



**CONGRESSMAN PETE STARK WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU**

Please contact my Fremont office, visit my website, or email me for assistance with federal agencies, updates on important legislation, and information on visits to Washington, D.C.

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Dear Neighbor,

Despite a record \$520 billion deficit and a budget that fails to account for a single penny in future expenditures for Iraq, President Bush has proposed an additional \$1 trillion in tax cuts mostly benefiting the wealthiest 5% of Americans. To pay for this tax break to the rich, the President has called for across-the-board cuts in domestic priorities that benefit most everyone else, from health care and education to environmental protection and public safety.

I strongly oppose more tax cuts for the wealthy funded at the expense of these important priorities.

Clearly, we owe more to our children than to ignore basic priorities that provide them with greater opportunity and a secure future. Instead of burying our children in debt, we ought to invest in their health and education while making sure they grow up in safe communities where the environment is clean and protected.

I am working in Congress to promote these values because they are important to East Bay families. We agree that every child in California deserves a chance for a brighter, more secure future.



CONGRESSMAN PETE STARK  
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### Keeping Our Environment Clean

Keeping California's environment clean and protected is not only a legacy we must pass on to our children, it is also vital to their health and well being.

Today, old, corroded storage tanks buried underground pose a threat to the safety of drinking water. In California alone, there are 16,000 leaking underground tanks that represent a significant health risk in most communities. Many of these tanks have already contaminated water supplies by seeping out toxic waste like MTBE, a common gasoline additive, requiring costly cleanup.

Unfortunately, the President's budget cuts funding for clean up of MTBE and other contamination from underground tanks, leaving local California communities to foot the bill. Overall federal funding for clean water is cut nearly 40% while EPA's effort to reduce non-point source pollution is completely eliminated.

I will work to enact stricter environmental safeguards that keep our drinking water clean while preserving California's environment for future generations to enjoy.

### Pete's Town Meetings Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>

**Fremont**  
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.  
Fremont Senior Center  
40086 Paseo Padre Parkway

**Hayward**  
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
Council Chambers, Hayward City Hall  
777 B Street

**Alameda**  
Noon – 1:00 p.m.  
Council Chambers, Alameda City Hall  
2263 Santa Clara Avenue

A REPORT FROM CONGRESSMAN PETE STARK

# Working for a Brighter Future for California's Children



"Every child in California deserves a chance for a brighter, more secure future."

PETE STARK

## Providing Quality Health and Child Care For All



Since a healthy child is more likely to be a successful child, all of California's children should have access to quality health care. Yet, under the President's budget, California will lose upwards of \$1 billion in federal matching funds needed to meet the health care needs of low-income families under MediCal. California also stands to lose out on close to \$170 million in federal funding for the Healthy Families program that provides health coverage to California's disadvantaged children.

Meanwhile, federal childcare funding is frozen next year, forcing more parents to choose between earning a living or staying home to look after their kids. This is a choice no parent should have to make, but the high cost of quality child care makes this a harsh reality.

We can do better. My efforts are focused on providing the health and child care funding California's children and families need. I am also working to pass legislation I've authored known as the MediKids Health Insurance Act. This bill would provide every child in California and across the nation comprehensive health coverage. It is time that our children are no longer deprived the care they need and deserve.

## Making World Class Education a Reality

Every child in California deserves a world-class education and an equal chance to succeed. That is why it is crucial the federal government make good on its commitment to fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act.

Since the No Child Left Behind Act was signed into law, public schools have been deprived of nearly \$27 billion that was promised them. Next year alone, California's school children will be shortchanged \$700 million if the President's budget passes Congress. This would seriously impair strong efforts in California to provide a qualified teacher in every classroom, reduce class size and boost student achievement.

The President's budget also freezes enrollment next year in Head Start, the highly successful early childhood education program that has been proven to increase academic performance for disadvantaged children. Today, Head Start reaches only 60% of eligible children nationwide. Instead of expanding this worthy program, the President is trying to eliminate it.

Rather than offering false promises that fail our children, we ought to empower committed California teachers, students and parents to fulfill the goals of the No Child Left Behind Act. I will work for full federal funding for California's schools and Head Start to ensure all our children have an equal opportunity to learn and succeed.



*Congressman Stark meets in Washington with Alameda High School students and Alameda Mayor Beverly Johnson to discuss education issues and the importance of young people participating in our government.*

## Supporting Community Safety

All our children should have the chance to grow up in communities that are safe. Yet, the President's Budget makes cuts in funding for public safety. It calls for a nearly 90% cut in funding for the successful COPS program that aids California in putting more police officers on the street to crack down on drugs and crime. This budget cut means no federal funding will be available next year for local communities to hire more police.

The President's budget also cuts \$250 million from the successful Fire Grant program, which could result in \$10 million less for California communities to purchase and upgrade needed emergency equipment that allow firefighters to do their jobs. Furthermore, California could lose out on \$74 million in Homeland Security funding, straining the budgets of state and local communities that must balance the cost of emergency preparedness with responding to every day emergencies.

I have cosponsored legislation known as the State Threat Alert Reimbursement Act that would reimburse California and local communities for the costs they incur when terrorist threat levels are elevated. I will also continue to support federal funding that gives local police, fire and emergency services better tools to do their jobs. These are just a few steps we can take to lessen the burden on local taxpayers while maintaining efforts to keep our streets and neighborhoods safe.

