



The 47th Flyer

News for California's 47th Congressional District
from Congressman Alan Lowenthal



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August 24, 2013

It has been 50 years since Martin Luther King, Jr. called for an end to racism in this country in his historic "I Have a Dream" speech.

To this day, the power, passionate delivery, and truth behind his thoughts still ring in my ears.

My dream is the same dream.

I dream of a nation that has left the shackles of prejudice behind. I dream of a nation that is driven by what is best in the human character.

I long for a time when opportunity is an equal door open to all people. I long for a time where getting sick is not a liability to success and a time when being born poor is not a life sentence to inequality. And, I also long for a timewhen an education is assured to all who want one.

Just like Dr. King knew 50 years ago, I know all of these things will not come true in my lifetime. It will perhaps not happen in the lifetime of my children or grandchildren. But, I will not stop working for these goals. I will not stop pushing in the direction of this future, because this is the future of a brighter America—a better America. I dream of living in an America where "we the people" have not only secured the blessings of liberty, but extended them to all people.

That's a dream worth having and an ideal worth pursuing.

Alan Lowenthal

Affordable Care Act Public Roundtable

The implementation of the Affordable Care Act is well underway, and I realize that many people still have questions about how the new healthcare law will affect them.

To help answer some of those question, I will be co-hosting a townhall on the Affordable Care Act on Friday, September 6 starting at 2 p.m. The event, which is open to the public but requires a reservation, will be held at The Pointe in the Cal State Long Beach Pyramid.

Covered California Executive Director Peter Lee will lead the town hall, joined by myself and additional co-hosts: Assemblymembers Bonnie Lowenthal and Al Muratsuchi; State Senators Ricardo Lara and Roderick D. Wright; and Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster.

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This week marks the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech. Do you think Dr. King's dream has been realized?

Yes, we have overcome our prejudices

Partly, but we still have a little work to do

Partially, but we're not there yet have a long way to go

No, we have made no progress

[If you have problems, click here to open survey in new window](#)

All of the hosts will be answering questions and listening to concerns about the Affordable Care Act, the new national health care law. Enrollment into Covered California begins October 1st, with coverage beginning January 1st, 2014, so I hope this event will you determine how the law will affect you.

Space will be limited at this event, so to RSVP call 1-888-975-1141.

Reservations will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis.

Meeting with Immigration Reform Stakeholders

I met Thursday with over 25 immigration reform advocates, leaders and community stakeholders from Los Angeles and Orange County, to discuss the future of comprehensive immigration reform.

Held at First Congregational Church of Long Beach, I was proud to join with representatives from the Asian Pacific Legal Center, Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, Coalition for Humane Immigrants' Rights of Los Angeles, California-Mexico Study Center, OC Labor Federation, Filipino Migrant Center, Central American Resource Center, World Relief, Service Employees International Union- United Long Term Care Workers, Second Congregational Church of Long Beach, Orange County Congregational Community Organization, Hermandad Mexicana, Mexican American Political Association, Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition, and, Interfaith Community Organization.

I believe that listening is critical to the problem solving process. Being able to sit down across the table from important stakeholders in the immigration reform issue, to hear their first hand experiences and experiences of their communities, only strengthens my resolve to fight for comprehensive immigration reform.

I also believe that the U.S. House should take up the recently passed Senate bill S.744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act.

The Senate bill, which I hope the House will get to vote on, is a significant step toward comprehensive reform. If signed into law, it would bring members of our community out of the shadows, keep families together, and secure our borders.

As the grandson of immigrants, I empathize with those who are stuck in a system that does not function properly – often denying hardworking people a clearly defined, legal path to citizenship while at times separating families for years at a time. I believe in humane reform that respects the dignity of immigrant communities and recognizes their contributions to our economy and society, while simultaneously securing our borders and protecting our national security. Immigration reform must include our fundamental American values of honesty, fair play, and compassion.

My C-SPAN Archive

Last issue I began spotlighting features from my newly redesigned website at lowenthal.house.gov. This week, I wanted to highlight my new online C-SPAN gallery, which is accessible through my website.

Through my website you can reach www.c-spanvideo.org/alanlowenthal. Here you can find all of my C-SPAN clips, like my most recent clip where I introduced my first bill--the Let The People Draw The Lines Act of 2013--on

the floor of the House.



Over the next month or so, you will be hearing a lot of federal budget terms in the news. In this issue of Congress U, I thought we could look at one or two of these to hopefully help demystify this complex, but necessary process.

You may remember several issues ago, we talked about how the federal budgeting process works.

Government action on spending typically occurs in this order: authorization, appropriations, conference, vote, and then to the President if passed. It starts with an authorization bill, which is just legislation establishing a program and setting funding limits--but not actually setting aside or authorizing any money.

This is followed by an appropriations bill, which is legislation actually providing money for the program previously covered by an authorization bill.

Keep in mind that both the House and Senate typically work on their own versions of each spending bill.

In the next step, the House and Senate each hold a conference to work out the differences between the two versions of the appropriations bill. If it passes, then it goes to the President for his signature.

But what if it doesn't? What if the House and Senate cannot resolve the differences of a spending bill? Well they can pass a continuing resolution, or CR. A CR continues funding for a program if the fiscal year ends without a new appropriation in place, but this is temporary funding at current levels.

Unfortunately, because neither the House or the Senate have been able to resolve their differences on the budget, CRs have become the standard method for getting spending bills passed. My hope is that the Congress can return to regular order and do the difficult work of resolving our differences and passing the legislation to adequately fund the critical programs of the federal government.

Last week's survey

What should be the U.S. do following the latest outbreak of violence in Egypt?

- 3.4%** Increase aid
- 18.6%** Decrease aid
- 17.0%** Wait and see
- 40.7%** Increase diplomatic efforts, esp. w/regional allies to stop violence
- 47.5%** Eliminate all military aid

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