

With the recent drug scare surrounding tainted Heparin that killed at least 81 Americans, and constant headlines involving recalls of everyday food like spinach and peanut butter, it is obvious that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is woefully under funded.

Today, 80 percent of the ingredients in drugs sold in the U.S. are made in other countries, but the FDA only inspects foreign facilities on average once every 30 years.

Earlier this year, I announced a comprehensive proposal designed to ensure the safety of food, drugs, medical devices and cosmetics. When finalized, the **FDA Globalization Act** will generate the necessary revenue needed to allow the FDA to conduct frequent inspections of both foreign and domestic facilities.

## Be Better Informed About Food Recalls

To get the latest recall information visit:



[www.FoodSafety.gov](http://www.FoodSafety.gov)

Last year, Congress passed, and President Bush signed into law, the **Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007**, which I co-authored. The new law will make it easier for you to find out important information about food recalls.



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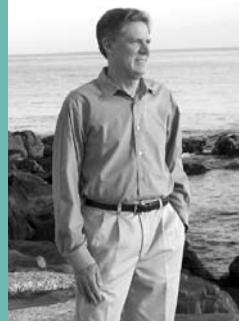
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CONGRESSMAN

# Frank Pallone, Jr.

Representing the People of the Sixth District of New Jersey



## Pallone Supports Efforts to Help New Jerseyans Struggling During Economic Downturn

*New Jersey families are facing real hardships as news about the slowing economy continues to mount. We have experienced the biggest drop in American jobs in five years, while oil prices, health insurance and mortgage foreclosures have hit an all time high. Democrats in Congress are working hard to pass legislation that will stimulate the economy and provide assistance to struggling middle-class families.*



### Gas Prices

Skyrocketing gas prices, which are hovering at or above \$4 a gallon this summer, are financially squeezing New Jerseyans just as they prepare for summer vacations. In May, Congress pressured President Bush to stop sending oil to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, a move that is expected to reduce gas prices anywhere from 10-cents to 25-cents a gallon. In June, the House approved **The Responsible Federal Oil and Gas Lease Act of 2008**, otherwise known as "Use it or Lose it" legislation. The bill forces oil companies to drill on the 68 million acres of public land they already have leased, otherwise Big Oil loses the lease. The House also passed bills cracking down on price gouging, holding OPEC accountable for price fixing and investing in renewable energy.

### Jobs

Over the first five months of this year, our economy lost a total of 325,000 jobs. At a time when employment opportunities are limited, unemployed workers are experiencing more difficulty finding a new job. In June, the House passed legislation to extend unemployment benefits for an additional 13 weeks for the 1.6 million Americans who have exhausted the 26 weeks of regular benefits.

### Housing

In 2007, 40,000 New Jerseyans lost their homes and nearly 1.8 million more saw their property values drop as a result of the housing crisis. In May, the House passed a comprehensive legislative response. The package will provide mortgage refinancing assistance by expanding the Federal Housing Authority (FHA) program so that borrowers in danger of losing their home can refinance. It also provides \$15 billion in loans and grants to states so they can acquire foreclosed homes and rehabilitate properties in areas hit hard by the housing crisis.



### ★ Extending Unemployment Benefits ★ Will Help New Jerseyans

- 57,157** Estimated number of workers who have already exhausted unemployment benefits since November 2006 and remain unemployed
- 153,110** Workers who will exhaust regular unemployment benefits from May 2008 to March 2009
- 210,267** Total potential beneficiaries of extended benefits

## Protecting The Jersey Shore

### House Passes Pallone's Beach Protection Act

Every summer, millions of people flock to the Jersey Shore to enjoy our beaches. In April, the House passed the **Beach Protection Act**, which requires tough new beach water quality testing and public notification standards so beachgoers are better

informed about the safety of their beaches.

The legislation mandates the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) develop rapid testing procedures not currently available that detect water contamination in six hours or less. Current water quality monitoring tests can take up to 48 hours to produce reliable results, causing many beachgoers to unknowingly be exposed to harmful pathogens. The rapid testing methods are necessary to ensure that those beaches designated as polluted can be shut down immediately to protect public health.

The Beach Protection Act provides \$40 million in grant money available annually to states through 2012. It also expands the scope of the grants to include pollution source tracking and prevention efforts.

### Fights to Pass Clean Ocean Zone

Our beaches have come a long way since the late 1980s when they were continuously closed due to medical waste washing up onto the shore and garbage being dumped into the ocean.

For two decades, we have succeeded in cleaning up our beaches, but the future is always uncertain. The comprehensive **Clean Ocean Zone Act** permanently preserves the waters between New York and New Jersey as a healthy marine environment for all residents and visitors to enjoy. The legislation:

- ✓ **permanently closes all offshore dumpsites;**
- ✓ **mandates that the mud dump site six miles off the coast of Sandy Hook only be capped with clean material;**
- ✓ **bans all sand and gravel mining; and**
- ✓ **bans nonrenewable energy projects.**

Tourism at New Jersey's beaches brings in **\$36 billion** to our state's economy and produces nearly **500,000 jobs**. Congress must pass this legislation in order to permanently protect our beaches.

*Congressman Pallone discusses the importance of the Clean Ocean Zone Act at a news conference with environmental advocates in Sea Bright.*

## Pallone Fights to Protect Children from Harmful Tobacco Products

Protecting our nation's youth is one of my top priorities in Congress. Every day, 1,140 children start smoking. One-third of these children will end up dying prematurely from tobacco-related illnesses like coronary heart disease, stroke, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and smoking-induced cancers.

These statistics should alarm all parents. Equally disturbing is the fact that tobacco companies use creative marketing tactics to target our children in the hopes of getting them hooked on tobacco at an early age. Many Americans are also shocked to hear that tobacco, the leading cause of preventable death in our nation, is not regulated in any way by the federal government.

Twelve years ago, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) implemented a rule to prevent and reduce tobacco use, particularly among children. However, the agency was forced to abandon this initiative after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the FDA lacked the authority to take such action.

As the Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health, I successfully passed legislation through my subcommittee that would finally give the FDA the authority to regulate tobacco products and cigarette company marketing practices. The legislation also provides the FDA with the financial resources necessary to fulfill this new responsibility by requiring tobacco manufacturers and importers to pay user fees.

For the first time in our nation's history, the **Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act** gives the FDA the power to address this enormous public health problem by:

- ✓ **restricting tobacco marketing and sales to youth;**
- ✓ **requiring prior approval of all label statements on tobacco products;**
- ✓ **allowing for public notification and recalls of unreasonably harmful products;**
- ✓ **allowing for the pre-market review of new tobacco products; and**
- ✓ **prohibiting cigarettes from containing any artificial or natural flavors other than tobacco and menthol.**

Having successfully passed through committee, the bill now goes to the full House for its review. The House should support this landmark legislation that will keep cigarettes out of the hands of our nation's children and save millions of Americans from a lifetime of addiction.



*Congressman Pallone discusses the dangers of smoking with students at James Monroe Elementary School in Edison.*

