



The 47th Flyer

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



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October 25, 2013

It has been a week and a half since the government re-opened for business. I am so pleased to focus my efforts on the issues that matter most to the 47th District.

While the shutdown jeopardized our economic credibility, shook consumer and investor confidence, and cost \$24 billion, I am hopeful that Congress will work together to ensure this does not happen again. We can now renew our efforts on comprehensive immigration reform, job creation, and the reversal of the harmful sequestration cuts.

Sequestration is already having severe impacts on our economy, and it will get worse when the next round of cuts go until full effect in January of next year. As the House returns to regular order, it is critical to re-address these harmful and indiscriminate cuts.

Comprehensive Immigration Reform

In an effort to bring a comprehensive immigration reform package to the House floor for a vote, I recently cosponsored the [Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act, or H.R. 15](#).

I am not in favor of a piecemeal approach, and I believe this comprehensive House Democratic bill provides much needed solutions to the challenges facing our country's immigration system. In fact, it combines bipartisan measures already approved in both chambers.

Included in the bill are key provisions such as the implementation of a national, mandatory E-Verify system, an increase in H-1B visas for high-skilled temporary workers, a new guest visa for lower-skilled workers, increased border security, a focus on family reunification, critical protections for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transsexual immigrants, as well as a path to citizenship for the estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States. The bill also calls for the Department Homeland Security (DHS) to develop and implement a biometric exit control plan for all ports of entry, both sea ports like the Port of Long Beach and landside border entry points like San Ysidro, to track border crossings to and from the U.S.

Comprehensive immigration reform has been at the forefront of many legislative debates this year and it's time for us to bring about meaningful reform to our immigration system.

Doing More For the Ports

Each year, ports throughout the nation pay a total of more than \$1.5 billion into what is called the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. The money in the

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What should Congress focus on next now that the shutdown has ended?

- Comprehensive Immigration Reform
- A long-term budget deal
- A bipartisan plan to grow the economy and create jobs
- Delaying the Affordable Care Act
- Ensuring the successful implementation of the Affordable Care Act

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federal fund is then used, mainly, by the Army Corps of Engineers for what is called maintenance dredging. This type of dredging is important for ports that frequently become clogged with sediments, like those on the Mississippi River. However, our Southern California ports, among others, do not require much of this type of dredging on a regular basis.

On Wednesday, I introduced an amendment to a major water bill that allows the money in the fund to be used for far more projects at our ports and along our waterways. Allowing this money to be spent on additional kinds of harbor maintenance projects will help the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles continue to thrive as a major economic engine for our region and our nation.

Now that the shutdown is over

The media know it, and more and more members of Congress know it: Gerrymandered districts are unfair and were one of the underlying reasons that members of both parties could not reach consensus on keeping the government open and paying our debts.

I am reaching out to members of both parties to join with me on my bill, "Let the People Draw the Lines Act". It calls for all states to implement citizen commissions to draw congressional districts, similar to California's Independent Redistricting Commission.

Although it will be difficult to get this bill passed this year, I will continue working hard to ensure that all all congressional districts are drawn fairly.

SAVE THE DATE: Free Community Health & Enrollment Fair

Please join me and California State Senator Lou Correa on Thursday, November 7th at 2:00pm for a Free Community Health & Healthcare Enrollment Fair in Garden Grove, CA.

Our partners include: Catholic Charities of Orange County, Orange County Asian Pacific Islander Community Alliance, Orange County Health Care Agency, CalOptima, and Memorial Care. They will be available to answer any and all questions you may have about healthcare and the new healthcare marketplace.

WHAT: FREE Community Health & Enrollment Fair

- Learn all about the new California Health Benefit Exchange – Covered CA
- Meet with Certified Covered CA Counselors
- Free Health Screenings
- Free Flu Shots

WHEN: Thursday, November 7, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

WHERE: Garden Grove Community Meeting Center
11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, CA 92840

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE

To RSVP or for more information please contact Irantzu Pujadas at 562-436-3828 or by email at Irantzu.Pujadas@mail.house.gov.



"Regular Order"

You have heard me talk a lot about “regular order” this month. Regular order can be defined as those rules, precedents, and customs of Congress that constitute an orderly and deliberative policymaking process. The process includes an objective assessment of the problem through inclusive information-gathering; a balanced weighing of alternative solutions, and coming to final judgment on a solution through robust debate among all parties.

In its simplest form, it means that both the House and the Senate abide by their standing rules. A key component of regular order is getting the House and Senate to pass the 12 appropriations bills that fund our government without depending on continuing resolutions that only provide short-term funding. When the House and Senate come together to work out long-term budget solutions (and the differences they have in funding various programs, necessitating compromise and consensus), it is often referred to as a budget conference committee. Congress is then operating in regular order.

Thank you,



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