



## Klein Releases 2008 Year in Review

**Boca Raton, FL** – Congressman Ron Klein (FL-22) today released his 2008 Year in Review, a document detailing the legislative and committee work done this year.

The review finds that in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, Klein authored six pieces of legislation addressing critical issues from homeowners' insurance rates to the war in Iraq. Klein and his colleagues also passed landmark legislation protecting our veterans, creating a 21<sup>st</sup> century energy plan and providing tax breaks to families and teachers.

Klein's year-end review also includes the work done by the committees on which he serves. Klein is a member of the House Financial Services Committee, where he worked with colleagues to find common sense solutions for our current economic crisis. He also serves on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and as Vice Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia. In this capacity, Klein traveled to Israel, Afghanistan, Cyprus, Belgium and Lebanon in 2008 to build relationships with our democratic allies around the world and coordinate and develop international strategies to fight terrorism.

Klein's committees were among the most active in the U.S. House of Representatives. In 2008, the Financial Services Committee held 74 hearings, reviewed 506 pieces of legislation and passed nearly 60 bills. The Foreign Affairs Committee held 65 hearings, reviewed 782 pieces of legislation and passed 150 bills.

The full 2008 Year in Review document can be found below.

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## 2008 Year in Review

### 2008 Committee Work

In the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, Representative Klein served on the House Financial Services Committee, where he worked with colleagues to find common sense solutions for our current economic crisis. He also served on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and as Vice Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia. In this capacity, Klein traveled to Israel, Afghanistan, Cyprus, Belgium and Lebanon in 2008 to build relationships with our democratic allies around the world and coordinate and develop international strategies to fight terrorism.

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### Legislative Accomplishments of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress

In the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, Representative Klein authored six pieces of legislation addressing critical issues from homeowners' insurance costs to the war in Iraq. Klein and his colleagues also passed landmark legislation protecting our veterans, creating a 21<sup>st</sup> century energy plan and providing tax breaks to families and teachers.

Details of Klein's legislative accomplishments for the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress can be found below.

- **Rep. Klein authored and passed bipartisan legislation to respond to the growing crisis in the availability and affordability of homeowner's insurance.** The Homeowners' Defense Act, (H.R. 3355) is a voluntary, market-based solution to reduce the cost of homeowners' insurance in Florida and nationwide. The legislation, which passed the U.S. House for the first time ever under Rep. Klein's leadership, pools risk for natural disasters nationwide, whether they be hurricanes, wildfires, tornadoes or earthquakes. Pooling the risk brings down costs for everyone, and makes sure insurance works like it is supposed to.
- **Rep. Klein put veterans' issues at the top of his priority list.** Rep. Klein and his colleagues passed landmark legislation for America's veterans, including the largest funding increase in the 77-year history of the Veterans' Administration and the GI Bill for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, which provides full, four-year college scholarships for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. This bill, H.R. 2642, passed as part of a larger supplemental appropriations bill, and will make Iraq and Afghanistan veterans part of an American economic recovery, just as the veterans of World War II helped grow and strengthen the American middle class.
- **Rep. Klein, the co-Chair of the New Democrat Coalition's Energy Taskforce, introduced legislation to create a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Energy Technology Deployment Bank.**

This corporation will promote an attractive investment environment for the development and deployment of breakthrough clean energy technologies. Rep. Klein also proposed the creation of an independent Hybrid and Electric Car Institute for American automakers to collaborate across company lines on essential, cutting-edge research and development. Rep. Klein and his colleagues also passed an historic energy plan this year, the Comprehensive American Energy Security and Consumer Protection Act (H.R. 6899), which will set America on a path to energy independence.

- **Rep. Klein led a bipartisan effort in the US House of Representatives to require the Iraqi government to take responsibility for paying for the reconstruction of Iraq.** As Vice-Chairman of the Middle East Subcommittee, Rep. Klein wrote legislation (H.Res. 1111) calling for all money we provide Iraq for reconstruction, training for security forces and fuel be provided as a loan. Portions of the legislation were incorporated into the FY2009 Defense Authorization, which is now law.
- **Rep. Klein's legislation kept Florida's hospitals open.** Rep. Klein introduced legislation (H.R. 1741), that would block billions of dollars worth of proposed cuts to hospitals and other safety net providers across the country. As part of a larger emergency spending bill, Rep. Klein helped passed a measure that blocks the cuts for one year, and he will continue to work to ensure that Floridians have access to hospitals and the critical services they provide.
- **Rep. Klein fought to keep access to wheelchairs and diabetic supplies for Florida's seniors.** Rep. Klein spearheaded an effort to block implementation of a program that would have resulted in higher costs for seniors who rely on Medicare Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies (DMEPOS). After Rep. Klein called for hearings to examine the program, Congress passed a law (H.R. 6331) to block implementation for one year while instituting important safeguards like mandatory accreditation, ensuring that seniors continue to have access to important medical equipment.
- **Rep. Klein introduced legislation to provide critical tax relief to American families and teachers.** Rep. Klein's bill (H.R. 4086), which passed as part of the financial rescue package, extended deductibility of state and local general sales taxes as well as tax-free distributions from IRAs for charitable purposes and included a five-year extension for a tax cut targeting elementary and secondary school teachers. Rep. Klein's bill further extended the residential energy efficient property credit, as well as the deduction for tuition expenses that families rely on to help defray the rising cost of education.
- **Rep. Klein introduced a bill to reduce the tax burden on our military.** Rep. Klein's legislation (H.R. 4085) permanently extends a current provision that allows military members called to active duty to make penalty-free withdrawals from their retirement plans. The bill would further ensure that members of the military are able to include combat pay as earned income, thus allowing more military servicemen to capitalize on the Earned Income Tax Credit.
- **Rep. Klein served as Chairman of the Congressional Taskforce Against Anti-Semitism.** The Taskforce is Congress's bipartisan voice of opposition to anti-Semitism, both in America and abroad. Through Rep. Klein's efforts, members of Congress are briefed and prepared to meet with foreign political dignitaries and community leaders, when they travel abroad, to combat anti-Semitic trends. Rep. Klein also met with several Jewish communities worldwide to monitor and combat bigotry and hate against the community.