

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

Official Business



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TRADE

Congress has debated whether to give the President Trade Promotion Authority (or fast track) for trade agreements being negotiated. Fast track authority would give the President the power to require Congress to consider a trade agreement under special procedures, where no amendments, debates, or changes can be made. This summer, the House voted on TPA and I voted no.

I consistently vote against granting fast track authority, no matter who is President, because it limits Congress's constitutional duties over trade. Members of Congress, as the people's direct representatives, have a responsibility to protect working families from unfair trade deals and Congress cannot do that under fast track.

I am especially concerned about the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement that Presidents Obama and Bush have negotiated with 11 Pacific Rim countries, including Japan and Vietnam. The details of the negotiations have been difficult to access, even for Congress, and I'm worried that passing TPP would lead to factories and jobs in our area in Northside and Eastside Houston and Harris County being shipped overseas or simply being unable to compete with countries that have few if any labor and environment standards and protections.

This is why it is important that Congress have the power to amend the TPP, if necessary, and ensure that middle class American families are protected from unfair competition.

Contact Us

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Congressman Gene Green Reports

Dear Friend,

It's an honor to represent our North and Eastside Houston, Harris County district in the United States Congress. My years in Congress have enabled me to be the Senior Democrat on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Health Subcommittee. Our Committee's responsibilities include energy, environment, healthcare, and telecommunications issues.

I hope you can join us for one of our town halls or events this August and September. We're looking forward to meeting you, hearing your concerns, and answering your questions.

There has been a lot of movement in the House of Representatives recently on issues that affect our area. For example, in July the House voted to pass a landmark health bill that invests in the development of new treatments and cures for the diseases that are plaguing Americans and our loved ones every day. The bill received overwhelming support from Democrats and Republicans.

The House also passed reform legislation on commercial chemicals, which is a big industry in our District. These regulations protect thousands of workers employed at the plants and the fence-line communities in our area. Safety regulations had not been reformed since they were first established in 1976.

There has also been an ongoing debate in Congress regarding trade and Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), or fast track. We are working to ensure that Congress gets to weigh-in and amend any international trade deal that the President negotiates. It is our job to ensure that any trade agreement that passes will not hurt American workers or ship jobs overseas.

I look forward to seeing you at any of our upcoming events to discuss these topics and other issues Congress is working on. Remember, you don't have to wait for a town hall to contact us, we're always happy to hear from you and respond to your requests. In addition to our town halls, we're also hosting our Annual Immunization Day, Job Fair, and Paying for College Workshop. All event times and locations are listed in the newsletter, and can be found on our website at green.house.gov.

If we can ever be of service please contact us at one of our offices or on our website.

Sincerely,

Gene Green
Member of Congress

Summer Town Halls and Events

Friday, August 21
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Senior Citizens Issues Forum
Baggett Community Center
1302 Keene Street
Galena Park, Texas 77547

Tuesday, August 25
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Town Hall
*In conjunction with
Lindale Park Civic Club*
218 Joyce Street
Houston Texas 77009

Tuesday, September 1
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Town Hall
*In conjunction with
Park Place Civic Club*
Charlton Park Community Center
8200 Park Place Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77017

Wednesday, September 2
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Northside/Aldine Job Fair
M.O. Campbell Center
1865 Aldine Bender Road
Houston, Texas 77032

Wednesday, September 2
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Town Hall
*In conjunction with
Wood Shadows II Civic Club*
HPD East Freeway Storefront
12001-A East Freeway
Houston, Texas 77029

Monday, October 5
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Paying for College Workshop & Academy Day
Austin High School (HISD)
1700 Dumble Street
Houston, Texas 77023

21ST CENTURY CURES

Over one year ago, leaders from our House Energy and Commerce Committee launched the 21st Century Cures Initiative with the hope of finding ways to spur innovation in health research and develop new cures and treatments for patients and families struggling with illnesses. Our Committee held dozens of hearings and roundtables across the country to gather ideas and feedback from doctors, patients, researchers, and experts across the health innovation ecosystem. As Ranking Member of the Health Subcommittee, I coauthored this legislation with four other representatives, and together we worked to get this through the House and on to the Senate in July. H.R. 6 was passed with overwhelming support from Democrats and Republicans by a vote of 344-77. The legislation is now in the United States Senate.

What's in the bill:

- **The Cures Act provides \$8.75 billion in mandatory funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) over the next five years:** This influx of investment will be held in a newly established Innovation Fund and put toward solving today's complex scientific problems and discovering the next generation of medical breakthroughs. The investments and provisions of this bill will accelerate the development of new tools and treatments for the fight against diseases, which have a great cost to our economy, and an even greater toll on the patients and families that suffer from them.
- **The Cures Act also modernizes clinical trials and supports inclusion of diverse populations in clinical research:** This legislation will modernize the standards and structures of clinical trials used to research and develop new treatments. This section will ensure that research includes people from diverse backgrounds, and cuts through bureaucratic red tape to get proven safe and effective treatments into the hands of those who need it.
- **It includes two provisions that I previously introduced as stand-alone bills, the ADAPT Act (H.R. 2629) and the SOFTWARE Act (H.R. 2396):** The ADAPT Act streamlines the approval pathway for the development for new antibiotics. Recently, there has been a surge in antibiotic resistance in patients around the world, and we know that drug resistance can be slowed, but it cannot be stopped. The pipeline for new antibiotics is running dry, and without greater investment in new treatments, we face a future that resembles a pre-antibiotic era. The SOFTWARE Act deals with the way Health Information Technology is regulated. The health industry has drastically evolved thanks to innovation and new technology. Doctors' offices and hospitals have gone paperless, and new devices to better diagnose and treat patients have revolutionized health care. We need to ensure that our regulatory infrastructure, which ensures patient and practitioner safety, is up to date and able to keep pace with the evolving industry.

The original sponsors of H.R. 6 are: Reps. Gene Green (D-TX), Fred Upton (R-MI), Diana DeGette (D-CO), Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), and Joe Pitts (R-PA).



Congressman Gene Green taking questions at a veteran's town hall where new and current federal policies were discussed. Attendees also received information about veteran's benefits and services from local groups and government agencies.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

This July, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Both of these programs have made and continue to make great strides in increasing coverage and access for elderly, disabled, and low-income Americans.

According to the CMS website, as of March 2015, Medicare has covered an average of 55.2 million elderly and disabled individuals.

During the same time period, Medicaid has covered about 66.7 million low-income individuals. In our District alone, 270,000 individuals rely on Medicaid or Medicare coverage, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2013. As we continue to build on Medicaid and Medicare successes, I am committed to working to strengthen these programs so that they remain available in perpetuity to Americans who depend on them.

Northside/Aldine Job Fair

Join Congressman Green at one of his biannual job fairs. Dozens of local businesses will be onsite looking to hire for full-time, part-time, and seasonal positions. Participants should dress professionally and bring their resumes. For more information, please call 281-999-5879.

Wednesday, September 2
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

M.O. Campbell Center
1865 Aldine Bender Road
Houston, Texas 77032

TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT (TSCA) REFORM

In June, the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed reform legislation that will update our nation's safety and use regulations for commercial chemicals. The current law was passed in 1976 and needs to be updated and revised.

Our district, centered in Northside and Eastside Houston and Harris County, is home to the largest petrochemical complex in the country. The chemical industry employs thousands of workers in our District and surrounding communities. Ensuring chemical manufacturing and chemical-containing products are safe is critical to our local economy, working families, and fence-line communities located next to chemical facilities.

The TSCA Modernization Act, which I cosponsored and helped push through the House of Representatives, will update these important safety and use rules for the first time since the law was first written four decades ago. The most important updates to the law include requiring regulators to protect vulnerable populations, like children, pregnant women, and facility workers, from potential harm from chemicals and excluding cost considerations from determining a chemical's safety.

20th Annual Immunization Day

Congressman Green invites students and families to start the new school year off with a discussion about children's health and health policy. Free immunizations will be available for school-aged children at the following times and locations.

Parents must bring their child's immunization record with them.

Saturday, August 15, 2015
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

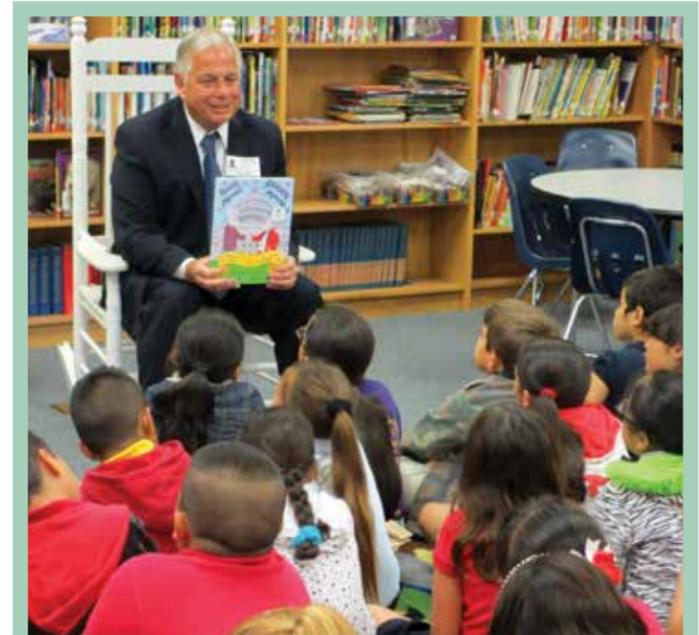
AAMA
Learning Center
6001 Gulf Freeway
Building E
Houston, TX 77023

M.O. Campbell
Educational Center
(Aldine ISD)
1865 Aldine Bender Road
Houston, TX 77032

Saturday, August 22, 2015
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Galena Park High School
1000 Keene Street
Galena Park, TX 77547

The Senate is currently considering a companion bill that, once passed, reconciled, and signed into law, will signify the biggest update to our nation's environmental laws in a quarter century while providing regulatory clarity to this important sector of our national and local economy.



Congressman Gene Green visiting Cloverleaf Elementary in the 29th Congressional District where he presented the school with an American flag flown over the U.S. Capitol.

Paying for College Workshop and Academy Day

Congressman Green invites students and families to a free financial aid seminar on paying for college. Learn About: grants, scholarships, the financial aid process, and free resources. Representatives from Sallie Mae, local colleges, and U.S. Military Academies will be available to answer questions.

Monday, October 5
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Austin High School (HISD)
1700 Dumble Street
Houston, Texas 77023