

HOUSE DEMOCRATS

LEADING AMERICA IN A NEW DIRECTION

PRODUCING REAL RESULTS IN THE 110TH CONGRESS

NATIONAL SECURITY * ECONOMY



CHILDREN & FAMILIES * ENVIRONMENT * ACCOUNTABILITY



“It's rare that politicians follow through on promises they make...The Democrats' first 100 hours brought so many sweeping, long-awaited changes that frankly, our heads are spinning. Among those who have gotten a leg up so far: the environment, the ailing and the working poor.”

- Seattle Post Intelligencer editorial, 1/22/07

100 Hours: Real Results for the American People

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enact 9/11 Commission Recommendations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Increase Minimum Wage
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Expand Stem Cell Research
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Negotiate for Lower Prescription Drug Prices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cut Interest Rates on Student Loans
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	End Subsidies for Big Oil and Invest In Renewable Energy

“House Democrats are getting high marks from the public for their legislative moves in the first 100 hours of the new session of Congress...They're on the right road.” [Charlotte Observer editorial, 1/22/07]

In the first 100 hours of the 110th Congress, House Democrats wasted no time in taking action and passing legislation to address the needs and improve the lives of all Americans.

➤ **Cleaning Up Washington**

As the first order of business, the House enacted the most sweeping ethics reforms since Watergate, restored pay-as-you-go budget rules, and made earmarks more transparent.

➤ **Making Americans Safer**

The House passed a bill to make Americans safer by implementing the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. Many of these recommendations, which were sent to Congress in 2004, had not yet been implemented.

Passed 299-128, with **68 Republicans**.

➤ **Making the American Dream Possible for Everyone**

By a wide margin, the House passed the first increase in the minimum wage in almost a decade, raising the wage from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.25.

Passed 315-116, with **82 Republicans**.

➤ **Giving Hope to Americans With Diseases**

The House voted to improve health care by expanding federal funding for life-saving embryonic stem cell research.

Passed 253-174, with **37 Republicans**.

➤ **Making Health Care More Affordable**

As health care costs continue to rise, the House voted to require the Secretary of HHS to negotiate for lower prescription drug costs.

Passed 255-170, with **24 Republicans**.

➤ **Making College More Affordable**

With a significant amount of Republican support, the House passed the College Student Relief Act, which will make college more affordable and accessible by cutting interest rates in half on certain student loans.

Passed 356-71, with **124 Republicans**.

➤ **Increasing America's Energy Independence, Tackling Global Warming**

As a step on the path to energy independence, the House passed the CLEAN Energy Act, which will roll back taxpayer subsidies for big oil companies and increase investment in renewable energy.

Passed 264-163, with **36 Republicans**.

AVERAGE NUMBER OF REPUBLICANS: 62

DEMOCRATS' WORK FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CONTINUES

Democrats' accomplishments on behalf of the American people did not stop after 100 hours. In the first quarter of this Session alone, House Democrats have passed legislation that will defend our country, grow the economy, protect our children and strengthen families, preserve our planet, and make our government accountable and efficient.



DEFENDING OUR COUNTRY



'The bottom line is . . . if this bill, H.R. 1, is enacted, funded and implemented, then the American people will be safer.'

- Former Congressman Lee Hamilton, co-chair of the 9/11 Commission, discussing Democrats' top priority in the 110th Congress

- **Iraq Resolution:** Expresses support for the troops and opposes the President's escalation of the war in Iraq.
- **National Security FIRST Act:** Implements changes to the CFIUS review process in response to the Dubai ports scandal, which will strengthen national security.
- **Joshua Omvig Veterans Suicide Prevention:** Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and implement a comprehensive program designed to reduce the incidence of suicide among veterans.
- **Dr. James Allen Veteran Vision Equity Act:** Improves compensation benefits for veterans in certain cases of impairment of vision involving both eyes.
- **Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment:** Increases the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities.

- **U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act:** Supports our troops and veterans, holds the President and the Iraqi government accountable to the President's own benchmarks for progress, and refocuses on the war on terror.

- **Rail and Public Transportation Security Act of 2007:** Will improve the security of railroads, public transportation, and over-the-road buses in the United States.

- **Wounded Warrior Assistance Act of 2007:** In response to the scandal at Walter Reed, this bill includes measures to ensure our troops and veterans receive quality care.



GROWING THE ECONOMY



“Over the past decade, budget discipline on Capitol Hill collapsed under the desire for tax cuts and the pressure of war spending, analysts say. Now, the new Democratic majority says it is ready to put congressional budget-making back on track and, in the process, reduce the budget deficit.”

- The Washington Post, 3/22/07

- **Joint Funding Resolution:** Funds government at fiscal year 2006 levels, ensuring that the government remained open and providing services to the American people after the Republicans failed to enact 9 of 11 appropriations bills. The measure was fiscally responsible, adhering to the spending limit Republicans passed last year and eliminating earmarks.
- **Small Business Tax Relief:** Assists business most affected by an increase in the minimum wage.
- **Employee Free Choice Act:** Establishes fairness in the workplace by providing America’s workers with a free choice to bargain for better wages, benefits, and work conditions.
- **Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for FY08:** Invests in America’s priorities in a fiscally responsible way, with more investment in health care for our children, care for our soldiers and veterans, education for a 21st century workforce and a growing economy, energy independence and global warming.



PROTECTING AND STRENGTHENING OUR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



“At a time when the nation is pondering how to provide medical coverage to some 47 million uninsured Americans, it is logical and right to start with the country's nine million uninsured children...Democratic leaders in Congress are planning to respond with bold, and necessary, proposals to cover a large chunk of the nine million uninsured children.”

- The NY Times, 3/12/07

- **Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act of 2007:** Provides critical funding to help law enforcement locate and shut down meth labs, and supports research to determine the best way to clean up old labs and eliminate the chemicals that can harm our environment and health.
- **Living Kidney Organ Donation Act:** Will save thousands of lives by speeding the kidney donation process.
- **Water Quality Investment Act:** Will aid cities and states in preventing dangerous sewer overflows that pose public health hazards.
- **Healthy Communities Water Supply Act:** Will increase the usable water supply by encouraging innovation in water reclamation, reuse, and conservation.
- **Water Quality Financing Act:** Will provide loans for local communities to construct wastewater treatment facilities.
- **Native American Methamphetamine Enforcement and Treatment Act of 2007:** Clarifies that territories and Indian tribes are eligible to receive grants for confronting the use of methamphetamine.
- **National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program Reauthorization Act of 2007:** Amends the Public Health Service Act to provide waivers relating to grants for preventive health measures with respect to breast and cervical cancers.

- **Stroke Treatment and Ongoing Prevention Act:** Will strengthen education, prevention, and treatment programs.
- **Trauma Care Systems Planning and Development Act of 2007:** Will provide grants to improve access to and development of trauma care systems.



PRESERVING OUR PLANET



“As the House's new Democratic majority celebrated the completion of their populist 100-hour agenda Thursday, Speaker Nancy Pelosi...unveiled the party's next legislative target: an ambitious plan to wean the U.S. from foreign oil and slow global warming.”

- LA Times, 1/19/07

- **Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming:** Panel created to inform Congress and the public on energy independence and climate change as well as develop policy initiatives and assure that progress is made toward reducing our dependence on foreign oil.
- **Over two dozen hearings** on energy independence, global warming, and Republican and Bush Administration efforts to influence or distort the science on climate change.
- **Advanced Fuels Infrastructure Research and Development Act:** With the support of 186 Republicans, this bill continues Democrats' efforts to put America on a new energy path by encouraging research and development of markets for biofuels.
- **Energy Technology Transfer Act:** Authorizes funding for centers to demonstrate the commercial application of advanced energy technologies.



ENSURING OUR GOVERNMENT IS ACCOUNTABLE AND EFFICIENT



“[The Bush Administration] will pay the price for the temporary breakdown in the system of checks and balances that occurred between 2001 and this year -- when the Republican Congress forgot its responsibility to hold the executive branch accountable. It was a fundamental dereliction of duty by Congress.”

- David Broder, The Washington Post, 3/18/07

During the 2006 campaign, Democrats pledged to clean up Washington and make government more accountable, transparent, and efficient. Beyond the ethics reforms adopted as the 110th Congress' first order of business, Democrats have continued to uphold their pledge and have passed several bills

- **Improving House Page Board Oversight:** Reforms the page board to strengthen its ability to protect pages in light of the Mark Foley scandal.
- **Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 2007:** Will increase public access to government information by strengthening FOIA.
- **Presidential Records Act Amendments of 2007:** Nullifies a 2001 presidential executive order and restores public access to presidential records.
- **Presidential Library Donation Reform Act of 2007:** Requires the disclosure of donors to presidential libraries.
- **Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2007:** Gives whistleblower protections to federal workers who specialize in national security issues as well as federal contract workers.
- **Accountability in Contracting:** Helps end waste in federal contracting by limiting how long no-bid contracts can last, requires agencies to minimize the use of no-bid contracts, and directs agencies to justify any such contracts awarded.
- **U.S. Attorneys:** Limits the term of an interim U.S. Attorney appointed by the Attorney General to 120 days.

- **Gulf Coast Hurricane Housing Recovery Act of 2007:** Provides more flexibility and funding for housing and help for those who need housing assistance more quickly and effectively.
- **Katrina Housing Tax Relief Act of 2007:** Modifies legislation passed in 2005 to encourage and ease rebuilding in the Gulf region.

For the past six years, Congress has conducted very little oversight of the Bush Administration, contributing to disastrous policies. With Democrats in control, oversight is finally being conducted on important issues. The need for oversight is clear: The recent scandal at Walter Reed, the firings of U.S. Attorneys, and the abuse of National Security Letters show that the Republican-controlled Congress completely abdicated its responsibility to hold government accountable. Oversight is part of Democrats' efforts to bring real change to Washington.

OVERSIGHT OVERVIEW:

DEMOCRATS HOLD DOZENS OF HEARINGS*:

- **140:** Full committee oversight hearings already held in the 110th Congress
- **104:** Number of House and Senate oversight hearings on Iraq already held in the 110th Congress, through 3/16 (includes full committee and subcommittee hearings)

DEMOCRATS ADDRESS TOP ISSUES:

- FBI Abuse of National Security Letters
- Firings of 8 U.S. Attorneys
- Hurricane Katrina
- Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Global War on Terror
- Veterans – Walter Reed Army Medical Center scandal, poor conditions at VA Hospitals

**as of Friday, March 23*

Democrats' oversight efforts have produced real results:

- U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act
- Wounded Warrior Assistance Act
- U.S. Attorneys Bill

In the months ahead, House Democrats will continue to focus on the American people's priorities.

**THE DO-NOTHING REPUBLICAN CONGRESS
VS.
THE NEW DIRECTION
DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS**

	107th Congress (January – March 2001)	108th Congress (January – March 2003)	Do-Nothing Republican Congress (January – March 2005)	New Direction Democratic Congress (January – March 2007)*
Roll Call Votes	75	94	90	189**
Suspension Bills	33	42	26	72
Bills Passed Under a Rule	8	13	11	24
Days in Session	32	33	26	48

**through 3/29*

***through 3/26*

****All numbers from the House Office of the Clerk*