

October 2007

## **Representative Michael E. Capuano**

Michael Everett Capuano is serving his fifth term as a Representative in Congress for Massachusetts' Eighth District, which includes Cambridge, Chelsea, Somerville and approximately 70% of Boston. He is a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the House Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on House Administration.

Mike is a strong voice for residents of the 8<sup>th</sup> district. He fought to protect Massachusetts' share of federal transportation dollars during the debate over funding levels for the "Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users". Through his efforts, Massachusetts will receive \$5.23 billion in funding over six years. He searches for ways to create more affordable housing opportunities for constituents and has fought against cuts to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) budget. He also succeeded in providing assistance for the development of new intergenerational housing for grandparents raising their grandchildren.

Mike co-founded and co-chairs the Congressional Caucus on Sudan. He has emerged as a leading Congressional voice, fighting the ongoing atrocities and genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan. In June of 2006 he secured an additional \$50 million in funding for the African Union Mission in Sudan.

Moved by the story of a young man forced out of school and into hiding after telling authorities of a crime he witnessed, Mike filed the "Young Witness Assistance Act" to create a grant program at the Department of Justice for locally developed juvenile witness assistance initiatives. This bill was included in legislation that passed in 2005 and funding for the program was set aside in 2006. Mike also introduced legislation to require Medicare coverage for vision rehabilitation services. These services help restore safety and independence to seniors who suffer from vision loss. His efforts have resulted in a five-year nationwide trial of vision rehabilitation services under Medicare.

Prior to serving in Congress, Mike was the Mayor of Somerville, MA from January of 1990 through December of 1998. Mike was born in Somerville, Massachusetts in 1952 to Andrew Capuano of Somerville and Rita Garvey Capuano of Allston-Brighton and Dorchester. He graduated from Somerville High School, received a Bachelor of Arts from Dartmouth College in 1973, and a law degree from Boston College Law School in 1977. He passed the Massachusetts Bar in 1977.

Mike is married to Barbara Teebagy Capuano. Barbara also graduated from Somerville High School, received her B.S. from Boston State College in 1974 and earned her MBA from Babson College in 1976. Barbara became a Certified Public Accountant in 1978. They have two sons, Michael and Joseph. Both graduated from Massachusetts colleges and are currently working in the Commonwealth.