



Congressman Gene Green Reports

Dear Friend,

The major issue before Congress right now is the national deficit, which has escalated dramatically and requires immediate action and difficult decisions. We grew into a balanced budget in the 1990's and our nation was even able to pay down our national debt in 1999 and 2000. I believe we can do it again, but Congress needs to work together and all federal spending and revenues need to be on the table.

Our newsletter also addresses other legislative topics including a Social Security cost-of-living adjustment for 2013 and the Deferred Action initiative for students.

We also announce a number of district events, including our town hall meetings which are listed below. Our Senior Issues Forum allows senior citizens to hear legislative updates and meet with agency representatives. Another event, our Paying for College Workshop, offers information for parents and students on higher education. More information on these events can be found inside this newsletter.

As always, our office is open for any questions or concerns you have regarding the federal government, and you do not need to wait for a district event to contact me. As your representative in Congress, I strongly value your opinion and hope that you will continue to write, call, and email our office to voice your opinions.

Another way to stay up to date with us is through our electronic newsletter, which is emailed periodically to give information on legislative initiatives and district events.

To sign up for our e-newsletter, please visit our website at <http://green.house.gov/contact-me/newsletter>.

I wish you and your family a blessed and happy 2013.

Sincerely,

Gene Green
Member of Congress

End of Session Summary and Forecast

As the 112th Congress comes to a close, I believe it is critical that we reflect on the past to make improvements for the future. This session was plagued with partisan showboating and gridlock in both the House and Senate and by Republicans and Democrats alike. The result was a stagnant political process where no one wins and everyone loses.

Americans across the nation, including myself, have been frustrated by the lack of progress that has resulted. There are real problems that are facing our nation like taxes, health care, education and our national deficit that demand our immediate attention but have ended up left on the table.

Bipartisan legislation that became law this Congress included the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act; the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act; the Vow to Hire Heroes Act; the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act; the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act; and the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act. While these were important bills, there is much more work that needs to be done.

I am hopeful that the 113th Congress will be more responsive to the needs of our nation and welcome collaboration. We must remember the time-tested saying, "United we stand, Divided we fall" because before we are Democrats or Republicans, we are all Americans and we need to work together as a unified team for the prosperity of our nation.

Town Hall Meetings and Events

** Senior Issues Forum **

Thursday, January 24
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

*Magnolia
Multi-Service Center*
7037 Capitol Street
Houston, TX 77011

Thursday, January 24
7:00 p.m.

*In conjunction with
Freeway Manor Civic Club
St. Stephen
Presbyterian Church*
2217 Theta Street
Houston, TX 77034

Monday, January 28
7:00 p.m.

*In conjunction with
Lindale Park Civic Club*
Lindale Park Clubhouse
218 Joyce Street
Houston, TX 77009

Tuesday, January 29
7:00 p.m.

*In conjunction with
Reveille/Park Place
Civic Club*
Charlton Park
8200 Park Place Blvd.
Houston, TX 77017

Wednesday, January 30
6:00 p.m.

*In conjunction with student
government classes*
San Jacinto College North
5800 Uvalde
Houston, TX 77049

**** Paying for College Seminar ****
Monday, February 11
6:30 p.m.

Sam Houston Math and
Science Center
9400 Irvington
Houston, TX 77076



Congressman Green speaks with constituents about federal issues and listens to their concerns at a town hall meeting at the Denver Harbor Multi-Purpose Center.

HEALTH CARE UPDATES FOR 2013

The Affordable Care Act, which was signed into law in 2010, has helped millions of Americans with pre-existing conditions that are no longer denied coverage by insurance companies, young adults who have been able to stay on their parents' insurance, and patients who have benefited from free annual wellness exams. The law continues to promote health and wellness and has several provisions that will go into effect in 2013.

Improving Preventive Health Coverage

(Effective January 2013)

This provision allows more Americans to receive preventive, life-saving care by providing new funding to state Medicaid programs that choose to cover preventive services for patients at little or no cost.

Increasing Medicaid Payments for Primary Care Doctors

(Effective January 2013)

As Medicaid programs and providers prepare to cover more patients in 2014, the Act requires states to pay primary care physicians no less than 100% of Medicare payment rates in 2013 and 2014 for primary care services. This will ensure that physicians continue to accept Medicare.

Expanded Authority to Bundle Payments

(Effective January 2013)

Currently, Medicare suffers from a fragmented system where sometimes each service or test or group of services are billed separately to Medicare. Under a payment "bundling" system, Medicare will save taxpayers money by asking hospitals, doctors, and providers to receive a reasonable flat rate for a session of care.

Additional Funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

(Effective October 2013)

Under the new law, states will receive two more years of funding to continue coverage for children on CHIP. The CHIP program helps middle-class families who are not eligible for Medicaid but are unable to afford private health care coverage.

Please visit www.healthcare.gov for more information on these provisions and other benefits provided by the Affordable Care Act.

SENIORS

Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment

On October 16, 2012, the Social Security Administration (SSA) announced that beneficiaries will see a 1.7% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) beginning in January 2013. This marks the second year in a row that beneficiaries will receive an increase in benefits.

There has been a lot of concern about the health of our Social Security system. SSA projected earlier this year that the Social Security Trust Fund will be exhausted by 2033. What that means is that if no changes are made to the system by that time, Social Security will only have enough money to pay out 75% of expected benefits.

Our country needs to address the shortfalls in Social Security but I strongly oppose any proposals to slash Social Security benefits starting in 2014. The SSA states that there are over 68,000 Social Security beneficiaries in the 29th District and over 3.5 million Texans that depend on Social Security. Many of these rely on Social Security as their only form of income and it is not right to take away the benefits that they earned while working.

Social Security benefits do not contribute to the national deficit because they have already been paid for by workers and employers. I am confident we can come together, as we did in the 1980's, and make fair and commonsense reforms to strengthen SSA and ensure the program will last for generations to come. Social Security was there for my parents when they retired and I want it to be there for my grandchildren's children and beyond.

For more information on the cost-of-living adjustment, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/cola/ or call the Social Security's toll free number at 1-800-772-1213. To view your Social Security statement online, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/mystatement/.



Congressman Green visits with doctors at the San Jacinto Methodist Hospital in Baytown to witness state-of-the-art day surgery and discuss research and development incentives made possible by the Affordable Care Act.

Senior Issues Forum

**Thursday, January 24
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

Magnolia Multi-Service Center
7037 Capitol Street
Houston, TX 77011

Join Rep. Green for a discussion on legislative issues affecting seniors including updates on federal programs and work in Congress. Agency representatives from the Social Security Administration and the Houston/Harris County Area Agency on Aging will also share important information and be available to answer questions about health care, referral services, and programs for seniors.

STUDENTS

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

In June 2012, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced the beginning of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) initiative, which specifies that qualifying young people who were brought to the United States as children, and are not a risk to national security or public safety, can now request consideration for relief from removal proceedings for a period of two years, subject to renewal.

This helps our nation's economy, and allows students who have been raised in our nation and gone through our education system to contribute to our country. According to the Immigration Policy Center, this policy change will give over 10,000 teenagers and young adults in our district the chance to study, work, and become fully invested members of our community without the fear of deportation.

Applicants that would like to request consideration under DACA must pass a background check and meet all of the following requirements:

- Have been under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012
- Have continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007
- Have arrived in the U.S. before reaching their 16th birthday
- Entered without inspection before June 15, 2012, or their lawful immigration status expired as of June 15, 2012
- Were physically present in the United States on June 15, 2012 and at the time of making the DACA request
- Are currently in school, have graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, or are an honorably discharged veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States
- Have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, three or more other misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety

Those who apply for deferred action and have their applications accepted should expect the process to take 3-6 months.

For more information on deferred action, call the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283 or our North Houston office at 281-999-5879. Assistance is available in English and Spanish. You can also find information at www.uscis.gov/childhoodarrivals.

Paying for College Seminar

**Monday, February 11
6:30 p.m.**

Sam Houston Math and Science Center
9400 Irvington
Houston, TX 77076

The National Center for Education Statistics reports that in 2010, full-time workers ages 25 to 34 who earned a Bachelor's degree earned \$15,000 more per year on average than peers who had only completed a high school diploma or equivalent.

Congressman Green invites students and parents to a free financial aid seminar that explains the federal financial aid process and different sources of funding available to students, including federal grants and loans. Representatives from local colleges will also be present to give information and answer questions.



At the Paying for College Seminar held in September, Congressman Green stands with Sergio Gonzalez (Sallie Mae Foundation), Mariani Rivera (Senior at C.E. King High School and winner of a scholarship drawing), Dr. Vickey Giles (Sheldon ISD Superintendent) and Mr. John Kirchner (C.E. King Principal).

Lady Bird Johnson Stamp Announcement

In July, the United States Postal Service announced that it would be issuing a Forever Stamp honoring the 100th anniversary of the birthday of Mrs. Lady Bird Johnson, wife of the 36th President of the United States, Lyndon Baines Johnson.

Our office led a bipartisan letter to U.S. Postmaster Patrick Donahue in June 2012 asking that a Lady Bird Johnson stamp be issued in commemoration of her 100th birthday. The letter was also endorsed by seven other Texas Congressmen.

While in the White House, Mrs. Johnson's focus on beautification and nature preservation was significant nationwide and especially in Texas. Her contributions can still be seen in the scenic wildflowers we see every spring that brighten our highways.

Mrs. Johnson's Forever Stamp will feature her official White House portrait and will be available at post offices nationwide and online at <https://store.usps.com> beginning in December 2012.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES

Congressional representatives serve the constituents of their districts, and our office works hard to make constituent service a priority. As your Representative for the 29th Congressional District of Texas, I am pleased to offer the following services to residents of our district.

Help with Federal Agencies

One of our most important services is providing help with federal agencies. If you are not getting an answer from a federal agency in a timely fashion or if you feel you have been treated unfairly, our office may be able to help resolve a problem or get you the information you need. Although we cannot guarantee a favorable outcome, we will do our best to help you receive a timely response to your inquiry.

Military Academy Nominations

Congressional offices have the privilege of nominating eligible students from their district to the U.S. Military Academies: U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, U.S. Military Academy, and U.S. Naval Academy. It is an honor to see the students of our community serve our country and receive some of the most prestigious college educations in the U.S. for free.

Tours of the U.S. Capitol building

One of the most frequently requested services from our Washington D.C. office is assisting constituents with tours. Our office provides tours of the U.S. Capitol and is able to request tickets for tours of the White House. Additionally, we are happy to assist you with information on the many other attractions throughout the D.C. area.

American Flags

Constituents can request that an American flag be flown over the U.S. Capitol building. Each flag is accompanied by a certificate of authentication and can be flown for a particular person, event, or organization, and you can choose a specific date to have them flown. Order forms with flag options and pricing are available on our website or by calling any of our offices.

Federal Grant Resources

Email notifications give information on federal grant opportunities available to schools, businesses, non-profits, and local government entities. To sign up for our federal Grants Alert list, please visit our website at <http://green.house.gov/serving-you/grants>. Our office also writes letters of support for grant applications for eligible projects located in the 29th District.

For more information on the services above and other services our office provides, please visit the constituent services page of our website at <http://green.house.gov/serving-you> or feel free to call any of our offices. We appreciate hearing from you and are always happy to help our constituents.



Congressman Green stands with Porfirio Almendarez, a constituent who received assistance in obtaining military service medals that he earned while serving in World War II with the U.S. Army.

Contact Us

North Houston Office	East Houston Office	DC Office	Website
256 N. Sam Houston Pkwy E., Suite 29 Houston, TX 77060 (281) 999-5879 (281) 999-5716	11811 I-10 East, Suite 430 Houston, TX 77029 (713) 330-0761 (713) 330-0807	2470 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-1688 (202) 225-9903	http://green.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Official Business



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Si le gustaría recibir una copia de este noticiero en español, hágame el favor de escribirme a 256 N. Sam Houston Pkwy E., Ste. 29, Houston, TX 77060. Si es más fácil, también puede llamar a nuestra oficina para recibir el noticiero al (281) 999-5879.

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