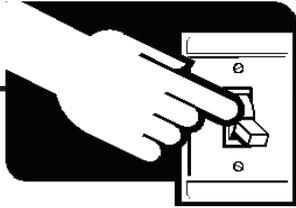


Weatherization stimulus funds, conservation ideas highlighted during 'Go Green & Save'



Energy Saving Tips

There are many ways you can reduce electricity use in your home and help reduce energy bills.

Appliances, electronics, water heater

Purchase energy-efficient products and operate them efficiently.

Lighting

Incorporate more daylighting into your home using energy-efficient windows and skylights.

Heating and cooling

Properly insulate and air seal your home.

Personal computers

Turn off the monitor if you won't be using it for more than 20 minutes. And turn off the CPU and monitor if you're not going to be using them for more than two hours.

Source: www.energysavers.gov

Facing a national economic crisis, Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, commonly referred to as the Economic Stimulus Bill, earlier this year to give the country an aggressive plan to jump start our economy and create jobs. Although the recovery period continues, this legislation has helped create or save more than 12,000 jobs in Arizona.

The recovery act also increased the investment into weatherization grants, dollars that target struggling working families with assistance in providing insulation and energy conservation measures for their homes. Simple steps such as duct sealing and weather-stripping and caulking, or more significant measures such as replacing cooling systems, can save a family hundreds of dollars on utility bills each year. One Phoenix family who went through the program immediately experienced a \$100 per month reduction in their energy bill.

WEATHERIZATION FUNDS HELP PHOENIX RESIDENTS

The City of Phoenix received \$7.2 million for its weatherization program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Congressman Ed Pastor helped residents learn about the weatherization programs and conservation ideas during his recent "Go Green and Save" event at University Public School Phoenix. The event was held as part of National Energy Awareness Month.

"Going 'green' saves money and improves your quality of life," Pastor said. "Residents learned how to put 'green' concepts to work at home in useful, inexpensive

ways that were easy to learn and incorporate. It's not hard to take steps to help save our planet and protect our future."



Congressman Ed Pastor discusses federal weatherization program funds with employees of Salt River Project utility company.

City of Phoenix Weatherization Assistance Program

Help is offered in a one-time grant to homeowners and renters. This program provides for the replacement of existing building components and improvements to reduce

energy consumption. To be eligible, a person living alone cannot make more than \$21,660 annually. A family of four people cannot make more than \$44,100

annually. More information is available by phoning 602-495-0700 or visiting the program's website at: <http://phoenix.gov/NSD/weagr.html>.

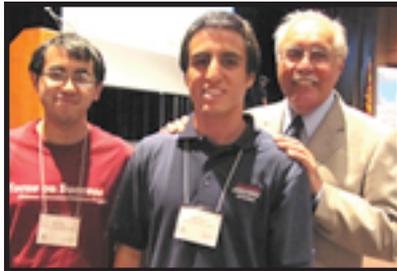
North High student named House Page

Congressman Pastor recently appointed Jordan Villa, a junior at North High School in Phoenix, as a House Page. On the right, she stands with her principal Manuel Calderon.



Rep. Pastor touts higher education

On the right, Congressman Pastor and University of Arizona scholars recently met with Phoenix high school students to discuss the importance of a college education.



Glendale seniors raise flag



Senior members of the Glendale Community Center prepare to raise an American flag they received from Congressman Pastor's Office. The flag was flown over the U.S. Capitol in the name of the Glendale Community Center.

How to contact Congressman Ed Pastor

Congressman Ed Pastor's office is in your city to serve your needs. Please keep this information handy to contact his offices for assistance.

<http://www.pastor.house.gov>

Washington Office

2465 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0302
Phone: (202) 225-4065

Phoenix District Office

411 N. Central Ave., Suite 150
Phoenix, AZ 85004
Phone: (602) 256-0551

Please send postal delivery mail to Phoenix District Office only.

Due to the threat of anthrax-contaminated mail delivered to the Capitol complex, all incoming letters to my Washington Office must be irradiated before delivery, resulting in a delay of at least three weeks. Feel free to send mail instead to my Phoenix District Office. Thanks.

✂ *Clip and save* ✂



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Ed Pastor
Congressman

WASHINGTON REPORT
Health insurance reform
November 2009

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CONGRESSMAN

Ed Pastor

WASHINGTON REPORT

Health insurance reform

INSIDE

- ▶ Stimulus funds target energy use
- ▶ GI Bill helps veterans

Fourth Congressional District - Arizona

November 2009

Health care for all Americans Delivering on a promise for affordable care

Dear Fellow Arizonans,

I have long held the belief that all Americans should have access to health care. When I first came to Congress, I authored a resolution that proposed health care as a basic right of all Americans, and I continue to hold that position. If our nation truly believes in protecting the general welfare of its population and protecting the well-being of its citizens, health care is a basic necessity.

Health insurance reform has been the major legislative focus this year and after months of discussion in Congress in various committees, the Affordable Health Care for America Act was introduced to deliver on the promise of making affordable, quality health care available for all Americans.

I hope you will take time to read this update on this proposal and my recent activities in Congress and the district. Again, please feel free to contact my Phoenix District Office with your questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Ed Pastor
Member of Congress

A group of Arizona residents recently visited Rep. Ed Pastor's Phoenix District Office to express their position on health care reform legislation.



U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor discusses education issues in Congress with Corrine Frank and Ernest Rose with the Maricopa County Regional School District.



H.R. 3962

Affordable Health Care for America Act

Highlights

- ◆ Allows those who are currently satisfied with their insurance coverage to maintain that coverage
- ◆ Ensures 96 percent of Americans will now be covered
- ◆ Ends discrimination for pre-existing medical conditions
- ◆ No dropped coverage if you become sick
- ◆ Yearly caps on what you pay
- ◆ No lifetime caps on what insurance companies pay for individuals
- ◆ Reining in health costs for families, businesses and government
- ◆ Fiscal responsibility, reducing the deficit
- ◆ Eliminating waste, fraud and overpayments to private insurance companies
- ◆ Major emphasis on innovation, wellness and prevention



Rep. Ed Pastor discusses federal issues with a constituent at a recent Phoenix event.

Analysis of benefits to 4th Congressional District

The Affordable Health Care for America Act would make health care affordable for the middle class, provide security for seniors, and guarantee access to health insurance coverage for the uninsured - while responsibly reducing the federal deficit during the next decade and beyond.

This analysis examines the benefits of the legislation in the Fourth Congressional District of Arizona, which is represented by Rep. Ed Pastor.

In Congressman Pastor's District, the Affordable Health Care for America Act would:

- » Allow 17,800 small businesses to obtain affordable health care coverage and provide tax credits to help reduce health insurance costs for up to 15,700 small businesses.
- » Improve employer-based coverage for 269,000 residents.
- » Provide credits to help pay for coverage for up to 176,000 households.
- » Improve Medicare for 58,000 beneficiaries, including closing the prescription drug donut hole for 4,800 seniors.
- » Provide coverage for 200,000 uninsured residents.
- » Protect up to 1,400 families from bankruptcy due to unaffordable health care costs.
- » Reduce the cost of uncompensated care for hospitals and health care providers by \$214 million.

Source: U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Education issues tackled



Besides health care reform, Congress has been addressing education issues to improve student success. In the photo above, Reps. Ed Pastor and George Miller, chairman of the House Committee on Education and Labor, meet in Phoenix with Gene Garcia, an ASU Vice President, and Valley educators to discuss the state of education.

Q & A

Responding to constituents' concerns on health insurance reform

Thousands of Arizonans have contacted me during the past few months to express their position on health care reform, and I appreciate their opinions and insight. Through these communications, I have heard a variety of concerns, which I address below.

PRIVATE INSURANCE PARTICIPATION WOULD INCREASE

Q: Will health insurance reform lead to a government takeover of the health care system?

A: No. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates private insurance participation would in fact increase as more Americans get insured under the legislation.

Q: Will the public health insurance option destroy the private health insurance market?

A: Rather than destroying the private insurance market, data from the CBO show that private insurance plans would actually grow during the next 10 years - with 15 million more Americans enrolled in private plans in 2019 than would be otherwise.

MEDICARE WOULD NOT BE CUT

Q: Will America's seniors be harmed by cuts in Medicare benefits and a reduction in the quality of services?

A: Nothing in the House bill would cut basic Medicare benefits. The bill targets inefficiency, fraud and waste in Medicare. In fact, the House bill would strengthen Medicare by lengthening solvency by five years, closing the donut hole, lowering costs for preventative services for seniors, and expanding the medical workforce so seniors have more doctors to choose from. The nonprofit and nonpartisan American Association of Retired Persons, or AARP, has endorsed the bill.



Congressman Ed Pastor discusses federal issues, including health care, with Jesse Victor of Phoenix.

HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM WOULD NOT ADD TO DEFICIT

Q: Will the House bill increase the federal deficit for future generations to come?

A: Health insurance reform would not add to the deficit. According to the CBO, the House bill would reduce the deficit by \$30 billion during the first 10 years and would continue to reduce the deficit during the second 10 year period.

BILL BENEFITS SMALL BUSINESSES

Q: Will it harm small businesses by making them cover workers and by imposing large tax increases?

A: No. The House bill is good for small businesses and for working Americans - allowing them access to affordable large group rates and plans with better benefits.

NO BENEFITS FOR UNDOCUMENTED INDIVIDUALS

Q: Will the House bill provide health benefits for undocumented workers and their families?

A: Taxpayers would not fund health care for undocumented workers. The House bill explicitly states that nothing shall allow federal payments for affordability credits "on behalf of individuals who are not lawfully present in the United States."



A constituent learns about services Congressional offices offer from Community Liaison E. Mari Herrera-Daniels.

Supporting, honoring our veterans and their families

New GI Bill

Educating our nation's veterans is a commitment we should keep to our courageous troops for their service to our country. They have earned the right to a bright future when they return home.

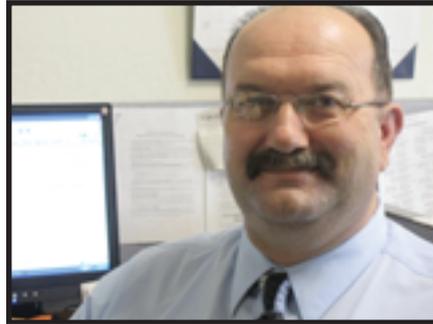
That's why it was important for Congressman Pastor to support the GI Bill for the 21st Century, which allows veterans to apply for college education assistance. This bill is considered the most extensive educational assistance program authorized since the original GI Bill was signed into law in 1944.

APPLICATION IS ONLINE

Veterans may apply for a certificate of eligibility for the new college benefits at the VA website. The maximum benefit allows every eligible veteran, service member, Reservist and National Guard member an opportunity to receive an in-state undergraduate education at a public institution at no cost. Provisions include payments for tuition and fees, housing, and a stipend for books and supplies. Benefits are payable for training on or after Aug. 1, 2009.

Please visit this Department of Veterans Affairs website for more information and an online application: www.GIBILL.va.gov.

Alan Duncan is Rep. Pastor's new veterans aide and a Wounded Warrior Program Fellow.



Wounded warrior will oversee veterans cases as new Congressional aide

Alan Duncan, an Army veteran who retired after 18 years of service due to a disability, will be working in Congressman Pastor's Phoenix District Office as a new staff assistant in charge of veterans' casework and outreach.

Duncan, who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom 2, is a Fellow for the Wounded Warrior Program, a House of Representatives plan that provides veterans with experience and exposure to ultimately broaden their scope of transition opportunities.

"Alan's past military and work experience will be an asset to constituents trying to resolve issues with the military or the Veterans Affairs administration," Pastor said.

MONTHLY MOBILE OFFICE HOURS AT MADISON STREET VETERANS ASSOCIATION

As part of Rep. Pastor's ongoing outreach efforts, Duncan will hold mobile office hours the second Tuesday of each month from 8 a.m. to Noon at the Madison Street Veterans Association, 233 S. 11th Ave., Phoenix.

Duncan was an advocate for veterans in his previous jobs at the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Arizona American Legion.



Rep. Pastor helps widow obtain military medals earned by husband in Korean War

The family of deceased Phoenix resident Ernesto Martinez was recently aided by Congressman Pastor in securing numerous medals honoring the Army veteran for his service in the Korean War. In the photo on the left, Mrs. Ofelia Martinez and her children display the medals of the former Army corporal.