

THE

AL GREEN REPORT



Proudly Representing Texas' 9th Congressional District

algreen.house.gov

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SECURING OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE

Dear Friends:

Our commitment in Congress to finding common sense solutions to bolster this economic recovery for hard-working Americans is continuing to yield results. In September, the Bureau of Labor Statistics found that national unemployment had dropped below eight percent for the first time

since January 2009, the height of the recession.

However, the hard work of securing our economic future is not over. I will continue advocating and working with fellow Members of Congress, from both sides of the aisle, for legislation that helps hard-working Americans.

When Congress returns in November, we

must begin the hard work of crafting a responsible and fiscally-sensible bipartisan debt-reduction deal to avoid the so-called "fiscal cliff." Allowing our economy to go over the "fiscal cliff" could result in harmful automatic spending cuts and tax hikes.

Going forward, I will continue to work with my colleagues to pass legislation, which

moves our economy forward and invests in our communities.



Sincerely,
Al Green
Member of Congress

DEFERRED-ACTION LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Congressman Al Green hosted two Legislative Updates, on August 15, 2012 and October 19, 2012, to inform constituents of the specifics of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (U.S.C.I.S.) Deferred-Action for Childhood Arrivals Program.

"I always appreciate the opportunity to assist and inform constituents about government programs like the Deferred-Action for Childhood Arrivals Program. This program has the potential to help hard-working individuals as well as their families," Congressman Green said.

During the meeting, a representative from the Department of Homeland Security was there to provide the facts on the application process for the program and take questions from those present. Various leaders representing nonprofit community organizations,

community centers, and labor unions were in attendance to learn about the program.



Congressman Green addresses constituents and community leaders about the new Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

The Deferred-Action for Childhood Arrivals Program is a prosecutorial discretionary determination to defer removal action of an individual. Under this process, U.S.C.I.S. will consider requests on a case-by-case basis. While this process does not provide lawful status or a pathway to permanent residence or citizenship, individuals whose cases are deferred will not be removed from the United States for a two-year period, subject to renewal, and may also receive employment authorization. For additional information regarding the deferred-action process please visit www.uscis.gov/childhoodarrivals.

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ACADEMY NOMINATIONS

Congressman Al Green accepts applications for nominations to the U.S. Military Academies every year. These nominations for appointments are for entry to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Air Force Academy, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (a Congressional Nomination is NOT needed for the U.S. Coast Guard Academy).

Each individual seeking admission to an academy may only ap-

ply to their U.S. Representative or Senator, with the exception of the Merchant Marines—a U.S. Representative may appoint anyone in their state to the Merchant Marine Academy.

The tuition and cost of living savings is as much as \$450,000 when compared to a traditional civilian institution. Cadets will graduate with the rank of Second Lieutenant. Upon graduation, a cadet will have a guaranteed job—five-year service obligation.

An applicant must be at least 17 years old, but not have passed their 23rd birthday. A candidate must be a U.S. Citizen, unmarried, not pregnant, and have no legal obligation to support children or any other dependents. Applicants must meet eligibility requirements as of July 1 of the year of admission to an academy.

“As the Representative of the Ninth Congressional District of Texas, where some of our nations’ bravest soldiers and veterans re-

side, I am truly excited about the opportunity afforded our young people,” Congressman Green said.

An application for nomination should be returned by mid-November of the year before matriculation. A nomination is not a guarantee that a candidate will be selected. Each academy has a selection committee that will do final evaluations and make offers for appointments. Please contact Congressman Green’s Houston office (713) 383-9234 for more information.

BILL TO HELP DISABLED AND LOW-INCOME VETERANS PASSES HOUSE AS AMENDMENT

On September 20, the House of Representatives passed as an amendment Congressman Al Green’s bill, H.R. 6381, the Housing Assistance for Veterans Act of 2012 (HAVEN Act). The amendment provides 20 million dollars in home modification for low-income, disabled veterans.

“While I am not a veteran, I do care passionately about veterans having all the resources a grateful nation can provide them to maintain their productivity and role in society,” Congressman Green said. “Legislation to support our brave veterans transcends partisanship as well as ideology in Congress and should remain one of the top priorities for a government that asks so much of them.”

According to the Census Bureau, there are 4.3 million veteran homeowners with disabilities. The bill establishes grant awards for installing wheelchair ramps, widening exterior and interior doors, as well as accommodating the functional limitations that result from having a disability. The grants will greatly assist veterans, as nonprofit housing organizations

are able to leverage more than \$3 for every \$1 in federal funding received. The provision also requires participating nonprofits to detail their outreach plans and match a minimum of 50 percent of the grant award.

“I’m proud to have played a role in the bipartisan passage of legislation that will help our veterans,” Congressman Green said. “I am especially proud of H.R. 6381, the HAVEN Act, which I introduced and was incorporated into H.R. 6361. The incorporated language from the HAVEN Act offers valuable assistance in rehabilitating and modifying the homes of low-income, disabled veterans.”



Congressman Green with participants in the House Financial Services hearing entitled, “Housing for Heroes: Examining How Federal Programs Can Better Serve Veterans.”

FAQ: CASEWORK

Q: How can I submit a complaint to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)?

A: You may access CFPB's online complaint form on their website at www.ConsumerFinance.gov. If you prefer a non-electronic option, you may call CFPB's hotline at 855-411-CFPB (2372) or mail the written complaint to: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, P.O. Box 4503, Iowa City, IA 52244.

Q: How may I obtain a statement of earnings from the Social Security Administration?

A: An online version is now available at www.socialsecurity.gov. If you do not have online access, contact

the Social Security Administration directly at 800-772-1213.

Q: How do I check the status of my IRS refund?

A: By visiting the Internal Revenue Service's website at IRS.gov or using the application IRS2Go on your smart phone, you may check the status of your refund. You will need to enter your Social Security Number, select your filing status and enter your anticipated refund amount.

Q: How long should I wait before checking my refund status?

A: If you e-filed, you may check the refund status within a few days of filing. However, if you filed a paper return, you should wait about three to four weeks before checking the status.

HEALTH FAIR

September 1, 2012 Congressman Al Green held his annual Green Light to Healthy Living Health Fair in Conjunction with Community Health Choice and the Houston Independent School District (H.I.S.D.). A total of 34 vendors were present, along with Majic 102.1 and 97.9 radio stations.

The University of Texas Dental School provided dental screenings, Texas Southern University students checked blood pressure, Century Cancer West Houston provided prostate screenings, and Central Care Clinic provided immunizations.

One of the main goals of the health fair was to



Congressman Green with student volunteers from Texas Southern University Pharmacy School.

emphasize the importance of preventive care. The available tests were designed to diagnose common conditions that can be treated more effectively when detected at an early stage.

"Health fairs provide a helpful service to my constituents," Congressman Green said. "In addition to check-ups, they also obtain valuable information and receive instructions on how to monitor their symptoms."

T.A.P.P.S. MEETING

Congressman Al Green convened a meeting with the Executive Board of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (T.A.P.P.S.) in response to its decision last spring to schedule a basketball game for Houston's Beren Academy on the Jewish Sabbath. T.A.P.P.S. rescheduled the game, calling attention to non-Christian member schools who observe the Sabbath on days other than Sunday. A "Strive for Excellence" committee was formed by T.A.P.P.S. to review the organization's by-laws and recommend



Congressman Green with Ed Burleson (left), Executive director of T.A.P.P.S. and T.A.P.P.S. President, Coach Jon LeBrasseur (right).

reforms, taking into account member schools of different faiths.

Congressman Green met with the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (T.A.P.P.S.) to discuss their policies and procedures for inclusion, as well as their accommodation of its member schools. Accompanying Congressman Green were representatives of State Senator Rodney Ellis's office, as well as the Executive Directors of the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League of the Houston region. The group will continue to monitor progress of the committee, which is expected to issue a report in the next few months.

"It is important that people of good will come together and review and discuss options when vital issues like this come to the forefront," Congressman Green said. "Religious freedom is paramount and should not be abridged out of convenience or a lack of understanding."

FAQ: IMMIGRATION

Q: What guidelines must I meet to be considered for deferred action for childhood arrivals?

A: Pursuant to the Secretary's June 15, 2012 memorandum, in order to be considered for deferred action for childhood arrivals, you must submit evidence, including support documents, showing that you:

1. Were under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012;
2. Came to the United States before reaching your 16th birthday;
3. Have continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007, up to the present time;
4. Were physically present in the United States on June 15, 2012, and at the time of making your request for consideration of deferred action with U.S.C.I.S.;
5. Entered without inspection before June 15, 2012, or your lawful immigration status expired as of June 15, 2012;
6. Are currently in school, have graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, have obtained a general education development (GED) certificate, or are an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States; and
7. Have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, three or more other misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety.

These guidelines must be met for consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals. U.S.C.I.S. retains the ultimate discretion on whether deferred action is appropriate in any given case.

Q: Does deferred action provide me with a path to permanent residence status or citizenship?

A: No. Deferred action is a form of prosecutorial discretion that does not confer lawful permanent-resident status or a path to citizenship. Only the Congress, acting through its legislative authority, can confer these rights.

Q: What is the filing process for Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals?

A: If you meet the guidelines for deferred action under this process, you will need to complete the following steps to make your request to U.S.C.I.S.: Collect documents as evidence you meet the guidelines; Complete U.S.C.I.S. for I-821D, I-765 and I-765WS; Mail to U.S.C.I.S. forms and fees (total \$465, these fees cannot be waived); Submit biometrics; And check the status of your request online.

Q: Is there a new U.S. Birth Certificate Requirement for passport?

A: Beginning April 1, 2011, the U.S. Department of State will require the full names of the applicant's parent(s) to be listed on all certified birth certificates to be considered as primary evidence of U.S. citizenship for

all passport applicants, regardless of age. Certified birth certificates missing this information will not be acceptable as evidence of citizenship.

Q: What is the change of information in India on visa related matter?

A: The Department of State in New Delhi has launched the new global visa processing system in India on Wednesday, September 26, 2012. The contact information for fee payment, appointments, call-center inquiries and general email inquiries has changed. One important change is that under the new system, applicants will have to make two appointments. Prior to their visa interviews, applicants will have to visit an Offsite Facilitation Center (OFC) to submit their fingerprints and a photo. Located apart from the Embassy and Consulates in Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Mumbai, the OFCs will reduce congestion at U.S. consular facilities and speed applicant processing. New website for visa applications: www.ustraveldocs.com/in. New email for visa-related questions (for applicants): support-india@ustraveldocs.com.

Q: How to make an appointment with U.S.C.I.S.?

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Q: What is the extension for current Haitian Temporary Protected Status (TPS) beneficiaries?

A: Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano extended TPS for Haiti on October 1, 2012 for eighteen months, from January 23, 2013 through July 22, 2014. Current Haitian TPS beneficiaries, who have continuously resided in the United States since January 2011, and seek to extend their TPS status, must re-register during the 60-day re-registration period that runs through November 30, 2012, if they wish to maintain their TPS. -uscis.gov

FTC ADVISES PARENTS

A new school year usually means filling out paperwork like registration forms, health forms, and emergency contact forms, to name a few. The Federal Trade Commission (F.T.C.) wants parents to know that many school forms require personal and sensitive information that, in the wrong hands, could be used to commit fraud in their child's name.

A criminal can use a child's Social Security number to get government benefits, open bank and credit card accounts, or rent a place to live. Most parents and guardians don't expect their child to have a credit file, and rarely order or monitor a child's credit report. Child identity theft may go undetected for years – until the child applies for a job or loan.

To help limit the risks of child identity theft, the Federal Trade Commission offers Protecting Your Child's Personal Information at School. It explains how the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act protects the privacy of student records and gives parents of school-age children the right to opt out of sharing contact information with third parties.

It also suggests that parents ask their child's school about its directory information policy, learn about privacy policies of sports or music activities that are not school-sponsored, and find out what to do if their child's school experiences a data breach.

The second publication, Safeguarding Your Child's Future, offers tips on how to keep your child's data safe and explains the warning signs of child identity theft. It also explains how parents and guardians can check whether their child has a credit report, and what to do if the report has errors.

The Federal Trade Commission works for consumers to prevent fraudulent, deceptive, and unfair business practices and to provide information to help spot, stop, and avoid them. To file a complaint in English or Spanish, visit the FTC's online Complaint Assistant or call 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357). —ftc.gov

UNREST IN MIDDLE EAST A THREAT TO STABILITY

Unsettling events in the Middle East reached a nadir with the death of six Americans in Libya, including Ambassador John Christopher Stevens. Continued unrest could endanger the export and price of oil from Libya, the world's fifth largest producer of oil, at a time when sanctions against Iran are already affecting the world market.

The recent turmoil once again emphasizes, among other important issues, the importance of continuing efforts for peace and stability in the region, as well as the importance of the uninterrupted flow of oil into the world's economy.

Some of the unrest is said to be in response to the release of excerpts from an anti-Islamic film styled "Innocence of Muslims," released on YouTube. The ugly film which mocks the life of the Prophet Muhammad has been condemned by people of good will. Slandering and making a mockery of any religion is offensive, wrong, and not a justification for murder or violence.

The road to peace in the Middle East goes through many countries, one of which is Egypt. Given Egypt's proximity to Israel, the relationship of Egyptian President Muhammad Morsi's government with Israel is of paramount importance for many reasons. Some important reasons include: continued recognition of the Camp David Accords, which normalized diplomatic relations between Israel and Egypt; Egypt's continued policing of illegal underground tunnels between itself and Palestine; and open access to the Suez Canal, through which 15 percent of the world's oil flows annually.

As events unfold, we must remember that although stability in the Middle East is an immediate objective, peace is our ultimate goal.

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