

2012

Creating Jobs & Protecting Our Civil Rights

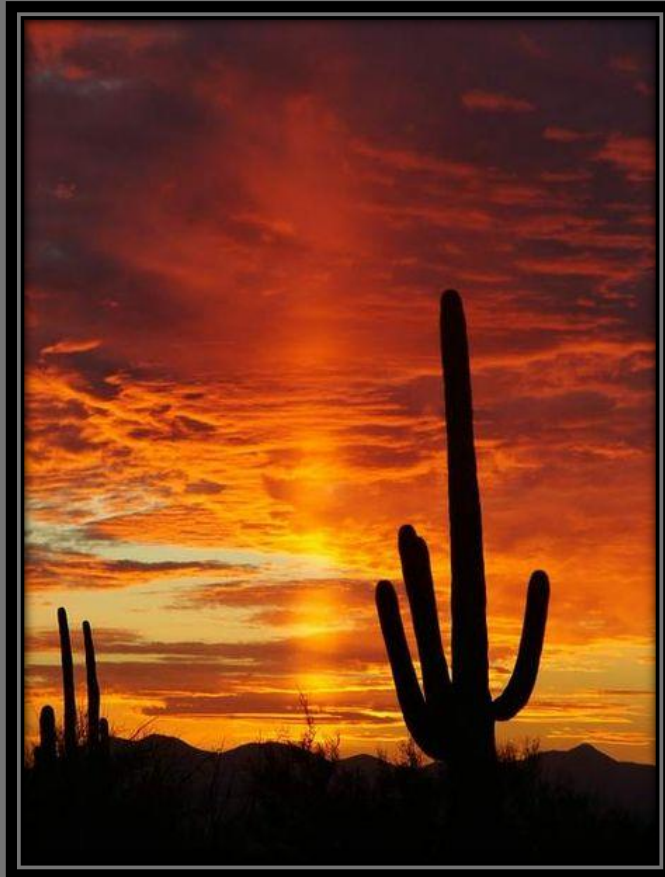


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Dear friends,

The story we've all been hearing is that Congress is broken and out of touch. Well, there are two sides to every story, and this report is that other side. In the following pages you'll see everything my hard-working staff and I did in 2012 – the bills I introduced, the forums we held, the hundreds of constituents we successfully helped with federal government issues, the money we helped save, the jobs we pushed to create. I'm proud of my record, and I believe voters deserve to know everything about how their representatives are acting on their behalf. That's why this report leaves nothing out.

When the House majority was voting to cut taxes for the rich and reduce unemployment insurance for the rest of us, I was fighting alongside my Congressional Progressive Caucus colleagues to protect working families and create millions of real jobs. When we were told to vote for corporate giveaways and put more of the burden on the middle class, I led the fight for a progressive Budget for All that created jobs and put some fairness back in the tax code. It was a busy year and it didn't always go the way we wanted, but being in the minority is no excuse not to fight hard every day for the working people of Southern Arizona. So that's what I did.

Our state has been through some tough times lately. We're still facing too many home foreclosures. We in Congress lost our friend Gabby Giffords, whose continuing recovery is an inspiration to Southern Arizona. (You can see an interview I did with MSNBC just after she announced her retirement at <http://bit.ly/RYkDuG>.) But we did a lot of good, and I hope after reading this report you'll have a fuller picture of how I've worked to serve you this past year.

Fighting for working families in Congress is a full-time job, but a lot of what my colleagues and I do in Washington is invisible to the public. Once a vote is cast or a letter is sent, Congress and the media move on. But it's important to remember everything that happened in the past year – not just the trials, but the triumphs. We put the national focus squarely on economic fairness. We prevented public lands giveaways to mining companies that aren't interested in keeping jobs in our state.

I hope that by learning what we focused on in 2012 – creating jobs in our community, promoting a better immigration policy, protecting Southern Arizona from mining industry overreach, and more – you'll be inspired to join the push for a stronger Arizona and a national economy that works for everyone. If you're wondering how we stayed busy, you can view a list of every event I and my district staff attended or spoke at throughout the year at <http://1.usa.gov/ZTwZDe>, and you can view a list of the letters I sent to agencies and colleagues at <http://1.usa.gov/10xyVr5>.

Thank you for helping me do right by our community every day. Thank you for believing that government can be a force for good in people's lives. And thank you for taking a moment to learn more about all we did in 2012 and all that remains to be done to make Southern Arizona a better place to live.

Peace,
Raúl

2012

Legislation and Policy



STRENGTHENING OUR ECONOMY AND OUR PEOPLE



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Every day in Congress, I help lead the fight to protect America’s working families and put Americans back to work. A strong progressive agenda will get our nation back on track, and I help shape this as co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. The CPC is the largest formally organized group of Representatives within the House Democratic Caucus. We promote *The Progressive Promise – Fairness For All*, and our core principles include:

- Fighting for economic justice and security for all
- Protecting and preserving our civil rights and civil liberties
- Promoting global peace and security
- Advancing environmental protection and energy independence

These same principles have guided my service to Southern Arizona for the past forty years. As we work to improve our economy, I have focused on several federal policy areas over the past year:

Job Creation and Economic Fairness – We cannot tinker around the margins and hope that things get better. We need to go big. Focusing on serious job creation projects right away will help prevent further unemployment and underemployment. We cannot afford to disappoint an entire generation of American workers with a weak economy. Some have sought to cut taxes for the largest corporations, wealthy oil companies and the richest two percent of the population.

This is a recipe for continued economic decline. Over the past year, I have introduced and supported legislation that takes a direct approach to job creation.

Keeping Americans in Their Homes – The ongoing foreclosure crisis largely was caused by fraudulent and predatory bank lending practices that have sparked large-scale state and federal investigations across the country. Millions of Americans have lost their homes. This year I introduced the Right to Rent Act and other measures to keep our economy strong and keep people in their homes, stabilize property values and reduce homelessness.

Protecting Social Security, Retirees and Seniors – I will always fight to protect Social Security. Even in this down economy, some lawmakers in Congress are intent on cutting benefits for the millions of retired and disabled Americans who are most in need. Social Security is not a piggy bank we break open to support welfare for oil companies, big corporations and millionaires. I will continue to preserve and protect Social Security for our seniors and future generations.

Medicare, Medicaid and Good Health Coverage – Some of my colleagues in Congress want to slash Medicare and Medicaid right now, when families in need most need these programs. This is unacceptable and unnecessary. We need to guarantee health care for all Americans, which is why I continue to fight for a public option and single-payer health care.

Protecting and Serving Veterans – Our armed forces put their lives on the line in service to our nation, and we owe them a great debt. America’s federal policies and programs should honor our veterans’ service and ease their transition when they reenter civilian life. Whether it’s housing assistance, medical care, education, job training or spousal support, we must take care of our veterans and ensure they are never forgotten.

Women: Equal Pay, Equal Rights – CNN reported last October that women who worked full-time jobs one year after receiving their college diplomas earned 82 cents for every dollar men earned. Some people want to convince you this isn’t a real issue. Well, I believe women deserve equal pay for equal work, and I believe they deserve the same legal protections as men – in the workplace, in the home and everywhere else.

JOB CREATION AND ECONOMIC FAIRNESS

I am proud to co-chair the Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC), where I lead the fight to protect the middle class and push sensible solutions to put America back to work. The CPC includes more than 80 members of the House of Representatives and is the largest group within the House Democratic Caucus. We reflect the diversity and strength of the American people and give a voice to every American who believes in a fairer, more just society.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Progressive Caucus members promote a strong progressive agenda we call “[The Progressive Promise--Fairness for All.](#)” The Progressive Promise is rooted in four core principles consistent

with the values, needs and aspirations of our people – not just the wealthy and privileged, but the full range of working Americans, whether they live on a family farm, in a small town or in the heart of a big city. They reflect a fundamental belief in a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

The four core principles of the Progressive Promise:

1. Fighting for economic justice and security for all
2. Protecting and preserving our civil rights and civil liberties
3. Promoting global peace and security
4. Advancing environmental protection and energy independence

Events I Held or Attended

Support State and Local Governments Across the Country to Get Money Out of Politics, 06/2012 – I and other CPC members supported community leaders across the country holding events to mark Resolutions Week, a nationwide effort to get money out of politics. Throughout the week, officials introduced local resolutions supporting a constitutional amendment to overturn the infamous *Citizens United v. FEC* Supreme Court decision, which lets corporations and wealthy individuals spend unlimited money on political campaign advertisements.

Ad Hoc Hearing on year-end Congressional budget and fiscal issues, 09/12/2012 – The hearing focused on job creation, the then-impending budget sequestration process, realistic ways to increase revenue and reduce the national debt, and how to preserve Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. The hearing focused on the Congressional Progressive Caucus Deal for All, a commitment to four basic principles:

- Preventing any cuts to benefits for millions of seniors, children, and disabled Americans who depend on Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid
- Ensuring the richest two percent contribute their fair share in taxes and ending corporate loopholes for tax-dodging companies that ship American jobs overseas
- Making strategic cuts to defense spending and focusing on combating twenty-first century risks
- Investing in America's future and putting Americans back to work

Legislation I Have Introduced

Act for the 99% – This bill represents the most comprehensive jobs package introduced during the 112th Congress. It combines emergency jobs legislation, sensible revenue raisers, cuts to unnecessary weapons platforms and measures to strengthen and protect Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. The *Act for the 99%* creates more than 5 million jobs over the next two years and reduces the budget deficit by more than \$2 trillion over the next 10 years while protecting crucial social programs that support the American people.

Its key job creation and workplace protection provisions include:

- **Emergency jobs to put America to work:** Creates 2.2 million jobs through on-the-job training and direct hire programs for cops, teachers, firefighters, construction and maintenance workers for schools, parks and public land workers, work study jobs for students, health providers (including nurses and assistants) and a new Community Corp to take care of our neighborhoods.
- **Buy America:** Requires materials for government contracts to be American-made.
- **Infrastructure bank:** Creates an infrastructure bank that will allow private sector partnering with regions, states and localities to create infrastructure projects.
- **Protection of our wounded veterans** – Ensures that our veterans are not discriminated against in the workplace for time spent receiving treatment for injuries
- **Investment in infrastructure and transportation** – Provides \$50 billion to fix our crumbling roads, bridges, rail lines, sewer systems and to upgrade power lines and mass transit systems.

Its key revenue generation and budget savings provisions include:

- **Fairness in taxation** – Requires people earning more than \$1 million a year to pay their fair share, raising \$800 billion over 10 years.
- **Defense spending** – Ends unnecessary programs, saving \$280 billion over 10 years.
- **Unchecked war spending** – Restricts U.S. spending in Afghanistan to planning and executing a responsible troop withdrawal, saving approximately \$1.2 trillion.
- **Oil and gas industry and polluter taxes** – Ends tax giveaways and requires polluters to clean up their messes, raising more than \$60 billion over 10 years.
- **Wall Street and speculators tax** – Establishes a new 0.03 percent tax that reduces dangerous speculation by slightly raising the cost of certain financial trades, raising \$350 billion over 10 years.
- **Making Work Pay Tax Credit** – This progressive tax refund, which already puts money into the pockets of those that need it most to boost the economy, would be extended for 2 years.

Its key measures to protect Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security include:

- **Public option** – Allows a public health insurance option to compete with private companies in the Affordable Care Act health care exchanges, saving \$88 billion over 10 years.
- **Negotiate drug prices** – Allows Medicare to negotiate drug prices with pharmaceutical companies, saving \$156 billion over 10 years.
- **Enhancing Medicaid rates** – Restores increased federal Medicaid matching rates, giving states immediate clarity and economic assistance.
- **Scrapping Social Security cap** – Personal income over \$106,800 is not taxed by Social Security, meaning Americans with different incomes effectively pay different rates to support the program. To ensure long-term solvency, the bill requires anyone making more than \$250,000 to pay the normal Social Security tax on their additional income.

The Budget For All (the fiscal year 2013 CPC budget proposal) – The *Budget for All* puts Americans back to work, charts a path to responsible deficit reduction, enhances our economic

competitiveness, rebuilds the middle class and invests in our future. Our budget makes no cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, or Social Security benefits and makes sure those who have benefited most from our economy pay their fair share to get our economy back on track.

Key measures to put Americans back to work include:

- More than \$2.9 trillion in direct job-creating investments.
- Direct hire programs that create a School Improvement Corps, a Park Improvement Corps, and a Student Jobs Corps, among others. Targeted tax incentives that spur clean energy, manufacturing, and cutting-edge technological investments in the private sector.
- Widespread domestic investments, including an infrastructure bank, a \$556 billion surface transportation bill, and approximately \$2.1 trillion in broad-based economic revitalization efforts.

Economic impact highlights include:

- Achieving \$6.8 trillion in deficit reduction over 10 years, hitting the same debt-to-GDP ratio as the Republican budget in a way that preserves what Americans want preserved.
- Reaching ambitious goals by focusing on the true drivers of our deficit – unsustainable tax policies, the wars overseas, and policies that helped cause the recent recession – rather than putting the middle class’s social safety net on the chopping block.

You can learn all about the *Budget for All* proposal online at <http://bit.ly/IAVcqs>.

Legislation I Am Cosponsoring and Programs I Support

Middle Class Tax Cut Act of 2012 – This bill would have extended for one year all of the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts on income below \$200,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for couples. It would also have extended the expanded Child Tax Credit, Earned Income Tax Credit and American Opportunity tax credit enacted in 2009.

The Inclusive Prosperity Act – This bill creates a tax on financial transactions in order to invest in strengthening America’s families, communities and economy. A nominal tax on the sales of stocks, bonds and derivatives could raise between \$150 billion to \$350 billion a year. These funds could be used to strengthen financial security and expand opportunity for low- and moderate-income families, strengthen the social safety net, and expand resources for child care, Social Security, affordable housing, health care, and savings incentives.

Letters I Have Sent, Signed or Received

Letter to the Senate “Gang of 8” on the Impending Budget Deal, 09/20/2012 – I led a letter, with the support of my progressive colleagues, to the Senate “Gang of 8” then negotiating a potential fiscal agreement that ultimately collapsed. The letter urges a more balanced fiscal path forward and an end to the destructive cuts-only approach that threatens to tip us back into recession. Because of the vague language in the Budget Control Act, ongoing and future spending reductions could fall largely to non-Pentagon programs. From infrastructure and

education to research and small businesses, these investments are critical in keeping our nation economically competitive in the twenty-first century. Going forward with oversized, untargeted cuts is destructive and won't get the American people back to work no matter how hard some ideologues might wish otherwise.

KEEPING AMERICANS IN THEIR HOMES

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The mortgage crisis continues to affect the entire nation, and Arizona has seen some of the worst impacts. Many banks refuse to assist in refinancing or restructuring debt, and some lenders have issued fraudulent foreclosure notices. Unfortunately, the remedies proposed and enacted by the federal government to tackle this issue have so far been inadequate. Initiatives such as the Home Affordable Modification Program have miscalculated the scope of the problem, while many culpable bankers have received massive subsidies through the TARP program.

Events I Held or Attended

Foreclosure Prevention Workshop, 03/2012 – This Tucson event was free and open to the public. It focused on foreclosure prevention methods, educating the public about homeowner rights, and making resources available for families whose mortgage debt exceeds the value of the home.

Press Conference Pushing Federal Officials to Stop Foreclosures, 03/07/2012 – CPC members, homeowners fighting foreclosure, and community activists from around the country joined to push federal officials to allow banks to reduce the principal owed on underwater mortgages. Video highlights of the event are available at <http://bit.ly/wwAjas>. The Federal Housing Finance Agency, under the direction of a Bush appointee, has failed to require loan servicers across the country to reduce unsustainable mortgage principals, one of the few ways out of the mortgage crisis.

Foreclosure Prevention and Response Workshop, 03/10/2012 – This event, also presented by the Western Arizona Council of Governments, the Southwest Fair Housing Council and the Arizona Foreclosure Prevention Task Force, included experts from several banks to assist homeowners with paperwork and economic advice and assistance.

Hearing on Preventing Foreclosures and Accountability, 04/2012 – Progressive Caucus ad hoc hearing, featuring New York State Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman, let me and my colleagues hear testimony from foreclosure crisis experts and homeowners so we could find policy solutions based on reality instead of rhetoric. You can watch a video of witness testimony and learn more about the event at <http://1.usa.gov/13nnSya>.

Letters I Have Sent, Signed or Received

Letter on McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants, 03/2012 – This letter urges an increase to HUD’s McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants. The increase would bring the total funding for the program to \$2.23 billion and would help the most vulnerable communities in our society. On a given night in 2011, 636,017 people experienced homelessness in the United States. While this is about two percent fewer than in 2010, it is unacceptable for our friends, neighbors and relatives to be sleeping on the streets.

Letter to Treasury and FHFA, 05/25/2012 – This letter calls upon regulators to make improvements to the Hardest Hit Fund and the newest iteration of the Home Affordable Refinance Program. According to numerous accounts, these programs are falling well short of their goals of assisting homeowners.

Letter to CBO Request Analysis of principle forgiveness, 11/09/2012 – This letter asks the Congressional Budget Office to undertake an analysis of the potential budgetary impact of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac offering principal forgiveness as part of their mortgage loan modification efforts.

Letter to President Obama, Speaker Boehner, and Leaders Cantor, Pelosi, Reid, and McConnell, December Letter on Fiscal Cliff, 12/2012 – This letter urges legislation as part of the “fiscal cliff” deal that would provide assistance to homeowners currently underwater on their mortgages, including principal reduction modifications to borrowers with loans guaranteed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Letter to President Obama on Home Heating and Cooling Assistance, 12/12/2012 – This letter to President Obama encourages funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which keeps low-income families and seniors safe from bitter winters in the North and hot summers in the South. LIHEAP is the main federal program that helps low-income households, veterans and seniors with their energy bills, providing vital assistance to those in need.

Letter to OMB on Homelessness Program Funding, 12/14/2012 – This letter asks to maintain funding for homelessness programs as President Obama considers discretionary spending cuts and plans his fiscal year 2014 budget.

Legislation I Have Co-Sponsored

Principal Reduction Act – This bill prevents foreclosures and stabilizes the housing market. By reducing principal instead of letting the home be sold at a loss through foreclosure, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac could generate substantial savings for America’s taxpayers. Principal reduction would help job creation by allowing homeowners to move to a new city or state for jobs because they will be able to rent or sell their homes.

PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY, RETIREES AND SENIORS

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Social Security was created to ensure that seniors and certain people with disabilities have a livable income once they leave the workforce. It guarantees that every American that works hard will have access to a decent retirement. Since its creation 75 years ago, Social Security – in the forms of Supplemental Security Income, survivor benefits, and retirement benefits – has helped countless Americans care for themselves and their families. Social Security is forbidden by law to contribute to the national deficit, and anyone who wants to cut benefits to “save the country money” is not being honest.

Legislation I am Cosponsoring and Programs I Support

WIPA and PABSS Continuation of Services Act of 2012 – This bill supports Americans with severe disabilities who want to work and potentially reduce their need for disability benefits. It does so by ensuring the continuation of two important community-based programs: Work Incentives Planning and Assistance and Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security.

Earned Retiree Healthcare Benefits Protection Act – This bill prohibits group health plans from reducing benefits for retirees after they retire and requires employers to restore benefits reduced after retirement. It provides an exemption for employers unable to restore benefits because they would experience substantial business hardship, as determined by the Secretary of Labor.

Letters I Have Sent, Signed or Received

Letter to President Obama Urging Protection of Social Security, 07/06/2012 – As the President engaged in budget negotiations, my colleagues and I urged him to take Social Security benefit cuts off the table. Social Security had a \$2.7 trillion surplus in 2011 that is projected to grow to \$3.7 trillion by 2022. It does not contribute to our national debt and should not be included in deficit reduction discussions. The two have nothing to do with each other. I believe we should strengthen Social Security benefits in a sustainable way over the long term, including by making sure higher income rather than reducing them.

Letter to President Obama Opposing Benefit Cuts Through a Chained CPI, 12/2012 – Similar to our previous letter to President Obama and Speaker Boehner, I and many of my colleagues wrote to the president to urge him not to pursue Social Security benefit cuts through a Chained Consumer Price Index.

Led Letter to Speaker Boehner to Protect Social Security, 12/06/2012 – This letter, for which I gathered 102 of my colleagues as co-signers, urged Speaker of the House John Boehner to take Social Security cuts off the table in budget negotiations. The House Republican majority had released a plan reducing future Social Security benefits through an accounting gimmick called the Chained Consumer Price Index, costing the average 65-year-old retiring now more than \$6,000 over 15 years. Millions of seniors depend on Social Security to put food on the table every day.

MEDICARE, MEDICAID AND GOOD HEALTH COVERAGE

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has made great progress in reducing disparities in access to quality health care. Still, I believe much more needs to be done to address ever-increasing health care costs and racial and ethnic minority health disparities.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

I support legislation and programs that ensure American citizens have access to affordable, high-quality health care. Affordable access to preventative care services means a healthy community and productive economy. The federal government plays an important role in supporting states and communities to make high-quality healthcare more accessible to their citizens. We must continue to improve the broken health care system in the United States. We must ensure that our children have the healthcare coverage they need to grow up strong and healthy. Along with loan repayments, scholarships and grant programs for health professionals, a strong Medicaid program is vital to ensure our nation's children get the vital pediatric care they need.

Events I Held or Attended

Speaking Event with the Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans, 03/23/2012 – We discussed the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, and I explained the many benefits Southern Arizona has received since it became law in 2010. Beyond the financial benefits patients and insurance customers have already seen, including cash refunds on excessive premiums, many important legal protections for American families and businesses are still on the way.

Keynote Remarks at National Health Center Week, 08/11/2012 – I gave some remarks on health care reform and the importance of community health centers at the fifth annual National Health Center Week event at Sunset Community Health Center in San Luis. The event included appearances by several other elected officials, free screenings for a variety of diseases and conditions, and referral services for attendees seeking medical care.

Legislation I am Cosponsoring and Programs I Support

Routine HIV Screening Coverage Act – This bill would require health insurance plans to cover routine HIV tests as preventive health screenings. There are more than 1.1 million people living with HIV/AIDS in the U.S. today, and about 20 percent do not know they are infected.

Hospice Evaluation and Legitimate Payment Act – This bill initiates a two-year pilot program for any new hospice payment methodologies.

National Nurse Act – This bill creates the position of National Nurse for Public Health within the Office of the Surgeon General. The position would coordinate Public Health Service nursing affairs for the Office of the Surgeon General and other agencies of the Public Health Service, and provide guidance and leadership for public safety and emergency preparedness.

MEDICAID / MEDICARE

Legislation I Have Introduced

Enhanced Medicaid and Emergency Job Creation Act – More than 600,000 jobs have been lost in state and local governments over the past thirty months. My bill restores the increased federal Medicaid matching rates the Recovery Act temporarily provided, which added \$88 billion in additional resources and created or saved jobs that we need today. Estimates show this would create between 440,000 and 1.6 million jobs nationwide, primarily in the private sector. My bill would also restore desperately needed funding and eligibility to the Arizona Medicaid program, which has suffered devastating state-level cuts that have already hurt our health.

Legislation I am Cosponsoring and Programs I Support

Letter to President Obama Opposing an Increased Medicare Eligibility Age, 12/2012 - Raising the Medicare eligibility age doesn't cut costs, it simply shifts costs to those who depend on Medicare, to younger Americans who buy insurance through the new health insurance exchanges, and to states. This letter asks the president to resist increasing the eligibility age.

Letter to Governors Asking for Medicaid Expansion, 07/24/2012 – I and my Congressional Progressive Caucus Co-Chairs, Rep. Keith Ellison, sent this letter along with 43 CPC members to all 50 state governors calling on them to set aside politics and publicly support the Affordable Care Act's expansion of Medicaid in their respective states. By expanding Medicaid, the nation's largest health care provider for families and children, the healthcare law will cover an estimated 17 million Americans who currently lack health coverage and cannot afford it. Struggling families and individuals across the country would be able to go to the doctor without fear of breaking the bank. The expansion would provide individuals with necessary preventive care, which costs far less than emergency medical care, and help doctors and hospitals by decreasing the high costs of caring for the uninsured.

PROTECTING AND SERVING VETERANS

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

I support efforts to improve benefits for our current and past service members. Now more than ever, we must provide for the men and women who are willing to sacrifice for their country. We must ensure their health and prosperity not just while they serve, but when they return to civilian life. Our troops put their lives at risk to protect us. As a nation we have to honor the sacrifice that our troops and their military families make by ensuring the health and prosperity of current and former soldiers and service members.

Events I Held or Attended

Job Workshop and Training Event, 10/24/2012 – A jobs and economic workshop for Southern Arizona veterans at the Yuma Private Industry Council headquarters in Somerton in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor and the Arizona Department of Economic Security. The event was free and open to veterans and their spouses interested in learning more about job opportunities, retraining, and local business investment programs.

Veteran Advisory Council – My advisory council keeps me informed on veterans and related issues. Biographies of each of the eight members are available below.

- **Miguel F. Ronquillo**: A retired veteran who served our country for many years and now works as a school monitor. His primary goal is making sure fellow veterans obtain proper medical treatment at Veterans Hospitals or medical facilities.
Organizations: Active member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Nogales High School Band Boosters President, Fraternal Order of Police, Junior Chamber of Commerce, Nogales Volunteer Fire Department
- **William W Wiseman II**: A sergeant major in the United States Marine Corps. His primary goals are ensuring that veterans receive quality mental health follow-up treatment, ensuring that the well-being of spouses is considered in policy decisions, and educating young service members to prepare them financially for civilian life.
Organizations: United States Marine Corps
- **William F. Chagnon**: A state legislature officer for Veterans of Foreign Wars for the Department of Arizona. His primary goals are to get full funding for the VA and to reform the Survivors Benefit Plan.
Organizations: Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Arizona, Tucson VA Service Officer, American Legion
- **Matthew W. Randle**: The founder and former director of the University of Arizona Veterans Education and Transition Services (V.E.T.S.) office, and a recent University of Arizona graduate. His primary goals include changing the culture surrounding disability claims, helping to investigate false claims, and replicating the V.E.T.S program on campuses across the country.
Organizations: University of Arizona, several governmental advisory positions

- **Steve W. Aguirre**: The commander of American Legion Post 59, where he has been involved for 20 years. His primary goals include helping veterans find job opportunities, helping those struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder, providing transitional housing for returning servicemen servicewomen.
 Organizations: Cocio Estrada American Legion Post 59, Adjutant for the American Legion Riders
- **Victoria A Stypula**: Vice President of the AZ-2 Saguaro Chapter of the Women Marines Association, where she has served for 3 years. Her primary goals include ensuring Medicare is focusing on veterans with PTSD, helping veterans with job difficulties due to PTSD, making Medicare more accessible, and using better public awareness campaigns to inform members of available services.
 Organizations: Women Marines Association AZ-2 Saguaro Chapter, El Cortez Heights Neighborhood Association, Mansfield Park Neighbors Coalition, National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (Tucson Chapter), several city and county committees
- **Sheron Lee Jones**: The Second Vice President of Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, she strives to make life better for all of American's veterans and their families as well as ensuring that their ultimate sacrifice is not forgotten. Her main objective is to aid veterans in becoming a part of communities by getting them to work, helping them speak about what they feel and help them understand there are people in the community who want to help them.
 Organizations: Ladies Auxiliary Military Order of the Purple Heart, American Gold Star Mothers, Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary, Tucson Troop Support
- **Warren C. Humphrey**: A veteran who served for more than five years and has advocated for veterans since leaving service. He has volunteered with the Stop Gun Violence and Commit to a Life of Non-Violence programs with the Tucson Police Department. His primary goals include reducing cultural bigotry, which insults veterans; decreasing veterans' financial burdens; and speeding veteran appeal times.
 Organizations: TPD volunteer

Legislation I am Cosponsoring and Programs I Support

H.R.3687 – Authorizes payment under the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) beneficiary travel program of travel expenses in connection with medical examination, treatment, or care of a veteran with vision impairment, a spinal cord injury or disorder, or double or multiple amputations whose travel is in connection with inpatient care in a VA special disabilities rehabilitation program.

The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act – This bill expands the definition of “service connection” for veterans’ diseases associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents while in Vietnam to include service in the ocean waters controlled by the Republic of Vietnam.

The Tax Relief for Veterans and Homeowners Act – This bill exempts legal settlement relief in housing fraud cases from income taxes and ensures that no extra taxes are imposed on money designed to help homeowners that were the victims of fraud. The federal government and 49 state attorneys general recently reached a \$25 billion settlement with the nation’s five largest mortgage servicers. The settlement funds will provide relief to homeowners and veterans who

were victims of mortgage loan servicing and foreclosure abuses. Unfortunately, our existing tax law would treat much of this relief as income on which homeowners will have to pay taxes.

Veterans Reemployment Act – Our current law is too lenient in allowing employers to dismiss deployed service members. As of December 2011, the unemployment rate among veterans 18-24 years of age was 31 percent – double the nonveteran unemployment rate. This bill would help ensure that those who leave behind jobs to defend our nation will be guaranteed those jobs when they return home.

Emergency Medic Transition (EMT) Act – **This bill helps veterans transition from the battlefield back to their communities.** Our military men and women receive some of the world's best technical training in emergency medicine, but when they return home they're often required to begin entry-level curricula to receive certification for civilian jobs. The EMT Act provides fast-track opportunities for these qualified veterans.

WOMEN: EQUAL PAY, EQUAL RIGHTS

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Women shouldn't be a political issue all by themselves, but conservative lawmakers have chosen to make birth control, equal pay and employment opportunities, and other uncontroversial issues into major political battles. I'm as committed as ever to supporting equal treatment for women, whether it's at home, at the office, in the hospital or anywhere else.

Legislation I am Cosponsoring and Programs I Support

International Violence Against Women Act – This bill makes preventing and responding to violence against women a U.S. foreign policy priority. It is estimated that nearly a billion women globally will be beaten, raped, mutilated or otherwise abused during their lifetimes – approximately one third of the women alive today. IVAWA creates a comprehensive strategy to combat violence against women and girls abroad. It gives the U.S. State Department new tools to address the problem of violence against women, ranging from health programs and survivor services to legal reforms to promoting economic opportunities and education for women.

Pregnant Workers Fairness Act – While current law prohibits discrimination based on pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions and directs employers to treat pregnancy the same as any other condition that might temporarily limit an employee's ability to perform some job functions, these protections have proven inadequate. PWFA ensures pregnant workers are not forced out of their jobs unnecessarily or denied reasonable accommodations that would allow them to keep working and supporting their families.

Letters I Have Sent, Signed or Received

Letter to House Appropriators on the Women, Infants and Children Program, 03/2012 - This letter urges the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee to provide the president's

request of \$7.04 billion for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) in FY 2013. WIC provides nutritious foods, nutrition education, and health care referrals to more than 9 million low-income pregnant women, new mothers, and infants and young children. WIC helps ensure that at-risk mothers, infants, and young children have a chance to build a strong nutritional foundation for success.

Letter to House Leadership on the Violence Against Women Act, 12/2012 – This letter asks leadership to move quickly on the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, which conservatives have refused to renew. Because they allowed the most recent version of the Violence Against Women Act to expire, we’re currently funding domestic violence and prevention programs at outdated levels.

“STRENGTHENING OUR ECONOMY AND OUR PEOPLE” MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

TELEVISION AND VIDEO

Feb. 2 – Watch my radio interview with Ed Schultz (taped on video) on Arizona’s anti-worker legislation – including a proposal to end collective bargaining for teachers, police, firefighters and other public employees – at <http://bit.ly/11xi9rb>. Key quote: “We need to coalesce together. We need to strategize and we need to push back. [. . .] You cannot let this be a quiet issue that goes unnoticed except in Arizona.”

Feb. 7 – Watch my CSPAN segment on why union protections and worker rights are good for the whole economy, especially when we’re talking about creating sustainable jobs, at <http://bit.ly/W5yeh8>. Key quote: “This union-bashing and this anti-union fervor, almost a frenzy, that’s going on right now, it’s a blame game. Let’s blame the unions for our economic woes. Let’s blame the immigrants for our economic woes. What that blame game does is gets us diverted into fighting among ourselves when we have common issues that we need to deal with. [. . .] Individuals at the top one percent got richer in the last ten years, and suddenly, when we find ourselves where we want to create a balance and create jobs for people who have been hurting and are unemployed or underpaid, all of a sudden [workers] become the bad guys.”

Feb. 7 – Watch my discussion with an employment attorney at a hearing of the House Education and the Workforce Committee on why a broken National Labor Relations Board hurts working people at <http://bit.ly/11xoF1g>. Key quote: “I don’t think they benefit from a dysfunctional board that cannot make decisions. Even routine, mundane decisions cannot be made during this period. That to me seems to be really bad public policy.”

Feb. 8 – Watch my speech on the floor of the House of Representatives on my continued support for unemployment benefits for those hit hard by the economic downturn at <http://bit.ly/XBnSYb>. Key quote: “It is time the Republican majority brought a real jobs plan to this floor that will create real jobs and put the American people to work. When they’re working, our economy is fine. When they’re working, our small businesses are fine. Rather than acknowledge these facts

and these realities, Republicans in Congress seem intent on blaming the unemployed for unemployment.”

Feb. 13 – Watch my interview with MSNBC’s Martin Bashir on President Obama’s fiscal year 2013 budget and conservative opposition to job creation investments at <http://bit.ly/13zSjBr>. Key quote: “The priority has to be the extension [of unemployment benefits]. We’ve said all along we’re in an emergency situation.”

March 7 – Watch my remarks at a Washington, D.C., press conference on mortgage reform and keeping people in their homes at <http://bit.ly/wwAjas>. Key quote: “Right now in Arizona, forty-eight percent of homeowners – nearly half – are underwater and facing the prospect of losing their homes, facing the prospect of foreclosure. Meanwhile, the Federal Housing Finance Agency has failed to require those servicers, not only in Arizona but across the country, to reduce those principals. Today part of the reason we’re here is to require Director DeMarco and the agency to take immediate steps to reduce that principal for American homeowners. If the director is unable to, he should step aside and let someone come in with the foresight and courage not to be afraid of or kowtow to the big banks and financial institutions that have made millions and billions of dollars from the hardship of American homeowners and American families.”

June 27 – Watch my speech on the floor of the House about the need for clean elections and getting money out of politics at <http://bit.ly/MUkN1u>. Key quote: “Money has taken over our political process. Big corporations and high-rolling political schemers tell us everything is still mom and apple pie, and there’s nothing to worry about. But some of us have seen the effects of these secret million-dollar donations. We’ve seen the ads that tell you what to think – without telling you who’s talking. We’ve seen the multi-million-dollar lawsuits that help elite corporate interests – without explaining who’s paying the bill. We’ve seen more and more elections bought and paid for by the only people who can afford it. They’re not us. Today it’s time to start naming names and asking why these people won’t tell us who they are. Today we fight back and ask them what they have to hide.”

June 28 – Watch my remarks at the press conference outside the Supreme Court minutes after the Affordable Care Act was ruled constitutional at <http://bit.ly/M97hJt>. Key quote: “Today is a significant day for the American people. The Supreme Court, by ruling the Affordable Care Act constitutional, has provided us with a fundamental right that everyone in this country should have health care. [. . .] The [Republicans] next door should be happy. Today the Supreme Court declared that Romneycare is constitutional.”

July 10 – Watch my speech on the floor of the House ahead of a conservative attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act after it’s been ruled constitutional at <http://bit.ly/NmttKM>. Key quote: “The middle class, and men and women looking for work in this country, are asking ‘Where are the jobs?’ The Republican majority in the House will be responding once again by voting to take away health coverage to struggling Americans. Instead of bringing a jobs bill up, or a fair taxation bill up, we’ll be taking health care away from a very important group of Americans: the First Americans, the American Indians. By upholding health care reform the Supreme Court

decision affirmed that the permanent reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act was also part of the decision.”

Aug. 14 – Watch my remarks at an event in Tucson on protecting Social Security and Medicare at <http://bit.ly/OSsYPn>. Key quote: “What’s at stake is Social Security and Medicare, but what’s really at stake is who we are as a people in this country. The avarice that has driven the last ten years is now something that, you know, we’re beginning to realize the consequences.”

Sep. 20 – Watch my speech on the floor of the House on the importance of maintaining equal access to the ballot box for all Americans, regardless of their age, ethnicity or income, at <http://bit.ly/XBMMai>. Key quote: “This week marks the U.S. Constitution’s two hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary. Our Constitution is a product of realistic compromise and intelligent consensus – a trait, I might add, sorely missing in this chamber. [. . .] A new and dark movement is sweeping across the country. State lawmakers, pushed by corporate interests and driven by a cynical point of view that says we must deny people the right to vote in order to continue to keep our power, and we must target those groups and individuals who may not agree with our point of view.”

Nov. 13 – Watch my interview on MSNBC about the fiscal negotiations between the White House and conservative lawmakers, and the need for the richest two percent of the country to pay their fair share in taxes, at <http://bit.ly/10xsWm0>. Key quote: “There has to be revenue generation. We have to look at those top income brackets, the [top] one, two percent of this country, they have to pay their fair share. Without revenue generation we’re back to cutting our way out of this, and nobody wants those automatic cuts. [. . .] One of the top investment areas has to be job creation.”

Nov. 27 – Watch my interview on CNBC rejecting any cuts to Medicare, Medicaid or Social Security in a year-end fiscal agreement at <http://bit.ly/SbGE6E>. Key quote: “I think it would be bad, not only politically but economically, for us to turn our back on investments, for us to accept that Social Security and Medicare will be changed, that benefits will be reduced, that we’ll throw Medicare under the bus. Poor people and disabled people will get less attention to their health needs. I think that’ll create the kind of society that’s all haves and have-nots, and that’s not what we want.”

Dec. 17 – Watch my interview with MSNBC’s Martin Bashir on the need for saner gun safety laws in the wake of the Newtown school shooting at <http://bit.ly/W4HnaA>. Key quote: “It was a numbing shock. I thought the president’s comments were reassuring and comforting. I was very gratified for him to say, ‘This is enough. We’ve gone too far. We’ve reached a point of no return and something needs to be done.’ I sincerely hope we follow through on that commitment and that Congress views this issue with a much broader look.”

Dec. 19 – Watch my segment on *This Week With George Stephanopoulos* on the year-end fiscal negotiations and why conservative calls to cut social programs they oppose anyway conveniently forget the wars and tax cuts that got us where we are now at <http://bit.ly/TM7fX3>. Key quote: “When I talk to the business folk in my district, the guy who sells furniture up the street, in neighborhoods that were hit hard by this recession, they’re not asking about their tax rates,

they're looking for customers. Part of this crisis that we're talking about is about jobs and the ability for this government to put American back to work and in a secure place for their families. I really think we're ignoring the loopholes, the subsidies, all the breaks that have happened over a decade plus, and now we're asking the middle class, the elderly, the poor, to carry the brunt of mistakes that were made ten, twelve years ago."

OP-EDS AND PRINT MEDIA

April 17 – Read my op-ed in *The Hill* on why supporters of successful government programs that reduce inequality should be proud of their records at <http://bit.ly/Iy4qnz>. Key quote: "Those of us who believe we're all in this together, who stand up for Medicare, who try to create jobs and reduce poverty, and who believe war is a last resort that's pushed us deep in debt are proud of our records. Governing shouldn't be a contest between those who take the public good seriously and those who just want a megaphone for their conspiracy theories, but that's where we're at right now. Voters, and the press, should take note. Hopefully this upcoming election, and the future of this country, can be about more than repeating the McCarthy era. We're better than that."

May 17 – Read my op-ed in *The Arizona Daily Star* on the importance of community health centers at <http://bit.ly/JKZ5vx>. Key quote: "On April 17, USA Today ran a story headlined 'Community health centers under pressure to improve care.' Citing a national survey of how community health centers operate, the story laid out some of the biggest challenges these clinics face and suggested that because of the Affordable Care Act implementation schedule, addressing these challenges quickly is important. This is important for Southern Arizona in several ways. Clinics like El Rio Community Health Center in Tucson are often the best - and sometimes the only - provider of medical care for low-income families. I recently visited El Rio and sat down with some of the incredible doctors and board members who keep El Rio running. Even after 10 years in Congress, I learned a lot."

June 14 – Read the *Washington Post* coverage of [my request](#) for the National Federation of Independent Business to disclose its funding sources, given its constant legal and political activity on behalf of conservative interests, at <http://bit.ly/V7lifD>. Key quote: "Democratic Representatives Raúl Grijalva (Ariz.) and Keith Ellison (Minn.) have raised concerns that the National Federation of Independent Business has chosen to ignore the needs of small business owners in favor of 'large corporate interests that do not speak for the American people.' Citing reports that show small companies are already benefiting from health care changes, they are asking the group that calls itself 'The Voice of Small Business' to defend its central role in the lawsuit against the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which the Supreme Court is expected to rule on before the end of the month."

Nov. 27 – Read my op-ed in *The Hill* on why this country needs a New Deal-style approach to bringing our economy back to where it should be at <http://t.co/GGXdu4O0>. Key quote: "With 60 percent of voters in the CNN Election Day exit poll saying the economy is their No. 1 issue, and only 17 percent saying the same of the deficit, why can't we even have a conversation in Washington about getting the economy back on track? We can't have that conversation, apparently, because the Republican Party doesn't want to have that conversation. What jobs bills

have they put out there that would actually create jobs, instead of cutting tax rates and hoping the benefits trickle down to the rest of us? What have they said — before, during or after the election — that suggests they really get it? I can't be the only one who's noticed this.”

Nov. 28 – Read the *Tucson Weekly* coverage of my interview on fiscal negotiations on CNBC at <http://bit.ly/TZ43uq>. Key quote: “While ‘fiscal cliff’ sounds really super-scary, it really means that tax rates will return to Clinton-era rates, while some drastic cuts will occur in the federal budget. On the bright side, that will actually go a long way toward resolving the deficit that is the greatest threat to our liberty and freedom ever, according to certain GOP politicians who now seemed terrified that spending cuts and tax hikes will bring revenues in line with expenditures if the fiscal cliff is not averted. On the not-so-bright side, those tax hikes and spending cuts would eventually lead to a serious reduction in government services and a contraction in the economy, which would probably plunge the country back into a recession. Nobody wants that entire package, no matter what their rhetoric is. But the important thing to realize is that those spending cuts and tax increases wouldn't have immediate impact, unless dopes like Caruso-Cabrera manage to panic the public and the markets.”

Dec. 17 – Read the *Phoenix Business Journal* coverage of my call for better gun safety regulations in the wake of the Newtown school shooting at <http://bit.ly/XBVMMA>. Key quote: “Grijalva called for some new actions on who can obtain guns in the wake of the Connecticut killings. He also referenced the 2011 shooting spree in Tucson that killed six, including U.S. District Court Judge John Roll, and severely wounded former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. ‘The scandalous availability of highly lethal weapons to even the least qualified, least competent and most dangerous among us has gone on long enough,’ said Grijalva, whose district includes Tucson, Yuma and Nogales and some parts of the West Valley. ‘If pro-gun activists will not negotiate in good faith, it is time for the country to move on without them.’ Grijalva’s comments were the strongest on either side of Arizona’s political aisle in the wake of Friday’s horrific events. Other Arizona elected officials -- ranging from U.S. Rep. Trent Franks, R-Ariz., to Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton, a Democrat -- issued statements of condolences and prayers for the victims’ families and loved ones. The children killed Friday in Connecticut were 6 and 7 years old.”

Dec. 19 – Read the *Yuma Sun* coverage of a \$457,000 federal grant to establish a mobile pediatric health unit in the Yuma area at <http://bit.ly/TZ6Wvf>. Key quote: “Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva congratulated Sunset on the grant. In a letter of support, Grijalva noted that Sunset offers care to the permanent Yuma-area community as well as seasonal and migrant farmworkers speaking both English and Spanish. ‘Sunset provides culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate health care and patient advocacy services to the general community as well as the migrant and seasonal farmworker community of Yuma County,’ Grijalva said. ‘The Sunset School-Based Healthcare Program not only enables children with acute or chronic illness to attend school, but also provides convenient health screenings and access to Sunset CHC clinics for the entire family.’ He added that families in Yuma County face severe economic, socio-cultural and linguistic barriers to health care access.”

IMMIGRATION AND FOREIGN POLICY



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Whether we look just over our own borders or thousands of miles away, we need policies that improve our relationships with other countries and make us stronger as a nation in the world community. We've seen the disastrous human cost of starting wars with no end in sight, and we've seen the terrible economic and social costs of punishment-first immigration policies that do nothing to help unify American society.

Southern Arizonans have paid more than \$776.9 million for the war in Afghanistan since 2001, and it hasn't made their lives better or their jobs more secure. According to calculations explained at CostOfWar.com, the money spent on the war by Arizona's now-former Seventh Congressional District could have paid for:

- 14,760 Elementary School Teachers for One Year
- 93,988 Head Start Slots for Children for One Year
- 281,558 Households Converted to All Solar Energy for One Year
- 101,249 Military Veterans Receiving VA Medical Care for One Year
- 10,476 Police or Sheriff's Patrol Officers for One Year
- 139,987 Students receiving Pell Grants of \$5550 for One Year

As we work to make the twenty-first century a success story of peace and stability, we don't just need to make better decisions – we need to update our perspective on the rest of the world. Our foreign and immigration policy has to focus right now on three main areas:

Immigration Reform – Our bottom line has to be what works best for us as a nation. Instead of building Fortress America and wasting money on unworkable sensor systems, we need comprehensive immigration reform that creates a system for earned citizenship, updates the agricultural worker visa program, allows undocumented students and soldiers to continue making a

life here after serving their communities, and addresses the other crucial human needs that border fences and expensive radar nets will always miss.

Afghanistan – If we want to bring peace to this troubled nation, we need to lend material assistance in building basic infrastructure and help poor communities establish the roads, schools, hospitals and police stations they need. We also need to let local decision-making reassert itself wherever possible. The central government is weak because it has no constituency.

Peace and Security – The U.S. must send an unequivocal message that we respect the right of all people to protest undemocratic governments and demand accountability from their leaders. It is in the security interest of the United States, as well as a moral imperative, to ensure that peaceful protesters and citizens calling for democracy are not shot, gassed or otherwise attacked with weapons made in America. We need real diplomacy before the shooting starts, and that means cultural and social exchanges and an investment in peace-building. Building up the military to unsustainable levels is not a foreign policy.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Federal immigration policy has suffered from some of the same mistakes that drew us into unwinnable wars abroad. Rather than appreciating the reasons people come here, and trying to ensure the unification of immigrant families already living in the United States, too many state and federal lawmakers have taken an “attack first” approach that has hurt Arizona’s economy and is undermining the legitimate labor force in states across the country.

In 2012, President Obama took an important step toward ending the senseless punishment of young people who find themselves without legal status through no fault of their own. Thanks to his executive order, certain DREAM Act-eligible students (the children of undocumented parents who arrived here when they were very young) were granted “deferred action” – protection from deportation – and many were issued work permits. Since implementation began in mid-August, nearly 180,000 applications have been accepted for consideration, and more than 4,500 eligible youth have received deferred action. While deferred action is a fair and appropriate short-term approach, it does not eliminate the need for a more thorough and permanent policy fix.

Our goal must be to create an immigration system that serves our economic, security, and humanitarian interests. Such a system must combine tough border and workplace enforcement with practical reforms that promote economic growth, protect workers, and reunite immediate family members. We have to establish a realistic program to require undocumented immigrants to register with the government while creating legal immigration channels that are flexible and curtail future illegal immigration.

Pointless state-level crackdowns are no substitute for real leadership. In June, the Supreme Court largely struck down SB 1070, Arizona’s unconstitutional law that many of us recognized as an

extremist attempt to undermine our core values. We need Congressional leadership and a national fix, not freelancing ideologues who make things worse for purely political reasons.

Legislation I Have Co-Sponsored

Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act – Current immigration law punishes the highly motivated children of undocumented parents just for pursuing the American dream. These children have no say in their parents’ decision to come to this country illegally, but they are routinely denied basic civil and legal protections. I am a co-sponsor of the DREAM Act because it would restore the American ideal of equal opportunity for young people who attend school or serve in the military, regardless of the status of their parents.

Reuniting Families Act – This bill reduces family immigration visa backlogs and promotes the humane and timely reunification of immigrant families. Family members often wait too long to be reunited with their spouses, children, and other loved ones overseas. Imagine being separated from your spouse, children, and family member for years or even decades due to bureaucratic backlogs and visa quotas, and this bill becomes a no-brainer.

HELP Separated Children Act – This bill protects children and families separated by immigration enforcement actions. When parents are apprehended at homes or worksites or during minor traffic violations, it triggers a complex series of events that can end in long-term separation from their children and families. The Department of Homeland Security often does not allow parents the chance to make arrangements for their children, who sometimes end up in the state welfare system. The HELP Separated Children Act requires DHS to allow licensed social workers, case workers or local non-government organizations to screen individuals *at the time of apprehension* to determine if they have children in the United States. DHS would be required to consider the welfare of these children before making a decision regarding the detention, release, and transfer of a parent.

Letters I Have Sent, Signed or Received

SB 1070 amicus curiae to the Supreme Court, 03/27/2012 – Before the Supreme Court ruled on SB 1070, I filed a “friend of the court” brief in *Arizona v. United States*. The *amicus curiae*, co-signed by 67 of my House colleagues, argued that the law is unconstitutional because, as courts have held consistently, federal immigration law pre-empts any state-level standards. In June, the Supreme Court agreed that much of the law was unconstitutional.

Letter to Attorney General Eric Holder, 05/10/2012 – This letter urges Mr. Holder to investigate allegations of lethal abuse by Customs and Border Protection agents in the case of Anastasio Hernandez Rojas, who died after being beaten at the U.S.-Mexico border. You can learn more about this case at <http://huff.to/V7m8Ji> and elsewhere.

Letter to Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, 7/31/2012 – This letter urges the Department of Homeland Security to support the inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered partners and spouses of U.S. citizens in its use of prosecutorial discretion.

Letter to President Obama, 7/18/2012 – This letter expresses appreciation for deferred action for young child arrivals and urges the president to fix our broken immigration system by enacting comprehensive immigration reform.

AFGHANISTAN

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

I am proud to have urged a quick military exit from Afghanistan from the beginning. It is easy after years of military and civilian casualties and hundreds of billions of dollars we couldn't afford to say we should bring our troops home. It was harder in 2003 to stand up to hawkish rhetoric and ask, "What are we really doing here?" Thanks to hundreds of years of foreign invasions, Afghans share a deep-seated mistrust of outside military powers and were never eager for us to stay. Our policies and war planning never accounted for this – an expensive blunder we can never make again.

The damage to the U.S. economy, and to Afghanistan as a whole, has been tremendous. More than 2,000 American service members have lost their lives and 18,000 have been wounded. The nearly \$600 billion cost to our country has been a drag on an entire generation growing up with unnecessarily limited economic prospects.

Polls show that more than 66 percent of Americans, on a bipartisan basis, believe it's past time to end our combat role and bring our troops home. I will continue to work to ensure an accelerated transition of security responsibility to the Afghan government and bring our troops home as soon as can be safely and responsibly accomplished.

Events I Held or Attended

Congressional Border Ad-Hoc Hearing, 02/10/2012 – I traveled with a delegation from the House of Representative to Tucson and Nogales for an ad hoc field hearing on border policy. The hearing focused on a comprehensive border security strategy that simultaneously protects our national security, facilitates trade, and manages our natural resources. We heard from local experts and stakeholders and took what we learned back to Washington to share with our colleagues. Participating members included Reps. Luis Gutierrez (D-Ill.), Silvestre Reyes (D-Texas) and Michael Honda (D-Calif.).

Community Forums on President Obama's New Immigration Enforcement Plan – I hosted a series of community forums throughout the latter part of 2012 for students, families, education leaders, non-profits and others interested in President Obama's new immigration enforcement policy. The purpose was to make every resource available to DREAM Act-eligible students during the deferred action process. I held forums in Tucson, Phoenix, Nogales and Somerton.

Legislation I Have Sponsored

Act for the 99% – Among other things, this bill states that it is the policy of the United States to ensure that funds made available for operations of the Armed Forces in Afghanistan are to be used only for providing for the safe and orderly withdrawal of all U.S. military personnel and DOD contractor personnel.

Legislation I Have Co-Sponsored

Afghanistan Exit and Accountability Act – This bill would require President Obama to present a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan with a clear date for their departure.

Cost of War Act – This bill directs the Secretary of Defense to post on the public website of the Department of Defense the cost to each American taxpayer of each of the wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya.

Letters I Have Sent, Signed or Received

Letter to President Barack Obama, 05/16/2012 – This letter urges the president to announce an accelerated transition of security responsibility to the Afghan government and security forces and the expedited withdrawal of our troops from Afghanistan at the then-upcoming NATO summit in Chicago.

Letter to President Barack Obama, 12/5/2012 – This letter urges the president to accelerate a withdrawal to end the war and safely and responsibly bring home our troops.

PEACE AND SECURITY

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

“Made in the USA” has always meant pride in America’s ingenuity and commitment to prosperity at home. But when it’s printed on tear gas canisters hurled at peaceful protesters, it reminds the rest of the world that we haven’t shied away from selling weapons to repressive governments. The world has watched as peaceful protesters have been injured and killed in democratic uprisings around the globe. According to estimates by the Control Arms Campaign, one person dies every minute as a result of armed violence, with thousands more abused and injured daily.

An Amnesty International report found “the United States, Russia, and several European countries supplied large quantities of weapons to repressive governments in the Middle East and North Africa before the uprisings that began [in 2011], despite evidence of a substantial risk that they could be used to commit serious human rights violations.” As an undisputable world leader, the U.S. must send an unequivocal message that we respect the right of all people to protest peacefully and demand accountability from their governments.

Legislation I Have Introduced

Arms Sale Responsibility Act – This bill prohibits military assistance and arms sales transfer to countries that do not respect human rights or are engaged in gross violations of internationally recognized human rights. The Administration would be required to compile an annual list of countries not meeting these requirements for military assistance and arms transfers and make the list available to Congress and the international community.

Letters I Have Sent, Signed or Received

Letter to Secretary of State Clinton and UN Ambassador Rice, 6/29/2012 – This letter urges Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and UN Ambassador Susan Rice to ensure the U.S. plays a leadership role in the negotiation of the Arms Trade Treaty and pushes for the highest possible arms control standards to reduce the violence caused by the proliferation of conventional arms.

“IMMIGRATION AND FOREIGN POLICY” MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

TELEVISION AND VIDEO

Feb. 10 – Watch my speech at an immigration reform event in Tucson at <http://bit.ly/13zSjBr>. Key quote: “All the discussion that’s going on about immigration in Washington is on surface stuff. We’re going to get what we got in the last few elections, where immigration, the DREAM students, the people who have needed opportunity, the unification of families, the level of deportations, the detention conditions – we’re going to get a surface discussion that says, ‘Well, it’s a political wedge issue, they asked for it, they deserve it, so the heck with it.’ That’s one level of the discussion, and it’s been used like a hammer.”

March 27 – Watch my and other lawmakers’ remarks at a press conference on our *amicus curiae* brief to the Supreme Court arguing that SB 1070 is unconstitutional (an argument the court largely upheld) at <http://bit.ly/HiCaWP>. Key quote: “My state has been through a lot of machinations, divisiveness, heartburn and heartfelt suffering on the part of many people for the lack of immigration reform in this country. SB 1070 is not going to ease that heartbreak. It is not going to clarify the law. As long as we do not understand this is a national policy we’re dealing with that we must enact, laws like 1070 will continue to sprout up.”

March 28 – Watch my *PBS NewsHour* debate with Republican Rep. Pete Roskam of Illinois on the Affordable Care Act and the need to offer more Americans quality health coverage at <http://bit.ly/GZjdYi>.

March 28 – Watch my speech on the floor of the House of Representatives on the Progressive Caucus budget plan, which puts millions of Americans back on the job and reverses the damaging, indiscriminate cuts from social programs that have already hurt our economy, at <http://bit.ly/HniKkf>. Key quote: “Our budget, the progressive budget, the Budget for All, reintroduces something fundamental to the American people: values and the moral imperative

that has made us a great nation. Our budget is about fairness in burden and fairness for all. There should be no privileged group that receives forty to fifty percent of the benefits from tax cuts.”

April 19 – Watch my interview on MSNBC about immigration and other issues important to American Latinos, and the perils of Congress ignoring them, at <http://bit.ly/J3UbKY>. Key quote: “For [Mitt] Romney to push the reset button and say all the things that were said during the primary, during those debates, not only on immigration but other issues critical to Latinos in this country – education, opportunity, jobs – that reset button is going to be very difficult.”

April 25 – Watch my interview with MSNBC’s Al Sharpton on the Supreme Court hearing on SB 1070, ahead of the ruling, at <http://bit.ly/IoZteZ>. Key quote: “I think so much is at stake in this. It’s a precedent for the nation. If this law is upheld, the predictions about what it will do across this nation I think have been underestimated. The latitude states will have not only to write immigration laws but, quite frankly, to get away from the Supremacy Clause of the Constitution I think is a very, very dangerous precedent for society and legally doesn’t uphold our Constitution.”

April 26 – Watch my radio interview on the Randi Rhodes show (taped for video) about the real reasons SB 1070 was passed in Arizona and the powerful interests behind it at <http://bit.ly/W4mMmM>. Key quote: “ALEC [the American Legislative Exchange Council] is responsible. The private prison industry is responsible. Some of the top advisers to Brewer, what a coincidence – now that we have this harsh 1070, suddenly there’s a demand for more detention areas at a state level. And guess what: all the prisons that have been built recently, under Brewer and even before Brewer, are all private prisons.”

June 15 – Watch my interview on MSNBC’s *Politics Nation* applauding President Obama’s new immigration enforcement policy at <http://bit.ly/KH9E6n>. Key quote: “I think it’s historic. I’m very proud of this president. I respect his decision. He used political capital, and some say took a risk. But this was humanitarian, it was necessary, and it’s good policy. I’m not only appreciative, I’m very, very proud of this president.”

June 18 – Watch my remarks on conservative opposition to President Obama’s immigration reform executive order and why it’s not likely to last long at <http://bit.ly/NItHIM>. Key quote: “I just think the practical reality of who it helps is unbelievable. The symbolic breaking of the ice in terms of immigration reform in this country is much deeper than that. [. . .] On a very personal note, when my dad came here to work many years ago – I was fortunate enough to be born in this country – if you asked him why, he’d say he did it so his kids and his family could have it better. Simple as that. It’s as American as any aspiration any American has.”

June 25 – Watch my reaction to the breaking news of the Supreme Court striking down most of Arizona’s SB 1070 law on MSNBC at <http://bit.ly/Y7Y22e>. Key quote: “What concerns many of us is the ruling on section 2(b), the show-me-your-papers section, which I think is also unconstitutional and will lead to a pattern of application – as we’ve seen in Maricopa County with Sheriff Arpaio – that will be discriminatory and filled with racial profiling. [. . .] I wish the court would have struck down [the entire law]. That would have been consistent and a really

strong affirmation that Congress should do its job and come up with something humane and effective in terms of immigration reform for the entire nation.”

June 25 – Watch my interview on MSNBC’s *The Ed Show* reacting to the Supreme Court ruling invalidating most of Arizona’s unconstitutional SB 1070 law at <http://bit.ly/LdRuVr>. Key quote: “This law was delusional when it began, and unfortunately our governor continues to be delusional. [. . .] Other than myself and Congressman Pastor, we’ve been consistently for bipartisan immigration reform and the DREAM Act, there’s not one Republican in our delegation, including our senators, that has helped in that bipartisan effort. In fact, those people have set up barriers.”

July 19 – Watch my speech on the floor of the House against excessive cuts to food assistance in the farm bill at <http://bit.ly/MMbUnl>. Key quote: “This is at a time when one in seven American families depend on some supplemental food assistance. As the Republican majority fiddles away, we know there’s a crisis.”

OP-EDS AND PRINT MEDIA

June 28 – Read my op-ed in *The Yuma Sun* on why I remain proud of having opposed SB 1070 from the beginning of the debate at <http://bit.ly/MCai28>. Key quote: “To those responsible for this law and all its tragic consequences, and to many others who preferred not to take a stand, I’ve been a convenient target. They’ve tried to convince the public that by sticking up for equal rights and the Constitution, I’ve stood in the way. They said that by choosing the right way instead of the easy way, I was hurting the state. Their message — Gov. Jan Brewer’s message, Joe Arpaio’s message — is sounding more hollow by the minute. They should apologize to the state and the country for the damage they’ve done.”

June 30 – Read the *Arizona Republic* coverage of my immigration policy forum in Phoenix at <http://bit.ly/13APvE8>. Key quote: “U.S. Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Ariz., held his first of several community forums Saturday for people interested in learning more about recently announced immigration-enforcement policy. Earlier this month, President Obama announced a policy allowing illegal immigrants younger than 30 years old to apply to stay in the United States without being deported for two years. They can apply for a work permit, but still will not have any legal status in the country. Those illegal immigrants must prove they were younger than 16 when they arrived in the U.S. and have lived here for at least five years. They also must be students, high-school graduates, have GEDs or have been honorably discharged from the military or Coast Guard. Those undocumented immigrants with felony or significant misdemeanor criminal records or who pose a threat to national security or public safety are not eligible. ‘It reminds us of how we’ve all lived in this country and want to be a part of this,’ he told *The Republic*. ‘We’re talking about kids, who for all intents and purposes, are Americans.’”

Sep. 12 – Read my op-ed in *The Hill* on why attempts to pander to Latinos without taking their issues seriously will always backfire at <http://bit.ly/U7IfsX>. Key quote: “I remember in 1996 when Bill Richardson, making the media rounds at that year’s Democratic National Convention, said the Latino vote would be key to reelecting Bill Clinton. Even 16 years ago, candidates wrote off Latinos at their peril, but his analysis felt a little too far ahead of the curve. After this year’s

convention — now that millions of voters and the entire political world know the name Julian Castro and countless other Latino elected and community leaders — we can say the Latino vote is here for good, and it is here for big stakes. There have been plenty of announcements, plenty of arrivals and plenty of breaking-out parties. That process is over. The curtain has fallen. If anyone doubts that Latinos will be a big part of our political future, this election is going to be a very big wake-up call.”

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Congress has a responsibility to promote a clean and healthy environment. Unfortunately, 2012 under the Republican majority in the House of Representatives was more about holding the line than advancing new protections. In the face of constant anti-environment votes offered by the conservative majority, I stuck by the principles that brought to me to Congress and voted for a sustainable future for Arizona and the entire country.

In my role as the top Democrat on the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands – which has been renamed the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulations for the 113th Congress – I’ve had the honor of helping to set policy and manage the millions of acres of federal lands and waters that make up the American landscape. I’ve spent the past year especially focusing on improving access to public lands, especially for underserved communities. My work on the environment can be broken down into four broad categories:

Enhancing America’s Public Lands – One of my top priorities is making sure American taxpayers are able to enjoy the land held in the public trust and ensuring they get fair value for the resources private companies extract from that land.

Preserving Arizona – One of my greatest responsibilities is promoting the responsible stewardship of the environment and natural resources throughout our state.

Climate Change and Renewable Energy – We have to provide good economic conditions for investment in renewable energy and take other steps to end our dependence on fossil fuels.

Clean Air and Water – If we want to leave a livable world behind for our children, we have to provide clean air, clean water and a clean environment for all Americans.

ENHANCING AMERICA’S PUBLIC LANDS

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

I continue to press Congress for the funding necessary to maintain and improve our public lands. In 2012 I signed several letters to key policymakers that called for funding for important conservation initiatives, for full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and for adequate funds for the nation’s wildlife refuges, among other projects.

Beyond funding conservation efforts, we have to make sure American taxpayers get fair value for resources extracted from public lands. Billions of dollars in resources are removed from publicly owned land in the United States each year, but little of that money goes to the public treasury. Because of the antiquated Mining Law of 1872, taxpayers receive no federal royalties on the value of “hardrock” minerals, including gold and copper, extracted from the thousands of mines operating on land owned by the U.S. government.

Oil companies – which report new record profits seemingly every year – pay a royalty of 12.5 percent on the value of oil they remove from federal onshore property and 18.75 percent for offshore extraction. Mining companies should pay their fair share as well. Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M.) and I recently asked the Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of Congress, to study the value of minerals extracted from federal lands. The results were shocking: because no royalty is charged for these resources, there is no available data on the quantity or value of hardrock minerals mined on our public lands. GAO experts found that after accounting for loopholes and enforcement issues, the actual rate paid by oil companies is closer to 8 percent. Current policy does not maximize public benefits, and I look forward to using the results of this study to modernize our mining and drilling laws in the 113th Congress. The media coverage of this report is available at the end of the “Media Highlights” section.

Legislation I am Cosponsoring and Programs I Support

National Heritage Area Act of 2012 – The Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area has helped revitalize downtown Yuma and is an excellent example of how the federal government can partner with local organizations to promote both economic prosperity and the conservation of historic and cultural resources. This bill would establish a nationwide system of National Heritage Areas so other communities across the country can benefit as much as Yuma. It would also make sure the Heritage Area in Yuma continues to receive the funding it needs to succeed.

National Park Service 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act – In 2012 we celebrated the centennial of what has been called America’s greatest idea: the National Park System. This legislation instructs the Treasury to mint a commemorative coin in honor of this hallmark occasion. All proceeds from the sale of the coin go to help fund projects across our National Parks.

Invasive Fish and Wildlife Prevention Act – Increased mobility and trade between nations has increased the availability of products and produced a higher standard of living for many people around the world. This increase in global traffic also has its drawbacks, including an upswing in noxious invasive species that crowd out native species and damage fragile ecosystems. This legislation permits the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to issue necessary regulations to deal with this growing problem.

National Park Service Study Act of 2012 – Our national parks honor the best of our country, celebrating its natural beauty, storied history, and varied culture. Adding new parks to the system is an important aspect of the conservation legacy left behind by the visionaries who created the first parks. This bill authorizes the National Park Service to study several sites, including sites in Colorado and New Mexico, for inclusion into the park system.

A bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes – This bill speaks for itself. America’s wild horses are a natural legacy that we must honor and respect. Protecting wild horses is always a priority, and this bill guarantees accountability for those who violate the Horse Protection Act.

CONSERVING ARIZONA

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Arizona is home to some of the most iconic landscapes in the entire United States. The Grand Canyon, the Painted Desert, Saguaro National Park and Coronado National Forest, just to name a few, attract millions of visitors each year and hold a special place in the hearts of the American people.

One of my main focuses in 2012 was the proposed Rosemont copper mine in the Santa Rita Mountains. A Canadian company with no mine operations experience hopes to start a massive open pit mine in the middle of one of Southern Arizona’s premier natural wonders. Local residents rely on ecotourism, agriculture, and other sustainable activities for their livelihood, and Rosemont has never shown much interest in protecting the local economy from the mine’s likely impacts. Throughout the year I fought to make sure Rosemont conducts an honest and thorough environmental assessment. On Feb. 7th and Aug. 14th I sent letters to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack urging a serious review of the company’s claims and a formal, up-to-date Environmental Impact Statement that reflects recent major changes to the company’s mining plan of operation.

Separately, El Paso Natural Gas is trying to build a new 60-mile pipeline through the pristine Altar Valley southwest of Tucson in order to export natural gas to Mexico. The project, called the Sasabe Lateral Natural Gas Pipeline, is opposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages Altar Valley's Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, and by local U.S. Customs and Border Patrol officials. In November 2012, I wrote to Homeland Security Secretary (and former Arizona governor) Janet Napolitano to ask her to consider the security implications of a pipeline that would create a bulldozed and clearly marked smuggling route through the U.S.-Mexico border.

Earlier in the year, I wrote the Department of Energy to make sure they consider environmental impacts when they approve proposals to export natural gas from the United States. The letter asked for a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that examines the impact of increased fracking and natural gas drilling activity that would accompany increased exportation.

Legislation I Have Introduced

Depleting Risk from Insect Infestation, Soil Erosion, and Catastrophic Fire Act – Major wildfires have damaged sensitive natural areas all over our state. Federal land managers need new tools to prevent fires and mitigate the damage when they do occur. This bill gives federal agencies management authority to handle invasive insects that create fuel for fires and authorizes assistance grants to landowners dealing with the effects of wildfires. The legislation also extends Good Neighbor Authority so state and federal agencies can work together to address wildfires.

Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness Act – The Tumacacori Highlands are one of Southern Arizona's most rugged and remote locations. Designating the area as wilderness, the strongest protection given to federal land, will conserve its characteristics and guarantee that it remains unchanged. This is a proposal I will continue to promote until it becomes law.

Letters I Have Sent, Signed or Received

Letter from the Air Force Civil Engineer, 01/12/2012 – This letter announces the public comment period for a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the potential siting of an F-35 training group in Tucson or various other locations around the country.

Letter to Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge Manager Sidney Slone, 02/02/2012 – This letter urges Mr. Slone to honor his commitment to share a record of decision on a Draft Environmental Assessment of the pronghorn recovery program with concerned environmental groups.

Letter for Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, 08/14/2012 – This letter explains why recently proposed changes to the Rosemont Mine operating plan should mean the completion of a new environmental impact statement before final approval.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The minority opinion of some conservatives that humans have nothing to do with climate change has steered our national energy policy in the wrong direction. Throughout 2012, in Natural Resources committee hearings and floor debates, I remained committed to shedding light on climate change and what we can do to reduce our greenhouse gas output. On Feb. 22 I sent a letter to House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rep. Doc Hastings (R-Wash.) and Ranking Member Rep. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) calling for a hearing on whether Interior Department employee Indur Goklany may have received improper payments from an outside group that promotes denial of human contributions to climate change. If outside organizations are allowed to corrupt certain government science efforts, the public will lose confidence in the good work of many of the government's top researchers and policymaking will suffer.

The U.S., as a world leader and responsible neighbor, has to take a strong stance internationally and commit to significant international carbon emission standards. In 2012 I signed a letter asking for robust climate research funding at the federal level. Mitigation and adaptation are not possible without adequate science to back policy decisions we make in Congress.

The debate over whether to build the Keystone XL Pipeline from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico through the Midwest was one of the most important environmental issues of the year. Production of oil from tar sands, which are prevalent in Canada, generates three to five times the carbon of standard oil refinement. I sent President Obama a letter in February to thank him for his decision to put construction on hold so more information could be gathered. Building a pipeline of this magnitude can't be undone, and we shouldn't rush to judgment.

Ending the special tax treatments and loopholes now given to highly profitable oil and gas companies would generate more than \$50 billion over the next 10 years for the treasury and should be included in any long-term financial legislation for the country. In November I signed a letter to President Obama and Speaker Boehner asking that an end to these subsidies be included in the year-end fiscal negotiations.

Just as our national energy policy needs some long-term planning, Arizona is poised to benefit even more from the solar energy boom if we think creatively and make wise investments. With the support of the Department of Energy and Department of the Interior, solar energy projects have been growing throughout Southern Arizona. This significant contribution to our economy will continue to pay dividends as projects evolve and technology improves over time. I've been proud to support successful federal loan guarantees for projects like the Agua Caliente plant near Dateland and the Solana plant near Gila Bend, and as technology continues to improve, I'll push Congress to maintain its support for the solar industry and the jobs it's creating in our community.

Legislation I am Cosponsoring and Programs I Support

Energy Assistance for American Families Act – As we work to transition our economy away from fossil fuels, it is important that all Americans can afford the energy they need to stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer. This bill would amend the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 to authorize appropriation for the next 3 years.

Keep America's Oil Here Act – Some in Congress claim that we can drill our way to energy security, but right now there's no legal guarantee that oil drilled in the United States will stay here and benefit U.S. customers. This important legislation guarantees that oil taken from America public lands is sold to domestic consumers. We need to transition away from our heavy dependence on oil, but as long as companies are extracting it from public land, the American people should stand to benefit.

A bill to require the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to take certain actions to reduce excessive speculation in energy markets (H.R. 4457) – Oil is traded on a global market, and irresponsible speculation by financial traders is often the cause of price spikes and the high cost at the pumps. This bill gives the CFTC the authority it needs to rein in this costly behavior. I also sent a letter to Commodity Futures Trading Commission urging new rules to crack down on rampant oil market speculation.

Smarter Approach to Nuclear Expenditures Act – The SANE Act is one of the smartest pieces of legislation introduced in 2012. Its goal is straightforward and popular: limit the amount of nuclear weapons in the Department of Defense inventory. I'm proud to be counted an early supporter.

The Arizona Bureau of Land Management has started identifying fallow public land in Arizona suitable for solar development. Their **Restoration Design Energy Project** is exactly the kind of thinking we need to promote both economic development and environmental responsibility. We need more of this kind of proactive problem-solving.

At the national level, the Department of the Interior, along with the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, has prepared **the Solar Development Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)**. Much like **Restoration Design**, the PEIS identified suitable sites for solar development throughout the Western United States. I am happy to report that two of these *Solar Zones* are in Arizona. This regional analysis helps us understand the potential impacts of solar development so Congress and local officials can make informed long-term decisions.

CLEAN AIR AND CLEAN WATER

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In 2012, using the appropriations process, House Republicans tried to use a backdoor maneuver to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency from updating its interpretation of the Clean Water Act. Preventing the EPA from making these important decisions jeopardizes millions across the country and has dire impacts in Arizona. I wrote an [op-ed](#) on why this is a bad move for Arizona that was featured online at *Daily Kos*.

Separately, I wrote EPA Administrator Jackson in November to urge the agency to issue strong rules on particulate matter standards. Particulate matter – also known as soot – is a primary contributor to asthma and other health complications. Strong air quality standards save lives and reduce American families' hospital bills. I'm happy to report that the EPA on December 14th updated the national ambient air quality standard for fine particulate matter, one of the Obama administration's signature environmental achievements so far.

The Bureau of Reclamation in December released the Colorado River Basin Study, a comprehensive three-year effort to evaluate the amount and quality of water throughout the Colorado River and its surrounding environment. Based on its findings, I introduced legislation to protect the watersheds relied on by millions of Arizonans. This is an ongoing issue that requires serious engagement.

As the new year starts, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is considering allowing a new type of garbage disposal system known as a bioreactor landfill to open in Arizona. These landfills are 40 to 70 percent liquid and present a host of drawbacks that far outweigh their benefits. I've sent several letters outlining my concerns to the EPA, the agency with final say on approval, and will continue to ask the important questions about this dirty and unproven technology.

Legislation That I Cosponsor

School Environment Protection Act – Protecting schools from toxic pesticides and chemicals means protecting our children. This bill makes school districts accountable for the health of their students by requiring pest management and monitoring of the use of pesticides.

“PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT” MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

TELEVISION AND VIDEO

June 19 – Watch my remarks at a press conference to speak out against a conservative House bill to waive environmental and conservation laws along our U.S. borders at <http://bit.ly/MKBqJp>. Key quote: “This is a very dangerous precedent for all the American people, a precedent that says – in the guise of security – that we’re going to eliminate thirty-six laws that have been basic

protections for the American people. They have been basic protections for their health, their safety, and their historic and cultural presence in this country.”

July 12 – Watch my speech on the floor of the House opposing a conservative bill to give mining companies authority over hunting, fishing and recreation on public lands at <http://bit.ly/OA15bT>. Key quote: “When open pits cover the American West, tourists to Arizona may have another Grand Canyon to visit.”

July 17 – Watch my remarks at a Natural Resources Committee hearing on an attempted conservative giveaway to oil and gas companies at <http://bit.ly/Y80eqo>. Key quote: “It’s always interesting to watch the majority’s desire to give handouts to big oil run counter to their commitments to states’ rights. If this bill becomes law, areas that have previously been deemed off limits by their respective governors would be put up for lease.”

July 19 – Watch my remarks at a Natural Resources Committee hearing on conservative accusations of a conspiracy at the Office of Surface Mining at <http://bit.ly/13Auk6e>. Key quote: “All this today is about an unproposed, unwritten rule. Neither the Bush nor Reagan administrations ever made available information about decisions they have not yet made, correct? So it’s important to note that OSM is being consistent and acting in accordance with what the Bush and Reagan administrations did.”

OP-EDS AND PRINT MEDIA

May 26 – Read a *Daily Kos* post titled “Raul Grijalva stands up for the environment in Arizona” at <http://bit.ly/W5WxeK>. Key quote: “It’s good to be concerned about bringing new jobs into the area, and I get where the USW is coming from. But if the mining industry gains jobs while tourism loses, what’s the point of that? And these mining companies do not have a good record of keeping their promises about the environment and the water supply. The water out here is not something we can afford to casually mess around with. Is it that easy to believe that their mine tailings somehow won’t get rained on or that the water will just evaporate rather than wash through? If it is, I recommend observing some monsoon rains when they get here.”

May 31 – Read my op-ed at *Daily Kos* on conservative attempts to weaken the Clean Water Act in the name of economic development at <http://bit.ly/JUzOxm>. Key quote: “This is not the first time the law has been threatened, but it’s the most serious showdown in years. Since its passage the Clean Water Act has protected our streams, rivers and lakes that provide fresh drinking water and recreation for millions of Americans. Unfortunately, two confusing and misguided Supreme Court decisions handed down in 2001 and 2006 left nearly 60 percent of our country’s streams, at least 20 million acres of wetlands, and 117 million Americans’ drinking water at increased risk of pollution. The George W. Bush administration used those two decisions as an opportunity to exclude many water sources from protection and make enforcing pollution controls difficult.”

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT: GAO REPORT ON EXTRACTIONS FROM FEDERAL LAND

Sen. Tom Udall joined me in September of 2011 in asking the Government Accountability Office to study the economics of mining, oil, gas and other extractive industries on federal

property. That report, released in December of 2012, has helped change the national conversation about mining reform. For a complete rundown of our request, the report itself, and the subsequent media coverage, visit <http://1.usa.gov/VCsOZS>. A few highlights are below.

Dec. 12 – Read the *Washington Post* coverage of the issue at <http://wapo.st/SUZH6V>. Key quote: “The federal government has no idea how much gold, copper and other hard-rock minerals are being extracted from public lands each year — nor how much the minerals are worth — because the companies licensed to operate the mines pay no royalties, according to a report the Government Accountability Office will make public Wednesday. The new report, requested by Rep. Raul M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M.), could spur a renewed push to reform the 140-year-old law governing U.S. hard-rock mining. Under the General Mining Act of 1872, the government charges mining companies \$189 to locate a claim and then \$140 annually to maintain it after the first year. What the companies extract from public terrain is theirs to sell on the open market.”

Dec. 12 – Read the *Associated Press* coverage of the issue at <http://bit.ly/UTP1pQ>. Key quote: “While the U.S. government reaps billions of dollars in royalties each year from fossil fuels extracted from federal lands and waters, it does not collect any money from gold, uranium or other metals mined from the same places, Congressional auditors reported Wednesday. The federal government doesn't even know how much these so-called ‘hard rock’ mines produce from federal public lands in the 12 western states where most of the mining occurs, the Government Accountability Office report found. And there is no federal law requiring the disclosure of production figures from individual mines.”

NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Arizona's 3rd Congressional District, which I now represent after the 2010 redistricting process, is home to four sovereign tribal nations. Representing the interests of Native Americans in Southern Arizona is a major part of my job. As the relationship between the federal government and tribal nations across the country continues to evolve, it is critical to respect tribal sovereignty and engage in nation-to-nation dialogue before major federal decisions are made with lasting consequences for Native American communities.

Arizona is full of natural wonders held sacred by Native American communities, and our federal policies need to reflect that. Uranium mining near the Grand Canyon and copper mining throughout Southern Arizona are opposed by most tribal nations in these regions. The Navajo, Hopi, Hualapai and other tribal governments have banned uranium mining and processing on their lands. Each is aware of the risks to water supplies and public health posed by hardrock mining, including the ongoing development of the Rosemont mine in the Santa Rita Mountains and the proposed Resolution Copper mine near Superior. Resolution Copper – a subsidiary of

two international mining giants with troubling human rights records – seeks to build a mine adjacent to Oak Flat and Apache Leap, sites of particular cultural and religious importance to several area tribes. These projects continue to face significant tribal and popular opposition, and I have remained a proud opponent of these attempted giveaways from the beginning.

I prefer development that protects the interests of Native Americans and all Arizonans. My representation of Native American interests is guided by the following principals:

- **Sovereignty** – First and foremost, tribal nations must be recognized as sovereign entities and treated with the dignity that status deserves.
- **Consultation** – All federal actions that impact Native American land require accountable and appropriate consultation.
- **Level Playing Field** – Federal law must ensure that tribal communities have equal access to government programs and services.
- **Conservation** – We need to protect tribal cultural, religious and historical resources.

Legislation I Have Introduced

To allow the Pascua Yaqui Tribe to determine the requirements for membership in that tribe – This bill allows the Pascua Yaqui Tribe to set its own membership criteria by replacing congressionally mandated criteria that artificially limited enrollment to certain Yaqui people based on application deadlines and other requirements. It reflects the modern congressional policy of allowing federally recognized tribes to set their own membership criteria. The bill passed the House on September 19th, the Senate on December 11th, and was signed into law by President Obama on December 20.

The RESPECT Act – This bill would ensure that consultation with Indian tribes involves more than simply notifying a tribe about a planned undertaking, but entails a process of seeking, discussing, and considering the views of an affected tribe, and, where feasible, working out an agreement with the tribe regarding proposed activities and other matters. It specifically outlines the consultation procedures, as well as permitting an Indian tribe to bring a civil action in a U.S. district court if they felt that the requirements of this Act have not been met.

Pascua Yaqui Tribe Trust Land Act – This bill allows the Pascua Yaqui Tribe to exchange land for a parcel of unused public space that will allow the tribe to complete development of a long-planned golf course. By creating jobs and contributing to the economic development of the tribe, this bill fulfills the U.S. government's fiduciary responsibility to the native nations of this country. There's no reason tourism and recreation dollars should bypass Pascua Yaqui land just because Congress failed to act.

Cocopah Lands Act – This bill requires the Secretary of the Interior to take certain land in Yuma County, Arizona, into trust for the Cocopah Indian Tribe, if the Tribe transfers title of the land to the Secretary and there are no recognized environmental problems with, or adverse legal claims to, the land. It considers such land to be part of the Tribe's initial reservation.

Legislation I am Cosponsoring

The HEARTH Act of 2012 – This legislation allows tribes to lease restricted lands for residential, business, public, religious, educational, or recreational purposes without the approval of the Secretary of the Interior. It promotes greater tribal self-determination and will help create jobs in Indian Country. By allowing greater tribal control over tribal assets, it encourages economic growth, promotes community development in Indian Country, and supports tribal self-determination. President Obama signed this into law on July 30, 2012.

Stand Against Violence and Empower Native Women Act or SAVE Native Women Act – This bill amends the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to include sex trafficking as a target of the grants to Indian tribal governments to combat violent crime against Indian women. It will strengthen the capacity of Indian tribes to exercise the sovereign authority of Indian tribes to respond to violent crimes committed against Indian women, and to ensure that perpetrators of violent crimes committed against Indian women are held accountable for that criminal behavior.

A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to establish a position for a representative of Indian Tribes on the Joint Board overseeing the implementation of universal service, and for other purposes (H.R.4059) – This straightforward bill ensures that at least one member of the federal-state board that sets much of the nation’s communications policy is from a recognized Native American tribe.

“NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES” MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

TELEVISION AND VIDEO

July 10 – Watch my speech on the floor of the House ahead of a conservative attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act after it’s been ruled constitutional at <http://bit.ly/NmttKM>. Key quote: “The middle class, and men and women looking for work in this country, are asking ‘Where are the jobs?’ The Republican majority in the House will be responding once again by voting to take away health coverage to struggling Americans. Instead of bringing a jobs bill up, or a fair taxation bill up, we’ll be taking health care away from a very important group of Americans: the First Americans, the American Indians. By upholding health care reform the Supreme Court decision affirmed that the permanent reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act was also part of the decision.”

2012



MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK BETTER FOR YOU: HELP WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES

OVERVIEW

My job is to help constituents get the services and benefits they earn from the federal government. Whether it's a passport, a late Social Security check, a missed Medicare payment, an immigration paperwork request, a mortgage modification, or any other business with a federal agency, my staff and I are ready to assist. Everyone living in the Seventh Congressional District is entitled to as much help as we can provide. Call my Tucson office at (520) 622-6788, my Somerton office at (928) 343-7933, or my Avondale office at (623) 536-3388 for more information.

SAVING YOU MONEY

My office saved Southern Arizonans more than \$3.8 million this year by recovering funds, getting checks released, preventing foreclosures and helping with agencies. This figure includes assistance with Department of Labor Office of Workers Compensation claims, Social Security Administration disability claims, claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs, tax credit applications with the Internal Revenue Service, and mortgage loan modifications savings.

Money Recovered

Foreclosures	\$ 3,018,326.28
IRS	\$ 147,990.23
SSA	\$ 128,999.20
USCIS	\$ 8,345.00
USPS	\$ 800.00
VA	\$ 480,638.19
OWCP	\$ 22,150.53
DOD	\$ 26,156.58
HHS	\$ 409.60
DOE	\$ 4,475.60
OPM	\$ 18,881.39
DOS	\$ 884.00

Total [\\$ 3,858,056.60](#)

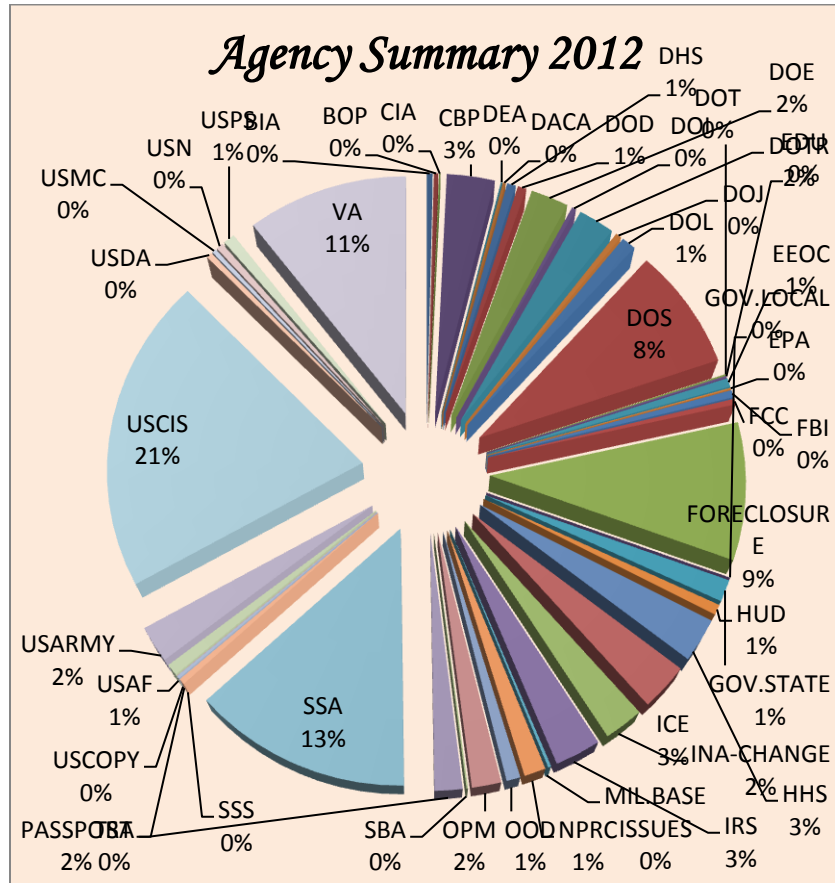
HELPING WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES

Much of my district staff time is spent helping constituents solve problems, either by contacting federal agencies on their behalf or giving advice about how best to fill out paperwork and answer questions. It was a busy year in Southern Arizona, as you'll see.

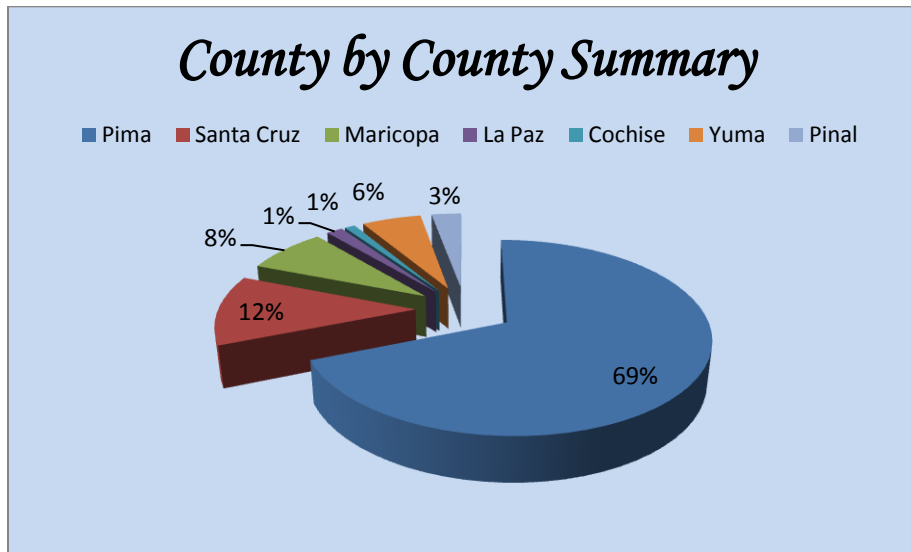
Letters and Emails Sent to Constituents

MONTH	CASEWORK LETTERS and EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE
January	312
February	311
March	387
April	200
May	332
June	330
July	222
August	380
September	275
October	820
November	197
December	-
Total	3766

COMPLETED CASEWORK REQUESTS BY FEDERAL AGENCY



COMPLETED CASEWORK REQUESTS BY COUNTY OF ORIGIN



FORECLOSURE WORKSHOP

My office held a March 10 foreclosure prevention workshop in Tucson. You can read our announcement, which has a lot of good information on the local housing market, at <http://1.usa.gov/Ax8JZr>. Here's a great rundown of who we helped and the positive feedback we received.

Overview

The Foreclosure Prevention Workshop on March 10, 2012, brought together lenders, housing counselors and homeowners to discuss mortgage reforms and ways to save families money. More than 90 percent of surveyed attendees said they benefited from attending the workshop.

This event would not have been possible without the volunteers who gave their time and effort to ensure the event ran smoothly. The workshop brought together 127 homeowners and 31 representatives from Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Chase, PNC Mortgage, Citi Group and Freddie Mac, as well as 39 housing agency representatives.

Comments from Agencies and Representatives

"I want to take this time to congratulate you on an amazing event. It was well organized. Keep up the good work!!"

Jaime Aguirre
Phoenix Housing Director | Chicanos Por La Causa Inc.

"Thank YOU for putting together such a great event!"

Gloria H. Vasquez
Director of Homeownership | Primavera Foundation

Comments From the Community

"Great for the community! We saw our neighbor here who agrees!"

"Keep it up!"

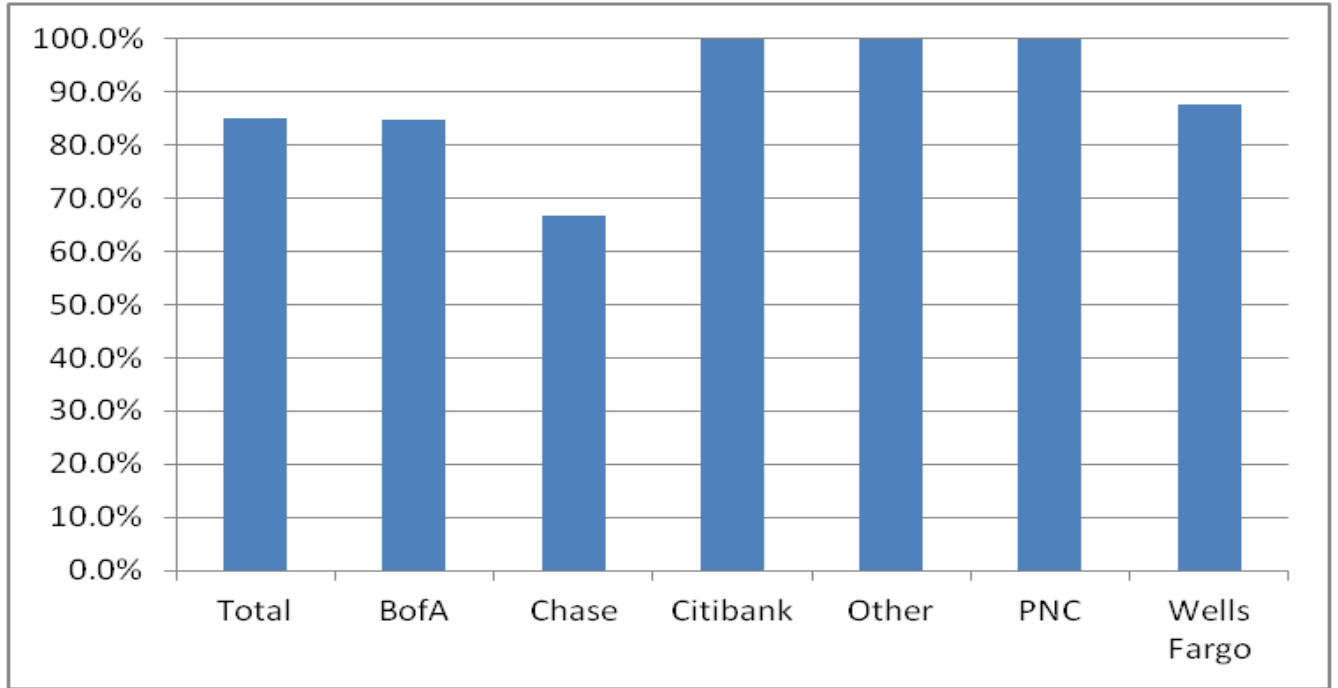
"The kindness and understanding of the representatives was much appreciated!"

"This is wonderful, I really appreciate Grijalva sponsoring this because I actually met with a real person, not just a person on the end of a phone from Citi!"

Survey Results

Q: The leaders, agency representatives and counselors present were helpful and eager to help

Attendee Response by Bank:



GETTING GOVERNMENT TO WORK FOR YOU: CONSTITUENT SERVICE SUCCESS STORIES

Constituent Services Summary – Success Stories

Department of Veterans Affairs

My office was able to assist Lupe E. in expediting her claim for dependency and indemnity compensation from the Pension Management Center. The review process typically takes about 10 months; my office was able to help expedite her request, and we ensured she started receiving her benefits after two weeks. Lupe received retroactive payment for the first two months she was denied assistance, and she has continued to receive her monthly benefit ever since. She was thankful for the assistance, and she has graciously allowed us to share her note of thanks:

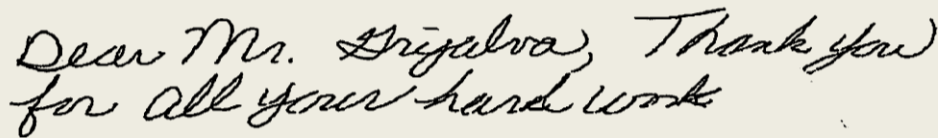
First and foremost I would like to thank you and the staff for the effort and attention that you gave into working with the Pension Management Center, not enough people know how hard Mr. Grijalva's staff works and all of you are greatly appreciated. I want you to know that your efforts are recognized by myself and my family. Samuel would be very proud to know that you are on our side as he served his country with dignity and he also died with honor and dignity.

On behalf of my family we would like to wish Congressman Grijalva and his staff a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Many thanks and God bless

Lupe E. and Family

A veteran constituent sought assistance in recouping money after being approved for service-connected disability compensation in 2010. We recovered about \$241,000, which was deposited to his financial institution in 3 weeks. He asked us to share his note of thanks:



*Dear Mr. Grijalva, Thank you
for all your hard work*

Office of Personnel Management

Mike retired in February of 2012 after 28 years of civil service, including 8 years of active duty in the U.S. Navy. He sought my office's assistance last September after unsuccessfully attempting to secure retirement benefits, including interim pay. After we contacted the Office of Personnel Management, they released \$19,991.92 in retroactive pay.

Department of Veterans Affairs

Dear Congressman Grijalva,

My name is Timothy and I reside within your district. I am currently receiving a non service connected disability pension from the Veteran's Administration. This money is a blessing because it is our only source of income for my family. My wife is also disabled and unable to work and we have 3 children under the ages of 8.

I am writing to express my deep gratitude for helping with my Veteran's and Social Security disability claims. I am a registered independent voter and I want you to know that you will have my entire families vote this up coming election.

Sincerely,

Timothy

Department of State

Mr. M.A. was a translator for the U.S. Army in Iraq. He discovered his family was in danger because of his connection to the military, so they moved here through a Special Immigrant Visa and contacted my office to get a daughter and her family out of Iraq. After 10 months of working with the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration we successfully reunited the family.

Dear Mr. Grijalva :

My wife R.A. and me want to express our sincere appreciation to you and your office for all that you and your colleagues have done to assist me and my wife and family members with regard to the arrival of our daughter, Fatima and her husband and children. I cannot express the joy we felt Tuesday night as they walked down the walkway at Tucson airport. There are no words to express our gratitude for all that you did to facilitate the arrival of our daughter.

Please also express our gratitude to your office staff who assisted in this matter. I know there were others who did their part and though they might say this “was only my job,” still what they did to assist you and us has not gone unnoticed to us. We will be always thankful for all you have done for us.

Thank you. M.A. & Family

Picture taken at Tucson International



Foreclosure Prevention

Mr. Herman M. came to my office after 3 years of trying to obtain a loan modification with Bank of America. He had submitted his financial packet multiple times, was assigned to numerous bank representatives, and had never received an accurate update on his modification request. When he came to my office he had a foreclosure sale date less than two weeks away. A bank employee had told him there was no longer anything he could do to save his home. My office immediately contacted the bank and successfully postponed the foreclosure sale date, allowing more time to submit a new financial packet. As a result, Herman was able to obtain a more affordable monthly payment and received a principal reduction of \$126,608.75.