



The 47th Flyer

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



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June 9, 2015

New NOAA Study Debunks Rumored Global Warming Slowdown

Last week, the [Journal Science published](#) a scientific paper co-authored by [nine scientists at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency's](#) (NOAA) National Centers for Environmental Information showing that the rate of global warming has been just as fast over the past 15 years as over the previous 50 years. According to the paper, the research shows that the rumored hiatus or slowdown in global warming over the past 15 years does not exist.

I want to express my gratitude to the scientists who drew together this data from across multiple sources and continents. They are to be commended for their work confirming what the vast majority of climate scientists have been saying for years: the Earth is warming and will continue to warm. This is yet another potent reminder of the impact humans are having on our earth's climate because of greenhouse gas emissions.

We need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and slow down the warming. I hope that my colleagues in Congress can come together in a bipartisan manner to find solutions to this global problem before it is too late.

On The Hill

Seeking Action On Gun Violence

As a proud member of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, I joined last week with Reps. Mike Thompson (CA-5), Elizabeth Esty (CT-5), and Lois Capps (CA-24) to introduce a House Resolution that calls for renewed congressional action in dealing with the ever-growing impact of gun violence on American communities. The resolution was introduced to coincide with June 2 being observed as the first National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

The House Resolution expresses that gun violence is a public health issue and commits Congress to enacting—by the end of the 114th Congress—common sense steps to curb gun violence without hindering Americans' Second Amendment rights.

[Click here to watch my video explaining why I was wearing orange on June 2.](#)



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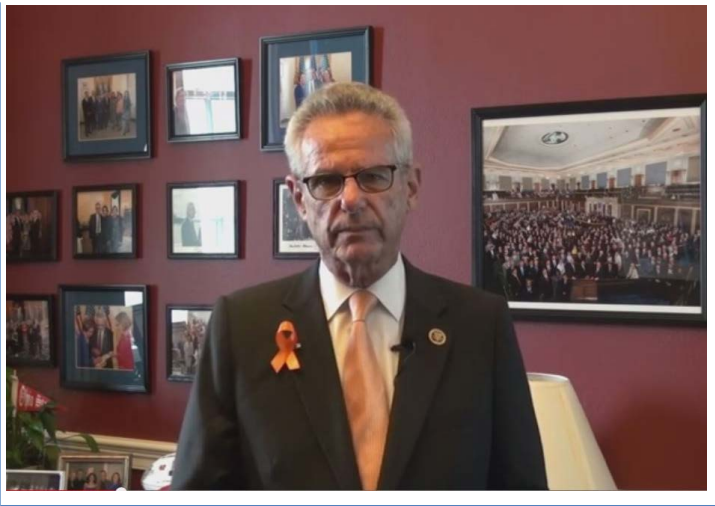
The House and Senate recently passed (and the President signed) the USA Freedom Act, a major reform of the Patriot Act authorities. The Act ends the bulk collection of telephone records; requires court orders to obtain such records from phone companies; and, makes vital reforms to provide more oversight to the FISA Court. Do you support passage of legislation like the USA Freedom Act?

Yes, I believe that Congress should reform all aspects of the nation's surveillance programs, and USA Freedom is a good start.

Yes, I support the passage of the USA Freedom Act, but I think that the reforms in the bill needed to go farther.

No, I believe Congress should have reauthorized the Patriot Act provisions as they were.

No, I believe Section 215 of the Patriot Act should be allowed to expire.



[If you have a problem, click here to open survey in a new window](#)

When nearly 90 people a day die from gun violence, inaction is not an option. If this many people died every day from a disease, we would call it exactly what gun violence is: a public health epidemic. The only thing more heartbreaking than the damage gun violence has done to families across our nation is the fact that Congress has failed to do anything meaningful about it.

Regrettably, of the numerous bills introduced in the 114th Congress aimed at reducing the prevalence of gun violence, none have been brought to the House floor for a vote.

Visit From One Of Our Green Ribbon Schools

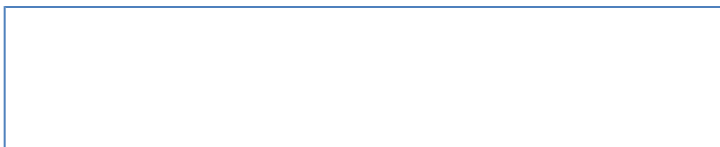
Los Cerritos Elementary School in the Long Beach Unified School District was recently recognized as a Green Ribbon School by the Department of Education. Los Cerritos Elementary is the 5th school in LBUSD to receive this prestigious award.

It was wonderful to meet last week with Marie Hatwan, Principal of Los Cerritos Elementary, Dianne Swanson, teacher at Los Cerritos Elementary, Petter Hennum, Energy Manager for the Long Beach Unified School District, and Janet Watt, Green Team Founder and student parent at Los Cerritos Elementary. Thanks for stopping by for a visit; it was great to learn more about the outstanding conservation and environmentally friendly efforts the school has implemented. This is just the type of leadership that will leave our environment in better shape for generations to come.

Protecting Fish Habitat In The Gulf

Last week, I offered an amendment to H.R. 1335, the Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act, that sought to preserve the habitat for the red snapper. My amendment would direct the National Ocean Council to work with both Gulf states and stakeholders to develop a transparent process to protect their precious habitat.

[Click here](#) or the image below to watch me introduce the amendment on the House floor.





In The 47th District

OC Housing Summit

On Thursday, May 28th, my staff attended the Orange County Housing Summit and while I was unable to attend in person, it was my pleasure to send a pre-recorded video message to help open the event.

The summit was sponsored by NeighborWorks of Orange County, a non-profit organization with a 37-year history of meeting the housing needs of working families throughout Orange County's communities. The organization assists the public with preparation for homeownership, getting the best financing possible, protecting home investment, preventing foreclosures, and creating affordable homes. The summit had a variety of panels with speakers from every aspect of the housing industry. Some of the data provided during the summit highlighted the need to create affordable housing for working men and women and seniors in Orange County.



NeighborWorks has estimated that a person would need to make an average of \$30.00 an hour in order to rent a one bedroom apartment in Orange

County. The summit also addressed some of the current challenges in housing, such as a millennial population living longer with their parents which creates a need for multi-generational housing, and an aging population living longer and therefore, staying longer in their homes, posing a lack of inventory of homes for sale.

BLAST Breakfast

I want to commend BLAST (Better Learning for all Students Today), which recently had their 8th Annual Breakfast. BLAST is a program where college mentors are paired with high school mentees.

During the breakfast mentor-mentee teams spoke about their experience working and learning from each other; valedictorian students from Reid High School shared the impact the program had on their life. Also, Rebecca "Suzanne" Caverly Restorative Justice Coordinator and Student Council Advisor at Beach High School spoke to the value and successes of the program for at-risk students.

CSULB President, Jane Close Conoley and Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, who also attended the breakfast, spoke on the benefits of the program and his commitment to serving the diverse needs of youth in our community.

Congratulations BLAST for your work and commitment to the youth in our community!

Congress U

Congressional Staff

Each week in Congress U, I try to explain some aspect, terminology, or practice of Congress in straightforward language. Congress U has covered a lot of territory over the past couple of years, but it occurred to me that I have not talked about the staff that make up a Congressional office.

Most congressional offices have a similar staff composition. In many offices one person might hold two of the following positions. Sometimes the titles for the positions are different, but typically a Congressional office has the following staff:

Chief of Staff (CoS): The lead staff member of an office, typically reporting directly to the Member. The CoS is in charge of overall office operations, including the assignment of work and the hiring and supervision of staff. In many cases the CoS is the Member's top political advisor.

District Director: Is typically the highest ranking staff member in the district office(s). Serves as a CoS for activities and staffers in the district office(s).

Legislative Director (LD) : Monitors the legislative schedule and makes recommendations regarding the pros and cons of particular issues and proposals. Also, plans legislative initiatives and strategies; supervises other legislative staff.

Communications Director (CD): Serves as Member's spokesperson, liaison, and key contact with the media. Responsible for press releases, statements, and in most cases, social media.

Scheduler: The scheduler is responsible for allocating the Member's time among the many demands that arise from Congressional responsibilities,

staff requirements, and constituent requests.

Legislative Correspondent (LC): LCs are responsible for making sure that all constituent communications are brought to the attention of the Member and answered.

Legislative Aides (LA): Most offices have multiple LAs who are responsible for a portfolio of issue areas, such as transportation, education, environment, etc. Most are responsible for attending meetings, meeting with constituent and interest groups, tracking legislation, and keeping the Member informed of important information or news within their issue areas.

Field Representatives: Working out the district office(s), Field Representatives serve as the Member's liaison to specific geographic areas or demographic groups within the district. They often appear at functions and events in the community as the Member's staff representative. Many field representatives often serve dual duty as a Constituent Services Representative.

Constituent Services Representatives: Staff members in a district office that are assigned to handle constituent requests for assistance in dealing with federal agencies, such as Social Security, veteran's benefits, immigration issues, passports, etc. Most offices have multiple caseworkers.

Last Week's Poll

What do you think is the most important problem facing the nation today?

19.3%	Dissatisfaction with government
8.0%	Economy in general
4.8%	Unemployment/Jobs
2.7%	Race relations
7.8%	Immigration
3.5%	Healthcare
4.6%	Terrorism
22.5%	Gap between rich and poor
7.5%	National security
4.8%	Education
8.9%	Climate change and the environment
5.5%	OTHER*

**The numerous entries entered under the 'other' answer covered a wide spectrum, with most being answers that rephrased or reiterated the pre-stated answers available in the poll. Where possible, 'other' answers that could be included in the pre-stated poll answer categories were included with that answer and are reflected in the percentages of the pre-stated answers above. The remaining 'other' entries were all one-off answers that covered many areas ranging from the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision, to religious freedom, to the Trans-Pacific Partnership, to taxes in general.*

Thank you,



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