

# HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

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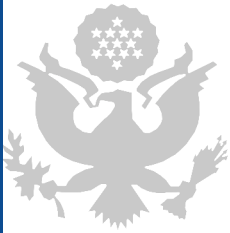
SECRETARY JOHN CARTER

# MEMORIAL DAY DISTRICT WORK PERIOD



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HONORED GLORY  
AN AMERICAN  
SOLDIER  
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# HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

# MEMORIAL DAY Resource Kit

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## Dear Colleague

We should not adjourn for the Memorial Day work period without first offering our solemn gratitude to America's fallen. Memorial Day honors the ultimate sacrifice made by America's men and women in uniform. It is to them, and to their brothers and sisters who are away from their families today fighting in defense of our nation, that we offer our prayers.

The American people know that Washington is broken, and it is no more apparent than on soaring energy and gas prices. American families are looking for leadership that sets senseless politics aside and focuses on fixing a broken Washington. They are seeking meaningful solutions to the challenges they face each and every day.

House Republicans are committed to delivering those solutions for American families. Over the next five-and-a-half months, House Republicans will make our case to the American people with a plan to address the challenges that House Democrats have proven unable or unwilling to take on. Our House Republican agenda includes:

- **American-Made Energy to Lower Gas Prices:** An energy policy that increases the supply of American-made energy – making us more energy independent, helping bring down gasoline and diesel prices, and creating jobs here at home;
- **Strengthening Our Economy:** A stronger economy by stopping the largest tax increase in American history, cutting wasteful Washington spending, balancing the budget by 2012, passing serious entitlement reform and boosting our housing sector;
- **Securing Our Families and Communities:** Security from threats our families face both at home and abroad by securing our borders once and for all, taking on the rising criminal threats in our communities and giving terrorists plotting new attacks no place to hide;
- **Affordable, Accessible Health Care:** Affordable, high-quality health care for every American by giving families greater choice and control, not through a massive expansion of government health care controlled by bureaucrats.

Our mission today, and for the rest of the year, is to take our proposals to the American people and let them be judged in the marketplace of ideas. The Democrats' do-nothing, tax-and-spend, no-new-energy record cannot stand up to our meaningful solutions to create new American energy, strengthen our economy, rein in wasteful spending, enhance the security of our nation and make health care more affordable and accessible.

The materials in this Memorial Day District Work Period Resource Kit are designed to drive our message and help you communicate House Republican solutions to your constituents and the media. As always, please do not hesitate to contact the Conference if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Adam Putnam  
Chairman, House Republican Conference

# ENERGY

## House Republicans Work to Lower Energy Prices

- We will increase the production of American-made energy in an environmentally-safe way.
- We will promote new, clean, and reliable sources of energy like advanced nuclear and next generation coal, while promoting clean power from renewable energy such as wind and hydroelectric power.
- We will cut red tape and increase the supply of American-made fuel and energy.
- We will encourage greater energy efficiency by offering conservation tax incentives to Americans who make their home, car, and business more energy efficient.

Washington is broken, and the Democratic Majority's refusal to address soaring energy prices is a perfect example of why. Two years ago, then-Minority Leader Pelosi promised the American people a "commonsense plan" to lower gasoline prices, but House Democrats have not only failed to offer any meaningful solutions, they've put forward policies that will have precisely the opposite effect. As a result of their inaction, oil, gasoline, and electricity prices are as high as they have ever been. Once a nightmare scenario, \$4 gasoline has become a harsh reality – on Speaker Pelosi's watch – and now Americans are paying nearly \$1.50 more per gallon at the pump than when the Speaker took office. This Pelosi Premium is hitting working families hard at a time when they are confronting high costs of living, a slowing economy, and a housing crunch.

Republicans are committed to a comprehensive energy reform policy that will boost supplies of all forms of energy right here at home to reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy, protect us against blackmail by foreign dictators, create American jobs, and grow our economy. Our agenda aims to increase supply of American energy, improve energy efficiency, and encourage investment in alternative and renewable energy technologies. With 21<sup>st</sup> Century technologies and the strictest environmental standards in the world, America must produce more of our own energy right here at home and protect our environment at the same time. The American people deserve to use their own resources and keep the cost of energy from skyrocketing further.

When it comes to energy production, while our global competitors are pursuing 21st Century technologies, America is stuck in the 1970s. On electricity production alone, for example, just to keep up with new demand, by 2030, the United States must build 747 NEW coal plants, 52 NEW nuclear plants, 2,000 NEW hydroelectric generators, and add 13,000 NEW megawatts of renewable power. The dire need to increase domestic oil and gas production is no different. Yet, the Democratic Majority refuses to lead.

### How Washington is Broken:

- The Democratic Majority's "Just Say No" Energy Policy Darkens America's Energy Future:
  - No production of American energy resources, which increases reliance on unstable foreign sources such as Venezuela, Iran, and Saudi Arabia.
  - No new oil refineries built, which increases gas prices and reliance on imported fuel.
  - No new transmission lines, which hinders renewable electricity getting to consumers and reduces reliability.
  - No new coal power plants, which increases electricity prices and stifles the economy.
  - No new advanced zero-emission nuclear plants, which blocks one of the cleanest, most reliable energy sources available.
  - No new zero-emission hydro-electric plants, which blocks reliable clean energy.
  - No liquefied natural gas terminals, which increases prices and ships jobs overseas.
- Democrats' prohibitions on producing American energy resources have made the U.S. more reliant on imported oil and natural gas.
- Democrats' roadblocks on the utilization of energy from our North American neighbors, have made the U.S. more reliant on the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).
- Democrats' unfavorable tax rules have sent energy investment and production abroad.
- Democrats' unnecessary red-tape and bureaucracy have made it nearly impossible to move forward on new clean power generation.
- Democrats' 1970s-era energy policies have canceled dozens of power plants, reducing electricity supplies and increasing electricity costs to consumers.
- Democrats' refusal to provide incentives for individuals and businesses has made it difficult to invest in efficient technologies.

## How Republican Solutions Will Fix It:

### Meeting Our Energy Needs with American Made Energy.

- The comprehensive House Republican plan will fund research and development of technologies and innovations which advance the use of renewable and domestically available energy sources, increase energy efficiency, and ease the environmental impacts of energy use.
- 1) Increasing the Production of American-Made Energy in an Environmentally-Safe Way
    - a. Support actions that reduce America's dependence on energy from unstable foreign governments and dictatorships by increasing environmentally-safe production of oil and natural gas in areas such as the arctic coastal plain and in deep ocean energy resources; and
    - b. Promote unconventional fuels such as coal-to-liquids technology and recovering our vast oil shale reserves by:
      - Increasing access for environmentally responsible development of conventional and unconventional domestic oil and natural gas production;
      - Providing coal-to-liquids financing and tax incentives; and
      - Advancing the commercialization of the nation's two trillion barrel shale oil resource, 80 percent of which occurs on government-owned land in the West. This is enough to supply all of America's needs for over two centuries.
  - 2) Promoting New, Clean, and Reliable Sources of Energy
    - a. Encourage more production of environmentally-safe energy to increase the use of our vast domestic supply, reduce emissions, and keep coal-dependent communities strong; and
    - b. Expand emissions-free nuclear power, including long term nuclear waste storage solutions and recycling spent fuel by:
      - Providing production and investment tax credits for all new base-load electricity projects such as advanced nuclear power and clean coal; and
      - Allowing immediate expensing for new renewable or zero emission power.
  - 3) Cutting Red Tape and Increasing the Supply of American-Made Fuel and Energy
    - a. Expedite permitting for enhanced oil recovery projects, including CO<sub>2</sub> delivery and injection, as well as permitting for new refining capacity;
    - b. Improve environmental review and permitting to encourage the deployment of technologies which increase the efficiency of existing power plants; and
    - c. End ill-advised policies that have led to the proliferation of unique gasoline and diesel fuel formulations known as "boutique fuels," which have fragmented our motor fuels distribution system, choked off supply, and exacerbated the already-painful Pelosi Premium.
  - 4) Encouraging Greater Energy Efficiency by Offering Conservation Tax Incentives
    - a. Support technologies to help increase energy efficiency in all sectors of the American economy, including removing bureaucratic regulatory barriers that prevent businesses from upgrading their facilities with newer, more efficient energy technologies, by:
      - Making home energy efficiency upgrades tax deductible;
      - Providing incentives for home builders and homeowners to make their homes more energy efficient;
      - Offering investment expensing for industrial and commercial building efficiency upgrades;
      - Extending the residential and business solar and fuel cell investment tax credits, with enhancements to the residential solar credit (\$2,000 per ½ kw installed);
      - Extending the fiber-optic distributed sunlight investment tax credit; and
      - Increasing the energy efficiency of government-owned buildings.

# The following is an excerpt from a memo that went out to Chiefs of Staff and District Directors on May 9:

Members have already begun doing events at gas stations in their districts, talking with constituents about the impact of the Pelosi Premium and the need for 21<sup>st</sup>-century energy reforms that will lower prices, create jobs, and grow our economy.

If you have not already held or laid the groundwork for a gas station event, I strongly urge you to do so, especially with the peak travel season set to begin Memorial Day weekend. This is an effective way to talk to your constituents about a pressing issue.



I also want to stress the importance of using the phrase “Pelosi Premium” whenever you are talking with constituents about this issue – even to the point of repetition. After all, it’s been over two years now since Speaker Pelosi promised a plan to lower gas prices, and it’s our constituents who are bearing the brunt of her failure to deliver.

There are other ways to use the Pelosi Premium to garner earned media exposure in your districts:



- Talk radio is abuzz right now about the pain at the pump. Book your Member on these shows – especially for in-studio appearances – to talk about the issue and take questions from constituents.
  - Draft an op-ed on the Pelosi Premium and use it to segue into a discussion of your support for cutting edge energy reforms. For a good example of this, see Rep. Zach Wamp’s recent piece in The Chattanooga: “[All Of The Above Approach To Addressing Energy Costs.](#)”
  - Add a “Pelosi Premium” page to your web site. On that page, lay out your record on energy issues and provide useful links for constituents to visit and read about Democrat broken promises to lower gas prices. Also, use the Conference studio to record a video message that can be posted on YouTube expressing your concern about the pain at the pump.
  - Rising food prices have made it even tougher for working families to absorb the costs of the Pelosi Premium. The pain at the pump is also directly related to the squeeze at the supermarket. As the Speaker says on her own website: “[Rising Energy Costs Contribute to Rising Food Prices for American Families.](#)” This is an issue I strongly recommend you lead on – whether it’s talking about it at your town halls, doing a grocery store tour, or using it as a tie-in for your discussions about the Pelosi Premium, energy reform, and new middle class tax relief.
- Make the Pelosi Premium the centerpiece of a broader discussion of how the American people literally cannot afford the Democrat Congress, especially with the largest tax increase in history looming. With families trying to cope with soaring costs of living, this is as good a time as any to emphasize your support for new middle class tax relief and a permanent extension of, among other things, the child tax credit.

# Talking Points: The Pelosi Premium

Broken Promises, Wrong Priorities. Speaker Pelosi promised the American people a “commonsense” plan to lower gasoline prices, but House Democrats have not only failed to offer any meaningful solutions, they’ve put forward policies that will have precisely the opposite effect. We cannot tax middle-class families’ and truckers’ tanks from empty to full.

- Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA): “Democrats have a plan to lower gas prices...” (Release, [4/18/06](#)); “Democrats have a commonsense plan to help bring down skyrocketing gas prices...” (Release, [4/24/06](#))
- Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD): “Democrats believe that we can do more for the American people who are struggling to deal with high gas prices...” (Release, [10/4/05](#))
- Democrat Whip Jim Clyburn (D-SC): “House Democrats have a plan to help curb rising gas prices.” (Online Town Hall Meeting, [7/26/06](#))
- Democrats have voted four times to raise energy taxes in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. January 18, 2007 (HR 6, [Roll Call 37](#)); August 4, 2007 (HR 2776, [Roll Call 835](#)); December 6, 2007 (HR 6, [Roll Call 1140](#)); February 27, 2008 (HR 5351, [Roll Call 84](#)).

The impact of the Pelosi Premium. Since Democrats took control of Congress gasoline prices have skyrocketed by nearly \$1.50 per gallon, or 63 percent, forcing working families to pay a Pelosi Premium at the pump. With reports indicating gasoline prices are beginning to hit \$4 per gallon, the Pelosi Premium couldn’t come at a worse time for middle class families already being squeezed by the soaring costs of living.

- Average price of regular unleaded gasoline per gallon: January 4, 2007: [\\$2.33/gal.](#) / May 21, 2008: [\\$3.81/gal.](#) ([AAA](#))
- “Rising gas prices cut into holiday travel. With gas prices within two slim dimes of \$4 a gallon, people are reevaluating their travel plans.” ([Janesville \(MI\) Gazette, 5/18/08](#))
- “Record gas prices impact travel plans. For the first time since 1998, AAA is projecting fewer Americans will travel during the Memorial Day holiday weekend than the previous year, attributing the dip to record gasoline prices which approached \$4 per gallon.” ([Greater Milwaukee Today, 5/15/08](#))
- “How Soaring Fuel Prices Hurt Kids. From teachers and books to bus routes and field trips, the soaring price of fuel is causing school districts across the country to cut back - especially in more rural areas where the tax base is small and the distance to bus students is large.” ([CNNMoney.com, 4/10/08](#))
- “High diesel prices squeeze truckers. ... While all Americans are facing sticker shock at the pump these days, truckers have been hit particularly hard, watching the cost of diesel skyrocket past gasoline. The national average for diesel is hovering just above \$4 a gallon, due to high crude-oil prices and rising demand for diesel, especially in China and Europe. Truckers often pay close to \$1,000 to fill up a tank that might have cost \$600 to fill a few years ago.” ([The Christian Science Monitor, 4/11/08](#))
- “Old gas pumps can't handle ever-rising prices. Mom-and-pop service stations are running into a problem as gasoline marches toward \$4 a gallon: Thousands of old-fashioned pumps can't register more than \$3.99 on their spinning mechanical dials. ... Many of the same pumps can only count up to \$99.99 for the total sale, preventing owners of some SUVs, vans, trucks and tractor-trailers to fill their tanks all the way.” ([Associated Press, 5/12/08](#))

Middle class families and their increasingly tight budgets need relief, not more broken promises. While House Democrats propose more of the same – tax increases – House Republicans have offered common-sense solutions to reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy, lower gas prices here at home, and invest in all forms of energy to create American jobs and grow our economy.

- Amid rising gas prices, leading Democrats in the House want every motorist to pay 50 cents more in taxes on every gallon of gas they buy. Although surveys show nearly half of Americans oppose paying even one cent more in gas taxes, Democrat Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman John Dingell (D-MI) has called for a [50-cent tax hike](#) on every gallon of gas they buy.

# The Pelosi Premium: Sample Op-Ed

Many Americans spend their Memorial Day weekends traveling with my family to visit relatives and friends

This year, however, working-class American families are being forced to cancel these trips, and it's no secret why. The national average for gasoline is nearing the \$4 mark, and we're just entering the summer driving season, when prices generally increase.

Gas prices are so high that older mom-and-pop stations, with mechanical dials, cannot even register beyond the \$3.99 point. The Pelosi Premium is literally breaking gas pumps.

The Pelosi Premium, which represents a 63 percent increase in gas prices since the Democrats took over control of Congress, is drastically restricting family budgets. Coupled with the high cost of the Democrat Congress, and massive looming tax increases, the Pelosi Premium has made for a very anxious American working class.

American families rightfully look to Washington for solutions. And while Speaker Pelosi promised that 'Democrats have a commonsense plan to help bring down skyrocketing gas prices' in 2006, her inability to deliver on such promises is placing an unprecedented economic burden on working families, small businesses, truckers, hospitals, schools, and local governments.

Democrats have offered broken promises, higher taxes and more government. Republicans, however, stand united in delivering solutions to the American people, especially

policies that will work to lower the price at the pump.

America has vast domestic energy sources that can be brought to market in an environmentally friendly manner: coal, oil shale, natural gas, and nuclear power. We believe we must wisely utilize these resources.

A balanced energy policy must encourage environmentally sound production in the Outer Continental Shelf and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Increasing the supply of our energy will help drive down the cost of gas, make us less dependent on foreign nations – many of whom don't care for us very much – and will create good family-supporting American jobs right here at home.

And, importantly, we must do more to conserve the resources we have, and continue to invest in alternative and renewable energy technologies.

Record gas prices are straining the pocketbooks of millions of working American families. And as the global economy becomes even more competitive – with China and India playing ever growing roles – Washington must address the issue of affordable and sustainable energy if we intend to compete. The Democrats have flatly failed to do this.

The differences between Democrats and Republicans are countless, especially on energy policy. Democrats have offered broken promises and tax hikes. Republicans have laid out a clear, American-energy and jobs driven approach that will increase our energy independence and alleviate the pain at the pump. The choice is clear.

## The Pelosi Premium: By the Numbers

60%

According to Gallup, percentage of Americans who say they are cutting back significantly on household spending to afford higher gas prices.

62%

According to Zogby, percentage of Americans who believe \$5 per gallon gas will hit their neck of the woods this summer.

1

Several national polls taken this month have pegged gas prices as American families' top economic concern.

223

Number of House Democrats who voted to halt shipments to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve – a move recognizing that increased supply lowers prices.

\$1200

According to numerous sources, what it costs to fill up a tractor trailer right now.

6.1%

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the jump in food prices over the last three months – this represents the highest increase in 18 years.

# ECONOMY

## House Republicans Work to Stop Democrat Tax Increases

- We will stop the largest tax increase in American history and offer new tax breaks for Americans – including eliminating the unfair Alternative Minimum Tax and making the Internet permanently tax-free.
- We will level the playing field for American workers and start importing jobs here by cutting taxes on American industry.
- We will strengthen homeownership in America through a series of reforms that stabilize home values, encourage home purchases and help needy homeowners who are truly victims.
- We will restore fiscal responsibility in Washington by reining in spending, passing meaningful entitlement reform and balancing the federal budget by 2012 without raising taxes.
- We will enact an immediate moratorium on congressional earmarks and establish a bipartisan panel to fundamentally reform how Washington spends taxpayer dollars.
- We will reduce the size of government, make it more efficient and transparent while eliminating duplicative or wasteful programs.

If Democrats in Congress get their way, being an American taxpayer will become a much more expensive proposition. The massive tax increase in the budget conference report is just the latest attempt by Washington Democrats to squeeze working families and small business entrepreneurs even further.

House Republicans are committed to delivering new tax relief for the middle-class. In fact, last month, the majority voted no fewer than three times against Republican motions to stop Democrat efforts to enact the largest tax increase in history. While our economy continues to struggle – as record high gas prices are taking its toll – it is troubling that Democrats did not join with Republicans to allow American families to keep more of their hard-earned money.

House Democrats' fiscally irresponsible budget, passed in March, includes a massive, broad-based, job-killing \$683 billion tax increase – all to finance more wasteful Washington spending. Under the Democrat tax plan, 116 million taxpayers would be socked with an average tax hike of \$1,833. Working families would be hit especially hard: for instance, a family of four with two children that earns \$50,000 annually would have to pay an additional \$2,155 in taxes under the Democrat plan. That represents a 191% increase in their tax bill.

**Mother of All Tax Hikes.** A plan put forward last fall by New York City Democrat Charlie Rangel, Chairman of the tax-writing Ways & Means Committee, would impose a four percent surtax on Americans (including small businesses) earning more than \$150,000 a year. A Heritage Foundation analysis found that this "Mother of All Tax Hikes" would lead to the loss of more than one million American jobs in 2013 alone, killing an average of 600,000 more American jobs annually over the next 10 years.

This month, House Democrats attached a \$54 billion small-business tax hike to – of all things – the emergency troop funding bill. Nearly 83 percent of filers affected by this Democrat tax hike report some income from a small business. The vast majority of the new jobs created in our economy – even in this turbulent economic climate – are attributed to small businesses. There is never a good time to raise taxes, especially now.

Under the Democrat "war surtax," proposed by Appropriations Chairman David Obey (D-WI), Defense Appropriations Chairman John Murtha (D-PA), and Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA) last month, low and middle-income taxpayers would have had two percent added to their tax bill, while higher-income taxpayers would have taken on an additional 12 to 15 percent.

Meanwhile, as gas prices continue to shatter record highs on a near daily basis, leading House Democrats want every American motorist and trucker to pay 50 cents more in taxes on every gallon of gas. Although surveys show nearly half of Americans oppose paying even one cent more in gas taxes, Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman John Dingell (D-MI) has called for a 50-cent tax hike on every gallon of gas.

Democrats have raised taxes on American energy producers not once, not twice, but four times during the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress – a move opposed by several Democrats on the Energy and Commerce Committee, one of whom has called it a "political exercise." However, the Democrats did take time out to provide energy tax incentives for Hugo Chavez's Communist Venezuela. House Democrats, through these actions, have told the American people that they believe they can tax your tanks full.



Finally, last summer, House Democrats tacked a massive job-killing tax hike on to the farm bill. This tax increase would have put the hammer to “insourcing” companies

operating inside the United States. It would have put 5.1 million American jobs on the chopping block – jobs with compensation per worker of \$63,428 annually – 32 percent higher than other typical U.S.-based jobs.

## New Democrat Tax Hikes in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress

<b>Bills Passed by the House</b>	<b>Date Passed</b>	<b>Total Tax Increase Over 10 Years</b>
CLEAN Energy Act of 2007 (H.R. 6)	1/18/2007	\$7.7 Billion
Small Business and Work Opportunity Act (H.R. 976)	2/16/2007	\$1.4 Billion
Katrina Housing Relief Act (H.R. 1562)	3/27/2007	\$241 Million
Taxpayer Protection Act of 2007 (H.R. 1677)	4/17/2007	\$23 Million
Estimated Tax Safe Harbor Act (H.R. 1906)	4/19/2007	\$14 Million
War Funding Supplemental (H.R. 2206)	5/24/2007	\$4.9 Billion
Andean Trade Preferences Act (H.R. 1830)	6/27/2007	\$105 Million
Farm Nutrition and Bioenergy Act of 2007 (H.R. 2419)	7/27/2007	\$7.5 Billion
The Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Act (H.R. 2776)	8/4/2007	\$15.3 Billion
Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act of 2007 (H.R. 3648)	10/4/2007	\$2 Billion
Tax Collection Responsibility Act of 2007 (H.R. 3056)	10/10/2007	\$1.2 Billion
Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (H.R. 3963)	10/25/2007	\$71.5 Billion
Trade and Globalization Assistance Act (H.R. 3920)	10/31/2007	\$12.2 Billion
The Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Act of 2007 (H.R. 3997)	11/6/2007	\$2.2 Billion
Temporary Tax Relief Act of 2007 (H.R. 3996)	11/9/2007	\$76 Billion
The Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2008 (H.R. 5351)	2/27/2008	\$17.6 Billion
Taxpayer Assistance and Simplification Act of 2008 (H.R. 5719)	4/15/2008	\$1.2 Billion
Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008 (H.R. 3221)	5/8/2008	\$11.7 Billion
Small Business Tax Hike (H.R. 2642)	5/15/2008	\$51.6 Billion
The Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act of 2008 (H.R. 6049)	5/21/2008	\$54.3 Billion
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$338.7 BILLION</b>

# House Republicans Work to Address the Housing Crunch

House Republicans are committed to addressing the housing crunch in a responsible fashion by putting the needs of needy homeowners who are truly victims first. By rewarding speculators, scam artists, and liberal special interests, the Democrat majority's proposals do not live up to this commonsense standard. Our efforts should be geared towards keeping the dream of homeownership within reach of middle-class families, not making them subsidize a bailout for irresponsible decisionmakers.

The Democrat housing plan lets speculators and scam artists off the hook for their role in causing the housing crunch, using taxpayer dollars to reward irresponsibility. Independent experts, including the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, have warned Congress about the dangers of a taxpayer-funded bailout of speculators and scam artists.

- In an analysis released last month, the Congressional Budget Office, Congress's official scorekeeper, held that "if the federal government is expected to step in when economic times are bad, then lenders and borrowers do not need to consider the possibility of bad times when making decisions." ("Policy Options for the Housing and Financial Markets," April 2008)
- Sure enough, the CBO's analysis of the Democrat bill makes clear that the rate at which taxpayers are forced to subsidize new FHA loans reflects its previous "view that mortgage holders would have an incentive to direct their highest-risk loans to the program." (H.R. 5830, Cost Estimate, 5/2/08)

The Democrat housing plan forces taxpayers to foot the bill for massive handouts to liberal special interests. House Democrats lay the groundwork for a feeding frenzy of trial lawyers to benefit from the misfortune of innocent Americans.

- This bill would require that \$35 million of the funds dedicated to foreclosure counseling "be used for grants to state and local legal organizations with experience in foreclosure law." Rep. Tom Price (R-GA) offered an "amendment to bar the use of the funds for civil litigation," but it was voted down by committee Democrats. (CQ, 4/30/08) NOTE: According to the Center for Responsive Politics, lawyers and law firms gave \$85 million to Democrat candidates in the 2006 cycle.

House Republicans have offered the American people two viable alternatives for addressing the housing crunch – without raising taxes and rewarding irresponsibility. These proposals would address the housing crunch in a way that guarantees fairness for responsible homeowners.

- Reform and transparency must be front and center in any efforts to stabilize the housing market. Last month, Financial Services Ranking Member Rep. Spencer Bachus, along with Reps. Judy Biggert (R-IL) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) introduced H.R. 5857, the Homeownership Protection and Housing Market Stabilization Act of 2008. This bill breaks the logjam on bipartisan reforms that will help homeowners right now. Federal Housing Administration (FHA) reform, modernization of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, additional funding for housing counseling are among the central planks of this proposal.
- The best way out of the housing crisis is to get Americans purchasing homes again. The housing market needs a jump-start, not a bail-out. To that end, Rep. Lee Terry (R-NE) proposed a market-based plan that will help restore the promise of homeownership by stabilizing housing prices, reducing housing inventory, and providing incentives to buyers. Rep. Terry's proposal features a one-time tax credit equal to 10% of the purchase price of a primary residence – up to \$10,000.

There are a number of government and private initiatives already on the books that have been successful in helping homeowners weather this storm. Lawmakers' time would be better spent educating homeowners on the plethora of options at their disposal, as opposed to passing measures that provide a safety net for irresponsibility.

- More than half a million homeowners were able to stay in their homes during the first quarter of this year because of loan workouts facilitated by HOPE NOW. Loan workouts have been provided for nearly 1.4 million homeowners since last July. (Release, 4/28/08)
- Earlier this year, six of the nation's biggest mortgage lenders agreed to participate in Project Lifeline, an initiative that lets "qualified homeowners who are at least 90 days late on their mortgage payments pause the foreclosure process for 30 days." Project Lifeline is targeted to all types of mortgages, not just subprime loans. (CNN, 2/12/08)
- FHASecure was launched last summer to stave off the rise in foreclosures by offering refinancing options to homeowners who had been keeping up with their mortgage payments before their loans reset. The Administration has recently expanded this program to include "borrowers who were late on a few payments and/or received a voluntary mortgage principal write-down from their lenders" and expects "about 500,000 families to refinance into prime-rate FHA-insured mortgages in total by the end of this year." (Release, 4/9/08)

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- This bill would require that \$35 million of the funds dedicated to foreclosure counseling "be used for grants to state and local legal organizations with experience in foreclosure law." Rep. Tom Price (R-GA) offered an "amendment to bar the use of the funds for civil litigation," but it was voted down by committee Democrats. (CQ, 4/30/08) NOTE: According to the Center for Responsive Politics, lawyers and law firms gave \$85 million to Democrat candidates in the 2006 cycle.

House Republicans have offered the American people two viable alternatives for addressing the housing crunch – without raising taxes and rewarding irresponsibility. These proposals would address the housing crunch in a way that guarantees fairness for responsible homeowners.

- Reform and transparency must be front and center in any efforts to stabilize the housing market. Last month, Financial Services Ranking Member Rep. Spencer Bachus, along with Reps. Judy Biggert (R-IL) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) introduced H.R. 5857, the Homeownership Protection and Housing Market Stabilization Act of 2008. This bill breaks the logjam on bipartisan reforms that will help homeowners right now. Federal Housing Administration (FHA) reform, modernization of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, additional funding for housing counseling are among the central planks of this proposal.
- The best way out of the housing crisis is to get Americans purchasing homes again. The housing market needs a jump-start, not a bail-out. To that end, Rep. Lee Terry (R-NE) proposed a market-based plan that will help restore the promise of homeownership by stabilizing housing prices, reducing housing inventory, and providing incentives to buyers. Rep. Terry's proposal features a one-time tax credit equal to 10% of the purchase price of a primary residence – up to \$10,000.

There are a number of government and private initiatives already on the books that have been successful in helping homeowners weather this storm. Lawmakers' time would be better spent educating homeowners on the plethora of options at their disposal, as opposed to passing measures that provide a safety net for irresponsibility.

- More than half a million homeowners were able to stay in their homes during the first quarter of this year because of loan workouts facilitated by HOPE NOW. Loan workouts have been provided for nearly 1.4 million homeowners since last July. (Release, 4/28/08)
- Earlier this year, six of the nation's biggest mortgage lenders agreed to participate in Project Lifeline, an initiative that lets "qualified homeowners who are at least 90 days late on their mortgage payments pause the foreclosure process for 30 days." Project Lifeline is targeted to all types of mortgages, not just subprime loans. (CNN, 2/12/08)
- FHASecure was launched last summer to stave off the rise in foreclosures by offering refinancing options to homeowners who had been keeping up with their mortgage payments before their loans reset. The Administration has recently expanded this program to include "borrowers who were late on a few payments and/or received a voluntary mortgage principal write-down from their lenders" and expects "about 500,000 families to refinance into prime-rate FHA-insured mortgages in total by the end of this year." (Release, 4/9/08)

# SECURITY

- We will crack down on the gangs in our communities by establishing anti-gang task forces across the country and impose tougher penalties on gang-related crimes.
- We will protect our children through new laws to stop sex predators before they harm kids and increased punishment for offenders.
- We will continue to combat the drug epidemic in our country and impose tougher penalties for trafficking the drugs that are destroying our communities.
- We will bring state-of-the-art technologies and old-fashioned American might to bear in securing our borders and our ports.
- We will update our electronic surveillance laws so our intelligence community has all the tools it needs to intercept terrorist plots before they unfold.
- We will support our troops in harm's way, take care of our veterans and make sure our reservists and National Guard receive the benefits they have earned through their service.

## Talking Points: House Republicans Work to Pass a Clean Emergency Troop Funding Bill

House Republicans are fully committed to providing our fighting men and women in harm's way with the resources they need to succeed in their mission.

- The American people do not send their hard-earned tax dollars to Washington to have them passed along to our troops on an installment plan. Republicans on the Appropriations Committee have introduced a clean troop funding bill (H.R. 6026) that provides the \$178 billion in funds requested for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan – and not a penny or extraneous provision more.

House Republicans successfully exposed Democrats' opposition to a clean troop funding bill.

- The Democrat majority insisted on going forward with a reckless scheme to hold our troops' funding hostage in order to pass billions in unrelated spending and a massive, \$54 billion tax hike on America's small businesses. By voting present, House Republicans signaled their refusal to participate in this cynical ploy to hold our troops' funding hostage.
- When the time came to stand with our troops, a majority of majority Democrats instead sided with MoveOn.org and the far-left fringe. In all, 147 Democrats voted down funding for our fighting men and women in harm's way.
- Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN): "Everyone knows that Republicans support our soldiers in the field, they support the war in Iraq. Today, the Democrats showed their true colors: defeating a bill that funded our troops, while passing legislation that micromanaged our commanders in the field, added billions in domestic spending, and increased taxes. I think what came into high relief today is the truth. And the truth is that the Democrat leadership in the Congress never wanted to fund our troops in the field. The truth is, the Democrats in Congress simply want to grow government, and micromanage our soldiers, and raise taxes." (5/15/08)

Democrats fail to recognize the urgency of getting our fighting men and women in harm's way the resources they need in short order.

- Our troops have been waiting more than 460 days for Congress to give them the emergency funds they need to succeed in their mission. And if House Democrat leaders get their way, our fighting men and women will have to wait several weeks more. Speaker Nancy Pelosi said a few days ago: "We would like to finish by Memorial Day. But there is time, in terms of meeting the needs of the troops." That is not so.
- Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in an interview last week: "We need [the supplemental appropriations bill] very badly before the Memorial Day recess. We stop paying soldiers on the 15th of June and we have precious little flexibility with respect to that. Clearly that creates incredible constraints and difficulties for us." (Roll Call, 5/5/08)

- CongressDaily noted this week: “Democrat leaders would like to pass the bill by Memorial Day, especially since furlough notices would have to go out if the funding were not in place.”

The Democrat bill micromanages our commanders on the ground and telegraphs a withdrawal plan to the enemy.

- The Democrat bill includes, among other things, a provision requiring the President to begin a precipitous withdrawal of troops from Iraq within 30 days, with a goal of complete withdrawal by the end of 2009. By holding yet another vote on an arbitrary timeline for withdrawal from Iraq, the Democrats are putting the demands of MoveOn.org and the far left over the needs of our troops. Majority Leader Steny Hoyer has said that the members of his party are being pressured by antiwar groups. “If we don't do anything, these groups will feel like we haven't done anything,” the Maryland Democrat said last July. (The Washington Times, 7/12/07)
- The consequences of failure in Iraq remain grave. This week, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said: “The risk of overextending the Army is real. But I believe the risk is far greater — to that institution as well as to our country — if we were to fail in Iraq. That is the war we are in. That is the war we must win.” (AP, 5/14/08)

The Democrat bill includes a massive, job-killing tax hike on small business owners.

- To pay for the tens of billions of dollars in new Washington spending contained in this bill, Democrats have proposed a job-killing tax increase on individuals making more than \$500,000 and couples making more than \$1 million. According to the Tax Foundation, nearly 83 percent of filers who will be hit by the Democrat tax increase report some form of income from a small business, sole proprietorship, or partnership.
- Small businesses create most of the new jobs that keep our economy growing. In fact, according to ADP, last month, small businesses created 56,000 jobs, while the economy lost 20,000 jobs overall. The last thing we should be doing is raising taxes on the innovators and entrepreneurs who are critical to getting our economy back on track.

The Democrat bill is chock full of veto bait and destined never to become law.

- The President has threatened to veto a troop funding bill that includes any and all of the following: (1) provisions micromanaging our troops and tying the hands of our commanders on the ground, (2) spending levels that exceed his original request, and (3) a massive, job-killing tax increase. In its present form, the Democrat bill includes all three of these things. Our troops should not have to wait through another game of political cat-and-mouse – they need these funds now. (Also, see Statement of Administration Policy for H.R. 2642.)

The Democrat bill contains an unnecessary extension of unemployment benefits.

- Unemployment is historically low. The April unemployment rate of 5.0 percent is lower than the average 5.8 percent rate of the 1990s and the average 7.3 percent rate of the 1980s. When benefits were extended in 2002, the unemployment rate was 5.7 percent. In 1991, the extension occurred at 7.0 percent.
- The number of jobless claims is actually falling, and at a faster rate than expected. Last week, the Labor Department reported that applications for unemployment benefits fell by 18,000, when economists had been expecting a decrease of just 5,000. (AP, 5/9/08)
- Extending unemployment benefits extends unemployment. Getting our economy back on track means getting people back to work. A Harvard study found that “extending unemployment insurance eligibility by 13 weeks increases by two weeks the amount of time that workers remain unemployed. Each additional week that the government extends UI benefits extends the length of time the average worker stays unemployed by 0.16 to 0.20 weeks.” (Heritage Foundation, 1/18/08)

The Democrat bill has been written behind closed doors without any input from the minority or the American people.

- By putting the supplemental on the floor without so much as a subcommittee markup, Democrats are completing an unprecedented power grab. According to The Politico, “There have been about three dozen emergency spending bills in the past 20 years, and a handful have passed without input from the Appropriations Committee, including billions in Hurricane Katrina aid and post-Sept. 11 funds. But none of the Iraq war funding bills have bypassed the Appropriations panel.”
- This supplemental has been crafted in secret despite Democrat pledges of an “open and honest” government. From House Democrats’ 2006 manifesto, “A New Direction for America:”
  - “Bills should be developed following full hearings and open subcommittee and committee markups, with appropriate referrals to other committees.”

# Talking Points: House Republicans Work to Pass Bipartisan Terrorist Surveillance Reform

STILL NO URGENCY. Despite being in session for eight weeks in a row and more than three months of negotiations, House Democrats failed to deliver FISA reform by the Memorial Day district work period.

- Promises Made: “House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md.) said he believes Congress can pass a long-stalled electronic surveillance measure before Memorial Day, as deadlines for finishing work on the controversial measure continue to slide.” ([The Politico](#), 4/15/08)
- Promises Broken: “It appears increasingly likely that House and Senate lawmakers will head into the Memorial Day recess this weekend without an agreement to rewrite the nation's electronic surveillance laws.” ([CongressDaily](#), 5/20/08)

House Democrat leaders refuse to give the bipartisan Senate FISA bill the up-or-down vote it deserves, despite knowing the bill would pass. Regrettably, House Democrats continue to put the interests of trial lawyers – who fill their campaign coffers – over America’s security.

- [Robert Novak](#): “The recess by House Democrats amounts to a judgment that losing the generous support of trial lawyers, the Democratic Party's most important financial base, is more dangerous than losing the anti-terrorist issue to Republicans. Dozens of lawsuits have been filed against the phone companies ... Big money is involved. Amanda Carpenter, a Townhall.com columnist, has prepared a spreadsheet showing that 66 trial lawyers representing plaintiffs in the telecommunications suits have contributed \$1.5 million to Democratic senators and causes.”

Democrats have left America at significant risk and potentially blind to new terrorist plots. Our intelligence agencies have lost critical tools that combat terrorism and keep America safe.

- “Are we more vulnerable? Absolutely,” retired Admiral Bobby R. Inman, former director of the National Security Agency and deputy director of the CIA, told the [Austin-American Statesman](#) when asked about the expiration of the Protect America Act.
- Glenn Sulmasy, a Harvard national security expert, wrote in the February 15 edition of [The Tampa Tribune](#) that “the global technologies of cell phones, computers, the internet, and other such means of communication - which were not, and could not have been, envisioned by the drafters of FISA in the 1970s - have changed the way information moves around the world. Herein lie the gaps meant to be filled” by the Protect America Act.

The House should immediately take up the Senate-passed FISA bill. This bill passed the Senate with 68 votes, and it would pass the House with an overwhelming bipartisan vote if House Democrat leaders simply gave it the up-or-down vote it deserves. Instead, Democrat leaders rejected the clear, bipartisan will of Congress. Ever since, [pressure has been building](#) around the country on Democrats to rethink their misguided and dangerous decision to allow the Protect America Act to stay expired.

- A bipartisan group of 25 State Attorneys General wrote a [letter to House leaders](#) on March 4 urging passage of the bipartisan Senate bill: “Passing S. 2248 would ensure our intelligence experts are once again able to conduct real-time surveillance. ... As Attorneys General, we are our states' chief law enforcement officials and therefore responsible for taking whatever action is necessary to keep our citizens safe. With S. 2248 still pending in the House of Representatives, our national security is in jeopardy. We therefore urge the House of Representatives to schedule a vote and pass the FISA Amendments Act of 2007.”
- The 2.1-million member [Veterans of Foreign Wars](#), has also urged the House leadership to adopt the Senate version of the Protect America Act to safeguard Americans from future terrorist attacks and to protect third parties from frivolous lawsuits. VFW National Commander George Lisicki, in a statement, said “Americans are protected from illegal search and seizures by the Fourth Amendment, but critical legislation is now being delayed because some would extend these same constitutional protections to those who want to harm America.”

# HEALTHCARE

House Republicans are committed to ensuring access to affordable health care for all Americans. This country has the finest health care in the world, yet its benefits are out of reach for many American families. Our health care system is in need of good medicine and serious reform.

Today in America, there are millions who want health insurance but cannot afford it, and hundreds of thousands of low-income children are still uninsured. Health care costs continue to rise far faster than inflation or Americans' income. Too many doctors are hanging "out-of-business" signs on their office doors due to skyrocketing malpractice insurance costs – a direct result of lawsuit abuse. America's cutting-edge medical community still keeps records with pen and paper in a digital world, producing higher costs and too often fatal medical errors.

If America votes for a House Republican majority in November, we will work to guarantee access to affordable, high-quality health care for every American – not expand the reach of the federal government and the authority of Washington bureaucrats into our private health care choices.

Here is how we will do it:

- We will offer health care tax breaks so that all Americans – not just the wealthy – can afford a health insurance plan.
- We will make health insurance more affordable, allowing families to enroll in nationwide health plans or plans in other states if those plans better meet their needs. Individual Americans and small businesses deserve access to the same health care tax breaks and advantages as giant corporations.
- We will reverse the dangerous shortage of physicians in high-risk practices like obstetrics and surgery by reforming our medical liability system and ending wasteful, unnecessary lawsuits.
- We will increase the number of low-income children with health insurance in America.
- We will enhance Americans' control over their own health care by expanding the availability of tax-free health savings accounts.
- We will improve health care quality in America by expanding the use of health information technology and electronic medical records.

## Congress: By The Numbers

	Date	Approve/Disapprove	Start of this Congress	Trend
Quinnipiac	5/8-12/08	16/76	N/A	N/A
Gallup	5/8-11/08	18/76	35/56	-17
Diageo/Hotline	4/30-5/3/08	18/75	31/49	-13

# House Republicans Participate in Bipartisan Healthcare Debate

## Congressional Health Care Debate in Cincinnati

**WKRC TV**, April 28, 2008

"Four Democratic members of congress and four Republicans gave their proposals in a nationally televised debate from Cincinnati Children's Hospital. There are huge partisan divides. Progress will likely have to be in small steps.

"Rep. Shelley Moore Capito, (R), West Virginia: 'We should be able to get bipartisan agreements. Now, I'm not saying this year and that always adds a whole political dynamic to the discussion.'

"Cincinnati was chosen for the health care forum because of the national reputation of Children's Hospital."

## Lawmakers to debate health care at Children's

**The Cincinnati Enquirer**, April 28, 2008

"Four Democratic and four Republican members of Congress will debate how to improve American health care at 2 p.m. today at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

"It's the second bipartisan session on substantive issues in a new 'Congress Debates' series, and the first held outside Washington.

"Today's panelists share a goal of access to high-quality, affordable health care for every American, but they do not agree on paths to achieve it.

"Republican representatives are Dr. Charles Boustany of Louisiana, Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia, Nathan Deal of Georgia and John Shadegg of Arizona. National Public Radio correspondent Julie Rovner will moderate."

## House members clash over SCHIP at healthcare debate in Cincinnati

**The Hill**, April 28, 2008

"A congressional debate over healthcare turned biting at times Monday as House Republicans and Democrats faced off in Cincinnati.

"'We think it is a mistake to divide children from families,' Rep. John Shadegg (R-Ariz.) said when explaining why most Republicans opposed a bill seeking to expand SCHIP. ...

"On the topic of Medicare and Medicaid, Berry excoriated his Republican colleagues for favoring insurance companies over consumers. His remarks triggered a strong rebuke from GOP members.

"'Marion, that kind of comment really demeans this debate,' Deal shot back. ...

"Shadegg and his colleagues used the platform to praise presumptive GOP presidential nominee Sen. John McCain's (Ariz.) healthcare plan. Shadegg noted how it differed from those of his Democratic opponents, reiterating GOP talking points that under Democratic healthcare plans, choice would be restricted.

## Politicians Discuss Health Care At Children's Hospital

**Kentucky Post**, April 28, 2008

"Four Republicans and four Democrats talked about the state of health care in America, including how to make it more affordable and accessible.

"Republicans argued that they did a better job when reforming Medicare and Medicaid.

"Both sides also discussed the future of the U.S. health care system during the debate."



# THE AMERICAN FAMILIES AGENDA: ASSURING THE AMERICAN DREAM

COURTESY VICE CHAIR KAY GRANGER

## ASSURING MORE TIME AND MONEY FOR AMERICA'S FAMILIES

- Women make 83 percent of the financial decisions of the family.
  - This includes purchasing food, clothing, school supplies, sports equipment, and family vacations.
  - In managing a home, the number one issues are food and gasoline prices.
  - Women and families are paying more out of pocket now for everyday items than ever before causing them to tighten their budgets.
- Sixty percent of women work outside the home today.
  - Balancing work and family is a constant juggling act. More women are working outside the home, but continue to bear many of the same responsibilities.
  - Whether it's leaving work early to take the kids to soccer practice or caring for your elderly parents, more time and flexibility is needed.

## ASSURING HEALTHCARE AND RETIREMENT SECURITY FOR AMERICA'S FAMILIES

- Women are worried about their own healthcare and the healthcare of their children and their parents.
  - People are living longer and leading more active lives. However, when our elderly parents do need medical assistance most of the burden falls to the women of the family to provide the daily care and attention elderly parents require.
  - Families should not be penalized, but assisted when helping their elderly parents. Many times this means moving the parents back in with their children or a retirement community.
- Seventy-five percent of all U.S. health spending goes to chronic, preventable conditions.
  - Women understand the importance of preventative care, but many do not have the financial means to be screened properly.

## PROTECTING AMERICA'S KIDS

- Women are worried about the Internet, gangs, and whether their kids are safe at school.
  - Women are concerned about local security, not just national security.
  - With children spending more time online, parents are concerned about the increasing presence of online predators.
  - With the increase of school violence, parents are concerned that their kid's school could be next. It is fair to ask "Is enough being done to protect my children when they are away from home?"

## ASSURING EDUCATION ACCESS FOR AMERICA'S FAMILIES

- Parents are worried about saving for college.
  - Energy prices are not the only prices skyrocketing. The cost of college is increasing every year forcing families to start saving earlier and save more than they previously expected.
- Forty percent of 4<sup>th</sup> graders can't read and understand a short paragraph from a simple children's book.
  - Our school system is falling short and failing to educate our children to tackle the challenges of a global economy.
  - Schools need to do a better job of providing our children with the fundamentals of a basic education.
- NOTE: 96 percent of teachers are female.
  - Women are a huge majority of the teachers our children will be introduced to during their school years. It's important to note our schools are failing to provide our children and teachers with the resources they need.

## SUPPORTING AMERICA'S MILITARY FAMILIES AND KEEPING OUR COUNTRY SAFE

- Women believe taking care of the troops, veterans and their families should be a priority of this country.
  - Women want our country to be safe and secure. Whether that's the larger Global War on Terror or securing our borders, women want to know our country is doing the best it can to protect their families.
  - Women want military families to have the benefits they deserve. Enhancements need to be made to the GI Bill and benefits extended to service members while serving in combat zones.

# Democrat Majority Re-Defines “Do-Nothing Congress”

## Even Widely Supported, Bipartisan Bills Left in the Recess Dust

### Do-Nothing Democrats Irresponsibly Delay the Bipartisan Senate FISA Bill

*Nearly 100 Days After the Protect America Act Expired, a Ray of Hope ...*

Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD): “I am hopeful we can come to an agreement before the Memorial Day break.” ([The Politico, 4/15/08](#))

*... Hopes Dashed as the Risk to America Continues*

“Prospects Fading Fast For FISA Deal By Recess... [I]t appears increasingly likely that House and Senate lawmakers will head into the Memorial Day recess this weekend without an agreement to rewrite the nation’s electronic surveillance laws.” ([CongressDaily, 5/20/08](#))

### Do-Nothing Democrats Delay Critical Funding for Troops in Harm’s Way

*Despite Warnings that Delay Jeopardizes Troop Pay ...*

“Adm. Michael Mullen, the nation’s top military officer, has a warning for Congressional leaders wrestling with the time frame for passing a massive war spending bill: The Pentagon is dangerously close to running out of money. ‘We need [the supplemental appropriations bill] very badly before the Memorial Day recess. We stop paying soldiers on the 15th of June and we have precious little flexibility with respect to that,’ Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in an interview at his Pentagon office last week. ‘Clearly that creates incredible constraints and difficulties for us.’” ([Roll Call, 5/5/08](#))

*... Democrats Think Jeopardizing Troop Funding Is “No Big Deal”*

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV): “I think we’ll do our best to finish this before the Memorial Day break, but if we don’t, it’s no big deal. ... I don’t know why there is a rush to judgment ... Everything’s fine\_ ... There’s plenty of money there.” ([Roll Call, 5/1/08](#))

### Do-Nothing Democrats Sink Bipartisan Trade Deal that Benefits U.S. Workers

*Even Though The New York Times Supports the Colombia Trade Agreement...*

“Time for the Colombian Trade Pact. ... This deal would benefit the American economy and further the nation’s broader interests in Latin America. It is time for Congress to ratify it. ... Rejecting or putting on ice the trade agreement would reduce the United States’ credibility and leverage in Colombia and beyond.” ([The New York Times, Editorial, 4/12/08](#))

*... Democrats Beholden to Big Labor Stick It In a Drawer*

Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD): “We don’t right now have plans for Colombia in June or July.” ([Roll Call, 5/20/08](#))

### The Post Office Congress Update for Do-Nothing Democrats

*Democrats Who Once Said They Were Prepared to Govern ...*

Speaker-Elect Nancy Pelosi (D-CA): “Democrats are prepared to govern and ready to lead.” (Release, 11/8/06)

*... Democrats Fill Up Floor Time with Non-Controversial Measures*

As of May 20, 2008, the President has signed 231 bills into law during the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. Of those bills, 93, or 41%, were for the purpose of naming post offices or public buildings. All told, 201 (88%) were noncontroversial (less than 10 votes against it).

“Why won’t the House leadership bring the FISA Amendments Act to the floor? ... CongressDaily quotes House Democratic aides who cite the ‘tight floor schedule’ as the reason this necessary and important law has to wait. Yet the House found time for ‘HR 1143,’ which approves a lease agreement between the Interior Department and the Caneel Bay luxury beach resort in the U.S. Virgin Islands. (The service is supposed to be fantastic at Caneel Bay, incidentally.)” ([Weekly Standard, 3/17/08](#))



## In Their Own Words

Rep. Pete Hoekstra: “Pelosi’s Vacation Alibi. ... Our country is less safe because American intelligence agencies have their hands tied from monitoring the communications of foreign terrorists and there is no prospect House Democrat leaders will lift a finger to help.” ([National Review Online, 3/24/08](#))

Rep. Mike Castle: “This week, I sent a letter to Congressional leaders urging immediate coordination and cooperation to bring together proposals from Republicans and Democrats to address our energy crisis.” ([The \(DE\) News Journal, 4/28/08](#))

Rep. Wally Herger: “Fair trade bolsters the U.S., California economy. ... On its merits, the Colombia deal is the ultimate fair trade agreement and should pass by a strong bipartisan vote. Unfortunately, it was the victim of election-year politics. The obstruction of this win-win agreement was terrible news for U.S workers and the American economy.” ([Redding Record Searchlight, 5/16/08](#))

## Headlines

“House Republican Whip Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) sent a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) today, arguing that passing the trade pact would serve as a stimulus to the economy.” ([The Politico, 5/9/08](#))

“Rep. David Dreier challenged the Democratic leadership to find solutions to high gas prices on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.” ([Pasadena Star-News, 4/23/08](#))

“Congressman Fred Upton is seeking both short and long term solutions to the high gas prices we are seeing at the pump.” ([Niles Daily Star, 5/13/08](#))

“Rising gas costs show no signs of slowing, and U.S. Rep. Kevin Brady, R-The Woodlands, thinks Congress should do something about it. Seeking the input of those most immediately affected by gas prices – customers at the pump – Brady visited a Chevron gas station at Interstate 45 South and Tamina Road to talk with customers of filling their tanks.” ([The Montgomery County Courier, 4/29/08](#))

“People need relief from high gas prices now, says a U.S. congressman, and he’s proposing a plan to accomplish that. ‘Of course we need a long-term energy strategy,’ said U.S. Rep. Phil English, R-3rd, as he stood by the gas pumps Tuesday outside a Sheetz store here. That’s still no excuse, he said, for not having a short-term plan to reduce gas prices.” ([Youngstown Vindicator, 4/30/08](#))

**30**

Number of tele-town halls conducted by House Republicans the week of May 12.

**2**

Number of tele-town halls conducted by House Democrats the week of May 12.



## Headlines

“House GOP Challenges Pelosi for Gas Price Plan...” (Drudge Report, 4/23/08)

“This latest move comes as House Republicans challenge the Democrats to lower gas prices, as Speaker Nancy Pelosi promised two years ago today. Prices have spiked more than a dollar since Democrats took over. Republicans are calling it the ‘Pelosi Premium.’” (Fox News, 4/24/08)

“House Republicans referred to the higher gas prices as a ‘Pelosi premium,’ alluding to the \$1.20 increase in gas prices – \$2.33 to \$3.53 – since Pelosi became speaker on Jan. 4, 2007.” (New Orleans Times-Picayune, 4/25/08)

“Most Republicans abstained from the vote to protest what they viewed as a political ploy by Democrats to load up a war measure with domestic spending attached. ‘Enough is enough,’ said Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind., a leader among conservative House Republicans. ‘We are not playing politics with our troops on the field.’” (Hampton Roads Daily Press, 5/16/08)

“[Rep. John Carter] has introduced a bill that would let military spouses claim the same state of legal residence as their military sponsors regardless of where they are stationed when they move on permanent change-of-station orders.” (Army Times, 5/19/08)

## In Their Own Words

Rep. Lynn Westmoreland: “It would be one heck of a magic trick if the Democrats’ strategy of higher taxes and less supply did anything other than make gas prices soar even higher.” (The Times-Herald, 5/7/08)

Rep. Zach Wamp: “New investment in both alternative energy and conventional sources will boost supply and ease the pressure at the pump.” (The Chattanooga, 4/27/08)

Rep. John Kline: “How high do gas prices need to soar before the majority leadership presents its long-overdue ‘common-sense plan’?” (Minneapolis Star-Tribune, 5/9/08)

Rep. Jeff Miller: “It is time for this Democratic Congress to pass common-sense energy legislation so that the American people do not have to continue to pay the Pelosi Premium.” (Pensacola News Journal, 5/10/08)

# 190

Republican Members who have signed a discharge petition to bring the bipartisan Senate FISA bill to the floor.

# 0

Democrat Members who have signed a discharge petition to bring the bipartisan Senate FISA bill to the floor.

# Marking Memorial Day

## The Tradition of Red Poppies

In the fall of 1918, Moina Michael, a teacher at the University of Georgia, was called up for service at the YMCA Overseas War Secretaries' headquarters in New York City.

Ms. Michael was passing some time one morning thumbing through a copy of *Ladies Home Journal* in which she came upon the poem, "In Flanders Fields." She became transfixed by the last verse:

"To you from failing hands we throw the Torch; be yours to hold it high.

If ye break faith with us who die, we shall not sleep,

though poppies grow in Flanders Fields."

At that moment, she wrote a response:

*Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,  
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!  
We caught the torch you threw  
And holding high, we keep the Faith  
With All who died.*

*We cherish, too, the poppy red  
That grows on fields where valor led;  
It seems to signal to the skies  
That blood of heroes never dies,  
But lends a lustre to the red  
Of the flower that blooms above the dead  
In Flanders Fields.*

*And now the Torch and Poppy Red  
We wear in honor of our dead.  
Fear not that ye have died for naught;  
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought  
In Flanders Fields.*

Ms. Michael vowed then and there to always pay tribute to those who had paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation by wearing a red poppy. Shortly thereafter, she conceived of the idea to wear red poppies in honor of Memorial Day, a practice she spread to friends and co-workers.

After a friend visiting from France became taken with Ms. Michael's idea, she returned home and began spreading the idea abroad.

And on it went from there:

- In 1921, the Franco-American Children's League sold poppies nationally to benefit war orphans of France and Belgium.
- Shortly before Memorial Day 1922, the VFW became the first veterans' organization to nationally sell poppies. Two years later, their "Buddy" Poppy program was selling artificial poppies made by disabled veterans.
- In 1948, the United States Postal Service honored Ms. Michael for her role in founding the National Poppy movement by issuing a red 3 cent postage stamp with her likeness on it.

Today, by federal law, Memorial Day is marked on the last Monday in May. In 2000, Congress passed legislation providing for a "National Moment of Remembrance" to be held at 3 p.m. local time, for all Americans "to voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a Moment of Remembrance and Respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to 'Taps'."



# June 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 National Cancer Survivors Day	2 House Votes (6:30 PM)	3 Tiananmen Square Massacre (1989) Battle of Midway (1942) Congressional White House Picnic	4 World Environment Day AIDS first noted by CDC (1981) Robert F. Kennedy shot (1968)	5 D-Day (1944) Securities & Exchange Commission created (1934)	6 National Trails Day President Bush signs tax cut (2001)	7
8 Father's Day 12th Amendment Ratified (1804)	9 National Men's Health Week (9th-15th)	10 South Africa repealed last Apartheid Law (1991)	11 President Reagan's "Tear Down This Wall" speech (1987) George H.W. Bush's birthday (1924)	12 FEC Monthly Report Due	13 Flag Day World Blood Donor Day U.S. Army established by Congress (1775)	14
15 75th Annual Conference of Mayors (Los Angeles)	16 Start of the Korean War (1950)	17 National Homeownership Month National Safety Month Vision Research Month	18 Children's Awareness Month Home Safety Month	19 DISTRICT WORK PERIOD	20 Summer Begins	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					