



CONGRESSWOMAN HILDA L. SOLIS



Fall 2007 Update

CONGRESSWOMAN SOLIS IN THE COMMUNITY

GLOBAL WARMING FORUM AT CAL STATE LA

Congresswoman Solis hosted a forum on global warming on August 16 at Cal State Los Angeles. The event brought together 250 community advocates and residents to discuss the local impacts of global warming, efforts underway to address them, and the millions of new jobs that could be created through investment in clean technology, such as solar and wind power. Solis is a member of the House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming.

VETERANS CARE DAY AT BELVEDERE PARK

On October 6, more than 200 people attended Congresswoman Solis' 4th Annual Veterans Care Day event at Belvedere Park in Los Angeles. Representatives from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Social Security Administration, and other federal and local agencies were present to provide information about services, programs, and benefits available to veterans.

SMALL BUSINESS FORUM IN MONTEREY PARK

Congresswoman Solis hosted a Small Business Forum on September 13. Nearly 200 people attended and learned about topics such as: how to start a small business, how to raise capital, and how to access federal resources. Congresswoman Solis strongly supports federal loan assistance for small businesses, the backbone of our local economy.

TOWN HALL FORUM IN AZUSA

More than 150 people attended Congresswoman Solis' Azusa Town Hall Forum on September 13 where constituents learned about services offered by Solis' local offices, such as assistance with the Social Security Administration, Internal Revenue Service, veterans' benefits, and passports. Representatives from various local organizations also participated, including the Gas Company and Azusa Light & Water.



Dean H. Keith Moo-Young of Cal State Los Angeles shows Congresswoman Solis a solar powered electric vehicle at the Global Warming Forum she hosted in August.



Congresswoman Solis speaks at her 4th Annual Veterans Care Day event about her support of the single largest funding increase in Veterans Affairs history, which was passed by the House earlier this year.

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED BY CONGRESSWOMAN SOLIS

HEALTH DISPARITIES (H.R. 3014)

Expands access to quality health care and increases research and prevention of chronic diseases that disproportionately impact communities of color, such as diabetes and obesity.

VETERANS' HEALTH CARE (H.R. 542)

Ensures that the VA provides culturally and linguistically appropriate health services for veterans with limited English proficiency.

SAFE DRINKING WATER (H.R. 1747)

Establishes a national drinking water standard for perchlorate, a contaminant which poses significant public health risk to pregnant women and infants.

TEENAGE PREGNANCY PREVENTION (H.R. 468)

Provides grants to public and private non-profit entities for community-based efforts to promote and strengthen communication regarding teen pregnancy.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACT (H.R. 1103)

Protects low income and minority communities from the disproportionate burden of pollution and other environmental hazards.

Dear Friend:

Last November, the American people demanded a New Direction. The 110th Congress has begun to deliver, focusing on the real priorities of the American people. We have made great strides to make America more secure, create millions of new jobs, and restore accountability, integrity, and fiscal responsibility to Washington. Since January, more than 85 bills have been passed with nearly 70 percent receiving bipartisan support. However, much work remains to be done.

This newsletter provides information about the work I've been doing in Congress and at home this year. I hope you find it helpful and encourage you to visit my website at www.house.gov/solis for the latest updates on my work on behalf of the 32nd Congressional District.

Please do not hesitate to contact me about any issues or concerns you may have with the federal government.

Sincerely,

HILDA L. SOLIS
Member of Congress



Congresswoman Solis recognizes Paul Reid of Azusa Light and Water at the Town Hall meeting she hosted on September 13 at the Azusa Senior Center.

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Congresswoman Solis speaks with students at Baldwin Park High School's Environmental Career Day about her support of the largest expansion of student financial aid since the GI Bill in 1944.



Congresswoman Solis speaks with local residents about her strong support of federal loan programs for small businesses.

A NEW DIRECTION IN CONGRESS Remarkable Progress for the American People

- An investment to **train workers for "green collar" jobs in the renewable energy and energy-efficiency industries.** Congresswoman Solis authored this legislation.
- A strongly bipartisan SCHIP bill will provide **health care for 10 million American children.** Congresswoman Solis took a leading role in drafting this legislation. Unfortunately, President Bush vetoed this bill.
- The College Cost Reduction Act – the **largest expansion of student aid since the GI Bill in 1994,** increasing Pell Grant amounts and cutting interest rates in half on student loans – was signed into law on September 27. It will save the average student borrower \$4,400.
- Landmark **Lobby and Ethics Reform** was signed into law on September 14 – hailed by independent reform groups as "a sea of change for citizens."
- The **9/11 Commission Recommendations** were signed into law on August 3. The sweeping new measures to protect America from terrorism will require 100% air cargo screening, 100% screening of seaborne containers, improved first responder communications, and funding based on risk.
- The first phase of the Congress' crucial **Innovation Agenda** was signed into law on August 9 – creating 12,000 new math and science teacher scholarships, putting us on a path to double research funding, and boosting America's ability to compete in the world.
- The **first Minimum Wage Increase in a decade** took effect on July 24, giving an estimated 13 million hard-working Americans a long overdue pay raise – including the parents of 6 million children.
- Historic **Energy Independence** initiatives passed the House and Senate, reducing our dependence on foreign oil to enhance national security, create jobs, and reduce global warming.

All were done with significant bipartisan support.

GREEN COLLAR JOBS

A major national investment in renewable energy could create 3 million "green collar" jobs over a 10 year period. These jobs include green building, energy efficiency retrofit and service, and renewable energies such as wind and solar power. Jobs in these areas are good, quality jobs which can lead to self-sufficiency and prosperity through higher wages, access to benefits and more career choices.

The Green Jobs Act (H.R. 2847), introduced by Congresswoman Solis, would help train workers for jobs in the renewable energy and energy-efficient industries. It was passed by the House on August 4 as part of H.R. 3221, the New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act.



The Green Jobs Act would support programs like the one at the East Los Angeles Skills Center, where students learn how to install solar panels.

A NEW DIRECTION IN IRAQ

Congresswoman Solis opposed the Iraq War from the beginning and continues to work toward ending our involvement there.

- **U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act - H.R. 1591**
Had it not been vetoed by the President, this bill would have supported our troops and veterans, held the Bush Administration and Iraqi government accountable, and brought our soldiers home by August 2008 or sooner. It would have expanded funding for veterans' health care and hospitals and refocused military efforts on Afghanistan and fighting terrorism. Passed on March 23, 2007. Vetoed on May 1, 2007.
- **Contingency Planning for Redeployment from Iraq - H.R. 3087**
This bill requires the Department of Defense, within 60 days, to submit a report on the status of planning for redeployment from Iraq to Congress, with updated reports every 90 days thereafter. Passed October 2, 2007.
- **Ensuring Military Readiness Through Stability and Predictability Deployment Policy Act - H.R. 3159**
This bill would require active duty forces to be guaranteed that their time at home match the length of their deployment. The bill would allow the President to waive these requirements to meet national security needs. Passed August 2, 2007.
- **Responsible Redeployment from Iraq Act – H.R. 2956**
The legislation would begin the responsible redeployment of U.S. troops within 120 days and complete redeployment by April 1, 2008. Passed July 12, 2007.



Congresswoman Solis visits with West Covina police and firefighters to inspect their state-of-the-arts communications equipment. Solis secured \$494,005 in federal funding to help purchase the equipment, which will help facilitate radio communications between police officers and firefighters in the field.