

Congress Moves America in New Direction...

... As “Roadblock Republicans” Try to Obstruct People’s Agenda

“They have tried the best that they can in different ways to be bipartisan.”
- Rep. Ray LaHood (R-IL), Congress Daily, 12/14/07

Over the last year, Democrats have begun to move our nation in a new direction – and our record shows significant progress despite repeated Republican roadblocks.

MAKING AMERICA SAFER

- ✓ **9-11 Commission Recommendations** were enacted to protect America from terrorism.
- ✓ **The Iraq Debate has changed:** The Bush Administration has been held accountable for the Iraq war for the first time, with Congress conducting more oversight and continuing to push for a change in policy by redeploying our troops.
- ✓ **Veterans are receiving the quality health care they deserve:** Congress has passed the largest single increase for veterans’ health care in the history of the Veterans’ Administration, including ensuring that every returning vet has access to individualized care and transitional planning.
- ✓ **Increasing our nation’s security by putting our nation on the path to energy independence:** Democrats passed an historic energy bill that raises fuel economy standards for the first time in 32 years and encourages the production of bio-fuels – reducing our dependence on foreign oil and benefiting our security, economy, and environment.

RESTORING THE AMERICAN DREAM

- ✓ **More families will be able to afford college:** Congress passed the largest expansion of college aid since the 1944 GI Bill, which will save the average college student \$4,400.
- ✓ **Nearly 13 million workers will receive a pay raise:** The first minimum wage increase in a decade will directly benefit 5.3 million American workers, and 7.2 million more will benefit from the new wage floor, increasing equal opportunity and helping to grow the economy.
- ✓ **Keeping the American economy competitive:** Responding to widespread concern, the “Innovation Agenda” provides the resources and tools necessary to keep American workers competitive in the 21st century global economy.
- ✓ **Investing in America’s priorities:** Democrats will pass funding bills that begin to reinvest in America’s priorities, despite major Republican roadblocks, such as medical research, homeland security, law enforcement, education, and health care.
- ✓ **Reinvesting in the Gulf Coast:** Legislation has been enacted to reinvest in the Gulf Coast, including \$6.4 billion to strengthen levees, restore the coastline, and revitalize communities with assistance for schools, health facilities, housing, and small businesses.

RESTORING ACCOUNTABILITY

- ✓ **Trust in government is being restored:** As one of the first acts this year, Congress passed the most sweeping lobbying and ethics reform since Watergate that requires an unprecedented level of transparency from both lawmakers and lobbyists.
- ✓ **Fiscal responsibility is being restored:** Congress passed a balanced budget and adhered to pay-as-you-go budget rules. Restoring fiscal responsibility is important for our economic growth, as well as being a moral responsibility to our children and grandchildren.

NO VETO LEFT BEHIND

President and Do-Nothing Republicans Try to Block Progress

*“It’s hard to say you’re winning when you just have to veto all the time.”
- Former Sen. John Breaux, NY Times, 12/14/07*

The American people made clear in the last election that they wanted a new direction – Republicans apparently did not get the message. The Do-Nothing Republican Party spent all year blocking bipartisan policies broadly supported by the American people.

The President and the Do-Nothing Republicans have stopped or slowed progress on the priorities of the American people:

- **Changing direction in Iraq** – 53% of Americans want to see U.S. troops withdrawn from Iraq, and 60% do not think the war in Iraq was worth fighting. [ABC News/Washington Post, 12/11/07] – *Democrats have been unified in fighting for a new direction in Iraq, while Republicans have voted in lockstep to support the President’s stay-the-course strategy.*
- **Investing in American priorities** – 49% of Americans support Democrats’ approach to the federal budget, as opposed to 24% for Bush. [CNN/Opinion Research, 12/13/07] – *Investing in America’s priorities is opposed by almost three-fourths of Republicans.*
- **Providing health care to 10 million low-income children** – Supported by 81% of Americans. [CBS News, 10/17/07] – *Opposed by three-fourths of House Republicans.*
- **Funding stem cell research** – Supported by 64% of Americans. [Gallup, 6/5/07] – *Opposed by 80% of House Republicans.*
- **Energy Independence** – 87% of Americans support using renewable energy sources. [CBS News/NY Times, 4/26/07] – *93% of Republicans voted to protect billions in tax credits for the five largest oil companies instead of using that taxpayer money to invest in renewable energy sources.*

The President and the Do-Nothing Republicans have fought all year to charge more debt on the nation’s credit card, rather than paying for what we buy:

- **AMT Relief** – Republicans want to pass the cost of fixing the Alternative Minimum Tax on to our children and grandchildren - \$50 billion over one year.
- **Iraq** – President Bush continues to ask for a blank check for Iraq, all added to the nation’s debt - \$200 billion in 2008.

**Democrats will continue to fight for America’s priorities in 2008 –
despite Republican roadblocks.**

Prepared by the Office of Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, 12/18/07