



# Take a closer look . . .

## ASU Public Allies program partners nonprofits with young leaders

Public Allies, a program that matches young leaders with nonprofit organizations has been launched by Arizona State University's Center for Nonprofit Leadership and Management, announced Rep. Ed Pastor.

A three-year renewable grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service and in partnership with the Public Allies national office, placed 25 dedicated, service-minded young people in 10-month apprenticeships in nonprofit partner organizations. The value of the grant during the funding period is estimated at \$900,000.

The program was launched to coincide with the opening of ASU's new Downtown Phoenix campus, and it focuses on Phoenix area nonprofits during its first year. Emphasis also was placed on strengthening communities of color.

Young adults, ages 18-30 selected for the program will receive training in professional and leadership skills. Once matched with a nonprofit organization, they will be responsible for projects designed to positively impact the community.

"I am pleased this program will help develop young leaders while serving our community nonprofits," Pastor said. "The program is of mutual benefit to all parties."

**Below, Congressman Pastor discusses the federally-backed grant that helped launch the Public Allies program with Dr. Robert F. Ashcraft, director of ASU's Center for Nonprofit Leadership and Management, and other representatives from the organization. On the right, students who will apprentice through the Public Allies program gather to announce the organizations they will be assisting.**



# Rep. Pastor: Equality is message of King Day

Congressman Ed Pastor spoke about federal efforts to bring equality to all Americans during public remarks in Phoenix on Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, a federal holiday.

**In the photo on the right, he spoke to constituents about the need to continue fighting for civil rights for everyone.**



## How to contact Congressman 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.

Web Page (use site for electronic mail): <http://www.house.gov/pastor>

### 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

**I ENCOURAGE YOU TO SEND MAIL ONLY TO MY PHOENIX DISTRICT OFFICE.**

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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Fourth Congressional District - Arizona

February 2007

## Congress takes strides in new direction with progress on key measures to help families

Dear Fellow Arizonans,

Americans have called for a change in the direction of the Congress and the country. They want to see their leaders focus on American priorities and work together to get things done. As the 110th Congress began work this year, I was proud to be part of the new majority passing key measures in the first 100 hours of the session to improve the lives of everyday Americans and strengthen middle-class families.

The new priorities for the 110th Congress include increasing the minimum wage, helping make higher education affordable, allowing Medicare to negotiate prices for prescription drugs, and ending our reliance on fossil fuels.

I hope you will take time to read more about these initiatives inside this newsletter, along with updates on other activities.

Please feel free to contact my offices with any of your concerns.

Sincerely,

Ed Pastor  
Member of Congress



**Rep. Nancy Pelosi, the new Speaker of the House, recently administered the Oath of Office to Rep. Ed Pastor during the start of the 110th Congress. The new Congress' initial agenda includes a plan to raise the minimum wage, make higher education more affordable and allow Medicare to negotiate prices for prescription drugs.**

**A new direction for America**

# Iraq

## Pastor opposed to extended commitment

*Rep. Ed Pastor has issued the following statement regarding Iraq:*

"I am optimistic that under new leadership, Congress will assert the will of the people to end the Administration's open-ended commitment to military action in that country. Americans have made it clear that they do not support the Administration's current strategy.

### **Opposed to initial resolution**

"I was opposed to the initial resolution authorizing the President to invade Iraq, because I felt that the Administration had failed to exhaust diplomatic remedies and allow the U.N. weapons inspectors to complete their work. Since the invasion, however, I have supported funding the war effort to ensure that American troops on the ground had the equipment and support that they needed. But unconditional funding cannot continue indefinitely.

"The President declared 'mission accomplished' in May 2003, and in a sense he was right. Saddam

Hussein and Iraqi weapons of mass destruction are no longer a threat to our nation. The Iraqi people have held free elections and drafted a constitution. The violence we see in Iraq today is based in sectarian conflict - it has become a civil war. The outcome depends not on the American will to stay in the fight, but on the will of the Iraqi people to forge their own future.

### **More funding should hinge on achievements**

"Congress is expected to consider an Administration request for more war funding in coming weeks. I do not support the President's proposed surge of troops in Iraq, and will no longer support supplemental funding for the war unless it is contingent on achievement of specific milestones, and accompanied by limitations on troop levels and a plan for re-deployment of American troops.

"It is time to bring our brave young men and women home to their families. Their job is done."

## Calling all high school artists

High school artists who live in Rep. Ed Pastor's district are encouraged to enter their original works in the annual Congressional Art Competition. The winning entry will be displayed within



**Deadline: March 1, 2007**  
**More Info: 602-256-0551**

the U.S. Capitol Complex for a year. The first place winner will be flown to Washington with a guardian for an event to recognize all the winners from participating Congressional districts. Deadline for entries: March 1. Categories: paintings, drawings, collage, prints, mixed media, computer generated art and photography. Artwork should be dropped off from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. March 1 in the Cafe Gallery at the Art Institute of Phoenix, 2233 W. Dunlap Ave., Phoenix.

## Pastor's U.S. Citizenship Day will be held March 3

**On March 3, Rep. Ed Pastor will hold a Citizenship Day where legal residents will receive assistance, at no charge, in filling out their U.S. citizenship applications.** To become a U.S. citizen, a person must:

- Have been a legal permanent resident of the United States for at least five years, or have been married to a U.S. citizen for at least three years and been a legal permanent resident for at least three years.
- Be at least 18 years old.
- Be able to speak, read and write in English.
- Have good moral character, with no criminal problems during the past five years.
- Pay a \$400 fee to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

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

**For an appointment, please phone  
602-256-0551**

# Raising the minimum wage

In early January, Rep. Ed Pastor joined the majority of his colleagues in voting for passage of H.R. 2, the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007. This bill amended the Fair Labor Standards Act to provide for an increase in the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour from \$5.15 per hour over two years. The bill passed the House with a 315-115 vote and moved to the Senate.

"This increase to the minimum wage is long overdue," Pastor said. "I'm glad that we will finally be able to provide a more decent wage to our working people."

The federal minimum wage was last increased in 1997. Since then, inflation has greatly undercut its buying power, Pastor said. This new increase raises the annual earnings of the average full-time worker earning the minimum wage by \$1,520 per year—enough to cover seven months of transportation, nine months of groceries, or eleven months of heating and utilities for an average low-income family.

*"Increasing the minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour would bring a pay raise for more than 13 million Americans."*

- Rep. Ed Pastor



- ✓ Employees who earned below \$7.25 per hour in 2005 were more likely to have been women, minorities, and lacked a high school diploma.
- ✓ Minimum wage earners were more likely to be on welfare and without health insurance.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Student loan bill would make college more affordable



College students such as these graduates at an Arizona State University convocation ceremony in 2006 would face smaller interest rates on federal student loans if HR 5 passes.

Congressman Pastor recently supported passage of H.R. 5, the College Student Relief Act of 2007, which cuts the interest rates on student loans. The bill passed the House by a vote of 356-71, and then was sent to the Senate for consideration.

"As an advocate for higher education, I have been deeply concerned about the increased costs students are experiencing," Pastor said. "The cost of college tuition has escalated almost 15 percent nationally during the last several years, and there has been an even higher increase in Arizona."

Under the bill, interest rates for the Federal Family Education Loan and Direct Loan programs would decrease from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent by July 2011. Pastor said he would continue to work to ensure final passage of the bill.

# Requiring negotiation for lower prescription drug costs

For years, Rep. Ed Pastor has heard stories from seniors living in his district who have had to choose between buying medicines or paying for rent or food. To cut the cost of health care and improve access to medicines, in the first 100 legislative hours of the 110th Congress, the House passed a bill to require Health and Human Services (HHS) to negotiate with drug companies for lower drug prices for Medicare beneficiaries. The current Medicare prescription drug law prohibits HHS from conducting such cost-reducing negotiations.

The bill is expected to result in real savings for millions of Medicare beneficiaries.

Studies have shown that the current Medicare prescription drug law has failed to slow the rapid growth in drug prices; and the prices charged by Medicare drug plans are rising at more than twice the rate of overall inflation, Pastor said.

The bill also has strong bipartisan support, Pastor said. In addition, polls show that 92 percent of Americans support granting HHS negotiating authority.

## Rep. Pastor discusses dental care during clinic day

In the photo on the right, Congressman Pastor recently met with representatives of the Arizona Dental Association to discuss federal efforts to provide dental and health care coverage for low-income children. Pastor met with them during the organization's annual Give Kids a Smile Day where free, quality dental care is provided to children who cannot afford treatment. The event was held at the I.G. Homes Branch of the Boys & Girls Club of Metropolitan Phoenix.



## Commitment to honest leadership, ethics reform

In response to abuses by several former members of the House of Representatives, on the first day of the new Congress, the House passed the most sweeping ethics reform package since the post-Watergate era to break the link between lobbyists and legislation. This package:

- ✓ **Bans gifts and travel from lobbyists and the organizations that employ them.**
- ✓ **Ends the abuses connected to privately-funded congressional travel (including corporate jets).**
- ✓ **Ends the K Street Project's unethical partisan employment practices.**
- ✓ **Mandates ethics training annually for all House employees.**