

Report on Legislation

from Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney

M A Y 2 0 0 0

Dear Friend,

Even while all the sound bites and spin will be drenching the airwaves and newspapers this year, Congress will still be about introducing and passing meaningful legislation.

I've always been active in writing legislation; and despite being a member of the minority in the House, I've been able to pass legislation that attracts votes from both sides of the aisle.

In this newsletter, I'd like to share with you a comprehensive report on bills I've introduced in the 106th Congress. The complete text of all of these bills is available on the web at <http://www.congress.gov>.

I've also been part of the coalition supporting a number of popular bills, including:

- Patient's Bill of Rights (H.R. 358) which will help protect consumers in managed care plans. Different versions of this bill have passed the House and Senate. A conference committee is working to develop a compromise bill.
- Campaign Finance Reform (H.R. 417) has passed the House and Senate and awaits action by a conference committee. This will reform the financing of federal election campaigns by banning "soft money" and closing the so-called issue advocacy loophole.
- Gun Safety (H.R. 1501) has become even more urgent in recent months. To protect children from firearms violence, this bill requires that child-safety locks be sold with all handguns. It also closes the "gun show" loophole, which lets criminals buy guns without undergoing background checks.
- Minimum Wage Increase (H.R. 325) passed the House and awaits Senate action. There was a time when the minimum wage enabled families to put food on the table—and this increase will help our neediest Americans do that. It's still not enough, and I'll work for continued increases.
- Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage (H.R. 1495) offers a prescription drug benefit to Medicare beneficiaries. Seniors in my district are paying as much as 1/3 of their annual income for prescription drugs and they are often forced to choose between food and needed medicine. Congress must act this year.

Meanwhile, if there is an issue you believe Congress should address, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

If you have a problem with government or a concern I can help with, please don't hesitate to contact my office:

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Please have all the relevant materials ready when you call, or photocopies enclosed when you write.

To contact me about legislation or federal regulations, contact me at:

2430 Rayburn Bldg.,
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CHILD CARE

Child Care Infrastructure Act (HR 389).

Provides tax credits for employers who provide child care assistance for their employees.

Kiddie Mac (HR 1112). Authorizes the Department of Housing and Urban Development to insure mortgages to buy or build child care facilities. This bill would also help exist-

ing child care providers get microloans to help make improvements to their facilities. Several hearings have been held on this bill, which would take an important step toward increasing the availability of quality child care.

"With more parents working, child care is a huge problem. By 2001, more than 60,000 children will need care in New York City alone, but we don't have space

for almost half of them. 'Kiddie Mac' will help create incentives for quality child care facilities so that parents can have peace of mind when they go to work."

ENVIRONMENT

Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act of 1999 (HR 488) [Shays/Maloney]. Designates as wilderness certain public lands in Idaho, Montana, Oregon,

Washington, and Wyoming, including wild and scenic rivers, national park and preserve study areas, wild land recovery areas, and biological connecting corridors.

Revitalizing Cities Through Parks Enhancement Act (HR 2305). Awards grants to community organizations for the development of open space on municipally-

owned vacant lots in urban areas.

NEW YORK CITY

Helicopter Safety and Noise Reduction (HR 729). Requires the Federal Aviation Administration to develop plans to reduce risks to the public health and welfare caused by helicopters. A provision of this bill, requiring a one year helicopter noise study, was included in the House-passed version of HR 1000 (AIR-21). Also, some of this bill's language was included in FY 2000 Transportation Appropriations. [P.L. 106-69]

Governors Island Development and Preservation Act of 2000 [Nadler/Maloney] (HR 3744). Transfers ownership of Governors Island from the Federal government to the State of New York, to be developed and preserved for the use of all residents of New York City.

HEALTH

Stem Cell Research (HRes 414). Supports Federal funding directed toward human pluripotent stem cell research to further research into Parkinson's disease and other medical conditions, and preventing new restrictions from being added to current research efforts. *"NIH scientists tell us that we are on the verge of significant treatments for Parkinson's and several other debilitating diseases. But they warn that stem cell research is a critical component of their work."*

Cancer Screening Coverage Act of 1999 (HR 1285). Requires health insurance plans to cover a wide range of preventive

STILL FIGHTING FOR AN ACCURATE CENSUS

REP. Carolyn Maloney—the ranking member of the House Census Subcommittee—has worked closely with the Census Bureau and community organizations throughout Queens and Manhattan to ensure that everyone completed their census form as quickly and accurately as possible. In the weeks ahead, she will be working to ensure cooperation with the enumerators who will be knocking on doors soon to collect information from households that failed to respond.

As Ranking Member of the Census Subcommittee, Maloney has been leading the fight to ensure that New York City is not undercounted and underrepresented.

"If we fail to use the best available modern statistical methods, New York City could lose almost \$2.3 billion dollars in the next decade—critically needed Federal aid for schools, poor communities, and emergency services. In Queens County alone, over 51,000 people could go uncounted. We must do everything possible to prevent this from happening," Maloney said.

Rep. Maloney has been fighting to ensure that the Census Bureau is able to release the most accurate data possible by introducing the following legislation:

Census Fairness (HR 548) Requires the use of modern statistical methods to produce the most accurate census possible.

Census Monitoring Board Accountability (HR 2306). Amends the qualifications for serving with the Census Monitoring Board.

Census Funding (HR 3581). Makes additional funds available to the

Secretary of Commerce for purposes of the 2000 decennial census, and expands the pool of who can be hired as enumerators—including military personnel and welfare recipients.

Census Accuracy (HAMdt 45). Amends H.R.472 to allow local units to review housing unit counts, jurisdictional boundaries, and other data for the pur-

pose of identifying discrepancies or other potential problems before the 2000 decennial census tabulation of total population by States.

Census of Americans Abroad Act (HR 3649). Provides for an interim census of Americans residing abroad, and to require that such individuals be included in the 2010 census.

For more information on the census, and how it will effect New York City, visit the U.S. Census Monitoring Board website at <http://www.cmbp.gov/v3/> or visit Rep. Maloney's site at <http://www.house.gov/maloney/issues/census>.

cancer screenings, including breast, prostate, cervical, and colorectal cancer. *"In 1998, my bill to require Medicare to cover annual mammograms was enacted. I hope to convince Congress that all cancer screenings should be covered as well. Early detection is the key to saving lives."*

Mental Health Parity Enhancement Act (HR 2445). Closes a loophole in the mental health parity provisions in managed care programs to prevent conversion of now-illegal "dollar limits" to technically legal "visit limits."

Osteoporosis Early

Detection and Prevention Act (HR 925). Requires health insurance plans to cover bone density testing for at-risk men and women. This will help reduce fractures associated with osteoporosis and will help women make informed choices about reproductive and post-menopausal health care.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

Robin Danielson Act (HR 889). Requires the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to collect data on toxic shock syndrome.

Tampon Safety and Research Act (HR 890). Provides fund-

ing for research to determine the extent to which the presence of dioxin, synthetic fibers, and other additives in tampons and related products pose any risks to the health of women, including risks relating to cervical cancer, endometriosis, infertility, ovarian cancer, breast cancer, immune system deficiencies, pelvic inflammatory disease, and toxic shock syndrome.

MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Funding Act of 1999 (HR 895). Restores the United States voluntary con-

tribution to the United Nations Population Fund in fiscal year 2000. **Enacted.** [P.L. 106-113]

International Family Planning (HR 3634). Provides funding for international family planning for fiscal year 2001 and removes global "gag rule" restrictions.

PRIVACY

Military Dependents Communications Confidentiality Act of 1999 (HR 1847). Protects the confidentiality of communications between dependents of members of the Armed Forces and professionals providing therapeutic or related services regarding sexual or domestic abuse. **Enacted.** [P.L. 106-65]

Right to Financial Privacy Act Amendments of 1999 (H. R. 2062). Protects older or disabled individuals from financial exploitation by allowing banks who suspect financial abuse of seniors' accounts to report the abuse to adult protective services.

FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE

Family and Medical Leave Enhancement Act (HR 2103). Allows employees to take, as additional unpaid leave, parental involvement leave to participate in or attend their children's educational and extracurricular activities and to clarify that leave may be taken for routine medical needs and to assist elderly relatives. This bill will also allow more employees to be covered by the Family and Medical Leave law. **Family and Medical Leave Act Fairness (HR 2104).** Includes domestic partners, parents-in-law, adult children, siblings, or

grandparents in the Family and Medical Leave law. Current law grants leave solely to a parent, a child, or a spouse.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Federal Elections (HR 1338). Fully funds the Federal Elections Commission so that it can properly investigate campaign finance violations. **Enacted.** [P.L. 106-58]

Same Day Voter Registration Act of 1999 (HR 2864). Requires States to permit individuals to register to vote in a federal election on the day of the election.

Voters' Right to Know Act (HR 3888). Requires operators of push polls and phone banks in federal elections to disclose their identity to each recipient of a call and report to the Federal Election Commission (FEC) their sources of funding and the script used in making the calls.

ELDER ABUSE

Older Americans' Protection from Violence Act (HR 2590). Protects older or disabled persons from institutional, community and domestic violence and sexual assault by improving outreach and training services available to older or disabled persons victimized by such violence.

"Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act is one of Congress' top priorities this year. I hope that we will add provisions of my elder abuse bill to it, to help protect older and disabled Americans who are victims of violence, neglect, and abuse."

WOMEN'S ISSUES



At a press conference to highlight the need for HR 3861, The Pregnancy Discrimination Act (PDA) Amendments of 2000 and HR 1163, The Breastfeeding Promotion and Employee Tax Incentive Act, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney is joined by U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Davidatcher from the Department of Health and Human Services, and U.S. Representative Christopher Shays (R-CT), a cosponsor of the PDA bill.

BREASTFEEDING AS A RIGHT

"IT sounds like a small thing. But trying to feed a crying, hungry infant with privacy in a public place is no small thing if you've tried it," says Rep. Maloney. It turns out that mothers breastfeeding their children have been ejected from federal museums, national parks, and even the U.S. Capitol.

So Maloney introduced legislation (HR 1848) which would ensure a mother's right to breastfeed on Federal property where the woman and child would otherwise be permitted. And last September, the bill passed and was enacted into law. [P.L. 106-58]

Maloney has also introduced the following related bills...

Breastfeeding Promotion and Employers' Tax Incentive Act (HR 1163). Grants a tax incentive for employers to provide lactation rooms on business premises for employed mothers to breastfeed or express milk for their children.

Pregnancy Discrimination Act Amendments of 2000 (HR 3861). Clarifies the Pregnancy Discrimination Act to include breastfeeding under civil rights law, requiring that women cannot be fired or discriminated against in

the workplace for expressing breast milk during lunch or break time.

Safe and Effective Breastpump Act (HR 3372). Establishes minimum standards for breast pumps.

Equal Rights Amendment (HJRes 41). Amends the U.S. Constitution to ensure equal rights for men and women.

Employer Liability for Gender-Related Violence Act of 1999 (HR 3106). Protects the civil rights of victims of gender-motivated violence by establishing employer liability for negligent conduct that results in an individual's committing a gender-motivated crime of violence against another employee on premises controlled by the employer.

National Museum of Women's History (HR 1246). Creates a National Museum of

Women's History in Washington, D.C.

EDUCATION

Holocaust Education Assistance Act (HR 3105). Promotes grants to develop educational programs about the Holocaust.

BANKING & CONSUMER

Credit Card Interest Rate Change Disclosure Act (HR 3117). Requires 90 days notice before changing interest rates on credit card accounts.

WELFARE

Welfare Tracking Act (HR 3150). Requires collection of data to evaluate the outcome of welfare reform and

to reward states that do an exceptional job moving people from welfare to work.

VETERANS

Veterans Housing Fairness Act of 2000 (HR 3571). Allows veterans to use their guaranteed VA housing loans to purchase residential cooperative apartment units. *"VA housing loans cannot be used to purchase co-ops—and in New York City, that's a real barrier to affordable housing for those who have served their country. My bill will fix that inequity."*

Honoring Zachary Fisher (HJRes 46). Awards humanitarian Zachary Fisher hon-

orary veteran status. **Enacted.** [P.L. 106-161]

HUMAN RIGHTS

Asylum Protection (HR 1849). Requires the Attorney General to put forth regulations relating to gender-related persecution, including female genital mutilation, for use in determining an alien's eligibility for asylum.

Afghanistan (H. Res. 187). Urges against allowing any Taliban-led government in Afghanistan to obtain a seat in the United Nations General Assembly reserved for Afghanistan so long as gross violations of internationally recognized human rights against women and girls persist.

Qatar elections (HConRes 35). Congratulates the State of Qatar and its citizens for their commitment to democratic ideals and women's suffrage on the occasion of Qatar's historic elections of a Central Municipal Council on March 8, 1999. **Passed.**

Cyprus (HConRes 80). Calls for a United States effort to end restrictions on the freedoms and human rights of the enclaved people in the occupied area of Cyprus.

Promoting Religious Freedom (HConRes 286). Calls for the Palestinian Authority to adhere to the rule of law for property disputes in the Mideast.

HELLENIC ISSUES

Imia (HConRes 36). Expresses the sense of Congress regarding Turkey's claim of sovereignty to the islets in the Aegean Sea known as Imia.

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United Nations Compliance [Bilirakis/Maloney] (HConRes 159). Urges compliance by Turkey with United Nations resolutions relating to Cyprus.

Earthquake Response (HConRes 188). Commends Greece and Turkey for their mutual and swift response to the recent earthquakes in both countries by providing each other with humanitarian assistance and rescue relief. **Passed House.**

Arms Sales to Turkey (HRes 361). Urges the President to condition discussions about Turkey's foreign military finances on resolution of that nation's hostile occupation of the Republic of Cyprus.

GUN SAFETY

Childproof Handgun Act of 1999 [Pascrell/Maloney] (HR 2025). Requires that all handguns contain "smart-gun" technology within five years that prohibits the firing of the gun by anyone except the registered user. "Smart gun technology is one way to help keep

guns from being deadly in the hands of children. It's time to break the gun industry's stranglehold on this legislation and pass it this year."

FIRE SAFETY

Sprinklers (HR 1126). Requires newly-constructed multi-family housing in New York City to comply with the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974. Currently, these housing units operate under a city-wide exclusion from certain fire safety laws.

Fire Safe Dorm Act of 2000 (HR 3831). Requires colleges and universities to disclose to students and their parents the incidence of fires in dormitories, and their plans to reduce fire safety hazards in dormitories, and requires the U.S. Fire Administration to establish fire safety standards for dormitories.

"When a parent sends a child to college, everyone assumes the dorms are safe and have fire prevention equipment, but this is not always the case. Recent tragedies have shown us how bad this problem is."



Rep. Maloney meets with N.Y. Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and others in the push for funding of the Second Avenue Subway line.

SECOND AVENUE SUBWAY

IN early April, a commitment to build a full-length Second Avenue Subway was included in the state budget agreement reached between Governor George Pataki, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno and Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver.

"This agreement is the next step in the creation of the Second Avenue line," Rep. Maloney said. "By establishing a new line as part of the MTA capital budget, the MTA can now apply for Federal funds to assist in the preparations and construction of the project. I'll lead the fight for the full federal funding contribution for this needed project."

"With the Lexington Avenue line between 40% and 60% over capacity, the need for a new line has never been clearer. If we are to sustain the rebound of New York City's economy, we must expand the infrastructure of our city to handle that growth."

GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

Construction Industry Payment Protection Act of 1999 (HR 1219). Strengthens payment protections for contractors and

workers who do business with the federal government. **Enacted.** [P.L. 106-49]

Federal Reserve Labor Accountability Act (HR 4036). Allows employees at Federal

Reserve Banks to organize, giving them the same labor rights as other Federal employees. Currently, these workers are excluded from standard labor-management agreements.