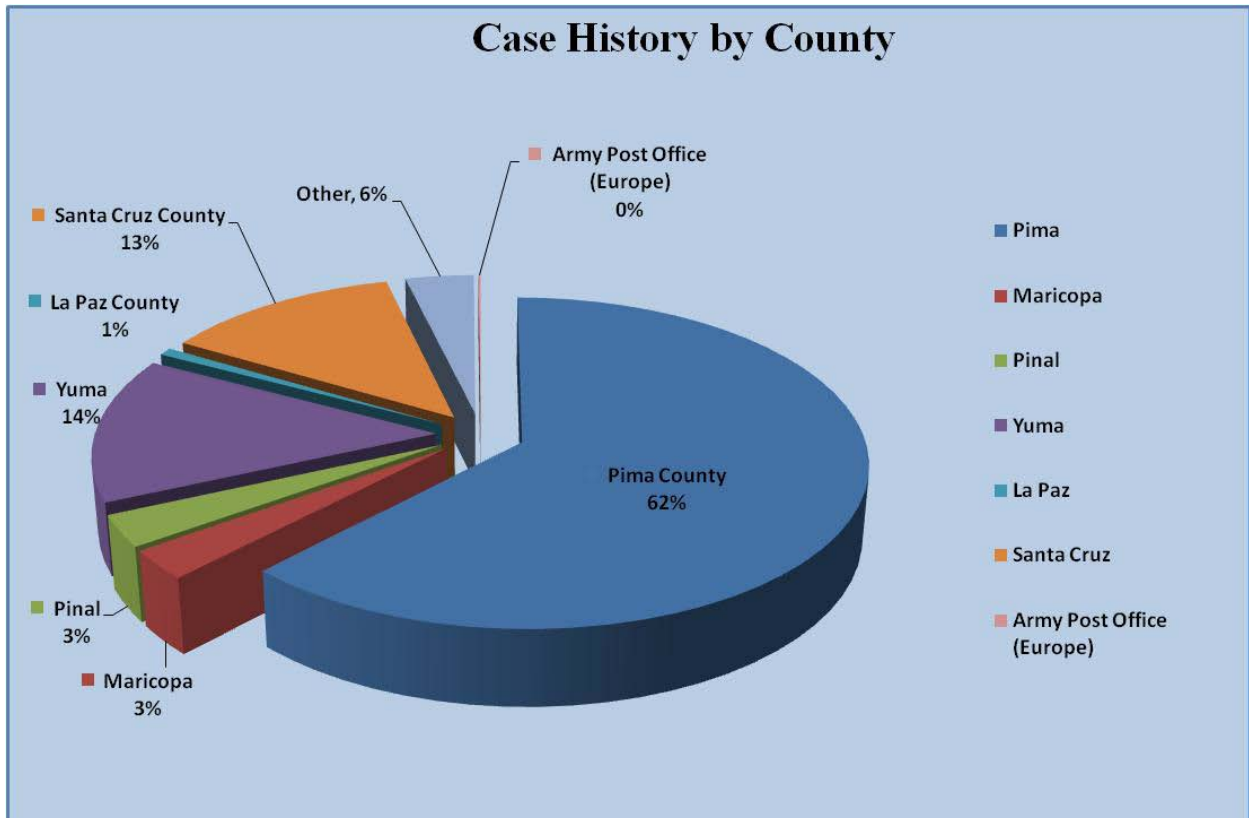
GRANT SUPPORT LETTERS

Federal agencies frequently offer grants or financial support programs for companies and non-profit groups, and I am proud to be able to write letters of support for qualified applicants. This year I wrote 29 letters bringing grant applications to the attention of federal agencies.

COMPLETED CASEWORK REQUESTS BY FEDERAL AGENCY



COMPLETED CASEWORK REQUESTS BY COUNTY OF ORIGIN



GETTING GOVERNMENT TO WORK FOR YOU: CONSTITUENT SERVICE SUCCESS STORIES

In all cases, the constituents involved have agreed to share their stories.

FINANCIAL

Foreclosure Case

A constituent requested assistance on a foreclosure scheduled for the next day. After our staff got involved, the servicer not only agreed to stop the foreclosure but quickly approved a loan modification. The constituent wrote to us:

“Thank you for working so hard to save my home from foreclosure. I didn’t give you much notice but I feel like you were working as quickly and diligently as you would for a family member. There are no words to express my gratitude. I am eternally grateful.”

Internal Revenue Service (Identity Theft)

Mr. Salazar from Santa Cruz County contacted our office about an identity theft that had led to the garnishment of his wages for 18 months. After my office worked with the employer, the Social Security Administration, and the Internal Revenue Service, the earnings record was corrected, the levy was lifted and Mr. Salazar recovered \$10,693.18.

MEDICAL

Social Security Administration

Francisco was diagnosed with a malignant neoplasm of the stomach and intra-abdominal lymph nodes. He had recently been dropped by the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), the state Medicaid program. An application to the Social Security Administration (SSA) for disability was taking longer than expected, and he was in urgent need of surgery and further chemotherapy. His brother contacted our office for assistance and informed us that all information had been sent to SSA but no response had been received. Our office contacted SSA with a request to issue what’s known as a “presumptive decision” to support his treatment based on the diagnosis because Francisco was already in hospice. Once the expedited request was sent to SSA, a presumptive decision was made within a week. Francisco now has disability coverage and is being covered by AHCCCS for further treatment.

Food and Drug Administration

Linda Koyptek contacted my office asking for assistance with the Food and Drug Administration. Her grandson was born with a hearing impairment and needed an implant device recently recalled by the FDA. Linda's older grandson had received the implant with no complication and is now able to hear. An expedited request from our office to the FDA led to the device once again being approved by the agency. Linda's grandson received the device and is now doing great.

September 21, 2011

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
738 N 5th Ave, Ste 110
Tucson AZ 85705

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

I want to personally thank you and staff, *for opening an official congressional inquiry with the Food and Drug Administration on behalf of my grandson.* I also want you to know that *your inquiry, alone, resulted in the FDA's approval of Advanced Bionics' redesign for their HiRes 90K cochlear implant device on September 13 2011.*

I've enclosed a picture of my grandson, *so you can see the one whom you have helped. This little boy, born profoundly deaf, will have the cochlear implant, with the new HiRes 90K cochlear implant device, at Phoenix Children's Hospital on the morning of October 2011. (If I could ask you one more favor, if you have a moment to say a little prayer for him on that morning, it would be much appreciated).*

His CI will be activated one month after the surgery, when he is 18 months old. His speech therapy will begin one month after the activation. *If it's OK, I would like to let you know how he is doing, from time to time.*

We firmly believe that, without your help, we would still be awaiting the FDA's approval of the CI device. The words *"thank you so much!"* seem inadequate. Suffice it to say, *we will be forever in your debt. Thank you and God bless you, Congressman Grijalva.*

I remain,

Linda

Linda K.



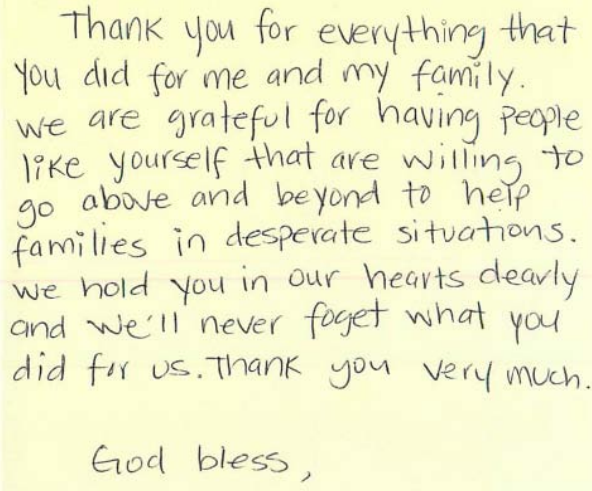
IMMIGRATION

U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services

In 1992, an immigrant petition was submitted by a father for his 17-year-old daughter Liz. Due to a regression in visa availability, the daughter's application was placed on hold. Earlier this year, Liz received notice that the application was denied. My office reviewed the case and found the denial was an error. We worked with U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services to correct the mistake. In August, the family received the great news that the application was approved and after a 19-year wait, Liz received her permanent residency. She looks forward to applying for full citizenship as soon as she is eligible.

Department of State (Veteran)

U.S. Marine Corps Veteran Ernie N. petitioned for U.S. residency for his wife. An I-601 waiver is needed to finalize this sort of visa petition, and processing these waivers takes almost two years on average. Because Ernie suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder and other war-related medical conditions, he requested my office's help in expediting his wife's case. Ernie was caring for his minor children, working full-time, and supporting a second household – all of which worsened his stress level. Once my office got involved, Ernie's request was approved in less than 60 days and he was reunited with his wife in July 2011. He wrote us this very gracious note:



Thank you for everything that you did for me and my family. we are grateful for having people like yourself that are willing to go above and beyond to help families in desperate situations. we hold you in our hearts dearly and we'll never forget what you did for us. Thank you very much.

God bless,