

# Pastor: Affordable housing units in Glendale receive Recovery Act funds, create jobs

Congressman Ed Pastor's District Director Elisa de la Vara, far right, recently joined representatives from A Bridge to Independent Living and Gorman and Company to mark the groundbreaking of the Glendale Enterprise Lofts at 63rd and Glendale avenues. The new affordable housing complex received federal funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and helped create or retain jobs in the area. The units are set to open in early 2011 and will be fully accessible for individuals with special needs.



## Metro Tech High School senior wins Rep. Pastor's Congressional Art competition



**"Blue," an ink jet print by Mayra Alba, a senior at Metro Tech High School in Phoenix, placed first in Rep. Ed Pastor's annual Congressional Art Competition.**

Mayra Alba, a senior at Metro Tech High School in Phoenix, has been selected as the winner of the Fourth Congressional District's Art Competition and will be recognized at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., in June, announced U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor. Mayra won the competition with her ink jet print entitled "Blue."

Second place went to Ivette Henriquez, a junior also at Metro Tech. Her piece also was an ink jet print, which was entitled "Sedona Waters." Third place was awarded to Juan Fernando Marceleno, a senior at Trevor G. Browne High School, for his graphite drawing entitled "Smile."

Ten students received Honorable Mention for their pieces: Alejandra Silis of Trevor Browne; and Felipe Ramirez, Rafael Rosales, Rosario Cota, Martha Paredes, Nancy Naranjo, Felix Ortega, Leticia Acuña, Yolanda Reyes, and Iza Islas of Metro Tech.

The students were recognized by Congressman Pastor's Office at a brief ceremony on March 22 at the Art Institute of Phoenix.

As the first place winner, Mayra's piece will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for a year and she will be recognized at an event on Capitol Hill.

# Congressional mobile office sites for 2010

To assist constituents, a staff member from Congressman Pastor's Phoenix office will be at these locations this year. All locations, except for Madison Street, will be staffed from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

## Desert West Community Center

6501 W. Virginia Ave., Phoenix  
Aug. 10, Oct. 12, Dec. 14

## Golden Gate Community Center

1625 N. 39th Ave., Phoenix  
July 13, Nov. 9

## Marcos de Niza Senior Center

305 W. Pima St., Phoenix  
June 8, Sept. 14

## South Mountain Community Center

212 E. Alta Vista Road, Phoenix  
June 1, July 6, Aug. 3, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7

## Glendale Community Center

5401 W. Ocotillo, Glendale  
June 15, July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 19,  
Nov. 16, Dec. 21

## Guadalupe Senior Center

9401 S. Avenida del Yaqui, Guadalupe  
June 22, July 27, Aug. 24, Sept. 28, Oct. 26,  
Nov. 23, Dec. 28

## Madison Street Veterans Association

233 S. 11th Ave., Phoenix  
July 13, Aug. 10, Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9,  
Dec. 14 (8 a.m. to noon)

## 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.

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CONGRESSMAN

**Ed Pastor**

**WASHINGTON REPORT**

*Health insurance reform*

**INSIDE**

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Fourth Congressional District - Arizona

May 2010

## Affordable health care for Arizonans

Lowers costs for families and small businesses

Americans will see expansion of coverage

Bad insurance practices curbed, more consumer protections

Dear Fellow Arizonans,

As many of you know, Congress has passed historic legislation creating a system to make quality healthcare more accessible and affordable for millions of Americans.

Passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, H.R. 3590, was a huge step towards bringing down health insurance costs for American fami-

lies and small businesses. And the bill allows Americans who are content with their coverage to keep their current insurance plans. While it won't solve every problem, it improves and expands coverage to millions of Americans, and ends the worst practices of insurance companies.

In our Fourth Congressional District, the health care reform bill will benefit thousands of residents by improving their coverage, extending coverage to uninsured residents, and guaranteeing coverage for pre-existing conditions among other areas where coverage will be affected.

I have long advocated for health insurance access for all Americans and I was proud to watch President Obama sign the bill into law in March. While I believe this legislation is extremely beneficial to the constituents of the Fourth District, I know there are many passionate individuals who have concerns and questions about this new legislation.

I encourage residents to read inside to learn more information about this legislation and other district activities, and as always, feel free to contact my offices with your questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

ED PASTOR  
Member of Congress

### Benefits of Health Care Reform for the 4th Congressional District

- Americans who are content with their coverage are allowed to keep their current insurance plans.
- Coverage improves for 269,000 residents.
- 176,000 families and 15,700 small businesses will receive tax credits and other assistance to help them afford coverage.
- Medicare will improve for 58,000 beneficiaries, including phasing out the donut hole.
- Coverage will be extended to 193,500 uninsured residents.
- More than 30,600 residents with pre-existing conditions will be able to obtain coverage.
- 70,000 young adults will be able to obtain coverage on their parents' insurance.

Source: Data compiled by House Committee on Energy and Commerce from information from the Census, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the Kaiser Family Foundation.

# Health care reform's impact on families

U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor has long supported access to health care for all Americans and their families. While many Americans are generally satisfied with their current health insurance plan, most health care experts have determined that without this legislation, the coverage they have today will no longer be accessible or affordable in the near future. **And the bill allows Americans who are content with their coverage to keep their current insurance plans.** Every American will still be able to choose their own doctor and health insurance plan and make health care decisions with that doctor. Health care reform puts families in control of their own health care. Below are some of the benefits of the health insurance reform bill for families.

## Lower costs for American families

- This year, health insurance industry reform eliminates all lifetime limits on how much insurance companies cover if beneficiaries get sick and bans insurance companies from dropping people from coverage when they get sick.

## Financial relief for working families

- Provides tax credits to working families to make sure they can afford quality coverage.  
- Provides tax credits to small businesses so they can offer competitive, affordable health care to their employees.

## Greater choices for American families

- Creates state-based Health Insurance Exchanges to provide families greater choice in health insurance plans, including multi-state plans to foster competition and decrease costs.



**Congressman Ed Pastor discuss health care issues with surgical nurse Mary Harden at a recent event at Maricopa Integrated Health System in Phoenix.**

- Provides standardized, easy-to-understand information through the Exchange on different health insurance plans so families can easily compare prices, benefits, and performance of health insurance plans to decide which option is right for them.

## Ends ban on pre-existing conditions

- This year, reform prohibits insurance companies from denying children coverage based on pre-existing conditions.

- This year, reform provides access to affordable insurance for uninsured Americans with pre-existing conditions through a temporary subsidized high-risk pool, which will help protect them from medical bankruptcy.

**Source:** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

## Tax credits help small businesses provide affordable coverage to employees

With passage of health care reform, Health Insurance Exchanges will be in place in 2014, where small businesses and their employees, the self-employed and the uninsured can purchase affordable coverage. For the first time, small businesses will be able to pool their buying power and have access to the same quality plans only available to large firms today.

Health reform also provides \$40 billion in tax

credits for small businesses to help them offer employee health insurance coverage if they choose to do so.

To qualify for the tax credit, businesses must have fewer than 25 employees and average annual wages of \$50,000 or less. The full tax credit is available to businesses with 10 or fewer employees and average annual wages of \$25,000 or less.

**Source:** U.S. Treasury Department.

# Ensuring health care for seniors

Medicare - which has provided health care for Americans age 65 and older for the last 45 years - is working, and will be strengthened under new health reform legislation.

Reform will mean better benefits and lower costs, and will preserve Medicare's solvency for years to come.

Without reform for all Americans, health care costs would keep rising, possibly jeopardiz-

ing Medicare's ability to keep covering costs. Rising costs hit seniors' wallets too - with the average Part D plus Part B premium consuming an estimated 12 percent of the average Social Security benefit in 2010 - and 16 percent in 2025.

However, senior Americans who are content with their coverage are allowed to keep their current insurance plans.

**Source:** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



## Health care reform's impact on seniors

### Better primary care

Health care reform will help ensure seniors have access to and can spend more time with their primary care doctor. It will also improve coordination of care to ensure individuals received their recommended treatments, particularly for chronic diseases.

### Lower drug costs

Reform will end the "donut hole" for prescription drug coverage, starting with a \$250 rebate for those in the donut hole in 2010 - and phases out the donut hole completely over time. Reform also will result in lower overall prescription drug coverage for seniors, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

### Free preventive care

Seniors will pay nothing for recommended preventive services that will help them stay healthy longer. They also will receive a free annual wellness visit.

### Protection of Medicare

Reform will help extend the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund by at least nine years to help ensure Medicare can cover all Americans as they get older.

### Tighter oversight

The new system also will help focus health care dollars on seniors' care and benefits, and cracks down on waste, fraud, abuse and overpayments.

**Source:** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

# Impact on young Americans

Young American adults are among those who are in most need for health insurance reform, said Rep. Ed Pastor.

Figures show that young

people are the most likely to be uninsured, with 47 percent of those in ages 19 to 34 having gone without health insurance at some point last year. One in three

is uninsured now.

In addition, young people are less likely to be offered coverage through their jobs and to be able to afford coverage and care.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

## What is in it for young Americans?

### Extended health coverage through parents

Six months after enactment of health reform legislation, health plans are required to allow young people up to their 26th birthday to remain on their parent's insurance policy, at the parent's choice.

### Insurance reforms

Reform will eliminate lifetime limits on how much insurance companies cover if you get sick, and tightly restricts yearly limits. Starting in 2014, reform puts a cap on what insurance companies can force you to pay in co-pays and deductibles. In 2014, reform bans "gender rating" that allows women to be charged more for the same coverage, and bans new group plans from establishing eligibility requirements that have the effect of discriminating in favor of higher wage employees - who tend not be younger workers.

### Health care not tied to a job

Reform offers affordable health insurance to those without job-based coverage, starting in 2014, and provides premium assistance to those who still can't afford it.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



Rep. Ed Pastor met recently with a group of college students studying leadership through Reform Immigration for America and gave them a legislative update.

## Citizenship application assistance available



Permanent legal residents who are eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship may receive free assistance through Congressman Pastor's Citizenship Day event this fall. The date for the event has yet to be set, but will be held on a Saturday.

During this one-day event, trained volunteers who regularly provide complimentary assistance in the community help legal residents in filling out their citizenship applications.

Rep. Pastor has coordinated the citizenship workshop for years to help people pursue the dream of American citizenship.

The service is free. To set up an appointment, or for more information about Citizenship Day, please contact Rep. Pastor's office at 602-256-0551.