



Congressman

Gene Green

Reports

29th Congressional District of Texas

August 2007

Dear Friend,

This is our third newsletter for the year and announces town hall meetings and events scheduled for August and September. We have eight town hall meetings and a senior issues forum planned for August at a variety of locations around the district. Our Annual Immunization Day, Paying for College Workshop and Academy Day are also announced and I hope that those of you with school age children or grandchildren will take advantage of these events.

Our newsletters are designed to discuss national and local issues that are of interest to our community. This newsletter focuses on Healthcare and Energy and updates you on other issues of importance to our district.

Please keep in mind that you do not have to wait for a town hall meeting to contact me. If you have a problem with a federal agency or want to express your opinion on an issue being considered by Congress, you can contact any of our local district offices for assistance.

It is an honor to serve you and I hope to see you at one of our upcoming town hall meetings or events.

Sincerely,

Gene Green
Member of Congress

Town Hall Meetings

August 6 – Monday, 6:30 p.m.
Park Place Public Library
8145 Park Place
Houston, TX

Senior Citizen Issues Forum
August 8 – Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.
Ripley House
4410 Navigation Blvd.
Houston, TX

August 8 – Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.
Sterling Municipal Library
Wilbanks Ave.
Baytown, TX

August 9 – Thursday, 6:30 p.m.
High Meadows Public Library
450 Aldine Mail Rte.
Houston, TX

August 23 – Thursday, 6:30 p.m.
Stanaker Library
611 S/Sgt Macario Garcia Dr.
Houston, TX

August 25 – Saturday, 9:00 a.m.
Pasadena Public Library
1201 Jeff Ginn Memorial Dr.
Pasadena, Texas

August 25 – Saturday, 11:00 a.m.
Milton Lusk Youth Activity Center
1022 Mercury Dr.
Jacinto City, TX

August 27 – Monday, 6:30 p.m.
North Channel Library
15741 Wallisville Rd.
Houston, TX

August 28 – Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
Northline HPD Storefront
392 W. Little York Rd.
Houston, TX

12th Annual Immunization Day

Saturday, August 4 / 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Congressman Green invites you to join us for his 12th Annual Immunization Day. Free immunizations will be given to school-age children within the 29th Congressional District at the following locations:

- Bonner Elementary (HISD)
8100 Elrod, Houston
- Orange Grove Elementary (AISD)
4514 E. Mt. Houston, Houston
- G.W. Carver Elementary (GCCISD)
600 S. Pruet, Baytown
- Pyburn Elementary (GPISD)
12302 Coulson, Houston

OFFICE ADDRESSES

10 N. Gaillard St.
Baytown, TX 77520
281-420-0502 / Fax: 281-420-0585

2335 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-1688 / Fax: 202-225-9903

256 N. Sam Houston Pkwy. E. Suite 29
Houston, TX 77060
281-999-5879 / Fax: 281-999-5716

11811 I-10 East Suite 430
Houston, TX, 77029
713-330-0761 / Fax: 713-330-0807

www.house.gov/green/

Green Supports Community Health Center Bill

Congressman Green has introduced the Health Centers Renewal Act (HR 1343), which would reauthorize the Community Health Center program through 2012. This legislation would increase funding levels to ensure that medically underserved communities can obtain federal resources to establish additional health centers. Our district can benefit from this legislation.

The Federally-Qualified Health Center (FQHCs) program is a critical part of our country's health care safety net. The centers provide care to 17 million uninsured people across the nation. Three health centers in our district participate in the Health Center program: El Centro de Corazon in Eastwood, Pasadena Health Center and Houston Community Health Center's Denver Harbor Clinic.

Cities such as Chicago and Los Angeles each have more than 30 organizations receiving Health Center funding, which allows them to operate clinics in nearly 100 locations. Harris County currently has fewer than 10 organizations receiving Health Center funding, despite being the fourth largest metropolitan area in the country. Additional resources authorized in the Health Centers Renewal Act will help our community increase the number of health clinics funded under this program and will help the program reach its goal of providing care to 30 million Americans by 2015.

The development of additional health centers requires tremendous dedication and coordination from the Houston health care community. Since 2001, community access collaborative Gateway to Care has coordinated efforts to increase health care access and has documented 13 local "medically-underserved areas," a federal designation required for FQHC development.

One example of the community's success is the recent designation of the Denver Harbor Clinic as a full FQHC. Under its previous designation as a Look-Alike Health Center, the Denver Harbor Clinic benefited from enhanced Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements, but did not receive direct funding from the Health Center program. With the new designation, the Denver Harbor Clinic has received a federal grant of \$471,309 to support its current expansion of services.

Academy Day

Saturday, September 29 / 9:00 a.m.

San Jacinto College North
5800 Uvalde

Slovacek Student Center
Chablis Restaurant

Representatives from each academy will be present to give information about the admission and nomination process. Literature and congressional nomination application forms will also be available for students to take with them. For more information, please contact Shirley Gonzalez at 281-999-5879.

- United States Military Academy at West Point
- United States Naval Academy at Annapolis
- United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs
- Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York



Congressman Green receives an award from Jana Blasi and Daniel Diaz of the Texas Association of Community Health Centers for his health care work in Congress

Majority's Energy-State Reps Work Together

This summer, Congress is debating many critical energy issues that will affect our nation. With the price of gas climbing higher and with the climate changing, many Americans are wondering what actions Congress may take to comprehensively address the energy security needs of the U.S.

In May, the House of Representatives approved legislation (H.R. 1252) which made it a federal crime to engage in unfair price gouging. This bill is to address possible energy price gouging in times of emergency or shortages. The bill reflects international and local oil prices. It also gives the president statutory authority to declare a national emergency. The bill is now in the Senate.

Nowhere are energy issues of greater importance than in our district, where refineries, chemical plants and pipelines play an important role in the local economy and way of life. The energy industry is the cornerstone of Texas and particularly Houston, where much of the economic base is related to energy. Many of the world's largest and most innovative energy companies reside in Houston, and it is home to two of the four largest refineries in the United States. As one of the world's largest petrochemical manufacturing centers, Houston has a skilled workforce and strong partnerships between local universities and companies to help address the needs of our job base.

An informal group of Democrats in the House of Representatives has formed to help direct national energy policy. Our goal is to ensure Congress takes a balanced approach to energy policy.

This group has met several times over the last few months and brings lawmakers together to discuss legislation's impact on the energy sector. The nation's energy security is best supported by increasing production of these resources here at home and ensuring U.S. companies compete on an equal footing abroad. Congress should not discourage domestic energy production further or push policies that may put American companies at a competitive disadvantage in the global marketplace.

Digital Television

A significant change in American television broadcasting will take place on February 18, 2009 as broadcasters shift their signals from analog to digital. Digital Television (DTV) is a new broadcasting technology offering movie-quality picture and sound.

Television stations in the United States are currently airing digital television programming. Most will continue to provide analog programming, but on February 18, 2009, full-power TV stations will cease broadcasting on current analog channels.

If you have a digital television, you may already be using it to receive digital signals, and the transition will not affect you. If you have an analog television, you will need to get a digital-to-analog converter box to continue using your current television. The federal government has created a coupon program for converter boxes that will be funded from the sale of the analog channels. Between January 1, 2008, and March 31, 2009, all U.S. households will be eligible to request up to two coupons, worth \$40 each, to be used toward the purchase of up to two digital-to-analog converter boxes which will cost between \$50-60 at electronics stores.

For more information about the transition and how to request the converter box coupons, go to www.dtv.gov, or call 1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322).

House Passes Largest Veterans Funding Increase

The House recently approved a historic \$6.7 billion increase in funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) – the largest increase in veterans' health care funding in its 77 year history. In fact, this is the first time in the 21-year history of the veterans' service organizations' budget requests that Congress has met or exceeded their recommendations.

At a time when we have thousands of new veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan enrolling, it is critical that we provide them with the best health care possible. This increase will ensure the VA has the resources and staff to handle additional casework. If you are a veteran, or know a veteran, who is having problems receiving services from the VA, please contact our office and we will help resolve them.

Medicare Pays for Diabetes Test

The Medicare Modernization Act created two preventive benefits that are not widely advertised but are important for our seniors. Upon enrolling in Medicare Part B, new beneficiaries have six months to obtain a "Welcome to Medicare" physical, during which the physician will take a medical history and screen for disease risk factors. An electrocardiogram for heart disease and vision screening are also included.

Medicare also covers a diabetes screening, which is important to detect and treat the disease early, when treatment is most effective. This benefit includes coverage for monitors, test strips and other diabetes management supplies. If you would like more information on these and other preventive benefits offered under Medicare, call one of our offices or visit <http://www.medicare.gov/Health/Overview.asp>.

Head Start

The Improving Head Start Act of 2007 passed in May by a 365-48 vote. It increases access to up to 10,000 more children, ensuring that more kids arrive at kindergarten ready to succeed. Among other things, the act improves teacher and staff quality, strengthens children's school readiness, and increases accountability to ensure taxpayer money is used efficiently. Head Start has been the premier early education program in this country for more than 40 years, serving more than 20 million children in that time. Houston and Harris County have dozens of Head Start centers.

Health Care Coordination for Seniors

Many senior citizens suffer from multiple chronic conditions, yet their health care too often is not coordinated. In fact, 20 percent of the Medicare population has five or more health problems, and the average Medicare beneficiary sees six different physicians.

This lack of coordination not only results in seniors receiving conflicting medical advice, it also increases costs for the Medicare program, since the 20 percent of seniors with five or more health conditions account for 70 percent of Medicare's costs. I have introduced the Geriatric Assessment and Chronic Care Coordination Act, which would establish a care coordination program for seniors with multiple chronic conditions and reimburse physicians for coordinating the medical care for these patients.

Children's Health Insurance to Pass House

This year, Congress must reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), which is a joint state-federal program to provide health insurance to children in working families. After enacting harsh policies in 2003 that cut more than 170,000 Texas children from the program, the state restored many SCHIP benefits in the 2007 Legislative Session.

During the federal reauthorization of the program, Congress should work to limit states' burdensome enrollment requirements. Specifically, Congress should support efforts to mandate that states provide children with 12 months of continuous eligibility for the program and to prohibit waiting periods that keep uninsured children from crucial health services.

Sallie Mae Fund

Paying for College Workshop

Hosted by Congressman Green

Wednesday, September 12 / 7:00 p.m.

Sam Houston High School

9400 Irvington Blvd.

Houston, TX 77076

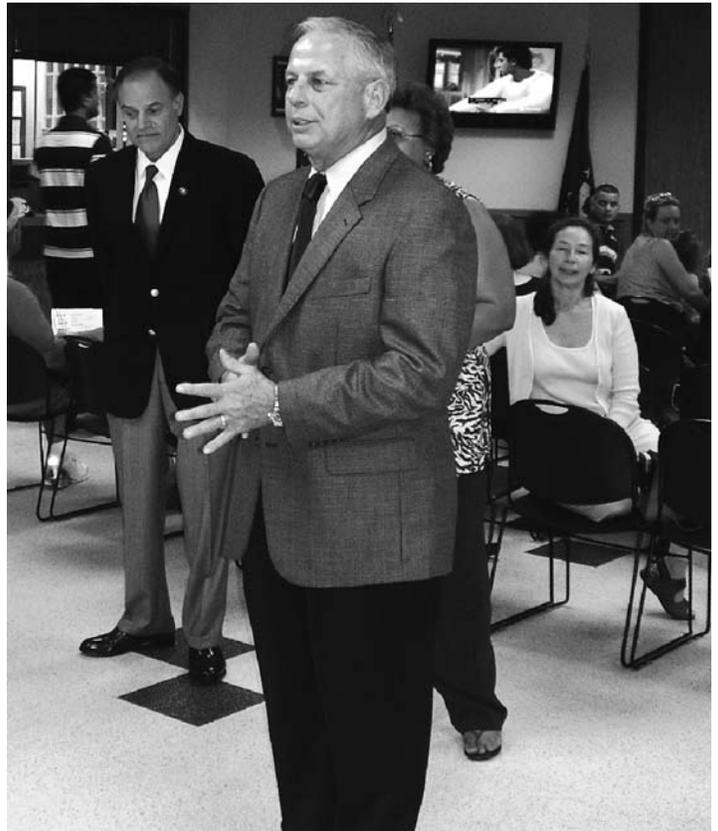
Join Congressman Green for a tutorial that shows parents and students how they can access money for college through federal loans, grants and scholarships.

Working to Clean San Jacinto River Site

An industrial waste pit located off the I-10 freeway is contaminating the San Jacinto River and Galveston Bay with toxic levels of dioxin. The waste site was operated by McGinnes Industrial Maintenance Corporation during the 1960s and 1970s. At that time the pit was on dry land, but over the years the pit has submerged. The site was rediscovered in 2005 after high levels of dioxin were detected in fish from the San Jacinto River. Texas Department of Health Services issued a State Health Advisory for fish and shellfish caught in the river, and in 2006, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) found that toxic levels of dioxin are leaking into the river, which flows into the Houston Ship Channel and Upper Galveston Bay.

Dioxin causes a variety of health issues including cancer, birth defects, immune suppression, and endometriosis. People should not eat fish or crabs that are caught at or around this site.

As a member of the Environment and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee, Congressman Green co-wrote letters to TCEQ, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Governor Perry requesting they recommend the waste site be declared a Superfund and be placed on the National Priority List (NPL). The state of Texas must request placement on the NPOL list for clean up. Once the site is officially declared a Superfund and placed on the NPL the responsible parties will be forced to clean up the waste or federal funds will be allocated for the clean up of the site. TCEQ conducted a preliminary study of the site and after working with the EPA's Region 6 office, both agencies believe this site would qualify as a Superfund and should be placed on the NPL.



Congressman Green and Congressman Nick Lampson at our U.S. Passport Office in Houston to discuss the backlog in the passport application process. If you are planning to visit other countries, a passport will be required for air travel. Visit <http://travel.state.gov/> for more information.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Official Business



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Green".

M.C.

Presorted Standard
W/S Carrier Route

Si le gustaría recibir una copia de este noticiero en español, hágame el favor de escribirme a 256 N.Sam Houston Pkwy. E, Ste. 29, Houston, TX 77060. Si es más fácil, también puede llamar a nuestra oficina para recibir el noticiero al 281-999-5879.

This mailing was prepared, published, and mailed at taxpayer expense.