



MID-YEAR REPORT

# Working Overtime for New York's 12<sup>th</sup> District

CONGRESSWOMAN NYDIA VELAZQUEZ



Congresswoman Velázquez delivered federal funds to Garity Center for Children and Families.

CONGRESSWOMAN NYDIA VELAZQUEZ

# Working Overtime for New York's 12<sup>th</sup> District

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CONGRESSWOMAN NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ

# Helps Pass "100 Hours" Bills for a New Direction for America



Congresswoman Velázquez addresses constituents from the Lower East Side about issues important to them.

The American people have called for change in Congress and the country. That's why in the first 100 hours of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, Congresswoman Velázquez worked to pass legislation to raise the minimum wage, strengthen energy independence, and to give more New Yorkers a chance at the American Dream.

### ✓ Helping Lower Prescription Drug Costs

Worked to lower the cost of prescription drugs for seniors by requiring the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate with drug companies for lower prices.

### ✓ Stopping Gasoline Price Gouging

Backed legislation that sets criminal penalties for gasoline price gouging and permits states, including New York, to bring lawsuits against those who engage in such practices.

### ✓ Increasing Affordable Housing Options

Created an Affordable Housing Fund that will provide approximately \$500 million a year for five years to promote affordable housing for low-income homeowners and renters.

### ✓ Ensuring American Families Are Secure

Voted to implement the recommendations of the bipartisan 9/11 commission, such as inspection of all air cargo and shipping containers entering America.

### ✓ Providing Hope to Millions of Americans Fighting Disease

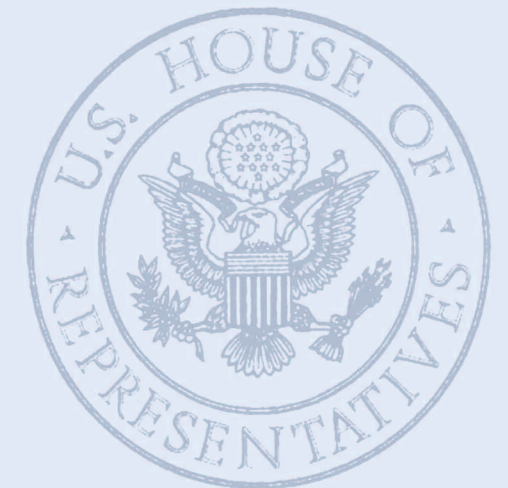
Improved health care by expanding federal funding for lifesaving embryonic stem cell research.

### ✓ Making College More Affordable

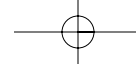
Supported legislation making college more affordable and accessible by cutting federal student interest rates in half over the next five years.

### ✓ Strengthening America's Energy Independence

Passed a renewable energy initiative that repeals \$14 billion in subsidies and tax breaks for Big Oil and reinvests it in clean, renewable and sustainable energy.







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## Fighting to Bring Our Troops Home from Iraq Now

Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez opposed the Iraq war from the start, and has fought the President every step of the way. She believes now is the time to bring our troops home.

- ✓ Introduced the ***Opt Out of Iraq War Act of 2007*** to bring the troops home from Iraq by blocking the Bush administration from spending your tax dollars on the war.
- ✓ Voted for redeployment legislation that would have gotten most troops out in 9 months.
- ✓ Voted "no" on war funding without an exit timeline.
- ✓ Voted "no" to the President's surge of additional troops to Iraq.
- ✓ Co-sponsored legislation that brings our troops home within 6 months, and cancels the President's Authorization to Use Military Force.
- ✓ Co-sponsored bill that cracks down on waste, fraud and abuse by war contractors who endanger troops and squander taxpayer dollars.



In the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, Congresswoman Velázquez introduced the following legislative package to improve the health of New York residents, improve our children's education, expand access to affordable housing and economic opportunities, and to clean up areas throughout the City.

## Protecting the Health of New York Families



- ***Healthy Foods for Healthy Living Act*** increases access to fresh fruits, vegetables and healthy foods for families in low-income communities.

• ***The HIV Emergency Local Partnership Act of 2007*** provides resources to non-profits serving minorities in communities disproportionately impacted by HIV/AIDS.

• ***Ovarian and Cervical Cancer Awareness Act*** educates low-income women about ovarian and cervical cancers and the health benefits of early detection.

## Advancing Educational Opportunities

• ***Language Education for Success Act*** helps those struggling to learn English succeed in the classroom, and provides loan forgiveness for teachers working with these students.



Congresswoman Velázquez discussing the importance of reading to area elementary students.

• ***Serving Everyone with Reliable, Vital Internet, Communications, and Education Act of 2007*** improves the opportunity of underserved communities to access broadband Internet service.

## Expanding and Preserving Affordable Housing for New York Families



• ***Stabilizing Affordable Housing for the Future Act*** provides local governments and tenants the tools to revitalize affordable housing units – ensuring residents live in safety and security.

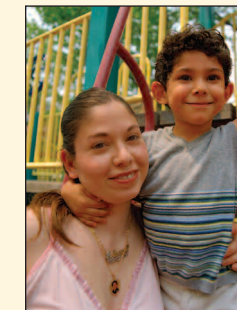
• Increasing access to homeownership and affordable housing options, ***Housing America's Workforce Act*** provides a tax deduction for employers who help their employees buy a first home or rent an apartment.

• ***Pathway to Preservation Act*** makes it easier to maintain HUD-owned buildings that are slated for foreclosure, preserving affordable housing opportunities for low-income families in the City and across the nation.

• ***Public Housing Equal Treatment Act*** ensures funding for all of NYCHA's public housing developments, improving the quality of life for each tenant and their families.

• ***Earning and Living Opportunities Act*** provides greater training and employment opportunities for public housing residents.

## Improving the Environment and Making it Safer for New York Families



• ***Brownfields Housing and Community Renewal Development Act*** allows communities to reclaim unusable Brownfield sites and turn them into safe and vibrant locations for New York families.

• ***Community Environmental Equity Act*** ensures our neighborhoods are not disproportionately affected by asthma causing environmental contaminants or pollution.

## Helping New York Small Businesses Grow

As Chair of the Small Business Committee, Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez worked to pass several initiatives to help New York entrepreneurs by:

- ✓ Requiring the federal government to purchase 30% of all its goods and services from small businesses.
- ✓ Reducing the cost of capital for entrepreneurs looking to start or expand their business.
- ✓ Strengthening entrepreneurial development programs for women and minority entrepreneurs.
- ✓ Delivering incentives to help small businesses deal with the rising energy and health care costs.
- ✓ Creating new program to increase health care services in low-income communities.
- ✓ Ensuring that homeowners and businesses have the resources to rebuild after a disaster.



Congresswoman Velázquez participating in a ribbon-cutting for local businesses.

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