



The 7th Express

Proudly Moving Alabama's 7th Congressional District Forward
Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell

August 2013

The 7th District Is On The Move!

Greetings!

The 7th Express is on the move! This year alone, this office helped secure over \$1,187,220 in direct benefits to constituents of the 7th Congressional District and received over \$256 million in grants for our community. We hope to keep up this proud tradition! This newsletter is a way to track our progress. You can subscribe to this newsletter by visiting our website. Please forward to others so that they can stay informed. [Click here](#) to visit our website or visit <http://sewell.house.gov/>.

2nd Annual Congressional Job Fair



My office partnered with Wallace Community College Selma to host the 2nd Annual Congressional Job Fair on August 7th. Almost 2,000 Alabamians attended the event. Job fair attendees were able to meet with nearly 50 employers to learn about and apply for job opportunities in the Black Belt. It was a huge success!



Standing Up for Our Nations Students

On July 19, I voted against passage of H.R. 5, the so-called "Student Success Act". Instead of working towards a bipartisan solution to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), this partisan bill included extreme policies that keep education funding at sequestration levels, removes accountability provisions, weakens requirement standards, and eliminates and weakens protections for disadvantaged students. I support the Democratic substitute bill which includes key tenets of accountability, provides intervention and support to all students who need it and assures that students with disabilities are given the same chance to succeed as their peers. [Click here](#) to see my press statement.

I was pleased that Congress was able to come to a bipartisan agreement on legislation to prevent student loan interest rates from doubling before August recess. President Obama signed that legislation into law on August 9th. So many individuals depend on student loans to make higher education affordable. While I am disappointed in the time it took for Congress to reach a compromise, I am pleased we worked together to prevent this crippling blow to our nations students.

Standing Up for Alabama Families that Receive SNAP Assistance

I was greatly saddened that House Republicans passed the split Farm Bill in July. I refuse to support legislation that abandons the 39,386 households in my district that rely upon the SNAP program to feed their families! While I understand that our nation faces a serious budget deficit, we simply cannot balance our budget on the backs of families who depend on these government assistance programs to put food on their table and make ends meet. [Click here](#) to view my press statement.

Supreme Court Strikes Down Key Components of the Voting Rights Act



In June, the Supreme Court struck down the coverage formula in Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act, neglecting years of progress. This ruling was a major setback for voting rights across this country.

As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of so many milestones in the Civil Rights Movement, this decision reminds us that while we have the right to vote, that right is not without pervasive threats.

The Senate Judiciary Committee began holding hearings on the future of the Voting Rights Act. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House to take similar action to develop a new coverage formula. [Click here](#) to see my press statement.

Congresswoman Sewell Hosts “Congress in Your Community” in Tuscaloosa



On June 12, we continued our “Congress in Your Community” tour with a town hall meeting in Tuscaloosa. In addition to hosting the town hall meeting, I toured the various medical departments at DCH and Rosedale Court. I look forward to hosting these meetings in every part of the 7th District.



Workforce Development Tax Credit Act of 2013

My office has introduced the Workforce Development Tax Credit Act of 2013 to address the growing shortage of skilled labor in our country. This proposed legislation provides a federal tax credit to businesses to partner with educational institutions to develop part-time apprenticeship training programs and train workers to have the cutting edge manufacturing skills that are desperately needed. It is important that we pass legislation that will streamline and improve coordination among training programs and supportive services, recognize and expand the essential role community colleges play in job training and improve access to education and training for individuals. Our Workforce Development Tax Credit bill will encourage critical public-private partnerships and incentivize companies to “Make It in America.”

Congresswoman Sewell Welcomes Constituents to the United States Capitol



I was delighted to welcome Selma native Kindall Murphy, winner of First Lady Michelle Obama’s Healthy Lunchtime Challenge to Washington, DC. [Click here](#) to read more about Kindall and her time at the White House.



I had a delightful time meeting with high school students from Tuskegee at the Capitol. They were in DC for the Citizenship Washington Focus Program.

Success Story

Social Security

A constituent in Dallas County contacted the Selma congressional office after he filed for Social Security Disability 2 years ago and was experiencing financial difficulty. Our staff in the Selma office contacted the Social Security Office of Disability, Adjudication and Review to express interest in his claim and monitor the process. We were recently contacted by SSA that his claim was approved and he received over \$20,000.00 in retroactive benefits.

Immigration Forum

In June, our office hosted a forum at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute on the state of comprehensive immigration reform. I was pleased to welcome my colleague, Congressman Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) and join with representatives from the Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama, Alabama Coalition of Immigrant Justice, and the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Social Media

Please be sure to “like” us on [Facebook](#), and follow us on [YouTube](#), [Twitter](#) & [Google+](#) to receive Congressional updates and keep abreast of office events!

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It is an honor to serve the 7th District in Congress.
I’ll be back in touch again soon!

Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress