



The 47th Flyer

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



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August 30, 2013

Seeing the tens of thousands of people gathered on the National Mall to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington has reinvigorated my belief that the constant battle for equality has not been abandoned.

The greatest danger to our national quest for equality is the dangerous assumption that we have accomplished the goal. We must continue the fight. We must all remain diligent.

Equality is the foundation of liberty, and liberty the cornerstone of democracy. Democracy, without equality for all, cannot stand.

It is a struggle in which we all have an interest and in which we all have a role.

In the words of Dr. King, "We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall march ahead. We cannot turn back."

EDUCATION IS CRITICAL TO OUR FUTURE

As an educator for more than 30 years, I know that the pursuit of knowledge and education is our greatest hope in maintaining a healthy democracy, ensuring economic competitiveness, and spurring innovation.

As our nation continues on a path to economic recovery, we must rededicate our support of our educational system and provide our students with the best possible resources they need to succeed and to contribute to our society. Investments in higher education, with an emphasis on student financial support, innovative teaching strategies, and the research and development of new technologies, should remain a legislative priority.

Earlier this year, as federal student interest loan rates threatened to double, I supported keeping student loan rates low as a cosponsor of H.R. 1595--the Student Loan Relief Act--which would have extended the 3.4 percent interest rate on Stafford loans through 2015. Unfortunately, the bill fell short of reaching the House floor for a vote by a mere 22 signatures.

However, last month Congress was able to pass a bipartisan solution to undo the July 1st student loan interest rate increase and instead tie it to the yield on the 10-year Treasury note, undoing the impacts of the sudden rise in interest rates. While this measure was not the solution I had hoped for, I believe that we reached the best compromise possible for our students at this time.

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What should the United States do following the now-verified chemical weapons attacks by the Syrian government on its own people?

Install a no-fly zone over Syria

Work with the international community to take action

Attack government military installations

Attack only chemical weapons sites/facilities

Bring war crimes charges against government leaders

The U.S. should stay out of the conflict

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Interest rates are only a small part of the larger problem of the ever-increasing cost of higher education and the growing loans and debt that have accompanied it. This is why I also cosponsored comprehensive measures like the Student Loan Fairness Act, H.R.1330, which would make college loans more affordable for low income students, while working diligently to bring more resources to the 47th district, such introducing a legislative amendment to direct an additional \$5 million to the STARBASE Youth Program, which provides instruction for 5th grade underrepresented and low-income students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education.

HOW TO SEE MY VOTING RECORD

I believe that operating in the most transparent means possible is a duty for all elected officials. One layer of transparency is publishing my voting and legislative record, and, making those records easily searchable and understandable.

If you visit my website at lowenthal.house.gov, on the bottom right column, you can find the "My Voting Record" window. It lists my three most recent votes on the House floor as well as a link to take you to [a listing of all my votes](#) this session. In addition, there is a link to a page that [explains what each of the columns and terms](#) on the voting record screen mean.

Just above the "My Voting Record" window you will find a search box that will allow you to search for more information about specific legislation, or find all legislation that contains a certain word or phrase.

Is there a certain bill or issue that is important to you? Please take a moment and [send me an email](#) with your thoughts.



Caucuses

From the Algonquian Indian language, a caucus (kaw-kes) meant "to meet together." Caucuses are an informal organization of Members of the House or the Senate, or both, that exists to discuss issues of mutual concern and possibly to perform legislative research and policy planning for its members. There are regional, political or ideological, ethnic, and issue-specific caucuses. Here are a few of the nearly two-dozen caucuses of which I am proud to be a member, or you can [click here](#) to see a full list.

Ports Caucus

The Ports Caucus was developed to promote the importance of our nation's ports with regard to our nation's economy and the need to secure them by promoting dialogue between Congress, the Administration and relevant federal agencies, as well as important industry officials.

Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus

The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) is comprised of Members of Congress of Asian and Pacific Islander descent and members who have a strong dedication to promoting the well-being of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. CAPAC has been addressing the needs of the AAPI

community in all areas of American life since it was founded in 1994.

Congressional Maritime Caucus

The Congressional Maritime Caucus is a devoted ally of all components of the maritime industry and aims to tailor our maritime policy to meet the challenges of the 21st century by empowering the industry with the tools necessary to increase GDP and expand exports.

House LGBT Equality Caucus

The mission of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus is to promote lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) equality.

Veterans Jobs Caucus

The Congressional Veterans Jobs Caucus works to decrease the unemployment rate of the nation's veterans who are currently looking for work.

LAST WEEK'S SURVEY

This week marks the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream" speech. Do you think Dr. King's dream has been realized?

- 2.3%** Yes, we have overcome our prejudices
- 20.5%** Partly, but we still have a little work to do
- 63.6%** Partially, but we have a long way to go
- 13.6%** No, we have made no progress

Thank you,



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