



The 47th Flyer

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



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November 15, 2013

Tragedy In The Philippines

My thoughts and prayers are extended to everyone in the Philippines being impacted by Typhoon Haiyan (also known as Super Typhoon Yolanda), as well as to the thousands of Filipino Americans in my district with families back in the Philippines. What a terrible tragedy.

Typhoon Haiyan devastated communities and left large portions of their country in ruin. I want to thank the American Red Cross, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Department of Defense, and the countless international aid organizations providing assistance and helping the survivors in their time of need. Our country's aid organizations are the best in the world, and I am so grateful for the work they are doing for the Philippines.

I encourage you to visit the United States Agency for International Development's website www.usaid.gov/haiyan to find more information about how you can help the Typhoon Haiyan relief effort.

If you are concerned about the welfare of an American citizen in the Philippines, you may call the Department of State's Overseas Citizens Services (OCS) toll-free hotline at (888) 407-4747 during the hours 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (EST) Monday through Friday.

UPDATE: Affordable Care Act & Covered California

With 2.5 million Californians visiting Covered California's website and 30,830 enrolled, California is responsible for enrolling over 25% of the Americans who sought coverage in the health insurance marketplaces (exchanges) since October 1. This is an incredible start to our state's journey that is paving the way for the rest of the country; and, this is an opportunity for California to shine, to get it right, and to prove that the new health care law can and will work.

Californians must not forget that we are only one month into a six-month enrollment period. I project that we will begin to see an influx of enrollees over the coming months as information about the exchanges becomes more widespread and consumers begin to navigate what Covered California has to offer.

On Thursday, the President asked insurance companies not to cancel existing policies, allowing individuals to retain their current policies. In California, it is now up to Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones, Covered California, and the health insurance companies to provide Californians with the flexibility to either keep their current plans, or, if they so desire, to move

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Was President Obama's address to Americans about the issues with HealthCare.Gov and health insurance policy cancellations sufficient to reinstall trust in the Affordable Care Act?

Yes

Maybe, but Congress and the States need to help fix the issues, too

Maybe, but he needs to accept more of the blame

No

Not Sure

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to the marketplace and find new coverage. Moving to the new marketplace may provide greater coverage at an affordable cost.

We have been hearing from those who are grateful for being able to afford healthcare for their families for the first time, to people with pre-existing conditions who can now get coverage again, to people who have received cancellation letters from their insurance companies. Those who have received letters are often confused by what is happening, frightened about not being able to afford insurance, and, in many cases, understandably angry.

In the meantime, the Administration must intensify its efforts to fix the federal exchange website for those 34 states relying on healthcare.gov. California, however, should be proud of the work our state-run exchange, Covered California, has done thus far. There is much work to be done in our state – and the whole country is watching us – but I am confident that this will make our state better and our citizens healthier.

Thank you,



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Washington, D.C. Office

515 Cannon
House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-7924
Hours: M-F 9-5:30pm

Long Beach District Office

100 W. Broadway
Long Beach, CA 90802
West Tower Suite 600
Phone: (562) 436-3828
Fax: (562) 437-6434

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