



The 47th Flyer

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



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November 21, 2014

It Was Time To Act

During my time in Congress, I have strongly supported comprehensive immigration reform that would provide a pathway to citizenship while securing our borders and fixing our broken immigration system. While the Senate passed a bipartisan bill by wide margins last year, the House leadership has yet to even call a vote, though this bill would pass with support from both parties.

While Congress has refused to act, millions of families across our country and in California have lived under the threat of deportation. I have repeatedly urged the President to use his authority and protect families until Congress passes immigration reform. In doing so, the President would be using his power consistent with his authority and in line with many of his predecessors, both Republican and Democrat.

I am pleased that the President announced his plan this week to shield 5 million people from deportation.

The President's action will help thousands of people in California's 47th District like Gurmukh Singh, a devoted father who faces deportation despite having young children and being a productive member of our community. Thousands of people like Mr. Singh will be now able to continue contributing to our communities and raising strong families. According to the Pew Research Center, in California over 13% of all students have at least one undocumented parent. It's time to start addressing the immigration issue with the compassion and consideration that characterizes us as Americans.

On The Hill

Bring The Olympics Back To Southern California

I have fond memories of the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, with many events such as archery, volleyball, fencing, and sailing held in the 47th District. The Los Angeles games set the bar for how to organize a modern Olympic games and are considered the most financially successful of the modern era. They were also a major economic generator for our region.

This week I proudly joined 20 of my House colleagues in writing to the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) encouraging them to pick Los Angeles as the nation's bidder for the 2024 Summer Olympic Games.

This summer, USOC named Los Angeles as one of four U.S. finalists and the group is expected to select a city in the next few months.

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Do you approve or disapprove of the president taking executive action on immigration, or do you not know enough to have an opinion at this time?

- Approve
- Lean Approve
- Lean Disapprove
- Disapprove
- No opinion
- Not sure

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My colleagues and I made it clear that we each "stand ready to partner with the city of Los Angeles in this endeavor," just as we did when Los Angeles successfully secured the 2015 Special Olympics World Games.

The letter also pointed out that Los Angeles is a vibrant and diverse city that embodies the highest ideals of the Olympic spirit. From the rich Olympic tradition to the world-class infrastructure, the natural beauty of the region to the hospitality, Los Angeles has the ability to provide a second-to-none atmosphere for the athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators.

Fighting Ebola At Its Source

The Ebola outbreak in West Africa is the most wide spread and deadly since the disease was first identified in the 1970s. It is essential to continue the vital and lifesaving work necessary to bring an end to the current outbreak at its source in West Africa, safeguard the American public from further spread of the disease, and support the development of life saving treatments.

This is why I have signed an urgent letter to the House Appropriations Committee urging approval of the President's emergency funding request to support the U.S. response to Ebola.

The requested \$6.18 billion would be invested throughout various government agencies to combat the disease on multiple fronts of the outbreak. The U.S. Government response will meet both immediate and longer-term requirements, with \$4.64 billion to be used for immediate response and \$1.54 billion to be included in a contingency fund to ensure that there are resources available to meet the evolving nature of the epidemic.

The current Ebola epidemic is not limited geographically to rural areas as outbreaks in the past; it is a regional health, humanitarian, and global security crisis that needs the support of the international community to bring the outbreak to an end and ensure the stability of impacted countries.

The requested funding is a critical investment to maintaining global health security and end the current Ebola outbreak.

In The 47th District

Working On Immigration In The District

I wanted to be sure you are aware that my district office staff includes caseworkers who are skilled in assisting constituents of the 47th District who need assistance with federal agencies.

During the 113th Congress, which began in January, 2013, my district staff have completed nearly 750 constituents cases. Of these, 230 cases involved constituents needing help with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) or other federal agency related to immigration issues. While every constituent case is unique, the vast majority of these immigration-related cases fall into several broad categories.

The first is helping constituents with the processing of their green card application when the process has been delayed for some reason, often when the situation is keeping families separated.

My district office also deals with many cases where constituents are asking for help expediting a work authorization application. For example, the constituent might have a job offer but is still waiting for their work permit.

There are also a good number of cases involving constituents who asked for assistance checking on the status of an application under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals memorandum, or DACA. These individuals immigrated to the U.S. as children and prior to President Obama signing the DACA memorandum in 2012, faced deportation despite having lived the vast majority of their lives in the U.S.

The district office staff also serves as a liaison between constituents and U.S. Embassies and consulates throughout the world for the relatives of constituents seeking to obtain visas.

Constituents who need assistance in dealing with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) or other federal agencies related to immigration can contact my district office in Long Beach at (562) 436-3828. My staff will do all they can to help residents needing guidance with federal agencies.

Long Beach Loses A Champion

I am deeply saddened by the recent news that my dear friend and colleague Ray Grabinski has passed away. Ray and I worked together closely over the years, from our days working on the Long Beach Area Citizens Involved to our time together serving on the Long Beach City Council.

Ray was my closest friend, compatriot, and confidant on the City Council. He was a good friend whom I respected tremendously.



Ray represented the West Side of Long Beach for three terms on the City Council and he was beloved by the residents of his district. He was likely the first real progressive to win election to the City Council, and he brought the concerns and voices of those who lived on the West Side to City Hall for the first time.

Simply put, Ray was a champion for those who did not have a voice.

His impact on Long Beach cannot be understated.

I will miss him greatly.

Congress U

Congressional Office Lottery

All members of Congress have an office in one of the three Congressional office buildings, named Rayburn, Longworth, and Cannon—which sit just south of the Capitol building. Every two years, at the start of each new Congressional session, a certain number of offices are vacated by departing members who retired or lost their reelection bid. To divvy up the available offices, the House holds an office lottery. House members can choose to enter the lottery if they wish to vie for one of the open offices.

The lottery goes by session and then by name. Those members who joined during the 112th Congress go before those that first joined in the 113th Congress, and the

111th members go before the 112th. Within each session, the members go in alphabetic order to choose numbers from a box. The member who chooses 'number 1' gets first choice of the offices that are still available, and so on until the member who selected the highest number has selected.

When I joined the 113th Congress, I drew 'number 57' from the box and selected 515 Cannon on the 5th floor of the Cannon House Office Building, otherwise known as the 'Freshman Attic.'

This time, I drew 'number 16,' and my Washington, D.C. office will be moving to 108 Cannon House Office Building. The fifth floor has been a good home for the last two years, but I am looking forward to being just a little closer to all of the action.

Last Week's Poll

Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with how the healthcare system is working for you?

52% - Very satisfied

28% - Somewhat satisfied

23% - Somewhat dissatisfied

53% - Very dissatisfied

Thank you,



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