

# What's your opinion?

## 1. ENDING DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL

Should America take responsibility for producing 2/3 of its daily energy needs, reversing its growing dependence on Middle East oil?

YES  NO  Undecided

## 2. MORE AMERICAN MADE ENERGY

Should Congress act right now to open up more exploration in America, such as deep coastal waters, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and oil shale in the Midwest?

YES  NO  Undecided

## 3. GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Should a spending cap be placed on the federal budget, limiting annual increases to the cost of living or the annual increase in family income?

YES  NO  Undecided

## 4. HEALTH CARE OPTIONS

Should Congress offer workers the option of a "worker backpack" where their choice of health care and retirement plans can travel with them from job to job, anywhere in America?

YES  NO  Undecided

To tell Congressman Brady your opinion

PHONE TOLL FREE at 1-877-441-5700,

go online at <http://www.house.gov/brady>,

or

return in an envelope to :

Congressman Kevin Brady

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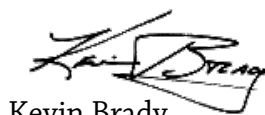
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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8th Congressional District constituents



Kevin Brady  
PRE-SORTED STANDARD

## Getting Results

Recent results & solutions from  
U.S. Congressman Kevin Brady

- ✓ **Honoring our veterans.** Expanded affordable home loans for Texas veterans serving since 1977. Increased research funding for brain trauma and PTSD for returning soldiers from the War on Terror. Working to improve and expand services at the veterans health care clinic in Conroe.
- ✓ **Keeping taxes low.** Extended state and local sales tax deduction which saves Texas taxpayers \$1.2 billion a year. Led fight in the U.S. House of Representatives to prevent tax increases on small businesses, owners of second homes, local real estate partnerships and energy firms that create jobs and produce energy here in America.
- ✓ **Stopping "pill mills."** Leading the federal effort to close down prescription drug "pill mills" in Southeast Texas and the Houston region. Established task force of state lawmakers, local law enforcement, state and federal agencies and prosecutors to identify, close down and prosecute illegal clinics that spread deadly prescription drugs throughout our communities.
- ✓ **New crime lab.** Secured federal funding to establish a new regional crime lab at Sam Houston State University to serve law enforcement agencies in rural counties in East Texas.
- ✓ **I-69/Trans-Texas corridor.** Led successful effort by nine members of the Texas congressional delegation to restore the proposed Interstate 69 to its original route along existing highway corridors, which protects property values and preserves rural communities. Fighting to separate the original I-69 project proposed fifteen years ago from the Trans-Texas Corridor.
- ✓ **Rita transportation and medical recovery.** Secured funding for rehabilitating the Port of Orange rail line and replacing the MRI unit at Memorial Hermann Baptist Orange Hospital which had been damaged by Hurricane Rita.
- ✓ **Timber Tax relief.** Led successful bipartisan effort to level the playing field for Texas timber companies. This tax relief was included in the 2007 Farm Bill that was made law this last May.
- ✓ **Earmark reform.** One of the first members of Congress to publish local project requests on their website for public review. Reduced 2008 requests by 75%, submitted no new requests and continues to push Congress for a one-year moratorium on earmarks with significant reform.
- ✓ **Emergency preparedness.** Identified citizens in all 11 counties of the 8th-Congressional District who need help being transported from their homes in case of an evacuation, and delivered names to local officials. Worked with local emergency officials to evaluate and prepare for 2008 hurricane season.
- ✓ **Listening to constituents.** Held live telephone town hall meetings with over 20,000 constituents, conducted a live issues survey in which 30,000 citizens participated, and launched the *50 Ideas to Improve Health Care* initiative – a grass roots effort involving thousands of patients, families, health care providers and small businesses to identify new approaches to improving health care in America.



Congressman

**Kevin Brady**  
8th District of Texas



# CAPITOL Update

Washington "Disconnected" from Real World

Fall 2008

## Congress Should Find Long Term Solutions for the Biggest Challenges Facing America's Families

The American public is fed up with the gridlock and partisan games in Washington, DC.

Too little of real substance is getting done. There's too much made-for-media posturing and too little working together to find real long term solutions for the biggest challenges facing our nation.

Instead of holding hearings on steroids in baseball or promoting energy gimmicks like suing OPEC, here are the priorities Congress ought to be tackling:

**Energy prices.** America needs to be less dependent upon foreign oil and take more responsibility for producing energy here in America. We've got the resources - what's the hold up in Washington?

**Runaway government spending.** Some insist taxes need to be raised to balance the federal budget. In truth, the problem isn't too little revenue, it's too much spending. Before Washington asks American families to tighten their belts, members of Congress ought to tighten their's. We need to rein in special interest earmarks, sunset obsolete federal agencies and place a real spending cap on the federal budget so that it grows no faster than inflation. Families live under a spending cap each month—why not Uncle Sam? Then there will be no need to raise taxes on families and small businesses.

**Securing the border.** We need to close the back door of illegal immigration so we can keep open the front door of legal immigration. Securing the border, insisting companies hire only legal workers, rejecting amnesty and rewarding those who play by the rules are necessary before Congress considers a temporary guest worker program.

**Social Security & Medicare.** The future unfunded costs of these two important programs is \$175,000 for every American. It's a ticking time

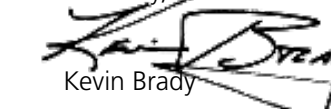
bomb. Why is Congress putting off finding solutions? Every year that Washington delays only makes good, thoughtful solutions harder to find. We need to preserve Social Security for every generation once and for all. And we need to act now to modernize the Medicare system. Either we act or seniors will face inferior health care and Americans will face huge tax increases they simply can't afford.

**Health care.** I don't know anyone who isn't worried about health care, whether you rely upon it, provide it or pay for it. The first thing the new president should do is sit down with Congress and put together solutions that make health care more affordable, more accessible and more effective. As part of my *50 Ideas to Improve Health Care* initiative, in addition to more medical research, less paperwork, and greater public knowledge of pricing, I am proposing Congress establish a "worker backpack" that would include a health care plan of your choice, with the same tax assistance as businesses get, that would travel with you from job to job, throughout your life if you wish.

There's more to be done—education, national security and tax simplification, for starters. America is blessed in many ways. **But unless Congress starts delivering real solutions to issues that matter, our children may not have a future brighter than our own.** That would be a tragedy, especially since we are capable of so much more.

Let me know what you think. And, as always, it is an honor and privilege to serve you in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Sincerely,



Kevin Brady

## Digital Television Transition: What You Need to Know.

On February 17, 2009, all full-power broadcast television stations in the United States will stop broadcasting on analog airwaves and begin broadcasting only in digital, freeing up space for firefighters and other public safety use channels. **If you do not have cable or satellite, you will need to obtain a digital converter box to receive television broadcasts.** Make sure you're prepared and apply for a \$40 voucher for the purchase of a digital converter box by calling 1-888-225-5322 (TTY: 1-888-835-5322) or by visiting [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov).

## Outrageous

### Is This How Your Tax Dollars Should Be Spent?

"Washington doesn't need more of your money, it needs to spend the money it already has more wisely." – Congressman Kevin Brady

- ✗ **Protecting Exotic Cats & Dogs in Foreign Countries.** On May 20th, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a new \$25 million federal program to give grants to protect certain exotic felines and rare dogs in countries outside America. **CONGRESSMAN BRADY OPPOSED.**
- ✗ **Protecting Six Species of Cranes...in Foreign Countries.** One day later, the U.S. House of Representatives passed another new \$25 million federal program to protect six special breeds of rare crane...again, in foreign countries. **CONGRESSMAN BRADY OPPOSED.**
- ✗ **Protecting Monkeys from Crossing State Lines.** On June 17th, the U.S. House of Representatives passed yet another law, costing \$17 million, that would, among other things, prohibit monkeys from being transported across state lines, duplicating the current law of 40 states and the ongoing work of the USDA. **CONGRESSMAN BRADY OPPOSED.**



## REALSOLUTIONS: ENERGY

### Congressman Brady's Plan to Lower Energy Prices

With fuel prices at an all time high, Congress has failed to act to lower energy prices, today or in the future. A recognized leader on energy issues, Congressman Brady believes that America relies too much on foreign nations for energy - over 60% of daily needs—and that dependency grows more dangerous each year.

*"A growing America needs to take responsibility for producing 2/3 of the energy it needs each day; this would end America's dangerous dependence on the Middle East and Venezuela for oil"*

**Conservation.** America needs to take steps to conserve energy, including building more fuel efficient cars and trucks and increasing energy efficiency around homes and businesses.

**Renewable Energy.** Texas leads the nation in wind power and biofuels. Congress needs to accelerate research and craft incentives to develop more renewable energy from non-food sources, such as wind, solar and biofuels. Congressman Brady has sponsored H.R. 2784, the *National Environment and Energy Act* to create research opportunities for renewable energy and cleaner fossil fuel technologies and would return money to energy-producing states like Texas.

**More American Made Energy.** Energy produced in America will lower prices, create jobs and lessen America's dependence on foreign energy. In May, Congressman Brady joined with his colleagues to tap into the abundant energy sources that have been blocked off by special interests for too long. This package would use the deep water energy at least 50 miles off the coast, the Arctic reserve, the 250 year domestic supply of coal that can be turned into super clean liquid fuel and oil shale reserves in the Midwest and Rocky Mountains. This energy is just waiting to be used and can be tapped in a safe and an environmentally friendly way.



✓ Deepwater Ocean Drilling



✓ Abundant Oil Sands in the Midwest



✓ Drilling Safely in the Arctic



✓ Super Clean Renewables and BioFuels



✓ Emission Free Nuclear Power



✓ Harness Texas' Vast Wind Power

## REALSOLUTIONS: ILLEGAL EMPLOYMENT



*Congressman Brady with a bi-partisan group of colleagues to introduce H.R. 5515, the New Employee Verification Act (NEVA) of 2008, a bill that now has 35 co-sponsors.*

### A Clear Plan to End the Hiring of Illegal Immigrants

America's borders are broken. There is no more simple way to say it. This creates a whole host of problems for the entire country, not just border communities and states. America can no longer ignore the illegal immigrants, drugs and crime that spill across the border and take advantage of the freedom America offers.

America can take a large step in the right direction by simply stopping businesses from hiring illegal immigrants and giving honest employers the tools they need to hire legal workers. Congressman Brady sits on the Social Security Subcommittee and has used this post to highlight the lack of enforcement and verification in America's hiring system.

To help solve this problem, Congressman Brady introduced H.R. 5515, the *New Employee Verification Act (NEVA) of 2008* and H.R. 4088, the *Secure America Through Verification and Enforcement (SAVE) Act of 2007*. These bills create a database that employers can quickly and accurately tap to make sure their employees are able to work legally in the United States. Once an employment verification system is in place, enforcement becomes easier and stopping illegal immigration is aided by removing the incentive for people to break the law and enter the United States illegally.

## Recent Legislation Introduced by Congressman Brady

### Making College Affordable:

H.R. 5269: Expands the Hope Scholarship tax credit to include the costs of books, supplies and room and board, making the first two years of a university, community college or technical school education more affordable.

### Retired Teacher Fairness:

H.R. 2772: Removes the flawed Windfall Eliminates Provision that docks the Social Security benefits of public servants like teachers, firefighters and police. Ensures equal treatment with other Social Security recipients so public servants receive the benefits they have earned.

### Protecting Those Who Protect Us:

H.R. 6367: Tightens mandatory minimum sentencing laws for the use of a firearm in violent crimes to avoid accidentally ensnaring our brave Border Patrol agents and law enforcement officers, as we saw in the unfortunate case of Ramos and Compean.

### Mileage Reimbursement on Federal Tax Returns:

H.R. 6368: To help Americans deal with the historic rise in gas prices because Congress refuses to act, this bill increases mileage reimbursement rates that American use on their federal tax returns.

### Medical Research:

H.R. 6568 and H.R. 2914: Increases medical research funding and Medicare reimbursement rates for Primary Immune Deficiency Disease and Pulmonary Hypertension.

### Ending Wasteful and Duplicative Government Programs:

H.R. 5794: Cuts wasteful federal spending by creating a bi-partisan commission to hold agencies accountable for performance. Based on state sunset laws, like those in Texas, agencies and programs face regular scrutiny, and may face elimination, or consolidation, if they cannot prove their value to taxpayers.

### Connect, Preserve, and Revitalize a Texas Treasure:

H.R. 5891: Connects, expands and revitalizes the Big Thicket National Preserve to protect its ecological value and to increase eco-tourism dollars to East and Southeast Texas. Voluntary, willing landowners will be permitted to donate or sell their land to better connect the preserve and create new eco-tourism attractions.

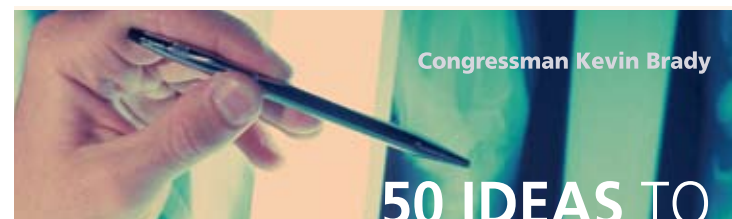
## Cracking Down on Pill-Mills in Texas Neighborhoods—Protecting Children and Families

**"Local and federal authorities are working hand in hand to dismantle sham 'pain management clinics'... The community has had enough and the justice system will prosecute to the fullest extent of the law predatory pill peddlers in Orange and throughout SE Texas."**  
— Congressman Kevin Brady



Congressman Brady continues to lead the effort to see that Texas communities remain safe and children are protected from easy access to drugs. While some success has been seen in combating the use of illegal drugs, America now has witnessed the abuse of prescription drugs and the ease with which people can get their hands on them. Local "pill mills" will give a person a prescription for a drug that can rival the potency of street drugs, for an ailment they might not really have. While some may go to get real relief from a legitimate ailment, the pill mill doesn't care about the health of the patient and offers little or no guidance on drug risks including the high risk of long-term dependency and, in some cases, life threatening side-effects.

Congressman Brady has organized roundtable discussions and held meetings in Texas and Washington with law enforcement officials from the state, local and federal level to highlight this problem. By bringing the Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Attorney's office, Texas Medical Board, Texas State Board of Pharmacy and the Texas Department of Public Safety to local communities, Congressman Brady is able to shine a spotlight on the problem and push for results. Consequently, local communities have seen the results of this collaboration as joint law enforcement task-forces have raided local pill mills and shut them down.



## 50 IDEAS TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE

Congressman Brady continues to push his effort to bring common-sense solutions to America's health care problems. After presenting the findings at a Houston economic forum in February, Congressman Brady is working to shape the ideas proposed by Texas families, doctors, businesses and seniors into workable legislation. **Please visit [www.house.gov/brady/50ideas](http://www.house.gov/brady/50ideas) to learn more about this unique grassroots efforts, see the results or offer additional ideas.**

## After Years of Decreases, Budget Deficit Headed in Wrong Direction

