

Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz
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Official Business

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Debbie Wasserman Schultz
M.C.
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CONGRESSWOMAN

Debbie Wasserman Schultz



Serving South Florida

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Dear Friend,

So far 2012 has been a busy year in South Florida. We had our third annual free Small Business Workshop, as well as our wonderful high school Congressional Art Competition. We have also held several roundtables and town halls already this year, where I've had the opportunity to hear from constituents and local leaders about how we can stop identity theft, curb human sex trafficking, improve transportation, and protect our seniors from Medicare fraud. This mailer provides you with a summary of some of the issues important to South Florida that I have worked on in Congress so far this year, including:

- Health Care and Small Businesses
- Jobs and the Economy
- Small Business Job Creation
- Support for Our Veterans
- Stopping Tax Offenders and Prosecuting Identity Theft Act
- Preventing Medicare Fraud

INSIDE:

Rep. Wasserman Schultz's work to prosecute identity theft, promote affordable health care, help small businesses grow and help veterans connect with jobs.

I am proud to be an advocate for South Florida, and my office is always open to you. Your questions, thoughts and concerns are important to me. Please do not hesitate to let me know of any problems or issues you consider significant by contacting me at one of my offices listed here. You can stay updated on the issues important to you by visiting my website, liking my Facebook page and signing up for my E-Newsletter.

Debbie

"I am proud to be an advocate for South Florida, and my office is always open to you." – REP. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

Preventing Medicare Fraud

South Florida has been a hotbed for Medicare fraud for years, but thanks to the Affordable Care Act, the tide is starting to turn. The new health care reform law prioritizes cracking down on perpetrators of Medicare fraud. In 2011, the federal government recovered \$4.1 billion from Medicare swindlers, the most ever recovered in one year.

In March I hosted a Medicare safety fair with representatives from state and local organizations to educate seniors on prevention methods and inform them of proactive measures they can take to protect themselves. I'm also a co-sponsor of legislation to remove Social Security numbers from Medicare cards in an effort to help protect the 872,000 South Floridians who have Medicare.



Rep. Wasserman Schultz met with seniors in Sunrise to talk about how to protect themselves from Medicare fraud.



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Rep. Wasserman Schultz talks to a group of 6-year-olds in Hollywood who just received a water safety lesson as part of the Red Cross' new "Big Splash 1-2-3" program.



If you'd like me to keep you up-to-date on these and other issues, contact my office at the phone numbers listed here or visit my website at www.wassermanschultz.house.gov and sign up for my E-Newsletter.

Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz: Congressional Report

Preventing Tax Return Identity Theft



Rep. Wasserman Schultz discusses her bill to curb tax return identity theft, in Fort Lauderdale at the Broward Sheriff's Office with Sgt. Jay Leiner, Ron Myers, a local CPA, and Joan Rubinstein, a tax return identity theft victim.

According to the Internal Revenue Service, last year alone more than 850,000 tax returns and \$5.8 billion were associated with fraudulent tax refunds involving identity theft. We have seen countless news stories about how tax refund identity theft is on the rise across the country, particularly here in South Florida.

On tax day this year, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas) and I introduced bipartisan legislation to help stop the growing problem of tax return identity theft. The Stopping Tax Offenders and Prosecuting Identity Theft Act (STOP IT Act) (H.R. 4362) increases penalties for tax return identity thieves to help deter this type of crime and protect victims.

Employees Get Health Insurance Thanks to Affordable Care Act

The Affordable Health Care Act is already giving American families and small businesses more control over their health care by reducing costs, increasing choice, and instituting common-sense rules.

On the second anniversary of the bill being signed into law, I met with employees at the GBS Group, a consulting firm for small and medium businesses in the Hispanic market, to talk about how the Affordable Care Act has helped employees.

Before health care reform, GBS group was not able to offer health insurance to its employees. Now thanks to the tax credits in the Affordable Care Act, GBS group can offer insurance to all 21 employees.



Rep. Wasserman Schultz met with Maria Diaz, the CEO of GBS Group and COO Jorge E. Fernandez to talk about how the Affordable Care Act has helped them grow their small business in Pembroke Pines that specializes in consulting for small and medium businesses in the Hispanic market.

Helping Local Small Businesses Grow

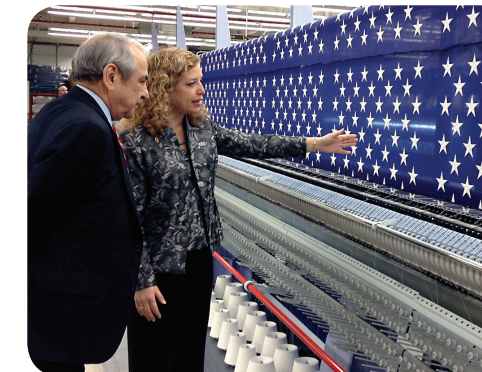


Rep. Wasserman Schultz with small business owners and local partners at her third annual small business workshop at the Broward County Convention Center in Fort Lauderdale.

Small businesses are the backbone of America's economy. Many Americans get their first job through a small business, and that's why it's important that business owners and entrepreneurs have the tools they need to turn an idea into a business and keep it thriving. In an effort to help small business owners and those interested in starting a small business, we hosted our third annual free small business workshop on Saturday, April 21 at the Broward County Convention Center. Federal, state and local partners were on hand to provide marketing, management and financial guidance during a series of seminars.

During the workshop, Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration Marie Johns gave the keynote speech. At our 2010 small business workshop, Marcy and Vince Colangelo attended the exporting break-out session and as a result have been able to grow their business substantially. At this year's workshop, the Colangelos were honored with the Export Achievement Award by the Department of Commerce. It was wonderful to see such a great turnout at this year's event, and we look forward to making next year's small business workshop even better.

Jobs for Veterans



Rep. Wasserman Schultz toured the manufacturing facilities at Goodwill Industries of South Florida in Miami where workers make military uniforms and American flags.

We have 36,000 veterans in South Florida, and as our men and women continue to return home, it is crucial that we ensure they have access to the help they need to transition to civilian life. This means treating them fairly when it comes to health care, housing, and supporting their families.

I am proud to be a co-sponsor of the Hiring Our Veterans Act and a supporter of President Barack Obama's efforts to relieve unemployment, including creating the Veterans Job Corps.

The President also signed two new tax credits into law as part of the VOW to Hire Heroes Act. These incentives will help our businesses right here in South Florida and organizations like Goodwill Industries that work to train and place our veterans in jobs in our community.

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"It is important for me to keep you informed about what's happening in Washington that affects us in South Florida" – REP. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ