



CONGRESSMAN DAN LIPINSKI

Representing the Third District



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | SUMMER 2008

Dear Neighbor:

Economists may debate whether we are officially in a recession, but I understand that Americans are struggling in these tough economic times. We have historic \$4 a gallon gas prices and a sinking housing market. At the same time costs continue to skyrocket for health care and education, while food prices also rise.

Earlier this year I worked to help pass a bill to give a tax rebate to most Americans and to increase college financial aid; but families need more help. This newsletter gives you an update on work I have been doing at home and in Washington to provide you with further economic relief – including legislation to bring down gas prices and expand access to affordable health care – and bring home federal dollars, improve local transportation, and honor our veterans.

On August 20th I will be hosting a Town Hall Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room at the LaGrange Park Library located at 555 N. LaGrange Road to give us an opportunity to discuss these and other issues of interest to you.

If you are unable to make it to this meeting and you wish to share your concerns about an issue,

Traveling District Office:

To better serve the residents of the Third District, Congressman Lipinski has announced the following dates for traveling District Office services in your area. Each service office will be open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information please contact the Chicago office at 312-886-0481.

August 29th	Berwyn (Friday before Labor Day)
September 26th	Hometown
October 31st	Westchester
November 21st	Bridgeview



Rep. Lipinski discusses legislation that would expand access to health care.

or if you have questions or problems in regard to your tax rebate, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Veterans' Benefits, or other programs, please contact me at any of the offices listed below. For additional information and updates, or to sign up to receive newsletters delivered to you by e-mail, please visit www.lipinski.house.gov.

It is an honor to serve you. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dan Lipinski

Assistance is available locally at these offices:

6245 South Archer Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60638
312-886-0481

5309 West 95th Street
Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453
(708) 424-0853

19 West Hillgrove Avenue
LaGrange, Illinois 60525
708-352-0524

Bringing Home Federal Dollars

Congressman Lipinski continues to secure federal funding for projects that will directly benefit Third District communities. As Congress considers its spending priorities for next year, Rep. Lipinski has already been successful in incorporating funding for local initiatives in several spending bills.

Some of these projects include:

- Counseling services at Oak Lawn Family Services - \$300,000
- Decontamination of the Chicago River at Bubbly Creek – \$500,000
- Educational programs at the Children’s Museum in Oak Lawn - \$200,000
- Employment and vocation training services for the disabled in Cicero – \$168,000
- Infrastructure improvements and water development in Cook County – \$250,000
- Law enforcement enhancement in Chicago Ridge, Forest Park, & Justice- \$300,000
- Outreach and employment training services for veterans in Chicago-\$150,000



Rep. Lipinski announces federal funding for the Oak Lawn Children's Museum.

Congress must now work to pass our government’s funding bills and send them to the President for approval. Although the President remains opposed to projects requested by members of Congress, Rep. Lipinski will continue to fight to include funding for these and other critical projects in the final budget.

Improving Local Transportation and Creating Jobs

In June, Congressman Lipinski brought House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Jim Oberstar (pictured at right with Rep. Lipinski and Liz Asperger, President of the Village of LaGrange) to the area to conduct meetings with local officials and to assess road, rail, and public transit systems in the Third District. The tour included views of some of the improvements to local transportation infrastructure that were made with the \$126 million Congressman Lipinski brought to the district in the 2005 federal transportation funding bill.

The Congressmen also visited some sites in Chicago and the suburbs that could be aided by federal assistance, including a number of planned railroad underpasses. Next year, Congress is scheduled to pass a \$500 billion funding bill written by Chairman Oberstar’s Transportation Committee. As the only



Representative from the Chicagoland area on the committee, Congressman Lipinski believes this new bill will provide opportunities to ease congestion on our local roads, improve public transportation, help save Third District residents money spent on gas, and create good paying jobs.

Leading the Fight for Affordable Health Care

In July, Congressman Lipinski helped introduce H.R. 6444, the **Healthy Americans Act**, an innovative, bipartisan plan to provide all Americans with access to affordable, quality, private health insurance and help rein-in health care costs.

This plan would provide Americans with a choice in where they receive health care, ensure that individuals will always be able to afford coverage and receive care even if they lose or change jobs, encourage the practice of preventative medicine, and save money by promoting competition and reducing existing inefficiencies in the system.

As a diabetic, Congressman Lipinski knows first-hand the importance of access to good health care and continues to fight for an affordable, first-class health care system.

While battling for a comprehensive universal



Rep. Lipinski tours the state of the art medical facilities at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

health care plan, Rep. Lipinski is also working to pass the Health Care for Life bill that would allow Americans who leave their job to stay on their employer's health insurance policy for as long as they want. Currently, COBRA allows Americans to continue on their group health plan for only 18 months after they leave their job. This change could make a big difference for millions of Americans.

Honoring Our Nation's Veterans

All the men and women who are currently serving or have served in the U.S. military deserve not only our appreciation and our prayers, but also health care coverage, financial assistance, and educational and employment opportunities.

In order to honor and support our nation's

veterans, Congressman Lipinski has worked tirelessly to pass the largest funding increase in the history of the VA, repeal unfair tax burdens on military families, and provide a historic \$63 billion boost to the GI Bill.

America must continue to fight for the brave men and women who have so heroically fought for the nation. (Pictured above, Rep. Lipinski, with North Riverside Mayor Richard Scheck, addresses residents about legislation that helps benefit area veterans.)



Congressman Lipinski invites all veterans and their families to participate in the Veterans History Project (VHP) sponsored by the Library of Congress. The VHP is a wonderful program established to help preserve the history and experience of our wartime veterans. The VHP is currently collecting the personal narratives, correspondence, and visual materials of wartime veterans from World War I to the present. For more information about the Veterans History Project or to contribute materials please visit www.loc.gov/vets or call toll-free 888-371-5848. You may also contact my office at 312-886-0481 for assistance.



Rep. Lipinski discusses high gas prices and alternative energy with area resident.

Working To Bring Down Gas Prices and Expand American Energy Independence

Gas prices continue to skyrocket and eat away at family budgets, and this pain is especially bad in the Chicago area. Rep. Lipinski understands the urgency of the situation and has been working in Congress to bring prices down. He has helped pass bills that suspend the filling of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) through the end of the year, crack down on price fixers and gas price gougers, and combat speculation that artificially raises oil prices. But more needs to be done.

To boost the availability of domestic oil, Rep. Lipinski voted for the DRILL Bill which would increase and expedite drilling in Alaska and keep that oil in the U.S. The bill also included a "use it or lose it" provision requiring oil and gas companies to produce on lands that they currently lease instead of leaving these fields idle.

In Chicagoland millions of residents depend on public transportation, so Rep. Lipinski helped pass legislation that will bring more than \$88 million to the area in 2008 and 2009 to reduce fares and expand CTA, Metra, and Pace services. These funds are critical in providing relief to families' budgets and reducing America's oil addiction.

Now more than ever, energy independence is crucial to America's security and prosperity. Since coming to Congress, Rep. Lipinski has worked diligently to reduce America's oil consumption and as Vice Chairman of the Science & Technology Committee he is promoting cutting-edge American innovation that is leading the way toward energy independence.

Protecting Lake Michigan and All American Waters

Representative Lipinski recently joined environmental advocates at the Shedd Aquarium (pictured at right with Joel Brammeier of the Alliance for the Great Lakes and Max Muller of Environment Illinois) to urge Congress to pass the Clean Water Restoration Act. He is a proud cosponsor of this bill which would restore protections for our nation's waters which have existed for over 30 years, but are now being threatened by court decisions and new Bush Administration policies.

In his remarks, Rep. Lipinski addressed the importance of the Great Lakes in the everyday lives of Chicagoland residents, from providing fresh drinking water, to supporting transportation, tourism, recreation, and the \$4.1 billion sport and commercial fishing industry. He also pledged to continue working to preserve the beauty and safety of this natural treasure.



Congressman Lipinski Hosts Town Hall Meeting

Wednesday, August 20th 7:00 p.m. LaGrange Park Library - Community Room, Lower Level

For more information or to seek assistance call 312-886-0481 or visit online at www.lipinski.house.gov



Congressman Dan Lipinski
3rd Congressional District

1717 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5701

Toll free from IL (866) 822-5701
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