

In order to better help my constituents stay informed about my work in DC, I have created a “month in review” ENews Update to highlight some of my legislative work over the past month.

Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction or “Super Committee”



This month, I met with Senator Kerry and other members of the Massachusetts delegation to discuss our priorities for the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction (commonly known as the “Super Committee”), of which Senator Kerry is a member. I am glad that one of the twelve committee members is from our state, and I will continue to work with the Senator as the Super Committee continues to work to reduce the deficit.

I have also signed onto letters to the Super Committee urging them to end the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq (saving \$1.8 trillion) and cut defense and military spending in a manner proportionate to other programs, including education and other critical domestic programs.

Additionally, I signed onto H.Con.Res. 72, a resolution expressing the sense of Congress that any legislative language approved by the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction should not reduce benefits for Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid recipients.

Disaster Assistance for Hurricane Irene



On September 3, President Obama issued a federal disaster designation for Massachusetts counties affected by Tropical Storm Irene. This designation made residents of those counties eligible for federal disaster loans and other types of assistance.

On September 22, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack granted Governor Patrick's request for disaster relief for Massachusetts farmers affected by Tropical Storm Irene. Under the USDA-specific disaster declaration, farmers in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Worcester, Middlesex, and five other counties are eligible for assistance from the Department of Agriculture.

Vote Explanation: Continuing Appropriations for the Federal Government or the Small Business Program Extension and Reform Act.

On September 23, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2608, the Small Business Program Extension and Reform Act of 2011, which extended the government's funding through November 18th of this year. The temporary spending measure was passed by the Senate 79-12 on Monday the 26th with an amendment from Senator Reid.

The title of this bill may have confused many people. The original Small Business Program Extension and Reform Act of 2011 extended the Small Business Administration's authorization and was passed unanimously in the House of Representatives in July. The legislation was subsequently passed by the Senate, however the bill was set aside in a parliamentary procedure used to allow for future consideration of policy called a "vehicle". As a result, the original text of H.R. 2608 was stripped and replaced with a Continuing Resolution on Appropriations, allowing the House and Senate to pass the federal government funding more expediently.

Bi-lingual voting materials

Ensuring the right of every American citizen to participate in our democratic process is one of the most fundamental principles of our country. I believe that the right of all voters to participate in elections should be protected. This month, I cosigned a letter to the Census Bureau Director, Robert Graves, and Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division Thomas Perez which urged them to continue providing bilingual voting materials in precincts with large populations of limited-English proficient voters. Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act provides the Census Bureau with the authority to designate such jurisdictions. Citizens should never be denied the right to vote because they do not speak English fluently, and I will continue to ensure that all citizens are afforded voting protections.

Clemency for Troy Davis



On September 7, I joined 50 other Members in signing a letter urging the Georgia State Board

of Paroles and Pardons to grant clemency to Troy Davis, who had been convicted of murder, given the many doubts about his guilt that have arisen since the conviction. Unfortunately, the Board did not grant clemency, and Mr. Davis was executed on September 21.

Combating Autism Act

On September 20, the House passed H.R. 2005, the Combating Autism Act, with my support. H.R. 2005 reauthorizes research into the causes and treatment of autism and other developmental disabilities. This bipartisan bill passed easily in the House and was subsequently passed by the Senate on September 26.

GOP's Job Outsourcers' Bill of Rights is a Reckless Assault on Working Americans

On September 15, I voted against H.R. 2587, the Outsourcers Bill of Rights Act, which would remove the only meaningful legal remedy available to workers if a company illegally moves operations or eliminates work because workers engage in protected activities like forming a union or collective bargaining. It would strip the National Labor Relations Board's power to order to restore or reinstate any work, product, production line or equipment and limits the ability of workers to seek redress should their employer violate the National Labor Relations Act or related regulations. Because I don't believe that we want more outsourcing of jobs in the United States and I do not think that we have a surplus of jobs at the moment to spare for China and other countries, I chose to vote against this bill. H.R. 2587 passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 238-186.

TRAIN Act

On September 23, I voted against H.R. 2401, the Transparency in Regulatory Analysis of Impacts on the Nation (TRAIN) Act. The TRAIN Act would block and indefinitely delay two important clean air regulations—the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards and the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule. The Republican majority in the House of Representatives has launched an all-out assault against clean air standards in the 112

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Congress. Since gaining control of the House, Republicans have forced 28 votes to block actions to prevent air and water pollution. They started their attack in the Fiscal Year 2012 Interior Appropriations bill, which attempts to de-regulate carbon emissions and would block the regulation of air pollutants. Now they have moved to the TRAIN Act. I stood with 168 of my colleagues in voting against this Clean Air assault when it passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 249-169.