



The 47th Flyer

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



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September 22, 2014

Arming Syrian Rebels

This week the House voted to arm and train Syrian rebels as part of a plan to combat the terrorist group ISIS in Iraq and Syria as outlined by President Obama last week.

I voted no on the proposal.

As part of a plan to defeat ISIS, I do support airstrikes and building a broad multi-national coalition including allies in the Middle East to combat ISIS.

However, I do not support using U.S. resources to train and equip Syrian rebels. These groups are already mired in a civil war of their own, and what we don't know about them far outweighs what we do know. I'm concerned that members of the Free Syrian Army we train today could turn on us in the future.

The vote was not a simple choice, as some have opined, between supporting the President and ignoring the threat of ISIS. I share the President's belief that ISIS is a brutal terrorist group with no respect for the sanctity of life or basic human rights.

However, I believe our role in dealing with ISIS should be as part of a broad, multi-national response. American safety and security requires us to be smart, not just tough.

On The Hill

Our DC Interns for Summer 2014

Three times a year, I offer a small group of young men and women the opportunity to work in either my district or Capitol Hill office as interns. The Washington, D.C., interns learn how a Congressional office works on a day-to-day basis, including attending hearings with staff, learning how bills are written and passed through the House, and leading tours of the Capitol.

If you or someone you know would like to be an intern in my office, you can find out more at my website by [clicking here](#).

In an upcoming issue of the 47th Flyer I will introduce the Class of Summer 2014 interns in my district office in Long Beach, but in this issue I want you to meet our Washington, D.C. Class of Summer 2014:

Diana Vergara was raised in Encinitas, California.

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Should we train and arm "moderate" Syrian rebels to fight against ISIS?

Yes - We need them to help combat the terrorists

Maybe - Only if we can properly vet who they are and their intentions toward the U.S.

No - We don't know enough about them

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



She is a senior at San Francisco State University, double majoring in Criminal Justice and Psychology. She has a passion for working with immigrant communities and plans to attend law school after graduation. Diana has worked with several different organizations in the Bay Area to find ways to increase educational opportunities for immigrant youth. She is currently interning in the U.S. House of Representatives for Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD).



Mina Kato was raised in Yorba Linda, California. She is a recent graduate with a B.A. in Political Science/International Affairs from the University of California, Riverside. Mina is attending American University and is in their Graduate Gateway Program in International Affairs, she is also currently interning for U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN). With her interests in foreign affairs and law, she intends to pursue a M.A./J.D. dual degree within the near future.



Nick Lee was raised in Berkeley, CA. He is a recent graduate of the University of California, San Diego, where he studied Political Science with an emphasis in political theory and History with an emphasis on European history. Nick has continued his experience in Washington, D.C with an internship for U.S. Senator Tom Carper (D-DE).



Sophia Herzlinger was raised in Newport Beach, California and is a current student at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts. She is a double major in Political Science and Community Health. Outside of the classroom, she is a member of the Tufts Women's Track and Field Team, a mentor for 3rd-5th grade girls, and a sister of Kappa Alpha Theta women's fraternity. Sophia is spending her fall semester studying in Sevilla, Spain.



Steven Cosgrove was born and raised in Irvine, California. Currently, he is a student at the University of California, Irvine, seeking a double major in Criminology, Law & Society and Psychology and Social Behavior. He expects to graduate in the spring of 2015 with the intention of attending Law School in fall of 2015. In addition to being a student, he has also worked as a pool manager and as a seasonal ocean lifeguard for California State Parks. Steven also has extensive experience competing in speech and debate, including participating in tournaments in China.

In The 47th District

Discussing Maritime Issues

This week I joined a panel with Rep. Janice Hahn, the executive directors of the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, and the chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC), former Long Beach Harbor Commissioner Mario Cordero, for an industry listening session at the Port of Los Angeles.

The purpose was to hear from those in the maritime, ports, and transportation industries regarding congestion at U.S. ports.



In less than a decade, the typical cargo container vessel calling at the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles has grown from carrying the equivalent of 5,000 containers to upward of 15,000 containers. Efficient cargo handling now makes it possible to discharge all of these containers at a marine terminal in the span of a single day. This can lead to road and rail congestion as this crush of containers has to be picked up by trucks or loaded onto railcars.

The listening session was the first in a series to be held across the country by the FMC to address factors causing port congestion, use of technology to reduce congestion, infrastructure needs, increasing global efficiency, and more.

Speaking with PFLAG

This week I had the opportunity to serve as the keynote speaker at the PFLAG Southern Regional Conference in Long Beach.

Formerly known as Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays, PFLAG was founded in 1972 and is made up of parents, families, friends, and allies united with people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT). PFLAG is committed to advancing equality and full societal affirmation of LGBT people through its threefold mission of support, education, and advocacy.

With over 350 chapters and 200,000 members in all 50 states, PFLAG is the nation's largest family and ally organization.

I gave the attendees a legislative update and talked about some of the actions I have taken on the issues of equality and non-discrimination.

I also told them how I proudly fly the Pride Flag outside my Washington, D.C. office in solidarity with the fight for equality (the first House office to do so) and how privileged I was to have been able to stand on the steps of the Supreme Court with hundreds of others when the court handed down their rulings overturning the Defense of Marriage Act and California's Prop 8, which both barred same-sex marriage.



Talking with Barbara Pisetsky, the Director of the PFLAG Southern Pacific Region, and PFLAG member and former-Minnesota Vikings kicker, Chris Kluwe.

Congress U

Congress on TV

If you have watched any debate, vote, or other action on the House floor, the chances are you were watching it on C-SPAN. The cable channel first began broadcasting live unedited House sessions in 1975 and live unedited Senate proceedings on C-SPAN2 starting in 1986.

Established as a private, nonprofit organization, C-SPAN is funded by a 6¢ per subscriber fee paid by cable providers. C-SPAN operates without advertisements and operates independently--neither the cable industry nor Congress has control of the content of its programming.

The cameras on the House and Senate floors (and many hearing rooms) that C-SPAN pulls feeds from are actually owned and maintained by the respective legislative bodies, not C-SPAN.

A 2013 study found that approximately 47 million Americans, or 24% of adult cable viewers, watch C-SPAN weekly.

Last Week's Poll

Do you think that ISIS poses a direct threat to the United States?

56.8% Yes - ISIS poses a direct threat

28.4% Maybe - Not now, but in the future if not dealt with now

14.8% No - ISIS does not pose a threat

Thank you,



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