



Congresswoman Mary Bono

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE

104 Cannon House
Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-5330
Fax: (202) 225-2961

PALM SPRINGS OFFICE

707 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way
Suite 9
Palm Springs, CA 92262
Phone: (760) 320-1076
Fax: (760) 320-0596

HEMET OFFICE

1600 E. Florida Ave.
Suite 301
Hemet, CA 92544
Phone: (951) 658-2312
Fax: (951) 652-2562

United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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Mary Bono M.C.
PRSRT STD

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Keeping Unwanted Calls Out Of Your Homes

Unwanted telemarketing calls are not only annoying but also can expose you to credit fraud and other scams conducted over the phone. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has a "do not call" list that allows individuals to register phone numbers to keep them out of the hands of telemarketers. If you have not registered your number for the "do not call" list, you may do so at www.donotcall.gov or by calling 1-888-382-1222 or for TTY call 1-866-290-4236.

I am pleased that the House recently voted to reauthorize the national "do not call" registry to permanently extend the registry's funding (H.R. 2601) and to keep registered phone numbers permanently out of telemarketers' reach (H.R. 3541). The original "do not call" registry would allow the FTC to remove registered phone numbers from the list after five years. This bill ensures that you only have to list your number once. One time should be enough to keep unwanted calls out of your homes, making dinnertime with your family a little more peaceful.



Congresswoman Bono speaks to the 2007 graduating class of Mt. San Jacinto College. She was able to speak with several students about what Congress can do to make college available to more of our youth.

Facing Foreclosure?

If you are facing foreclosure on your home, free financial counseling is available at 1-888-995-HOPE. This 24-hour hotline is provided by the Homeownership Preservation Foundation, a nonprofit organization working with local governments, borrowers and lenders to assist residents faced with foreclosure.

A list of local financial counseling agencies approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is also available at www.hud.gov or by calling 1-800-569-4287. Remember, if you risk foreclosure on your home, getting help early can mean the difference between keeping and losing your home.

Have a Telephone Complaint?

You can file telephone complaints easily through both the FTC and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC):

Online: www.donotcall.gov

E-mail: fccinfo@fcc.gov

Phone:
1-888-CALL-FCC (voice)
1-888-TELL-FCC (TTY)

Fax:
202-418-0232

Mail:
FCC Consumer & Governmental Affairs
Bureau, Consumer Complaints
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

2007 YEAR-END UPDATE

Congresswoman Mary Bono

PROUDLY SERVING CALIFORNIA'S 45TH DISTRICT



As we enter the New Year, I hope that each of you had a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year! I am pleased to have this opportunity to highlight some of the issues that are important to California's 45th Congressional District and our nation. It is truly an honor to serve you in the U.S. House of Representatives. For more information and to receive regular e-mail updates, please visit my website at www.bono.house.gov.

Recovering from Natural Disasters

As recent wildfires devastated much of southern California, high winds swept through Riverside County, causing significant property damage. Thus far, over \$8 million has been provided to the victims of California fires. Unfortunately, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has not approved initial requests for aid to cover wind damages. But I will continue to fight for this important funding, along with wildfire preparedness funding increases for the Department of the Interior.

As we move into the winter months, the fire threat continues in our area. I will remain focused on making sure the relevant federal agencies improve their ability to prepare for and react to future fires as well as prosecuting those who commit the crime of arson.

Preventing Destructive Acts of Arson

An intentionally-set fire can devastate entire communities, as we unfortunately saw in last year's Esperanza fire. Even though arson is the leading cause of fires, less than 20 percent of arsonists are held responsible for their crimes. For this reason, I introduced the Managing Arson Through Criminal History (MATCH) Act to create a national database to allow fire and police officials to track convicted arsonists across jurisdictional lines. The MATCH Act recently passed with broad, bipartisan support in the U.S. House of Representatives. Firefighters risk their lives to keep our communities safe; they deserve our every effort to help them prevent unnecessary disaster.

Congresswoman Bono holds a press conference on her bill, the MATCH Act, which would give fire and police officials a valuable tool to penalize and prevent arson.





Congresswoman Mary Bono



Working for California's 45th District

Promoting Clean, Alternative Energy

As a nation we are far too reliant on foreign oil. To increase America's energy security, we must improve the efficiency of our vehicles, increase production of renewable energy, and expand research and development for clean, alternative sources of fuel. Our district is on the forefront of renewable energy sources, with geothermal, wind, solar, and other unique options that will help us meet growing energy supply needs. To reduce our dependency on foreign oil and expand renewable energy sources, I have:

- ✓ Voted to increase Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards to 35 miles per gallon by 2020, which will help commuters face increased gas prices and help car manufacturers stay competitive with the rest of the world.
- ✓ Supported legislation to encourage production of renewable energy infrastructure.
- ✓ Promoted further research into new technologies of alternative fuel sources.



An advocate for the development of hydrogen fuel cell buses, Congresswoman Bono speaks at an event for the 30th Anniversary of Sunline Transit Agency.

Taking a Preventative Approach to Health Care

Health care costs are on the rise, with total spending estimated at \$2.2 trillion in 2006. Increased health costs not only impact individuals but employers too—through company-provided health care plans and higher rates of absenteeism. Many chronic health problems facing Americans are preventable through healthy eating and lifestyle choices. Obesity-related health conditions, for example, cost employers an estimated \$33 billion each year. By taking preventative measures, individuals and companies can greatly reduce costs and improve quality of life.

Tax incentives for wellness promotion. This year, I joined my colleagues in introducing the Healthy Workforce Act, which would provide incentives to businesses for providing onsite health and wellness programs for their employees. Employer spending on health promotion and chronic disease prevention is a good investment for our nation's economy and our nation's health. By keeping workers healthy in the first place, employers and employees benefit from reduced health care costs and increased quality of life.

Comprehensive youth health programs. The health of our nation cannot be improved and maintained if we do not invest in the health of our youth. To address the crisis of obesity and eating disorders in children, I introduced the Improved Nutrition and Physical Activity (IMPACT) Act, H.R. 2677. The IMPACT Act ensures that communities have the resources and flexibility they need to develop and implement comprehensive wellness plans suited to the needs of their youth and families. This bill encourages community organizations, such as our local YMCAs and Boys and Girls Clubs, to collaborate with schools and private entities, ensuring that each sector in the community is a partner in this important fight.



Surrounded by more than 100 Girl Scouts and Girl Scout representatives, Congresswoman Bono introduces the IMPACT Act at a press conference in the Cannon House Office Building Rotunda.

Combating Gang Violence

Gang violence is no longer a phenomenon restricted to urban streets and big cities; it has risen to new levels and spread into smaller cities and even rural communities. We must step up our efforts to combat gang violence both by increasing penalties for gang-related crimes and by enhancing programs that would prevent violence and gang membership in the first place. These efforts are critical to protecting at-risk youth and making our communities safer and stronger.

I helped introduce the Gang Abatement and Prevention Act of 2007, which would curtail gang violence by increasing criminal penalties, targeting gangs that recruit children, and expanding preventative and counseling programs. Our local law enforcement officers deserve the support they need to stem the ever-growing onslaught of gang activity. I am hopeful that Congress will work together to address gang-related threats against our children and our communities by supporting this critical piece of legislation.

Congresswoman Bono congratulates Hemet resident Sergeant Kirk Van Orsdel, who was awarded with the 2005-2006 Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor for his heroic acts of bravery while serving in the line of duty.



Preserving Our Wilderness Areas

Our wilderness areas are truly a vital part of our heritage. With our region among the fastest growing in the nation, we must work to conserve the unique ecosystems that surround us. I am pleased to have introduced the California Desert and Mountain Heritage Act, H.R. 3682, which would preserve desert, forest, and river areas throughout California's 45th Congressional District. This bill is being carefully crafted with the input of local resource and federal land managers, private property owners, recreational users and many others to ensure that the diverse needs of the community are met.

Protecting these spectacular and environmentally sensitive areas will help guarantee that endangered plant and wildlife species, such as the rosy boa, the desert tortoise and the desert bighorn sheep, have the opportunity to thrive. Only through continued cooperation and collaboration can we see these stunning and vital wilderness areas preserved for generations to come.



Beauty Mountain, known for its impressive rock formations, is among the wilderness areas to be preserved in Bono's California Desert and Mountain Heritage Act. (Photo: Douglas Steakley)

Restoring the Salton Sea and Protecting Water Supply

This year, Congress passed the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) which included \$30 million for pilot projects and critical habitat areas at the Salton Sea. Because of the significance of restoring the Sea, I voted with many of my colleagues to support this bill and override the Presidential veto to ensure that these vital water projects could continue. This funding will compliment efforts already underway in the State to implement a plan to restore the Salton Sea.

I introduced legislation, passed by the House, to help ensure a viable water supply for years to come near the cities of Murrieta and Temecula. The bill, H.R. 1725, would fund a local integrated resource plan to make water more affordable for residential users while also ensuring our farmers will be able to use recycled water. This, in turn, helps protect local water supplies and keep our agricultural sector strong.