

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 111TH CONGRESS

“This Congress has been as active and productive as any I can remember. The number of major bills passed and enacted into law, the serious, sustained activity in areas of broad, complex and critical importance, all are truly impressive.” – Norm Ornstein, 5/29/09

Over the past six months, Congress has sent important legislation to the President’s desk and passed numerous others through the House. While we continue to make progress on laying the foundation for long-term economic growth and creating jobs, building a path to energy independence, reforming health care to contain costs and guarantee affordable, quality health care choices, and reforming and investing in education, President Obama and Democrats are committed to doing so in a fiscally responsible manner.

Under the leadership of President Obama and the Democratic Congress, major initiatives that will improve the lives of the American people have been enacted into law:

ECONOMY:

- ✓ **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act** – Creates or saves 3.5 million jobs and invests in the future – in clean energy, health care, and infrastructure – to put our nation back on the road to recovery and transform it for long-term growth and stability.
- ✓ **Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act** – Provides needed protection for consumers from unfair and arbitrary practices employed by credit card companies.
- ✓ **Consumer Assistance to Recycle and Save Act** – “Cash for Clunkers” provides incentives for consumers to purchase new, more fuel efficient vehicles. (Included in FY09 Supplemental Appropriations Bill.)
- ✓ **Helping Families Save Their Homes Act** – Implements provisions included in the Homeowner Affordability and Stability Plan, including key incentives to encourage lenders to negotiate affordable mortgages for responsible homeowners who are at risk of foreclosure.
- ✓ **Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act** – Provides critical resources to help law enforcement pursue and prosecute mortgage and securities fraud. It also creates an outside, bipartisan commission to investigate the causes of the financial crisis and the current recession.
- ✓ **Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act** – Restores the rights of women and other workers to challenge unfair pay – to help close the wage gap where women earn 78 cents for every \$1 a man earns in America.
- ✓ **Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program Act**
- ✓ **FY 2010 Budget Resolution** – Makes a down payment on health care reform, creates a path to energy independence, reforms and invests in education, and also reduces the deficit by nearly two-thirds by 2013. (Passed House and Senate)
- ✓ **FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act** – Makes critical investments that offer short-term help for our economic problems and long-term solutions for our economic strength.

HEALTH CARE:

- ✓ **State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) Reauthorization** – Legislation to cover 11 million children, including an additional 4 million uninsured but eligible kids.
- ✓ **Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act** – Grants the Food and Drug Administration authority to regulate the advertising, marketing, and manufacturing of tobacco products.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT:

- ✓ **Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009** – Designates more than 2 million acres as wilderness and expands protections for existing national parks, rivers and water resources.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY:

- ✓ **Weapons Acquisition System Reform Through Enhancing Technical Knowledge and Oversight Act** – Reforms how we buy weapons systems, eliminating waste in these programs.

NATIONAL SECURITY:

- ✓ **Fiscal Year 2009 Supplemental Appropriations Bill** – Provides support for our troops in the field in Iraq and Afghanistan. (Sent to the President)

OTHER TOP ISSUES:

- ✓ **Need-Based Educational Aid Act** - Makes technical corrections to the Higher Education Act of 1965, making permanent the favorable treatment of need-based educational aid under the antitrust laws.
- ✓ **Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act** – Creates new service opportunities for more Americans to volunteer and give back to their communities to help them through the current economic crisis.

In addition to the significant bills signed into law, the House has also passed important legislation that is awaiting Senate action:

BUDGET AND ECONOMY:

- ✓ **Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act** – Cracks down on the dangerous practices that created a housing bubble and led to the recent wave of foreclosures.
- ✓ **TARP Reform and Accountability Act** – Ensures that TARP funds are spent effectively to help stabilize our economy.
- ✓ **Pay for Performance Act** – Includes prohibiting payment of unreasonable or excessive compensation and non-performance based bonuses at companies receiving TARP funds.

HEALTH CARE:

- ✓ **Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Act**
- ✓ **National Pain Care Policy Act**
- ✓ **Wakefield Act (Emergency Medical Services for Children)**
- ✓ **Vision Care for Kids Act**
- ✓ **Melanie Blocker Stokes Mom's Opportunity to Access Health, Education, Research, and Support for Postpartum Depression Act**
- ✓ **Dextromethorphan Distribution Act ("Cough Syrup" Bill)**
- ✓ **Health Insurance Restrictions and Limitations Clarification Act**

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT:

- ✓ **American Clean Energy and Security Act**
- ✓ **Water Quality Investment Act**
- ✓ **Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement (FLAME) Act**

NATIONAL SECURITY, FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND VETERANS:

- ✓ **National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010**
- ✓ **Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Improvements Act**
- ✓ **Foreign Relations Authorization Act**
- ✓ **Pakistan Enduring Assistance and Cooperation Enhancement Act**
- ✓ **Nuclear Forensics and Attribution Act**
- ✓ **Reducing Over-Classification Act**
- ✓ **Fair, Accurate, Secure, and Timely (FAST) Redress Act**
- ✓ **National Bombing Prevention Act**
- ✓ **Veterans Cost of Living Increase**
- ✓ **Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program Reauthorization Act**
- ✓ **Veterans Emergency Care Reimbursement**

FY 2010 APPROPRIATIONS

- ✓ **Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act**
- ✓ **Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act**
- ✓ **Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act**
- ✓ **Legislative Branch Appropriations Act**

OTHER TOP ISSUES:

- ✓ **Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act**
- ✓ **21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act**
- ✓ **Federal Retirement Reform Act of 2009**
- ✓ **Campus Safety Act**
- ✓ **Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act**
- ✓ **Free Flow of Information Act**