

MARCH 2007

GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE



8th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Dear Friend,

I am proud to report that the 110th Congress has gotten off to a running start. Democrats and Republicans together passed landmark legislation on critical issues that are important to Southern Arizona and our country.

During our first few weeks we passed bipartisan legislation on ethics reform, raising the minimum wage, and implementing the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. I cosponsored and voted for those measures as well as bills to promote stem cell research, lower prescription drug prices, and cut the interest rates on student loans.

I was also appointed to three House committees: the House Armed Services Committee, the Science and Technology Committee, and the Foreign Affairs Committee.

While the 110th Congress has accomplished a great deal in our first few weeks, I remain particularly focused on one important issue: comprehensive immigration reform. I am working aggressively with my colleagues to enact meaningful reform before 2008.

I hope to see you at one of my "Congress on Your Corner" one-on-one town hall meetings in the district during the coming months. As always, please feel free to call my offices with any issues or concerns. We are here to help.

I look forward to a productive and exciting year full of real change for Southern Arizona and our country.

Sincerely Yours,

Gabrielle Giffords
Member of Congress

P.S. - Don't forget to sign up for our e-newsletter at www.giffords.house.gov so we can keep you in the loop!

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CONGRESS TAKES ACTION IN FIRST 100 HOURS

The 110th Congress had one of the most productive starts in history. Here are some of the measures that passed and information about how they will impact Southern Arizona.

Stem Cell Research (H.R. 3): Funds ten National Institute of Health research programs in Arizona's Eighth Congressional District for medical research, bringing the hope of a cure for Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and diabetes to countless patients and their families. (Passed by a 253-174 margin. **Giffords cosponsored and voted YES.**)



Affordable Student Loans (H.R. 5): Cuts in half the interest rate on student loans, making college and technical school more affordable for 21,568 students in Arizona's Eighth Congressional District. (Passed by a 356-71 margin. **Giffords cosponsored and voted YES.**)

Clean Energy (H.R. 6): Increases our nation's investments in solar energy and other renewable energy technologies, including 36 family farms in our district that would receive help in producing ethanol. (Passed by a 264-163 margin. **Giffords cosponsored and voted YES.**)



Cheaper Prescription Drugs (H.R. 4): Amends Medicare Part D to allow the government to bargain with drug companies for lower prices. Will lower drug prices for 104,451 seniors in our district. (Passed by a 255-170 margin. **Giffords cosponsored and voted YES.**)

Minimum Wage Increase (H.R. 2): Following Arizona's lead, increases the federal minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.15 an hour, which would mean a raise for 40,689 households in our Southern Arizona communities. (Passed by a 315-166 margin. **Giffords cosponsored and voted YES.**)

9-11 Recommendations (H.R. 1): Implements 9-11 Commission recommendations, including requiring intelligence agencies to share information through a Homeland Security Advisory System. This will also provide emergency equipment for 35 police and fire departments in the Eighth Congressional District. (Passed by a 299-128 margin. **Giffords co-sponsored and voted YES.**)



The Congresswoman Visits Iraq

A new member of the House Armed Services Committee, Congresswoman Giffords was invited by Arizona Senator Jon Kyl to visit Iraq and Kuwait to talk with U.S. and Iraqi military leaders and American troops.

In Iraq, she met soldiers and airmen from Fort Huachuca and the Arizona Air National Guard. She also met with Lt. Generals Petraeus and Odierno, the commanders for multinational and U.S. forces, and the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Zalmay Khalilzad, to discuss the increased violence in Baghdad and the new Iraqi security initiative.

On February 25, 2007, the *Arizona Daily Star* published Congresswoman Giffords' Op-Ed regarding the trip. Below are some excerpts:

“No matter how much I may disagree with this war, the fact is we are in it. It is real. And, as was vividly demonstrated to me on the ground, our state is doing its fair share.

As a member of Congress, I am responsible to help to make sure that our troops have what they need to be successful in their dangerous and difficult missions. I am committed to doing what's right for our troops, for our state and for our nation.

I returned from the trip even more convinced that our military – however formidable – cannot resolve this war by itself.



Congresswoman Giffords talks to Brig. Gen. Keith L. Thurgood at Camp Arifjan in Kuwait about the status of Army and Marine Corps combat equipment for the war.

This costly military effort has diverted valuable resources away from the global war on terrorism and threatened our readiness. The president's latest plan to add at least 21,000 troops is not a smart strategy. That is why I voted against it (H.Con.Res. 63). A long-term solution in Iraq must aggressively address Iraq's complex political and economic challenges.”

House leadership is negotiating the Supplemental Appropriations Budget to fund the war in Iraq; it will be coming to the Floor for a vote in mid-March.

Update on Immigration Reform in Congress

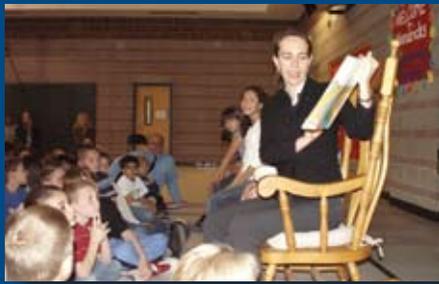
Since beginning her job in January, Congresswoman Giffords has delivered five statements to the House of Representatives about the need for comprehensive immigration reform. She has also met with local sheriffs as well as community, businesses, and religious leaders to help her craft legislation. At the beginning of March, she introduced her first immigration bill that will help Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers begin the deportation process of criminal aliens before they are released

from a state or county jail. She is also working with House leaders and Committee Chairmen on a comprehensive immigration reform package that will be moving through Congress this session. The Congresswoman remains committed to pushing for effective legislation that includes provisions for high-tech border security, more support for border patrol agents, sanctions for employers that knowingly hire illegal immigrants, compensation for border communities and a guest worker program.

Serving Southern Arizona



Congresswoman Giffords hosted a town hall meeting in conjunction with Attorney General Terry Goddard to help Tucson senior citizens learn how to protect themselves from identity theft.



Congresswoman Giffords visited Hendricks Elementary School in Marana to recognize Read Across America Day and honor Jay Stanforth, a 3rd grade teacher who is a finalist for the NEA Award for Teaching Excellence. She also announced two education summits she will hold in the district to examine the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act.



Congresswoman Giffords and Maj. Gen. Barbara Fast met with residents in Sonoita to discuss the proposed closing of the West Gate at Fort Huachuca. Together, they requested that the Department of the Army reverse its decision to immediately close the gate. Recently, Army officials announced that the West Gate will remain open 24 hours a day, seven days a week until September 30, 2007.

Congress on Your Corner



Congresswoman Giffords meets with constituents to discuss their concerns at her recent "Congress on Your Corner" event in Tucson.

Come and meet with Congresswoman Giffords to discuss federal and local issues of concern to you at an upcoming one-on-one town hall meeting near you.

Saturday, April 21st

11:30pm - 1:30pm
9460 E. Golf Links
Tucson, AZ 85730

Saturday, May 5th

10am - 12pm
12122 N. Rancho Vistoso Blvd
Oro Valley, AZ 85737

Saturday, March 24th

11:30pm - 1:30pm
2190 E. Fry Blvd
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

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Official Business

This mailing was prepared,
published and mailed at
taxpayer expense.

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PRESORTED STANDARD