



"This Congress has been as active and productive as any I can remember.

The number of major bills passed and enacted into law, the serious, sustained activities in areas of broad, complex, and critical importance, all are truly impressive."

Norm Ornstein, Congressional Scholar, American Enterprise Institute, *Roll Call*, May 26, 2009

The 111th Congress has made historic progress, working with President Obama to take America in a New Direction: to turn our economy around and create good jobs, make common sense reforms and targeted investments, and build consensus around reforming health insurance and launching a clean energy economy. All these efforts are being tackled with fiscal discipline and accountability to the American people.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 111TH CONGRESS INCLUDE:

ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND CREATING JOBS

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT, enacted in the first month of President Obama's term, to jumpstart our economy, create and save 3.5 million jobs, give 95% of American workers a tax cut, and begin to rebuild America's road, rail, and water infrastructure, with unprecedented accountability. *(Signed into Law)*

HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR HOMES ACT, building on the President's initiative to stem the foreclosure crisis, with significant incentives to lenders, servicers, and homeowners to modify loans. *(Signed into Law)*

EDWARD M. KENNEDY SERVE AMERICA ACT, tripling volunteer opportunities to 250,000 for national service for students to retirees; creating new service corps for education, health care, energy and veterans; a Summer of Service for middle/high school students; increased college financial awards. *(Signed into Law)*

AFFORDABLE QUALITY HEALTH CARE

HEALTH CARE REFORM, to 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 quality patient-centered care. *(Passed by 3 of 3 House Committees; On House Floor In September)*

FOOD SAFETY, landmark legislation to fundamentally change the way we protect the safety of our food supply; closing the gaps exposed by the recent string of food-borne illness outbreaks; giving the Food and Drug Administration new authorities, tools, and funding. *(Passed by House)*

HEALTH CARE FOR 11 MILLION CHILDREN, to finally provide cost-effective health coverage for 4 million more children whose parents earn too little to provide their own insurance, but too much to qualify for Medicaid, and preserve coverage for 7 million children already enrolled. *(Signed into Law)*

FDA REGULATION OF TOBACCO, granting the Food and Drug Administration authority to regulate the advertising, marketing, and manufacturing of tobacco products, the number-one cause of preventable death in America, with 1,000 children each day becoming new, regular smokers. *(Signed into Law)*

CLEAN ENERGY JOBS AND CONSERVATION

AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY AND SECURITY ACT, to create millions of jobs; reduce dependence on foreign oil; reduce climate change pollution; keep costs low for Americans, with no increase to deficit. *(Passed House)*

CASH FOR CLUNKERS, providing consumers with \$3,500 to \$4,500 vouchers to trade in an old vehicle for one with higher fuel efficiency – spurring the sale of up to 250,000 more fuel-efficient cars and trucks, creating jobs, and shoring up struggling car dealerships (included in the FY 2009 Supplemental). *(Signed into Law)*

OMNIBUS PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT, the most significant conservation bill in 15 years, boosting the economy and tourism at 160 mostly rural sites; with 2 million new acres of wilderness; 3 national park units; 1,000 miles of wild and scenic rivers; 1 National Monument; 3 National Conservation Areas. *(Signed into Law)*

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

BUDGET BLUEPRINT, reflecting the President's plan to get the economy moving again, cutting taxes for most Americans by \$1.5 trillion and creating jobs with targeted investments in health care, clean energy and education – cutting the Bush deficit by nearly 2/3 by 2013. *(Passed by House and Senate; Action Completed)*

STATUTORY PAY AS YOU GO, restoring the 1990s law that turned record deficits into record surpluses, by forcing tough choices – requiring Congress to offset new policies that cut taxes or expand entitlement spending or face across-the-board cuts in certain mandatory programs. *(Passed by House)*

PROTECTING CONSUMERS AND TAXPAYERS

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS, providing tough new protections for consumers—including banning unfair rate increases, abusive fees, and penalties—and strengthening enforcement. *(Signed into Law)*

FRAUD ENFORCEMENT AND RECOVERY ACT, providing tools to prosecute mortgage scams and corporate fraud that contributed financial crisis; creating an outside commission to examine its causes. *(Signed into Law)*

MILITARY PROCUREMENT REFORM, to crack down on Pentagon waste and cost overruns, which GAO says total \$296 billion just for 96 largest weapons systems, increasing oversight and competition. *(Signed into Law)*

LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT, to restore the rights of women and other workers to challenge unfair pay—to help close the wage gap where women earn 78 cents for every \$1 a man earns in America. *(Signed into Law)*

STRENGTHENING OVERSIGHT OF TARP, to expand the authority of the TARP Special Inspector General, to help ensure taxpayers' funds are effectively used to get credit flowing to businesses and families. *(Signed into Law)*

NATIONAL SECURITY/TROOPS AND VETERANS

FY 2009 SUPPLEMENTAL, for rest of FY 2009, providing our troops with everything they need to wind down the Iraq war, change strategy in Afghanistan; requiring a progress report; and making retroactive payments to 185,000+ service members whose enlistments were involuntarily extended since 9/11. *(Signed into Law)*

TRANSFER OF NEW GI BILL BENEFITS TO CHILDREN OF FALLEN TROOPS, expanding New GI Bill benefits to cover the full cost of a college education for all children of fallen U.S. service members. *(Signed into Law)*

For a more detailed list of accomplishments, please visit www.speaker.gov/accomplishments.

Office of Speaker Nancy Pelosi – August 2009