

January 19, 2007

Dear Friend:

I am pleased to report that the first business of the 110th Congress in the House of Representatives has been an overwhelming show of bipartisan support for many of our nation's most pressing issues. During the first 100 hours the House passed legislation implementing ethics reform, adopting the 9/11 Commission recommendations, increasing the minimum wage, expanding stem cell research, negotiating Medicare drug prices, making student loans more affordable and repealing tax breaks for oil companies. The 100 Hour legislative agenda has been a huge success. Take a look at the progress we've made so far:

- **H.R. 1, Implementing the 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act of 2007:**

In 2004, the 9/11 Commission made 41 recommendations to Congress and the Administration designed to secure our country from terrorist attacks. While some of these recommendations were partially implemented many of the most important were not. H.R. 1 addressed the recommendations that were ignored, including strengthening the state homeland security grant program, creating funding for interoperable communications for first responders, requiring 100% inspection of air and water cargo and establishing foundations to promote economic opportunities for young people in the Middle East. On January 9, 2007, the House passed H.R. 1 by a vote of 299 – 128.

- **H.R. 2, Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007:**

On January 10, 2007, the House voted 315 – 116 to increase the federal minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25. This ended almost 10 years of inaction on the minimum wage, the longest stretch without an increase in history. The new minimum wage will impact nearly 13 million Americans, the majority of whom are parents struggling to make ends meet.

- **H.R. 3, Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007:**

During the 109th Congress, both the Senate and House passed a Stem Cell Research bill with strong bipartisan support. Unfortunately, the bill was vetoed by the President and never became law. On January 11, 2007 the House passed a bill by a vote of 253 – 174. This stem cell bill includes strict ethical guidelines that authorize only the use of stem cells from embryos that would otherwise be discarded by fertility clinics. Additionally, the bill stipulates that donors must give written consent and receive no monetary or other inducement in exchange for embryos.

- **H.R. 4, Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2007:**

The current Medicare Prescription Drug law prohibits the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) from negotiating drug prices with pharmaceutical companies. H.R. 4 would repeal this prohibition and instead require the Secretary of HHS to conduct cost-saving negotiations, but not restrict Medicare recipients' access to certain medicines. Passed on January 12, 2007, by a vote of 255 – 170, H.R. 4 will combat the rapid growth in drug prices, and benefit millions of our nation's seniors.

- **H.R. 5, College Student Relief Act of 2007:**

As the cost of higher education increases, access to a college instruction is becoming more and more limited for many working families. On January 17, 2007, the House voted 356 – 71 to cut the interest rate on subsidized student loans for undergraduates in half over the next five years, bringing the current rate of 6.8% down to 3.4%.

- **H.R. 6, CLEAN Energy Act of 2007:**

At a time of record profits, oil companies should not continue to enjoy billions of dollars in subsidies at taxpayers' expense. The House took the first steps to repeal these subsidies on January 18, 2007, when H.R. 6 was passed by a vote of 264 - 163. In addition to the repeal of subsidies, H.R. 6 would reinvest subsidies into renewable resources and energy conservation.

I am pleased we were able to garner bipartisan support for these bills. As Congress continues its work, I am confident we will continue to work in a united effort to address the many critical issues that face New Mexicans and all Americans.

For more information on this or any federal issue, please visit my website at www.tomudall.house.gov.

Very Truly Yours,

Tom Udall
Member of Congress