

DEMOCRATS MAKING PROGRESS FOR AMERICANS

In the 111th Congress, Democrats Remain Committed to Economic Recovery

Over the past five months, Congress has sent important legislation to the President's desk and passed numerous others through the House. These measures are already improving the lives of millions of Americans and helping our nation through this economic crisis. As we address the serious challenges of today, President Obama and Democrats are committed to laying the foundation for long-term economic growth and creating jobs, building a path to energy independence, reforming health care to help Americans cope with rising costs, and reforming and investing in education.

Under the leadership of President Obama and the Democratic Congress, major initiatives that will improve the lives of the American people have been enacted into law:

ECONOMY:

- ✓ **Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act** – Provides critical resources to help law enforcement pursue and prosecute mortgage and securities fraud. It also creates an outside, bipartisan commission to investigate the causes of the financial crisis and the current recession. (Sent to the President)
- ✓ **Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program Act** (Sent to the President)
- ✓ **Helping Families Save Their Homes Act** – Implements provisions included in the Homeowner Affordability and Stability Plan, including key incentives to encourage lenders to negotiate affordable mortgages for responsible homeowners who are at risk of foreclosure. (Sent to the President)
- ✓ **Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act** – Provides needed protection for consumers from unfair and arbitrary practices employed by credit card companies. (House will consider this week)
- ✓ **FY 2010 Budget Resolution** – Makes a down payment on health care reform, creates a path to energy independence, reforms and invests in education, and also reduces the deficit by nearly two-thirds by 2013. (Passed House and Senate)
- ✓ **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act** – Creates or saves 3.5 million jobs and invests in the future – in clean energy, health care, and infrastructure – to put our nation back on the road to recovery and transform it for long-term growth and stability.
- ✓ **FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act** – Makes critical investments that offer short-term help for our economic problems and long-term solutions for our economic strength, completing the appropriations process for fiscal year 2009.

HEALTH CARE:

- ✓ **State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) Reauthorization** – Legislation to cover 11 million children, including an additional 4 million uninsured but eligible kids.

LABOR:

- ✓ **Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act** – Restores the rights of women and other workers to challenge unfair pay – to help close the wage gap where women earn 78 cents for every \$1 a man earns in America.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT:

- ✓ **Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009** – Designates more than 2 million acres as wilderness and expands protections for existing national parks, rivers and water resources.

OTHER TOP ISSUES:

- ✓ **Weapons Acquisition System Reform Through Enhancing Technical Knowledge and Oversight Act** – Reforms how we buy weapons systems, eliminating waste in this program. (House will consider this week)
- ✓ **Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act** – Creates new service opportunities for more Americans to volunteer and give back to their communities to help them through the current economic crisis.
- ✓ **DTV Delay Act** – Postpones the date of the analog-to-digital television transition to allow more time to get coupons for the digital TV converter boxes to millions of American households.

Prepared by the Office of Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, 05/19/09

In addition to the significant bills signed into law, the House has also passed important legislation that is awaiting Senate action:

BUDGET AND ECONOMY:

- ✓ **Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act** – Cracks down on the dangerous practices that created a housing bubble and led to the recent wave of foreclosures.
- ✓ **TARP Reform and Accountability Act** – Ensures that TARP funds are spent effectively to help stabilize our economy.
- ✓ **Pay for Performance Act** – Includes prohibiting payment of unreasonable or excessive compensation and non-performance based bonuses at companies receiving TARP funds.

HEALTH CARE:

- ✓ **Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act** – Grants the Food and Drug Administration authority to regulate the advertising, marketing, and manufacturing of tobacco products.
- ✓ **Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Act**
- ✓ **National Pain Care Policy Act**
- ✓ **Wakefield Act (Emergency Medical Services for Children)**
- ✓ **Vision Care for Kids Act**
- ✓ **Melanie Blocker Stokes Mom’s Opportunity to Access Health, Education, Research, and Support for Postpartum Depression Act**
- ✓ **Dextromethorphan Distribution Act (“Cough Syrup” Bill)**
- ✓ **Health Insurance Restrictions and Limitations Clarification Act**

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT:

- ✓ **Water Quality Investment Act** – Makes significant investments to improve water quality and better ensure safe, clean water for all Americans.
- ✓ **Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement (FLAME) Act**

HOMELAND SECURITY AND VETERANS:

- ✓ **Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Improvements Act** – Strengthens the successful COPS program, authorizing \$1.8 billion a year over the next five years to help improve community policing efforts and place an additional 50,000 police officers on the street nationwide.
- ✓ **Nuclear Forensics and Attribution Act**
- ✓ **Reducing Over-Classification Act**
- ✓ **Fair, Accurate, Secure, and Timely (FAST) Redress Act**
- ✓ **National Bombing Prevention Act**
- ✓ **Veterans Cost of Living Increase**
- ✓ **Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program Reauthorization Act**
- ✓ **Veterans Emergency Care Reimbursement**

OTHER TOP ISSUES:

- ✓ **Fiscal Year 2009 Supplemental Appropriations Bill**
- ✓ **Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act**
- ✓ **21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act**
- ✓ **Federal Retirement Reform Act of 2009**
- ✓ **Campus Safety Act**
- ✓ **Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act**
- ✓ **Free Flow of Information Act**