



The 47th Flyer

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



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November 10, 2013

This week in the district I have been doing what I enjoy the most: Listening.

I consider one of my main responsibilities as your elected official is to listen to you and your neighbors. It is always inspiring to hear from my constituents because it allows me to connect with and understand the complex issues that impact our community. Sometimes we may agree and sometimes we may not, but you can be guaranteed that I will always be listening. What I find each time I hear from constituents is that I learn something new about a particular issue.

Sometimes, through listening, my insight on an issue grows. That is the beauty of listening. And if you have not shared your thoughts with me yet, I urge you to do so by visiting my website and filling out this form. Your thoughts, comments, and suggestions are what help me better represent the 47th District. Listening is what makes me a better Representative.

District Update

I visited Edwards Lifesciences' heart valve research, development and manufacturing facility on Wednesday. The facility creates hundreds of high-paying technical jobs for CA-47 residents, and it is a prime example of a successful "made in America" company. I was surprised by the fact that a significant amount of the manufacturing of heart valves was done by hand!



On Thursday, I hosted a free health care fair in partnership with California State Senator Lou Correa. The fair was held in Garden Grove, a part of the community that we both represent. The turnout could not have been any better.

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Is passing the Employment Non- Discrimination Act (ENDA) a good idea?

Yes - it provides equal protection under the law against discrimination for all Americans, regardless of their sexual orientation

No - it is too restrictive on a business'ability to hire and fire at-will

Maybe - it could lead to unexpected consequences, such as employment lawsuits

Not Sure

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



Parents brought their kids to get free flu shots; members of the community brought their questions about the Affordable Care Act, the new health care law; and, health care professionals and experts were there to answer questions and even get folks familiar with applying for health insurance through the health insurance marketplace, Covered California.

#PassENDA

This week, the Senate took action on a very important bill. Sadly, not all American workers enjoy equal protection under the law. The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which ends employment discrimination against lesbians, gays, transsexuals and bisexuals, has been making some progress in Congress. My hope is that it successfully passes the House and makes its way to the President's desk for his signature. The Senate on Monday held a cloture vote—a vote that ends further debate and the possibility of a filibuster—clearing the way for final passage in the Senate.

The Senate then took a final vote on Thursday where it passed 64-32.

Unfortunately, the House Majority may not decide to vote on this legislation, which will end decades-long practices of discriminating against current and prospective employees due to their sexual orientation.

I have supported, advocated, and fought for civil and human rights my whole adult life. I continue to fight for these rights because the alternative is giving in to the voices of intolerance, bigotry, and hatred. The real question is not why I support ENDA -- the real question is how could any rational person oppose it? ENDA must become law. It is time to end job-based discrimination against our LGBT brothers and sisters.



Congress U - "Cloture"

When you hear the word "cloture" in Congress, it is easy to just think of the word "closure". A cloture vote is a procedural vote in the Senate that closes the window for debate—it provides closure on the topic being discussed and allows it to move forward in the legislative process. Only the Senate takes cloture votes. They do not

exist in the House. It is the vote on cloture in the Senate that can overcome an ongoing filibuster. This usually takes 60 votes majority to do so.

In the case of Monday's cloture vote in the Senate on ENDA, 60 members of the Senate voted "yea" on the cloture vote; therefore, the bill was then allowed to move forward and be considered, or voted on, in its entirety.

Enjoy your weekend!

Thank you,



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