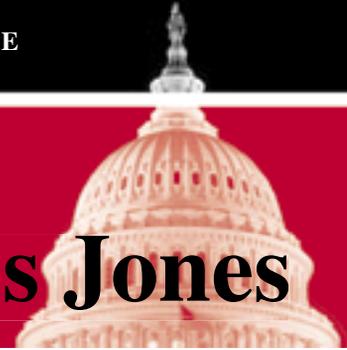




Eleventh District – Ohio

Congresswoman

Stephanie Tubbs Jones



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Dear Friends:

I am pleased to send you this update on my activities and initiatives during the first session of the 108th Congress. This year has been filled with accomplishments and challenges. As your Representative, I have devoted myself to issues that you have indicated are important such as Social Security, a Medicare prescription drug benefit, small business development, and education.

As a new member of the Ways and Means Committee, I have had an opportunity to weigh in on important measures such as the Medicare prescription drug bill, and tax relief for small businesses. I have reintroduced a number of bills: legislation to provide technical assistance to community development organizations, a bill to prevent predatory lending, a bill to increase research on uterine fibroid tumors, legislation to assist social workers with student loans, and a campus fire safety bill. Early next year, I will introduce a tax depreciation bill for small businesses.

Within the Eleventh District, I have held town hall meetings on prescription drugs, Medicare, the state of the economy, and the fourth annual Youth Conference focusing on success in school and career development. I have also had an opportunity to visit many district businesses, schools, and community groups. I enjoy visiting with you because it allows me to be where the rubber meets the road and gauge the real impact of the legislation we pass in Washington D.C.

These are some of the issues that I have been working on, on your behalf. Please feel free to contact my office by phone or email with any of your concerns, or sign up on my website for email newsletters. I look forward to seeing you soon.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515



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Happy 38th Birthday Medicare - Best Wishes for Many More?

July 30th marked the 38th Birthday for Medicare. A Medicare prescription drug bill is currently being discussed in a conference committee to reconcile different versions of the bill passed by the House and Senate. As these deliberations continue, I have continued to fight for a fair and affordable Prescription Drug Plan.

On July 19, 2003 over 200 seniors came to Euclid Square Mall for a Town Hall meeting on the proposed House and Senate Medicare



Congresswoman Tubbs Jones joins with advocates and colleagues (L to R) Ron Pollack, Congressman Sherrod Brown (OH), Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Congressman Mike Ross to introduce the "Medicare Rx Drug Benefit Discount Act of 2003." (Photo by Maxine DesOrmeaux)

prescription drug plans and to learn how these plans will affect seniors. The Town Hall Meeting was held in conjunction with the Democratic National Day of Prescription Drug Town Hall Meetings. These meetings were held across the country to educate constituents about the Republicans' plan which may jeopardize Medicare, and to inform constituents of the efforts of House Democrats, who continue to fight to add a prescription drug benefit to Medicare that is guaranteed, affordable, and available to all seniors and disabled Americans.

Earlier this year, I addressed local hospital administrators at both MetroHealth Center and the Center of Health Affairs providing a legislative update regarding the Medicare Prescription Drug Bill and other pending health issues. Additionally, at my invitation, the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, Tom Scully, came to the Eleventh District to discuss prescription drug coverage and health issues.

I opposed the Republican prescription drug plan because it fails to provide meaningful help to millions of low-income beneficiaries who have the most difficulty in meeting their prescription drug

expenses. The bill will use higher premiums to force most Medicare beneficiaries into private, for-profit managed care plans. The bill fails to establish a standard premium amount, which could open the door for plans to charge higher rates in areas where minorities and low-income beneficiaries are concentrated.

I support a Medicare Prescription Drug bill that will not force seniors to join private insurance plans that will restrict access to some drugs and make seniors change pharmacies and a Medicare Prescription Drug bill that is affordable for all seniors to receive the drugs they need at reduced prices. I am proud to have this opportunity to serve in Congress, and I plan to keep my promise to the seniors of my district and of this country to work with my colleagues to secure affordable quality health care for every American.

Saving Our Hospitals Is Just The Beginning

I recently hosted a community meeting on the closing of Saint Michael Hospital, which is part of the University Hospital Health System. There, hospital administrators, elected officials and members of the community were able to express their opinions on what they felt should be the fate of Saint Michael.



Congresswoman Tubbs Jones speaks to seniors during a Medicare Prescription Drug Town Hall Meeting. (Photo by Charles Pinkney)

Earlier this year, I along with other elected officials worked to save the Level II Trauma Unit of Huron Road Hospital. Our efforts and those of others, allowed us to keep the very vital services which the Hospital provides available to the people of our community.

However, Saint Michael and Huron Hospital, are just the tip of the healthcare iceberg. There is a bigger picture looming, and that is the dire situation of healthcare. The New York Times reported recently of the soaring costs of healthcare throughout this country. The Census

Bureau reported that the number of people without health insurance rose last year by 2.4 million people, which is the largest increase in a decade. This raises the total of uninsured to 43.6 million. In addition, the Kaiser Family Foundation reported the average healthcare premiums rose nearly 14 percent this year, the third year of double-digit increases.

In minority communities the problems are even worse. Minority populations disproportionately suffer from many diseases such as higher rates of acute conditions (e.g., tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS), chronic diseases (e.g., diabetes, heart disease, and stroke), and many forms of cancer. In addition, minority women are at greater risk than white women for pregnancy-related complications and their babies are at higher risk of dying during their first year of life.

With a lagging economy and significant unemployment throughout this country, the issue of healthcare is no longer just an issue for the poor and uninsured, it is affecting middle class America as well. If people lose their jobs, they often lose their health benefits. Many people cannot afford to purchase health insurance.

Hospitals are not the best place for primary care. According to our own Cleveland Free Clinic, it is 40% more expensive to receive primary care in a hospital setting and when the care is received in that setting, people are sicker and the ability to heal them is lessened...and yet that is exactly why people were coming to Saint Michael. We want to help people receive more preventive care so that they can avoid those situations.

It is time that we begin to focus our energies on ensuring that each and every citizen has access to quality, affordable healthcare. There is no easy solution to this problem, but I plan to lead the discussion in Congress to develop some type of universal healthcare where people's primary care needs are taken care of.

In response to this problem, House and Senate Democrats have introduced the Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act of 2003, which will seek to address the problems of health disparities within the minority community and those that are underserved.

We need to teach every person how to access the primary health care they need. I am asking for Cleveland's health care leadership to help us educate the people of this district and this country on healthcare and fight for universal healthcare. I will carry this message to Congress to make sure that health insurance is not a barrier to receiving quality health care.



Veterans/Military

*Veteran's Day • November 11, 2003
Honoring All Who Served*

“The Cost of War”

Due to the recent death of my husband, Mervyn L. Jones, Sr., I was not able to vote on the President's request to Congress to appropriate an additional \$87 billion for operations in Iraq. However, if I had been present I would have joined 125 of my colleagues who voted against this measure.

A Tribute to our Veterans

As we celebrate Veterans Day, let us reflect on those who have fought to ensure that all Americans could enjoy the freedoms that we hold so sacred. I am pleased to join with the people of the 11th Congressional District in honoring our Veterans both past and present. From the first World War to the troops still working to keep peace in the Middle East, we pause to honor your dedication, bravery and courage.

Veterans Legislation

Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones has been supportive of various pieces of legislation that benefit our Veterans. She is a co-sponsor of the following bills:

- **The VA Medical Workforce Enhancement Act**, which seeks to improve patient care and working conditions at the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs
- **The Department of Veterans Affairs Claims Backlog Reduction Act**, which will provide for the reduction in the backlog of claims for benefits pending with the Department of Veterans Affairs
- **The 21st Century Veterans Equitable Treatment Act**, which will provide a more equitable geographic allocation of funds, appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs for Medical Care.
- **The Salute to Veterans and the Armed Forces Act**, to improve benefits for members of the Armed Forces and veterans and for their dependents and survivors.



Congresswoman Tubbs Jones visits with troops during congressional delegation trip to examine troop readiness.

This bill was passed without the President or his Administration providing answers to account for this request or previous appropriations for Iraq operations. We know from the families of service members that they have gone without flak jackets, adequate food, and other supplies.

One month ago, I demanded that the Bush Administration present a detailed outline as to how the supplemental funds would be used. My questions have not been adequately answered. The American people want and deserve answers.

While I support our troops absolutely and unequivocally, and pray for their quick return from the Persian Gulf, I cannot support any authorization that would give the President a blank check with little prospect of what the return on that investment will be, or a defined exit strategy for our soldiers.

The American people face severe domestic issues everyday. In the past three years, over 3 million Americans have lost their jobs, healthcare programs are being cut, funding for education has significantly decreased, and the national debt has increased. That is why I continue to demand a detailed outline for the President's request.

It is only with the best interest of the future of this country that questions about the President's request for another blank check; a check that will continue to build upon the national debt and further limit the resources that future generations will need to develop this great country.

I am working with the leaders in my Congressional District to tap into resources to save jobs, fund schools, and provide resources for other social programs in my district. The President's request for \$87 billion will cost the taxpayers of my District \$140.9 million, even before accounting for future cuts in other services, or payments on the increase in the national debt this outlay will cause. Where will this \$87 billion come from?

Monetary costs are not the only consideration, or even the primary consideration, in deciding to go to war with a hostile adversary or continue with a foreign occupation. Nonetheless, the cost of such operations, particularly at a time when our economy is struggling and deficits are rising, needs to be considered by policy makers. Unfortunately, this Administration has failed to address this important strategic aspect of Iraq war planning, and now the American taxpayer and our youth will be forced for many years to pay for the consequences of these mistakes.

Troop Support Information

Whether you are sending well wishes to military personnel overseas or assisting them in paying their mortgages at home, several organizations are available to assist you. Five agencies and Cleveland City Hall have opened Base Cleveland.

Service members, their families and well-wishers can call the 11th Congressional District Office and speak to our Military Liaison at (216) 522-4900. In addition you may contact the Mayor's Action Center at (216) 664-2290. Depending on the topic, the center will pass the caller's phone number to the appropriate support organization.

Callers need not live in Cleveland or Cuyahoga County. Residents of other counties can call their own Veterans Services Commissions for questions on benefits to military families.

Several Web sites are relaying messages and other shows of support to service members. These sites can be found at: www.defendamerica.mil/support_troops.html

Education/Youth

"Celebrating Our Youth"

Fourth Annual "Back To School" Tour

Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones embarked on her fourth annual "Back To School" Tour on September 22 and October 20, 2003. On September 22, the Congresswoman met with students and school officials of the Orange School District. There the Congresswoman had the opportunity to visit and attend classes with students from Moreland Hills Elementary School, Brady Middle School, Orange High School and The Pepper Pike Learning Center. Highlights from the day included presentations from student leaders, a discussion with Superintendent Daniel Lukich and other school administrators and performances by the Orange High School Marching Band, Cheerleaders and String Ensemble.

On October 20, the "Tour" rolled through the Cleveland Heights - University Heights School District. The Congresswoman and guests visited Oxford Elementary School, Wiley Elementary School, Monticello Middle School and Cleveland Heights High School. She was serenaded with a medley of Motown Hits including "My Girl", "The Way You do The Things You Do" and "Just My Imagination (Running Away With Me)" by the award



Congresswoman Tubbs Jones met with Orange High School cheerleaders to discuss the importance of school activities.



Congresswoman Tubbs Jones meets with members of Cleveland Heights High School Orchestra to discuss arts and education.

winning Challenge Choir under the direction of Glenn Brackens. Other highlights included performances by the Cleveland Heights High School Choir, Cheerleaders, Marching Band, Orchestra and Jazz Band.

“Education is one of my main priorities as a Member of Congress,” said Rep. Tubbs Jones. “The Back To School Tour allows members of the community to see the wonderful programs and initiatives that our schools are implementing to ensure that the students of our communities receive the best possible education. It was wonderful to have been able to visit Orange and Cleveland Heights - University Heights Schools on this year’s tour.”

“In my opinion, the No Child Left Behind Act, in essence, leaves behind too many children. It is my hope that by examining best practices throughout the district, we can work to provide all of our children with equal access to quality education.”

The “Back To School” Tour began as an effort to encourage parental, community, and business support of District schools. Since its inception the Congresswoman and various members of the community have visited many area school districts including Lyndhurst-South Euclid, Warrensville Heights, Bedford - Bedford Heights, Euclid, East Cleveland and Cleveland Schools. Every school district within the 11th Congressional District will be visited in upcoming years.

Congresswoman meets students at Moreland Hills Elementary School during her visit to Orange Schools to discuss afterschool activities.



Internships with the Office of Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones

An internship with the Stephanie Tubbs Jones offices in Cleveland and Washington, DC offers high school students, college students and college graduates the opportunity to learn the various challenging functions of the U.S. House of Representatives. Interns must possess drive, determination, organizational skills and communication skills. Perhaps the most important qualification is being able to work with people.

In the District office, students have the opportunity to experience hands-on work and interaction with constituents. Within an educational framework, they perform many of the same tasks carried out by staff. Interns assist in preparing for and attending meetings, gathering news clips, serve as speakers at selected events, and perform administrative tasks.

During summer 2003, we were privileged to have an outstanding cadre of high school and college students who served as full time or part time interns. Sierra Bloxson, a rising senior at Cleveland’s Jane Adams High School; Amanda Fulwood, Shaker Heights High star athlete and Aaron Wasserman, Shaker Heights High class of 2003, were our high school honor students. Jessica Mendelsohn, Touro College, New York City; Heather Crosby, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio; Dee Drain, Cuyahoga Community College; and Andrew Scholnick, Franklin Marshall College, Pennsylvania were our energetic, eager, exploring college interns.

The Washington DC office offers interns the chance to become involved in various aspects of the legislative process. Within an educational framework, interns perform legislative research, write memos, assist the staff with special projects, and administrative tasks. Washington DC internships offer a hands-on experience in the heart of our country’s seat of government, sharing the hallways with the most prominent lawmakers in the nation.

This year’s Washington Office interns included Narvell L. Arnold, Central State University; Simeon Talley, Bluffton College; Davis Hasty, Duke University; Jacques Purvis, Howard University; Gail Mathapo, University of the District of Columbia Law School; Gerard Parker,

Howard University; Jasmine Dickerson, Trinity College; Andrew Freedman, American University; Ryan Nowlin, University of Maryland Law School and; Brian Gage, a Presidential Management Intern.

The Congresswoman also had the opportunity to select a Congressional Page this year. She selected Camille Thornton a junior at Brush High School who will be participating in the Page Program through the Fall 2003 semester.

We want to thank all of our interns for giving freely of their time to learn about government and to participate in public service.



Congresswoman Tubbs Jones selected Camille Thornton as her Congressional Page for this year. Camille is a junior at Brush High School.

Military Academy

Each year, I have the privilege to nominate students from public and private high schools in the 11th Congressional District to the following United States military service academies: The United States Military Academy at West Point, New York (www.usma.army.mil), **The United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland** (www.usna.edu), **The United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York** (www.usmma.edu) and **The United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado** (www.usafa.af.mil). **Note: The United States Coast Guard Academy has direct admissions and does not require a Congressional nomination. The Coast Guard Academy website is www.cga.edu**

A nomination to one of the service academies is a distinct and rare honor. Acceptance of an appointment involves a minimum nine-year obligation: four years at the academy and at least five years of active duty.

The nominating process is extremely competitive and you are encouraged to seek nominations from several nominating sources. Most nominations are made by Members of Congress, but you may also seek a nomination from the Vice President of the United States and either of the Ohio Senators.

With the advice of my Academy Selection Board, I nominate up to ten candidates for each vacancy I have at the service academies. The Academy Selection Board conducts a personal interview with each applicant once a file is completed with the District Office. Nominations are made competitively on the basis of academic performance, leadership potential, extracurricular activities, physical fitness, the personal interview and recommendations to the Board.

On January 18, 2003 the Academy Selection Board met and I had the pleasure to nominate eight great students from the Eleventh District: Patrick Koeth, St. Ignatius High School, Steven Marbury, Cleveland School of the Arts, Michael Zudic, Euclid Senior High School, Lauren Gore, St. Ignatius High School, LaToya Hall, Cleveland School of the Arts, John Cassidy, St. Ignatius High School, Adebanjo Solaru, University High School, Aaron Wasserman, Shaker Heights High School.

If you are interested in applying for a Congressional Nomination to a Military Academy, please send all inquiries to:

*Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones
Attn: Academy Selection Board
3645 Warrensville Center Road, Suite 204
Shaker Heights, Ohio 44122*

The Economy

Our economy is indeed in a perilous state, and the current Administration is not taking the right steps to fix it. Since 2001 our country has experienced the worst decline in private sector jobs in 70 years. Long-term unemployment has nearly tripled, new claims for unemployment insurance are up 28%, business investment is down 12%, and consumer confidence has dropped. This year, only three of every ten college graduates had a job offer at their commencement. With so few jobs available, these college graduates are competing for employment in an increasingly growing job pool, largely comprised of laid off workers.

One of the most troubling results of our struggling economy has been the impact of stock market losses on worker retirement savings and the increasing troubles companies face in funding their pension and retiree health benefit plans.

Over the past 3 years, nearly three million Americans have lost their jobs in the private sector, over 150,000 in Ohio alone. Regrettably, the President's answer to this economic downturn has been to push Congress to pass a \$1.3 trillion tax cut earlier this year that was promised to spark an economic turnaround. It didn't, and probably won't. In fact, the jobless rate has steadily risen since that tax cut was signed into law.

The President and I have different priorities when it comes to economic policy. Instead of tax cuts for a small number of Americans, I have supported tax cuts for middle and lower-income families and small businesses and continued spending on entitlements such as Social Security, and benefits like healthcare, education, homeland security, and infrastructure development as well as making sure that federal mandates to the States are fully funded by the Federal Government. Finally, I have supported policies that are fiscally responsible as to the long-term economic health of our country rather than policies endorsed by the President that have put our country into an ever-increasing debt spiral, placing an incredible burden on future generations.

Since coming to Washington, I have been a strong advocate for small businesses. I know that small business is big business, and have worked to ensure that small businesses will be able to access capital, provide healthcare plans to their employees, and remain competitive in their communities. Although my appointment to the Ways & Means committee meant having to give up my seat on the Small Business committee, I remain committed to working with my colleagues in Congress to ensure that small businesses remain an integral part of the American economy.



On March 27, 2003, the Community Economic Development Enhancement Act ("The CEDA Act"), was re-introduced which would serve to increase the expertise and capacity of community-based organizations involved in economic development activities and community development. For details of this bill, please visit the section of my website titled "108th Legislation: Sponsored," and scroll to H.R. 1480.

I have recently co-introduced a bill with Representative Mark Foley (R-FL) that would change the depreciation rules applicable to industrial roofs that small business use in their accounting estimates. This bill is one in a series of steps I intend to make that would bring some of the outdated business depreciation rules in line with the reality of modern business practice. I intend to introduce a similar depreciation adjustment bill relating to technological equipment in the near future.

Steel

On July 22, Congresswoman Tubbs Jones, along with dozens of her Congressional colleagues from the Senate and House of Representatives, testified before the International Trade Commission (ITC) to express her support for continuation of the President's steel tariff program. The current tariff program was intended to help domestic steel producers during a period of industry consolidation and in response to unfair trade practices by foreign producers. It is intended to last for three years and is designed to steadily phase out over that time.

In her testimony, Congresswoman Tubbs Jones expressed the importance of a strong, globally competitive steel industry and its importance to the working families of Northeast Ohio. She also emphasized her desire that the U.S. steel policy recognize the needs of steel consuming industries and encouraged the ITC to work toward a balanced steel policy that weighs the interests of both domestic steel producers and consumers.

Did You Know?

Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones has helped secure \$38.4 million in aid for Ohioans who have trouble paying their heating bills. Applications are available by calling the Ohio Department of Development at 1-800-282-0880 or visiting www.odod.state.oh.us/cdd/ocs/. To be eligible, households must have income at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. Households can have gross income up to \$13,470 for one person; \$18,180 for two; \$22,890 for three; and \$27,600 for four.



Congresswoman Tubbs Jones Presented Former Congressman Louis Stokes with the Congressional Distinguished Service Award. His wife, Jay Stokes, was present at the ceremony.

Congresswoman Tubbs Jones has been instrumental in bringing funds to the 11th Congressional District. Below are resources to assist constituents and organizations with grant and funding requests.

Catalog for Federal Domestic Assistance
Federal Register
Daily Federal Register Announcements
COPS
Department of Health Human Services
Firefighter Grants
Department of Homeland Security
Department of Education
Domestic and Emergency Preparedness
Department of Housing and Urban Development

www.cfda.gov
www.gpoaccess.gov/fr
www.house.gov/ffr
www.ojp.usdoj.gov
www.hhs.gov/grants
www.usfa.gov
www.dhs.gov
www.ed.gov
www.usfa.fema.gov/grants
www.hud.gov

Congresswoman Tubbs Jones is working for you in Washington. Many of the best ideas she hears come directly from her constituents. You can contact Representative Stephanie Tubbs Jones by e-mail, regular mail, or by phone. We want to hear from you! Please visit our website to sign up for e-mail updates: <http://www.house.gov/tubbsjones>