

Washington Update

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8 ❖ WINTER 2007/2008



Dear San Franciscan,

In 2007, I had the great privilege of commemorating my 20th year of service to our great city of San Francisco as your Representative in Congress, while taking the gavel as the first woman Speaker of the House of Representatives.

I am proud of our efforts to take America in a New Direction, one that is making our country safer, helping restore the American dream, and restoring accountability and fiscal responsibility to the people's government. Beginning with the passage of the Six for '06 Agenda within the first 100 hours of the 110th Congress with broad bipartisan support, we brought change and a new focus on the priorities of the American people.

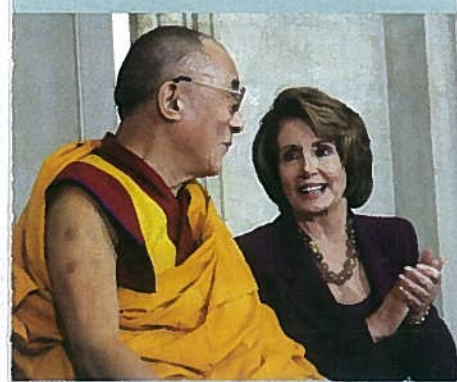
However, despite the successes, there is no task more critical than working to end the war in Iraq and bringing our troops home safely and soon. This Congress has voted repeatedly to change the mission in Iraq, passing legislation to responsibly redeploy our troops so we can bring our troops home and refocus our resources. We have changed the debate in Congress, making the Bush Administration more accountable for the execution of the war and the Iraqis more responsible for their future. The failed Iraq policy will change when the President's allies in Congress hear the voices of the American people. Until that time, this Congress will continue to support our troops and military families as we push for a responsible redeployment of troops in Iraq.

Energy independence and security is the flagship issue of my Speakership. I am proud that the Congress has passed and the President has signed the Energy Independence and Security Act, historic legislation that will provide energy independence and preserve our planet.

Congress has also passed historic legislation to protect gays and lesbians in the workplace, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). While ENDA represents an historic victory, I share the disappointment of many of my friends who supported including protections for members of the transgender community. I believe passage of ENDA will build momentum for further advances on gender identity rights and the rights of all Americans.

Every day it is an honor to work on behalf of the 8th Congressional District of California. I look forward to continuing to work to advance the city's and the country's priorities.

Sincerely, *Nancy*



REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI CONGRATULATES HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA AS HE IS AWARDED THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.



A NEW DIRECTION FOR AMERICA

PROTECTING SAN FRANCISCO BAY – RESPONSE TO OIL SPILL

On November 19, I joined Mayor Gavin Newsom, House Transportation and Infrastructure subcommittee Chairman Elijah Cummings and Bay Area Members of Congress at a field hearing in the Presidio to examine the effects of the recent oil spill in the San Francisco Bay.

I have asked the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security to begin an investigation of the Coast Guard response to this spill so we can understand what happened and be better prepared for another environmental disaster. The Coast Guard must be held accountable for any delays in responding to the spill and delays in reporting the severity of the spill to local officials. The people of the Bay Area should have confidence that the responsible parties will be held accountable for their actions and that mistakes made in response to disasters of this kind will not happen again.



REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI, REPRESENTATIVE ELLEN TAUSCHER AND REPRESENTATIVE ELIJAH CUMMINGS QUESTION PANELISTS AT A FIELD HEARING ON THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY OIL SPILL.

IN OUR first year of the 110th Congress, we are taking our country in a New Direction worthy of the sacrifice of our troops, the vision of our founding fathers and the aspirations of our children:

MAKING AMERICA SAFER

We have made America safer with the passage and enactment into law of HR 1:

- Requiring 100% screening of air cargo
- Requiring 100% screening of cargo containers before they reach U.S. soil
- Basing anti-terrorism funding to cities and states on risk, not on political boundaries
- Improving emergency communications among first responders
- Strengthening information sharing with local law enforcement to prevent potential terrorist attacks
- Taking aggressive steps to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction

ENERGY SECURITY AND REDUCING GLOBAL WARMING

The Energy Independence and Security Act makes the largest investment ever in homegrown biofuels and renewable energy sources, which will reduce our dependence on foreign oil. It provides groundbreaking provisions to increase fuel economy standards to 35 miles per gallon by 2020 for new cars and trucks. It will train a workforce for “green” collar jobs. And the landmark fuel efficiency standards and energy efficiency provisions will not only save consumers money, but will significantly reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

STRENGTHENING OUR ECONOMY

The New Direction Congress passed the first increase in the minimum wage in 10 years as part of the broader goal of growing our economy and providing greater opportunity for all Americans. When the law takes full effect, the annual pay for a minimum-wage worker will increase by \$4,400 per year. The benefits of the pay raise will be felt by more than 13 million American workers, in addition to more than 6 million children of low-wage workers.



REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI CONGRATULATES PARTICIPANTS AT HER ANNUAL CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOP IN SAN FRANCISCO ON COMPLETING APPLICATIONS.



REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI DISCUSSES THE CONGRESSIONAL AGENDA WITH TREASURE ISLAND’S LIFE LEARNING ACADEMY.

SUPPORTING INNOVATION

As the first major piece of the Innovation Agenda, Congress passed the America COMPETES Act to turn ideas into innovative technologies in order to boost our economy and create good-paying American jobs. The legislation addresses the technology gap in our workforce, expands the number of highly qualified math, science and technology teachers, and puts us on a path to double the funding for research at the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Department of Energy.

COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

This Congress passed the single largest investment in college financial assistance since the GI Bill. In recent years, the cost of attending college has increased so significantly that hundreds of thousands of high school students are prevented from attending college. The College Cost Reduction Act cuts student loan interest rates in half, increases Pell Grant amounts and forgives loans for graduates who devote 10 years to certain public service.

ENSURING HEALTH CARE FOR OUR NATION’S CHILDREN



REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI, PATTY SIEGEL AND MARGARET BRODTKIN, HER SAN FRANCISCO DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL CHILDREN’S SUMMIT, DISCUSS CHILDREN’S ISSUES.

The New Direction Congress has made the passage of the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) a great priority in order to meet the needs of children in low-income families. The President vetoed the bipartisan legislation, which would have provided health coverage to more than 10 million low-income children across the nation. We will continue to fight to provide this important coverage to ensure healthy families.

In 2008, we will continue to work to meet the needs of American families.

NEED HELP? OUR CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE IS HERE TO SERVE YOU

As your Representative in Congress, it is my privilege to provide you with a variety of services, such as assistance with the following federal agencies:

- Social Security, SSI and Medicare
- Internal Revenue Service
- Public housing
- Student loans
- Veterans’ benefits
- Federal employees
- Military personnel
- Postal Service
- Immigration, citizenship, visa and passport services
- Federal prisons

For more information or to make an appointment with a caseworker, please call (415) 556-4862 or email me at sf.nancy@mail.house.gov. You may also visit my San Francisco district office in the Phillip and Sala Burton Federal Building at 450 Golden Gate Avenue on the 14th floor.



REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI SPEAKS TO PARTICIPANTS AT THE NATIONAL AIDS MEMORIAL GROVE WORKDAY ABOUT PROGRESS MADE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS.



**CONGRESSWOMAN
NANCY PELOSI**

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COMMUNITY-BASED CARE

FIGHTING FOR SAN FRANCISCO HIV/AIDS FUNDING

This year, I worked to ensure a significant increase for the Ryan White Program, which provides resources for HIV/AIDS-related medical care and support services. This increase would both reduce previous harmful cuts and provide increases for a number of cities. Even after \$8 million was provided to reduce cuts in nine cities, including San Francisco, a \$15 million increase still remained for the other 45 cities that qualify for Ryan White assistance. This \$15 million is the largest increase in seven years.

For San Francisco, the agreement restores \$4.8 million of the \$8.5 million cut announced by the Bush Administration earlier this year. Although San Francisco developed the model of community-based care that served as the basis for the Ryan White CARE Act, our needs are still severe. AIDS continues to be the city's second-leading cause of premature death, and over 15,000 San Franciscans are currently living with HIV/AIDS – more than at any point in the history of the epidemic.

HONORING OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR VETERANS

The 110th Congress has voted for historic increases in veterans' health care and benefits programs to meet the needs of returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan, make up for past shortchanging of veterans, and keep the President's proposed fee increases from affecting veterans.

In December, the New Direction Congress passed legislation that provides \$43.1 billion for veterans' services, including health care – \$3.7 billion more that the President requested.

We have an obligation to care for and honor America's service men and women, their families, and our veterans for their bravery and sacrifice. The New Direction Congress has proven our commitment by providing the largest increase in funding for veterans' health care in the VA's 77-year history. The historic investment adds to the \$5.2 billion for veterans provided by the new Congress earlier this year to strengthen health care for more than 5 million veterans.

Nancy Pelosi
M.C.
PRESORTED STANDARD