



CONGRESSMAN
**Wally
Herger**



REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON

Dear Friends:

Thank you to everyone who responded to the questionnaire in the last newsletter or attended one of our nine town hall meetings in March. Inside you will find the questionnaire results. As always, your opinions are very important to me.



Congressman Herger speaking with airmen at Beale AFB. Herger is working in support of both the U-2 and Global Hawk, which are playing an essential role in providing reconnaissance and intelligence for our commanders on the ground in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere. Both aircraft are stationed at Beale.

Several issues are on the forefront of our nation's agenda. At home, Americans are sending the clear message that we must secure our borders. I strongly agree, and voted for a tough enforcement-first bill that would significantly enhance border security.

Record high gas prices are also a widespread concern. I recently supported measures to increase American-made energy through environmentally safe exploration in Alaska and off our coasts, and to increase our nation's refinery capacity by streamlining bureaucratic red tape so that we can build and expand refineries.

In addition, our nation continues to prosecute the War on Terror. While challenges remain, the elimination of al Qaeda mastermind Zarqawi was a major victory for our troops and Iraq's new unity government. I continue to believe that our missions in Afghanistan and Iraq have made America safer because we are fighting terrorists abroad. I'm extremely proud of our servicemen and women, and want them to come home safely soon. Still, our generals in the field can best determine when Afghanistan and Iraq can defend themselves without our assistance.

Lastly, I am using new technology to enhance the ways you can communicate with me. For example, you may have recently participated in one of my live "Tele Town Halls." This new teleconference technology allows you to share your questions and concerns from the comfort of your home. Inside, you will find more information on new ways we can correspond with one another.

I hope you find these additional new communication methods useful.

Wally

Anti-Scam Events

Please join me in a new effort to help you and your loved ones better protect yourselves against the “bandit in your mailbox.” Can you tell the difference between an offer from a legitimate organization and one from an outfit just trying to prey on your financial needs, naiveté, or hope and optimism for winning that ultimate jackpot? I am hosting a series of “anti-scam” forums to raise public awareness about financial scams targeted specifically at senior citizens.

Earlier this year, Sutter County law enforcement officials searched the Feather River for a Northern California woman who vanished after being defrauded of over \$500,000 through an international lottery scam. Join us for these forums and learn how to protect yourself. Invited guests include county district attorneys, an FBI Task Force investigator and other representatives from state and federal agencies. I hope you and your family are able to attend one of these events.

Anti-SCAM Town Halls

■ Tuesday, August 15

Chico

9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Oakmont Retirement
Residence
2801 Cohasset Road

Yuba City

1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Yuba City Senior Center
777 Ainsley Avenue

■ Wednesday, August 16

Corning

9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
City Council Chambers
794 Third Street

Redding

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Redding Senior Nutrition
Program Facility
100 Mercy Oaks Drive

Orland

4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Human Resource Agency Building
604 East Walker Street, Room 200



Congressman Herger at the Williams Fire Department. Herger is an active supporter of the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act, which would speed up forest restoration work following catastrophic natural disasters. In doing so, the measure seeks to prevent devastating forest fires caused by dead or dying timber.

Fuming Over Gas Prices

Northern Californians are understandably outraged by the record gasoline prices we've experienced at the pump. High prices affect everyone, particularly those raising a family or running a farm or small business.

Alternative energy and increased efficiency are certainly part of the solution. As such, Congress passed an energy bill last year that offers new incentives for Americans to use alternative and hybrid fuel vehicles, and promotes efficiency so that we get more out of less energy.

However, we must also increase domestic supplies of traditional energy and lessen our dependence on imports from unstable regions. Had President Clinton supported exploration in a small portion of Northern

Alaska in 1996, we could today be producing nearly as much oil as we import from Saudi Arabia. We also have potentially 100 billion barrels of oil off our coasts. Meanwhile, we haven't built a new refinery since 1976. Thankfully, 21st Century technology allows us to bolster energy supplies and refinery capacity in an environmentally safe way. In that vein, the House has passed legislation that would encourage more domestic exploration and streamline the refinery approval process.

Unfortunately, there are no overnight solutions to reduce high gas prices. I hope the Senate will join the House in turning around bad policies now to move toward energy independence and provide Americans a more secure energy future.

Expanding Communications to Stay in Touch

I'm implementing new technology to improve upon the ways we can communicate. Feel free to visit my web site, www.house.gov/herger where you can sign up for occasional e-mail updates on the federal issues important to you, and also email me. And I plan to conduct more “Tele Town Halls” in the future so that you can express your views and ask questions from the convenience of your own home.

I'm very excited by the opportunities presented by these enhanced communications capabilities. I will also continue to travel throughout Northern California so I can meet with as many of you as possible in person. Whatever the means of communication, I hope to hear from you.

Commemorating Reforms that Have Changed Lives

August 22, 2006 marks the 10th anniversary of the signing of the 1996 welfare reform law.

Overwhelming evidence demonstrates that, despite the claims of many critics at the time, the 1996 reforms have been extraordinarily successful. Nearly eight million parents and children are no longer dependent on welfare, representing a 64 percent reduction in welfare rolls, an unprecedented change. Over 1.4 million children have been freed from poverty. Meanwhile, the number of adults on welfare who work has more than doubled, leading to higher incomes.

As the chairman of the U.S. House subcommittee dealing with welfare, I have worked to ensure that this successful policy continues and is strengthened. Too many families remain dependent on the government, and too many parents on welfare miss the opportunity to work or get job training. That's why we've worked to extend and improve the 1996 welfare reforms. After years of effort, this legislation was finally approved as part of the Deficit Reduction Act, which the President signed into law this past February.

Like the 1996 reforms, this next stage of welfare reform is focused on

helping more parents on welfare go to work and further reducing dependence on government. A key goal in this stage of reform is to ensure that at least 50 percent of parents on welfare work or train at least part time each week. Recognizing that work is the only true path out of poverty, I supported even higher work goals. But achieving this 50 percent target will still be a dramatic improvement, since, despite recent progress, about 60 percent of today's welfare recipients perform no work or training in exchange for their benefits.

The 2006 welfare law also includes a new, voluntary program to promote healthy marriages and responsible fatherhood. These new initiatives are a critical component of our national efforts to further reduce poverty and improve child well-being in the coming years.

Recent years have seen significant progress in reforming welfare and helping more parents work and support their families. The additional welfare reforms approved earlier this year renew and strengthen those efforts. If the progress of the last decade continues, literally millions more American families with children will experience brighter and more secure futures as a result.

Service Academy Applications

As your Member of Congress, I have the honor of recommending young men and women for nomination to our nation's service academies. These fine schools include the U.S. Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy. These institutions provide the unique opportunity to train for a career as an officer in our armed forces.

Nominations are available to young men and women between 17 and 22 years of age who are residents of our Congressional District. The applications deadline is October 31, 2006. If you are interested in this unique educational experience, please log onto my website www.house.gov/herger or contact my office at 530-893-8363

You may also write to:

Rep. Wally Herger
55 Independence Circle
Suite 104
Chico, CA 95973



Congressman Herger, second from left, with President Bush at the White House signing ceremony for the Deficit Reduction Act, through which the 1996 welfare reforms were extended and strengthened. The measure also reduced overall federal spending by nearly \$40 billion through common sense reforms.

White House picture by Eric Draper

2006 Questionnaire Results

I received thousands of responses to the questionnaire that appeared in my last newsletter, and many people took the time to jot down additional thoughts and advice. While the returned questionnaires do not constitute a scientific survey, I found your responses helpful in getting a sense of what Northern Californians are thinking about current issues.

The results showed overwhelming support for the National Security Agency's program of monitoring the international communications between suspected terrorists abroad and individuals in the United States. More than 78% of respondents want the Bush Administration to continue

this terrorist surveillance program.

On the controversial issue of illegal immigration, Northern Californians overwhelmingly oppose a blanket amnesty like the one that was instituted in 1986 before I came to office. The results also showed support for a temporary legal worker program (such as agriculture workers) for individuals currently NOT in the U.S. Feel free to visit my website, www.house.gov/herger, to view pie charts demonstrating how people responded to various proposals that were being considered a few months ago.

When it comes to the War on Terror, by a two to one margin, respondents said we should continue

our presence in Iraq until our mission is complete. On the domestic front, 27% of responders had either signed up for the new Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or had a relative sign up. Nearly 70% had no opinion or were unsure of whether they or a relative would save money by using the new program. However, because most questionnaires were returned prior to the initial May 15, 2006, deadline to enroll in Part D, these results do not completely reflect the level of participation in the new program in our area.

I want to thank all of you who returned the survey. Your input is invaluable as I seek to better represent you in Congress.



Congressman Herger and U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt discuss the Medicare Prescription Drug benefit with a senior citizen at a 'Medicare Mobile Education Center' event in Redding. Overall, the average Medicare beneficiary is saving \$1,100 a year from the new benefit.

District Offices

Chico

55 Independence Circle
Suite 104
Chico, CA 95973
(530) 893-8363

Redding

410 Hemsted Drive
Suite 115
Redding, CA 96002
(530) 223-5898



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3006

Official Business

Wally Herger MC
PRSRT STD

Visit us on the web
www.house.gov/herger

Congressman Herger Reports from Washington