

## Fighting for Quality, Affordable, Accessible Health Care

With nearly 44 million Americans uninsured, we are in the throes of a serious health care crisis. And even though Congress passed a far-reaching Medicare bill last year, we haven't come any closer to solving the fundamental problems.

Among the reforms is a new prescription drug discount card. Although they've been billed as the cure for rising drug prices, in most cases the cards don't even keep up with rapidly increasing costs. It is a confusing system that doesn't serve consumers, who sign up for a 12-month commitment, while the discount



*Rep. Lynn Woolsey listening to Seniors' concerns over Medicare legislation in Sonoma County on one of her many meetings with the community.*

card provider can change the drugs covered and the prices of individual drugs on a weekly basis!

We will make prescription drugs more affordable only when we allow the reimportation of medicines from other industrialized nations, and when we allow the government to negotiate lower prices by pooling the purchasing power of Medicare recipients. But both of those provisions were left out of the Medicare prescription drug bill passed last year.

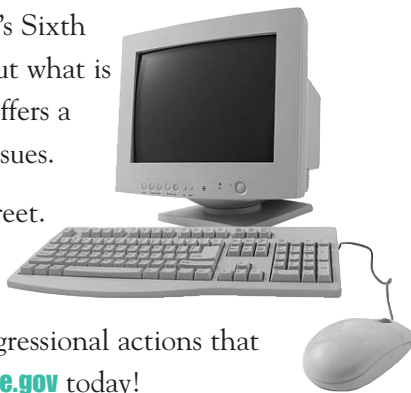
### Looking Ahead:

- ◆ I will work with colleagues to rewrite the Medicare bill to allow reimportation and price negotiation.
- ◆ I will work with colleagues to directly confront the plight of the uninsured — many of whom are children — and come up with comprehensive, ambitious plans to solve the nation's health care crisis.
- ◆ I will fight for investments in health care research, like the \$963,000 I have secured for breast cancer research in Marin County and the new Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Center I helped bring to the Bay Area.

## Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey Working for You

To be an effective voice for California's Sixth District, I need to hear regularly about what is most important to you. My website offers a great way for us to keep in touch about the issues.

Of course, communication is a two-way street. The website includes current information about what's going on in Congress. You may sign up to receive regular updates about Congressional actions that may affect you. Please visit [www.woolsey.house.gov](http://www.woolsey.house.gov) today!



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**Constituent Update Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey**

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## A Note from Your Congresswoman



Dear Friend:

When I came to Congress in 1993, the nation was carrying a crippling budget deficit that was stifling our economy and hurting our people. Just seven months into my first term, I was proud to vote for an economic plan that ultimately put us back on the road to fiscal responsibility, growth, and prosperity. Tragically, that accomplishment has been undone in the last few years. The tax cuts passed since 2001 have disproportionately benefited the wealthy and put us in a fiscal bind that will take years to repair.

It's bad enough that these tax cuts became law in the first place; but making them permanent, as many want to do, would be nothing short of disastrous. The cost would be \$1.2 trillion over the next decade, which breaks down to an additional \$28,000 in debt for every man, woman, and child in the United States.

The war in Iraq—which even many of its advocates admit has been poorly executed—is further draining a federal treasury that was already depleted. After being assured that this war could be fought on the cheap, Congress has been asked to appropriate nearly \$200 billion in supplemental funds to pay for it. And there are undoubtedly more requests to come.

There are so many investments our nation needs before giving handouts to those who need them the least. For less than one-third of the cost of making the tax cuts permanent, we could:

- ▲ Provide health coverage to America's 9 million uninsured children.
- ▲ Add 100,000 more teachers.
- ▲ Provide Head Start services to every child who is eligible.
- ▲ Decommission our arsenal of nuclear warheads.

As your Representative, I will continue my daily battle to see that your money is spent in a way that reflects your priorities. You wouldn't splurge on a luxury car when your home needs a new roof and your family is already carrying debt. Our nation should be similarly responsible.

I hope this newsletter gives you a good sense of my work and goals on your behalf. Check in with me every day online at [www.woolsey.house.gov](http://www.woolsey.house.gov), to see what I'm doing and the issues I'm addressing. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you, and please don't hesitate to contact me with your questions, comments, and concerns.

Sincerely,

*Lynn*  
Lynn Woolsey

## Getting "Smart" About National Security

I believe our current national security policy is clearly flawed. It emphasizes pre-emption over prevention; brawn over brains.

There are important questions that must be answered about Iraq. For example: What is our plan for post-war Iraq? How are we going to pay for the reconstruction of an entire society? What is the exit strategy? When will our troops come home?

I have spent much of the last several months promoting a brand new national security called SMART, which stands for Sensible, Multilateral American Response to Terrorism. SMART, H.Con.Res. 392, treats war as an absolute last resort; it fights terrorism with stronger intelligence and multilateral partnerships; it controls the spread of weapons of mass destruction with a renewed commitment to nonproliferation; and it aggressively invests in the development of impoverished nations to address the root causes of terrorism.

### Looking Ahead:

- ◆ I will continue to speak out about the SMART Security plan and its goals.
- ◆ I will seek a Senate companion bill to the SMART resolution, which has 48 House cosponsors and strong public backing.

Reps. Lynn Woolsey, Joe Hoeffel and Barbara Lee announcing the introduction of SMART Security, H.Con.Res. 392, on Capitol Hill.



## Roads, Bridges & Bike Paths: Investing in Our Transportation Needs



In our densely populated community of commuters, transportation issues are critical. We need the infrastructure that can accommodate our people, without jeopardizing safety or

compromising environmental goals. Such projects don't just improve quality of life; they are an important economic stimulus as well—every \$1 billion invested in highways and transit creates 47,500 jobs.

With Congress set to pass a major transportation bill (called TEA-LU), I have been working aggressively and successfully to ensure that California's Sixth District gets its fair share. That includes \$13 million for the Marin-Sonoma Narrows portion of Highway 101, as well as \$500,000 each for a Highway 101 bike project and Sonoma County CNG buses. This also includes \$60 million to continue the seismic retrofitting of the Golden Gate Bridge.

### Looking Ahead:

- ◆ I will be pushing for final passage of TEA-LU and ensuring that our local projects are in the final bill.
- ◆ I will continue to urge the President to address soaring gasoline prices, which are squeezing working families.
- ◆ I will continue my work to encourage the development of renewable energy sources, to reduce our dependence on imported oil.

## Helping Americans Balance Work & Family

Millions upon millions of American families face the wrenching dilemma of balancing work and family. There is no more important job than raising children, but with two incomes a necessity rather than a choice for so many families, parents can't afford to spend as much time with their children as they would like. In fact, the very jobs that sustain the family can also threaten to destabilize it.

There are ways that the federal government can help families with this work/family balancing act. But in the past, the will has not been there. That is why I introduced a bill called "The Balancing Act," which directly addresses the challenges facing working families, helping people to be both responsible parents and reliable employees.

### Among other things, the Balancing Act:

- ◆ Makes major investments in child care, improving facilities, increasing access and training providers;
- ◆ Establishes voluntary, universal pre-school;
- ◆ Provides nutritious meals for kids before, during, and after school;
- ◆ Provides incentives to states to offer care of a sick family member;
- ◆ Secures benefits for part-time employees and creates incentives for telecommuting.



Rep. Lynn Woolsey discussing the importance of education with young students at Sonoma State University's summer reading program.

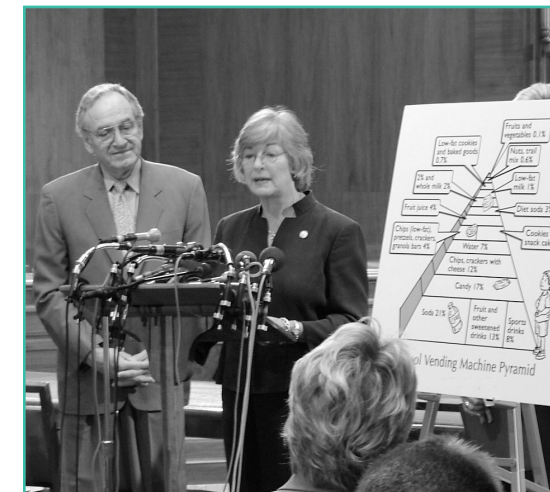
## Saying No to Off-Shore Outsourcing: Keeping American Jobs Here at Home

It's bad enough that a sluggish economy is leaving millions of Americans jobless and anxious. But it's absolutely scandalous that companies are moving jobs overseas in a hunt for cheap labor, weak environmental laws and other lax standards. And worst of all, we are oftentimes supporting this kind of corporate irresponsibility with generous subsidies and tax breaks.

Between these corporate off-shore tax benefits and all the money we're spending to rebuild Iraq, it's about time we asked: why aren't we investing American taxpayer dollars in American communities?

I have been very active in the fight to get rid of unfair corporate welfare handouts that encourage the export of American jobs. Looking ahead, in the coming months, I will be following up on these steps I've taken and bills I've co-sponsored:

- ◆ The United States Workers Protection Act, which prevents the federal government from outsourcing to contractors using offshore labor.
- ◆ The Defending American Jobs Act, which cuts off federal grants, loans, and loan guarantees to companies that lay off a greater percentage of workers in the United States than in other countries.



Rep. Lynn Woolsey and Senator Harkin discussed how their legislation (H.R. 2987/S.1392) will help to improve the nutritional value of food offered at school.