News from Representative Alan Lowenthal



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July 11, 2014

I was very pleased to spend time celebrating Independence Day with constituents and family in the District. The Fourth is a time to celebrate our American heritage while at the same time remembering the debt we owe to so many, both past and present, for our liberties and freedoms.

For me, celebrating our freedoms also reminds me how fortunate we are compared to nations around the world. For most people in countries like Vietnam and China, freedom remains elusive. Liberties that are allowed are only permitted at the whim of the government.

These governments, and many more just like them, must improve their human rights issues. While we celebrate our own freedoms, we as a nation, must remain a strong voice for equality and liberty throughout the world.

### On The Hill

# **Human Rights Hearing**

On Wednesday, I took part in a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on human rights in Southeast Asian. During the hearing, I was able to ask Orange County Supervisor Janet Nguyen and Boat People SOS Executive Director, Dr. Thang Nguyen, about their opinions on whether Vietnam should be allowed to participate in the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade negotiations without significant progress toward respecting human rights.



Dr. Nguyen responded, "This is the time for Congress to come out and make a very strong statement--unmistakably clear to Vietnam, and also to our own administration, that human rights concessions should be irreversible and

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# How should Congress react to the crisis of unaccompanied children at the border?

Strengthen the border and expedite the deportation process

Allow children to be processed through the immigration court system and have their asylum cases heard, send those who do not qualify back

Allow them all to stay

If you have a problem, click here to open survey in a new window

they should be considered as a precondition for any approachment to Vietnam and should be part of the ongoing negotiations with Vietnam. For example, the basic fundamental rights of the Vietnamese people must be respected: the freedom of expression, the freedom of assembly and the freedom of association. There should also be benchmarks, such as the release of all prisoners of conscience.

Supervisor Nguyen agreed, adding "We need to make Vietnam accountable. In order for them to enjoy the trade with our great nation, they also have to honor our liberty and give the people of Vietnam basic rights and release the prisoners."

#### **Humanitarian Crisis At The Border**

This week I also participated in a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on the humanitarian crisis occurring along our southern border. Since October more than 52,000 unaccompanied children and 39,000 families with children have been apprehended at the U.S.-Mexico border. Many of these children have fled severe violence and abuse in Central America and have made long, treacherous journeys to the U.S. in search of safety and protection.

To respond to the influx of unaccompanied children, the President is seeking emergency funding for the agencies responsible for dealing with this crisis. I wanted to let you know a little more about what exactly the President's \$3.7 billion proposal includes:

- Funding for additional Border Patrol personnel in the Rio Grande Valley;
- Resources to improve processing facilities in Nogales and McAllen and to establish up to four additional processing facilities;
- Additional agents for investigative and enforcement activities to disrupt smuggling;
- funds for additional immigration judges to expand immigration court capacity and speed up cases;
- Support for efforts to repatriate and reintegrate migrants to Central America, to help the governments in the region better control their borders, and to address the underlying root causes driving migration;
- Funding for media campaigns in Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras to emphasize the dangers of the journey and deliver the message that unaccompanied children are not given a permit to stay in the U.S.;
- And, \$1.8 billion for the US Department of Health and Human Services to provide appropriate care for unaccompanied children, consistent with Federal law.

# In The 47th District

#### STEM App Challenge

It was such a great pleasure to meet with Stephan Kaminsky from Long Beach, the winner of the 47th District's 2014 STEM App Challenge. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Stephan developed a software app, a 'Nucleic Acid Converter,' that helps in the sequencing and processing of DNA, mRNA, and protein samples in the laboratory. Stephan was kind enough to take a few minutes to show me how his app works when he stopped by my office.



Our 21st century economy requires 21st century skill sets. Investing in our children's education in the STEM fields will make them better prepared for the future. This annual competition is designed to engage students' creativity and encourage their participation in STEM fields, and is part of my ongoing effort to foster an environment of innovation and entrepreneurialism in the 47th District.

#### **Community Coffee in Stanton**

I will be hosting another of my Coffee and Conversation events tomorrow June 12 in Stanton. Please join me for a cup of coffee and conversation about the issues facing our community and nation. I will be providing a Congressional update to attendees and, as always, will answer your questions.

I hope to see you there.



**Date:** Saturday, July 12, 2014 **Time:** 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Location: Stanton Community/Civic Center

Community Room 7800 Katella Avenue Stanton, CA 90680

Please RSVP to my District Office at (562) 436-3828.

**Domenico's Anniversary** 

I stopped by Domenico's Italian Restaurant in Long Beach recently to give owner Mike Rhodes a certificate to recognize the restaurant's 60th Anniversary. They are pretty much the definition of a local institution.



I thought you might like to see what their menu looked like in 1954. On the night I visited, they were charging their 1954 prices to all customers as part of the anniversary celebration.

my Father.	pes for pizza. Our pizza is a joint recipe of my Mother a
Pick it up in your har way. Not only does this n know the spices being sem Feel free to go to the Peverly. All of us are here	nds to eat it. Your waitress will be glad to show you the prop make it easier to handle - it adds to the flavor. If you do n ved at your table, your waitress will explain them to you. e kitchen and make yourself or your wishes known to my wife e to help you enjoy your pizza to the fullest extent. Order piz es not appear on the menu - we will do our best to make it th
	Thank you,
	Domenico
	n.
	Pizza
TOMATO, CHEESI	SMALL MEDIUM LAR
OREGANO, TOMA	ATO, CHEESE 85 1.40 1.8
MUSHROOMS, TO	OMATO, CHEESE . 1.00 1.65 2.2
ANCHOVIES, TON	MATO, CHEESE 1.00 1.65 2.2
SAUSAGE, TOMA	TO, CHEESE 1.05 1.75 2.3
(Sliced by request)	TO, CHEESE 1.05 1.75 2.3 D, CHEESE 1.05 1.75 2.3
	CIAL 1.25 2.15 2.7
	or variations, order extras as follows:
	ms15 - Sausage, Peperoni, or Salomi25 hot peppers, or any spice baked on any of the above at no extra charg
	Salads
Dinner Salad with Domenico	o's Special or Italian Dressing
	SMALL MEDIUM LARG
Antipasto	.35 1.25 2.2
	Desserts
Spumoni	
	Beverages
Coffee	
Milk	.10
WESTERN BEER	.35 EASTERN BEER .4

# Congress U

#### **Executive Order**

An executive order is a presidential directive with the force of law. It does not need congressional approval.

While there is no constitutional provision or law that explicitly permits executive orders, the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld executive orders as valid under the general constitutional grant of executive powers to the President. Another case where the President can act is when Congress grants authority to the President to allow executive action.

Until 1952, there were no rules or guidelines outlining what the president could or could not do through an executive order. However, in the 1952 ruling in Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer, the Supreme Court found that President Harry S. Truman's executive order placing all steel mills in the country under federal control was invalid because it attempted to make law, instead of trying to clarify or to further a law already put forward by Congress or the Constitution. Since this ruling, Presidents have been careful to cite which specific laws they are acting under when issuing new executive orders.

Congress can repeal or modify an executive order by passing a new law; however it must be signed by the President or his veto overridden.

# Last Week's Poll

Should company owners be allowed to impose their religious beliefs on others by denying employees certain types of medical coverage?

**31.0%** Yes - The religious rights of company owners trump those of their employees

**65.2%** No - The rights of the individual employees trump the company owners'

3.8% I Don't Know

Thank you,

Alan Lowenthal Member of Congress

Van Lowenthal

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