



# The 47th Flyer

News for California's 47th Congressional District  
from Congressman Alan Lowenthal



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December 20, 2013

## 2013: A Year In Review

This has been an amazing year and it's hard to believe that nearly a year has passed since I was proudly sworn in as your Representative in Congress.

It has been a distinct honor to serve the 47th District and as 2013 comes to a close, I wanted to give you a highlight of some of the major issues that I have been working on in Washington. Subscribers to this weekly e-newsletter, The 47th Flyer, have been able to read throughout the year about most of these items and I encourage everyone who hasn't subscribed to do so by [clicking here](#) or one of the other links in this newsletter.

As always, one of my priorities is keeping in touch with constituents in the 47th District. The 47th Flyer is one of those ways, but by no means the only one. If you would like to know more you can also connect with me through my website at [lowenthal.house.gov](http://lowenthal.house.gov), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/replowenthal](http://www.facebook.com/replowenthal), or on Twitter with the handle @replowenthal.

Thank you, and Happy New Year,

Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

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## **SOCIAL SECURITY**

Signed a letter to President Obama reiterating strong opposition to any proposals to cut Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid Benefits.

Cosponsored [H.R.1010](#), the Fair Minimum Wage Act, which provides for an increase in the Federal minimum wage.

## **HEALTHCARE**

Cosponsored [H.R.1019](#), Health Insurance Rate Review Act, which would amend the Public Health Service Act to provide protections for consumers against excessive, unjustified, or unfairly discriminatory increases in premium rates.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS**

Met with President Obama and [received his guarantee](#) that he would bring up human rights issues during a meeting with the President of Vietnam.

Introduced [H.Res.436](#), which honored the 65th Anniversary of Human Rights Day, supports the ideals of human rights and reaffirms the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and encourages all nations to continue working towards freedom, peace, and security which can be achieved only through democracy, respect for human rights, and the rule of law.

## **LGBT EQUALITY**

Original Cosponsor of the Respect for Marriage Act, [H.R. 2523](#), which would repeal the Defense of Marriage Act of 1996 and provide certainty for all married couples with regard to critical federal obligations and benefits.

In April 2013, Congressman Lowenthal became an original cosponsor of the [Employment Non-Discrimination Act](#) (ENDA), which would extend federal employment discrimination protections that are currently provided on the basis of race, religion, gender, national origin, age, and disability to sexual orientation and gender identity.

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## **STEM EDUCATION** (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)

Became an original cosponsor of [H.R.2592](#), the STEM Innovation Networks Act, which would authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants for the establishment of State Networks on STEM education.

Introduced a [legislative amendment](#) to direct an additional \$5 million to the STARBASE Youth Program, which provides instruction for 5th grade underrepresented and low-income students in STEM education. The amendment would directly help a brand new STARBASE Youth Program Facility under construction at the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB).

## **HIGHER EDUCATION**

Voted for [H.R.1911](#), which prevented the interest rate on student loans from doubling on July 1, 2013. The bill passed the House and Senate and was signed into law by the President.

## TRANSPORTATION

Cosponsored [H.R.535](#), the Put America Back to Work Act which would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the Build America Bonds program which would put Americans back to work by investing money in state and local government efforts to rebuild critical components of our national infrastructure.

Wrote letter to the Secretary of Transportation supporting a federal grant application by the METRANS Transportation Center – the grant of \$1,414,100 was subsequently awarded to CSULB and USC. The grant will go to fund transportation-related research science through the joint CSULB/USC University Transportation Center.

## PORTS

Became an original cosponsor of [H.R.2958](#), the Clean Ports Act of 2013 which would allow major container ports to implement environmental standards above current federal requirements.

## CAUCUSES

See what caucuses Congressman Lowenthal has joined by [clicking here](#). Caucuses are groups of Representatives that meet on a scheduled basis to discuss topics of interest to that particular Caucus group. For example, the Children's Health Care Caucus, which the Congressman is a member of, is dedicated to building support for ideas that improve the quality of care for children and their access to the quality care.

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## BUDGET

In September 2013, Congressman Lowenthal cosponsored [H.R. 900](#), the Cancel the Sequester Act of 2013, a simple one sentence bill that, if passed, would have completely eliminated the unfocused and indiscriminate across-the-board sequester cuts to federal government funding and programs.

## WOMEN'S ISSUES

Co-Sponsored [H.R. 377](#), the Paycheck Fairness Act, calling for an amendment of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of wage discrimination on the basis of sex.

Became an original cosponsor of [H.R. 11](#), which would reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 to strengthen the protection of the rights of abused women.

## WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Signed on as an original cosponsor of the [Women's Health Protection Act](#), protecting a woman's constitutional right to access safe and legal abortion services regardless of her state of residence and invalidating restrictive state laws.

## JOBS AND BUSINESS

Cosponsored [H.R. 2821](#), the American Jobs Act of 2013, which would provide tax relief for American workers and businesses, put workers back on the job while rebuilding and modernizing America, and, provide pathways back to work for Americans looking for work.

Introduced [H.R.3781](#), the “American Unemployed Worker Investment Act,” which extends tax incentives to small businesses who hire workers currently receiving unemployment benefits.

## **CRIME AND JUSTICE**

In February 2013, [joined the ranks](#) of the Democratic Gun Violence Prevention Task Force.

Became a cosponsor of [H.R. 11](#), along with 200 House colleagues, to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994.

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## **IMMIGRATION**

Cosponsored [H.R. 15](#) the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act, a Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill introduced in the House by Representative Joe Garcia.

## **AGRICULTURE**

Cosponsor of [H.Res. 90](#), which expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the Committee on Agriculture should not propose any reduction in the availability or amount of benefits provided under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and that the House of Representatives should reject any proposed legislation that includes provisions that reduce the availability or amount of benefits provided under SNAP.

## **CAMPAIGN FINANCE, VOTING, ELECTIONS**

Introduced, as his first authored bill in Congress, [H.R.2978](#), the Let the People Draw the Lines Act, which would end gerrymandering of Congressional districts and give citizens more direct control of the redistricting process.

## **ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

Authored [a letter to Interior Department Secretary Sally Jewell](#) encouraging the department to consider using a unique identification tracing method for the flow of harmful fracking fluids in fracking operations.

[Co-led the effort and cosigned a letter](#) calling on the administration to retain the NW Regional Office of the National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA in Long Beach, which they did.

## **FINANCIAL SERVICES**

Cosponsored [H.R. 688](#), the Credit Union Small Business Jobs Creation Act, which would increase the credit union member business lending cap from 12.25 percent to 27.5 percent. To qualify for the higher cap a credit union must be well capitalized, have a history of member business lending experience, be operating near the cap for at least one year, and receive approval by the National Credit Union Administration.

House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: 202-225-7924  
Hours: M-F 9-5:30pm

Long Beach , CA 90802  
West Tower Suite 600  
Phone: (562) 436-3828  
Fax: (562) 437-6434

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