

House Democrats Making Progress for the American People

Despite Six Months of GOP Opposition, Democrats Begin to Move America in a New Direction

The 110th Congress is making progress on the American people's priorities, despite intense opposition from President Bush and Rubberstamp Republicans on many issues. While Republicans are obstructing progress any way they can, Democrats are working hard to pass legislation that moves America in a new direction and addresses the issues ignored by Republicans for the past six years.

In spite of opposition from the President and other Republicans, Democrats succeeded in:

- Increasing pay for 13 million workers, directly and indirectly, by raising the minimum wage for the first time in a decade
- Ensuring hundreds of thousands of children from 11 states have health insurance
- Providing overdue assistance to the Gulf Coast region hit by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
- Protecting our troops by investing in military readiness, including better armored vehicles and equipment for our troops in Iraq
- Requiring the President to report on the progress of the War in Iraq in July and September, and enacting benchmarks for progress that the Iraqi government must meet
- Changing the Iraq debate in a critical way – with leading Republicans such as Senator Dick Lugar (R-IN), Ranking Member on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, walking away from Bush's stay-the-course-strategy.
- Increasing transparency and accountability by strengthening ethics and lobbying rules.
- Sending disaster aid to American farmers and ranchers

The Democrats' push for progress continues. Democrats will fight to defend our country, grow our economy, protect our children and families, preserve our planet, and restore accountability in the coming months:

- Energy legislation that will move this nation closer to achieving energy independence and reducing global warming
- Implementing the bipartisan 9-11 Commission Recommendations
- Making the largest increase for veterans' health care and services in this nation's history
- Putting 50,000 more police officers on the street
- Making college more affordable by cutting student loan interest rates, investing in the largest increase in student aid programs since the GI bill, and cracking down on lending abuses
- Keeping America competitive in the global economy by passing measures of the Innovation Agenda, including scholarships for 100,000 math and science students and 25,000 math and science teachers
- Restoring confidence in government by passing sweeping lobbying reform

In a few cases, **President Bush and his Republican Rubber Stamp colleagues in Congress blocked measures supported by the vast majority of Americans.** Democrats will continue fighting for:

- A new direction in Iraq that includes the responsible redeployment of our troops
- Stem cell research, which offers potential life-saving therapies and cures
- Reducing the price of prescription drugs