



The 47th Flyer

News for California's 47th Congressional District
from Congressman Alan Lowenthal



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This week the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released a study on raising the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10.10 per hour. According to the report, for families whose income is between one and three times the poverty threshold, increasing the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour would add \$12 billion to their annual incomes.

I am currently a cosponsor of the Fair Minimum Wage Act, which raises the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour, and I fully support the President's recent executive action to make this hourly rate the standard for federal contractors.

Whether it is for the public or private sector, it is time to raise the wage.

On The Hill

Reducing Gun Violence

In a previous edition of The 47th Flyer, I said that gun violence is a public health epidemic. While dozens of bills have been introduced in Congress this year aimed at reducing the prevalence of this epidemic, none of these bills have been brought to the House Floor for a vote. That is why I have, with Representatives Mike Thompson and Elizabeth Esty, introduced a resolution to ensure that the issue is not forgotten. In case you missed it, I wrote a commentary about the gun violence resolution in the Orange County Register, which was published on February 6th. I encourage you to read the commentary by visiting: <http://1.usa.gov/1fvZ2A8>

Investing in Education

Last week I became a cosponsor of H.R. 1343, the Project Ready STEM Act, which would amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to award grants for science, technology, engineering, and math education (STEM) programs in elementary and secondary school. STEM education investments are critical to the success of future generations and their ability to innovate and stimulate our economy. These kinds of investments must continue if we are to sustain a well-educated and highly skilled workforce.

Family Leave No Matter Where You Work

I have also become a cosponsor of H.R. 3712, the Family and Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act, which would establish the Office of Paid Family and Medical Leave within the Social Security Administration and give working women and men the ability to earn up to 12 weeks of paid family

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Do you think raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour will be good for our economy?

Yes -- Increasing the minimum wage to \$10.10 would raise wages for nearly 25 million Americans, thus giving hard-working people more take-home pay to then spend on goods and services

Maybe -- Increasing the minimum wage to \$10.10 would be good for families, but it could result in businesses offering fewer jobs than expected

No -- Increasing the minimum wage to \$10.10 is bad for businesses, families, and the economy

I do not know

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and medical leave. Twenty years ago, President Bill Clinton signed into law the landmark Family and Medical Leave Act, which requires larger employers and public agencies to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave. Sadly, about 40 percent of workers fall through the cracks because the law only requires many companies with 50 or more employees to comply. The FAMILY Act would change that by using existing Federal resources to create a paid family and medical leave insurance program for all workers, regardless of the size of the company they work for. The United States is one of the only modernized countries not to have a national family and medical leave policy and this needs to change.

Protecting Seniors From Fraud

Another health care-related bill that I have recently decided to cosponsor is H.R. 3616, the Protecting Seniors from Health Care Fraud Act of 2013. This bill would require the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) National Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Program to generate a report with policy recommendations on the most prevalent health care fraud schemes across the nation. HHS would then mail seniors a list detailing the top ten health care fraud schemes and how to avoid them. Our nation's seniors are all too often subject to fraudulent health care programs and scams. We must ensure that our seniors are equipped with the latest information about criminal and malicious behavior so they can protect themselves.

In The 47th District

Manufacturing in Long Beach

On Tuesday, I visited the Cunico Corporation in Long Beach to see firsthand the skilled jobs and business that the production of U.S. Navy aircraft carriers brings to the region. The Long Beach company is providing parts for the construction of Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), the first ship in the newest class of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers, which was christened on November 9, 2013, and for the overhaul of USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), which is undergoing its 3-and-a-half year upgrade.



It was truly a pleasure to meet the hardworking employees at Cunico Corporation and learn more about the significant contributions they make to the local economy. This tour provided me with the opportunity to see how

important aircraft carrier new construction and maintenance funding is to skilled jobs and businesses in our community.

Innovation in Cypress

On Wednesday, I took a tour of Cypress-based ADC Energy USA. This hi-tech firm has created and developed a wiring infrastructure that provides both AC- and DC-electricity at receptacles. This eliminates the need for convertors, such as the small transformers that charge our phones, and the energy lost in the typical conversion process. ADC's innovations are providing high-skilled jobs to our region, while showcasing the talented and creative minds that the 47th District has to offer.

Congress U

"Germane"

When offering an amendment to a bill, Members of Congress must ensure that it is "germane," meaning it must be relevant to the main issue being addressed in the bill. For example, one cannot offer an amendment about Syria to a bill that addresses the drought in California. That amendment would not be germane, and could not be brought to the House floor for a vote.

The House requires germaneness of an amendment at all times unless an exception is made by special rule. However, in most circumstances, the Senate does not require germaneness. Senate rules permit Senators to offer amendments on any subject even if unrelated to the bill's topic.

Last Week's Poll

Was it wise for Congress to vote on a clean debt ceiling proposal with no strings attached?

- 67.1%** Yes - When it comes to the full faith and credit of the United States, Congress should focus solely on being able to pay its bills on time
- 4.1%** Maybe - Congress still had two more weeks to debate the issue; they should have waited a little longer to weigh the options
- 26.0%** No - The debt ceiling proposal should have been tied to the defunding or consolidation of other government programs, such as the Affordable Care Act.
- 2.8%** I do not know

Thank you,



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