



Your Congressman Reports

Danny K. Davis

Representative in Congress

August 2009 – 7th Congressional District - Illinois
To reach my office: 773-533-7520 www.davis.house.gov

First Priority: Economic Recovery

As we reach the halfway mark of the 2009 legislative session, I take this opportunity to share some of the legislative and programmatic activities which my office and myself have been engaged on your behalf during the past six months.

Like most Americans we waited with great anticipation the inauguration of the nation's 44th President and to that end have supported with great enthusiasm most of his programs and initiatives. Working to get our economy back on track at the forefront of President Obama's agenda and it is at the forefront of mine as well.

Although some of these initiatives have been controversial, my outlook remains optimistic that the steps we have taken in the Congress have slowed the precipitous decline in our economy and reinforced some weaknesses in our social safety net and that we will begin to move toward recovery and relief for the millions of working families which have been so deeply impacted.



Rep. Davis meeting with members of the Chicago Religious Leaders Network about U.S. policy in Latin America.

In the course of making these decisions I have received, and deeply appreciated, the input of hundreds of constituents . . . constituents who have called and left their opinions, constituents who have written or emailed, constituents who have attended my townhalls, constituents who have joined and met with one of my task forces, and constituents who have visited my offices in the District or in Washington. The number of issues they have raised with me, or my staff, has been most impressive. They have been concerned about jobs, about the economy, about foreclosure, about education, about health care, about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, about torture and Guantanamo, about our policies in Latin America, about immigration, about youth violence, about criminal justice reform, about taxes, about family assistance.

My thanks to each and every one who has taken the time and concern to share their thoughts and opinions. To join one of my task forces please visit my website or call 773-533-7520.

Upcoming Events hosted by Congressman Davis

During the months of August and September you may visit with Congressman Davis at these 7th Congressional District townhalls:

August 15, 2009 – 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.
Annual Education Day
Columbus Park
5700 West Jackson, Chicago, Illinois

August 29, 2009 – 9:30 a.m.
Executive Clemency
2nd Baptist Church of Maywood
436 South 13th Ave, Maywood, Illinois

August 22, 2009 – 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Annual State of the District
Malcolm X College
1900 West Jackson, Chicago, Illinois

September 19, 2009 – 9:00 a.m.
Annual Recovery Day
Douglas Park
California and Ogden, Chicago

Health Care Reform

As a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, I have worked actively with Congressional leaders to develop the health care bill much of which came out of our committee. It is currently being debated and discussed. The need for health care reform across the nation and especially in Illinois is clear. Since 2000, average family premiums have increased by 89% in Illinois. 22% of middle income families spend more than 10% of their income on healthcare. 13% of Illinoisans report not visiting a doctor due to high costs and 14% of people in Illinois are uninsured.

The health reform proposal which we put together collectively in the three committees of jurisdiction (Ways and Means Committee, Energy and Commerce and Education and Labor) will lower costs to consumers, preserve and provide choice of doctors and health plans, ensure stability and peace of mind that coverage can't be delayed or denied and ensure the quality of patient care. My presence on the Committee gave me the opportunity to raise many issues during the debate which are priorities for Chicago and Illinois and during the debate I:

- 1) stayed philosophically attuned and espoused the need for a single payer National Health Plan
- 2) remained steadfast that our bill contain a public health insurance plan option
- 3) pushed hard to increase and seriously expand community health centers like Winfield-Moody, Komed-Holman, Mile Square, Circle Family Care, Alivio, Lawndale Christian, PCC Wellness Care, Access and many others throughout Chicago and Illinois
- 4) pushed hard for the inclusion of home visiting programs and for Community Choice for individuals with disabilities
- 5) fought hard for prevention and wellness programs and for resources to train more primary care physicians

The end result program elements of the bill were pleasing, but I was even more pleased when we were able to beat back efforts to increase taxes on low and middle income families by blocking a ten cent a bottle increase for sugar sweetened soft drinks and to resist proposals to increase taxes on employee wages.

Continuing my philosophy of providing opportunities for citizen input into the decisions that I make as your Representative, I held two townhall meetings on healthcare reform, one at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and the other at Loretto Hospital and an additional townhall "listening session" at Rush Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center. All of the meetings were well attended and provided excellent discussion and input.

For more details on the Health Care Reform Legislation please visit my website at: www.davis.house.gov and click on the issues link.

Environmental Pollution, Energy Conservation, Global Warming and Job Creation



Rep. Davis with DC summer interns (left to right) Marshall Hatch, Kathleen O'Quinn, Aisan Raisdana, Pierre Meloty-Kapella

As a result of concern about climate change, reliance on foreign oil, pollution and job creation the House of Representatives under the leadership of Speaker Nancy Pelosi has passed a broad, comprehensive energy bill which protects the environment, creates new jobs and decreases our reliance upon foreign oil. This legislation represents a significant step toward addressing the threat of global climate change and to the creation of a greener America.

This is a large and complex piece of legislation and anyone who is interested can find more information through my website. One of the most contentious issues related to the bill is the cost. We now have an estimate of the cost by the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that the net annual economy wide cost of the cap-and-trade program in 2020 would be \$22 billion—or about \$175 per household. That figure includes the cost of restructuring the production and use of energy and of payments made to foreign entities under the program, but it does not include the economic benefits and other benefits of the reduction in GHG emissions and the

associated slowing of climate change. CBO could not determine the incidence of certain pieces (including both costs and benefits) that represent, on net, about 8 percent of the total. For the remaining portion of the net cost, households in the lowest income quintile would see an average net benefit of about \$40 in 2020, while households in the highest income quintile would see a net cost of \$245. Added costs for households in the second lowest quintile would be about \$40 that year; in the middle quintile, about \$235; and in the fourth quintile, about \$340. Overall net costs would average 0.2 percent of households' after-tax income.

Summer Interns

Each summer we have the opportunity to have a number of interns in both out Washington and District offices. These interns learn first hand and up close about the functioning of a Congressional office. They learn about the issues facing the Congress by doing, by assisting in the work my office does in shaping legislation. The work they do in my office is a great plus for the residents of the 7th District. Hopefully they leave with knowledge, skills, experience and insights which will serve them well in the future. If you call one of my offices and have a chance to speak with an intern, please thank them for their public service.

Education

As co-chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Community Re-investment Task Force I have been a staunch advocate for increased spending for higher education which has resulted in more monies being allocated for Asian Pacific and Native American Institutions, Hispanic Serving Institutions, Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Predominately Black Institutions. Already having received new monies from these programs are Malcolm X College, Olive Harvey College, Kennedy - King College, Chicago State University, East - West University and a number of others.

I have met with Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan and other education officials to work on the high drop-out rate, lack of academic achievement and the high number of students, especially the number of African American boys, in special education. One of the special events in my Washington office are the visits we get from district school children who come to learn about how their government works. These young people come prepared, having studied the issues and having thought through and discussed their concerns in the classroom in preparation for their meeting with me. Meeting and speaking with them is always interesting.

The Congress sponsors the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program with Germany. Since 1983, this Congressionally funded youth exchange program has helped to prepare young people for living in a global society. This program allows young people to develop critical intercultural skills while learning what it's like to live and attend school abroad. The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange program is for motivated high school students who want to live with a host family and attend school for an academic year in Germany. No previous language experience is required. You can host an Exchange Student from Germany and enjoy an intercultural learning a family experience. Local volunteers will enroll your student in high school and provide support.



Rep. Davis with Congress-Bundestag Exchange student James Files (Oak Park)

My district education task force continues to meet each month to explore issues and plan activities like my Annual District Art Competition (see below), Education Recognition, Student Scholarship, and Education Day townhalls.

2009 7th Congressional District High School Art Fair

For the past twenty-nine years Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, committed to promoting the arts among young people and preserving and promulgating our cultural Heritage, join together to recognize the creative spirit of American high school students in a nationwide art competition. The contest *An Artistic Discovery* is implemented by the Members in their districts and features paintings, drawings, prints and photography.

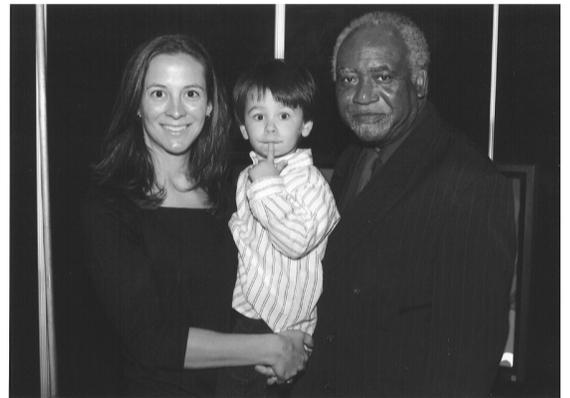
My 2009 7th Congressional District High School Art Competition was held Friday, May 1, 2009, at the United Center (Home of the Chicago Bulls and Blackhawks). Participating high schools included Whitney M. Young, North Lawndale College Prep., Manley Career Academy, Latin School of Chicago, John Marshall Metro, George W. Collins, Oak Park - River Forest, Proviso West, and Proviso East. There were sixty-two students competing for First through Sixth place for prizes that included three round-trip tickets to Washington, D.C. to attend the National Exhibition Opening in June, hotel accommodations, \$500, two new laptops, summer scholarship to the School of the Art Institute, Bulls, Blackhawk and White Sox tickets, savings bonds ranging from \$50 to \$300, Brookfield Zoo Family Packages, and family passes to the Art Institute of Chicago.

The First place prize was won by Ms. Lourdes Ortega of Westchester, Illinois who attends Proviso West High School; Second place went to Teresa Gugliotti-Kremer from the Latin School of Chicago; Third place won by Krizia Lopez from Whitney M. Young High School; Fourth place to Junia Findley from Manley Career Academy; Fifth place to Carmen Au also from Whitney M. Young High School; and Sixth Place to Kiya Morrison from Proviso West High School. All student art work was outstanding and all are winners.

Child Welfare

My child welfare advocacy and activities continue at a high level. Two new intergenerational living facilities have opened in the 7th District: Coppin AME Church Home in the southern part of the district and Sankofa House on West Roosevelt Road in Chicago as a result of Federal Grants which I helped obtain.

Efforts to find solutions to problems facing young people, especially African American males continue to get significant attention from me including an emerging initiative in the form of legislation I am writing after consultation with Central State University, Chicago State University, Dr. Alvin Pouissant, Dr. Bill Cosby and other national experts.



Congressman Davis discusses child welfare issues with constituents Ms. Chrissy Cerasale and Sean.

Criminal Justice Reform

My work with judicial and prison reform also continues and recently I convened a National Forum on Sentencing featuring Supreme Court Justice Steven Bryer, Attorney General Eric Holder, Sentencing Commission Member Marc Maur and a number of legal scholars and experts. The sub-committee on Commerce Justice Appropriations recently recommended funding my Second Chance Act at \$100 million for implementation in FY2010.

**U.S. House of Representatives
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