



The 47th Flyer

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



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Issue #5

Last week in Washington, the conversation turned to immigration. The Senate's comprehensive immigration reform bill, at more than 800 pages in length, was released to the public. It is a perfect example of a compromise bill, reflecting quite clearly the half Democrat/half Republican group of eight Senators that crafted it.

Like any compromise bill in the political climate of today's Washington, the bill has what I would consider good problem-solving portions and, unfortunately, portions I continue to have concerns about. You can read more on my thoughts on immigration reform below.

While I believe the bill needs to be amended in some areas, it does give a glimmer of hope to the notion that even on large issues like immigration reform, Congress can, at times, work together and produce legislation that can solve problems and have some reasonable chance of being passed into law.

Alan Lowenthal

NOAA office

Recently, during testimony before my House Natural Resources subcommittee, [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) (NOAA) Acting Administrator Dr. Kathryn Sullivan gave me her assurance that the regional National Marine Fisheries Service office located in Long Beach will not be closed as part of a proposed West Coast consolidation plan. This means that Californians will continue to have access to the essential Fisheries resources the Long Beach office provides.

[Click here to see the news release](#) my office sent out that has more background on the topic.

Answer to constituent CISPA letter

A Los Alamitos constituent, along with many other constituents, recently wrote in and asked that I vote no on CISPA, the [Cyber](#)

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There is growing evidence that the Syrian government has violated international law by using chemical weapons against its own people. How do you think the US should respond?

militarily, on our own
militarily, with Middle East allies
through United Nations sanctions
through more aid to Syrian opposition
through peaceful diplomatic efforts

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[Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act](#), because she was worried about her online privacy.

I responded that I voted no on the bill, but, I want all my constituents to know why.

As many of you know, CISPA seeks to allow business entities and national intelligence agencies to share information in order to combat cyber attacks on domestic targets. While we absolutely need to confront the issue of cyber security, and information sharing is critical, this bill did not contain important consumer privacy protections which led me to oppose it. Despite my 'no' vote, the bill passed the House on April 18 and awaits further consideration by the Senate.

I believe all Americans should have unfettered access to information on the internet while retaining the ability to control how their personal information is used. The internet provides boundless opportunities to learn, communicate, collaborate, and share information, but I believe that we must vigorously resist any urge to censor or limit access to the internet while still protecting citizens.

You might also be interested to know that as a member of the California Senate, I supported a bill, SB 242, which prohibits social networking sites from displaying to the public or other users any information about a registered user other than the user's name and city of residence without explicit agreement of the user.

In Congress, I will continue to be an advocate for internet privacy protections, internet freedom, and security.

Immigration reform

As the son of an immigrant mother, I empathize with those who are stuck in a system that does not function properly – often denying hardworking people a clearly defined, legal path to citizenship while at times separating families for years at a time.

There is no denying that the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. are, for the most part, woven deeply into the fabric of our nation. We cannot unravel that fabric simply because we don't like the color of the threads.

I believe the solution lies in a comprehensive and bipartisan approach that allows for an orderly legal immigration system while deterring illegal immigration. I believe that while we need to tighten our border security, especially at ports of entry, we must also hold employers accountable to the worker verification process.

We must increase access to worker visas, increase the number of H-1B visas allowing highly skilled workers to stay in the country, and streamline a legal path to citizenship for those who seek it.

We need an immigration system that secures our border, works for immigrants, is good for America's economy, and is even better

for our social and political progress.

Last Week's Survey

Question: Do you support the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act (CISPA), which would allow businesses and the government to share internet data to combat cyber-attacks on economic targets?

- a. Pass it – 4.4%
- b. Pass only if privacy rights are protected – 34.8%
- c. Scrap it – 56.5%
- d. No response – 4.3%

Washington, D.C. Office

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

Long Beach District Office

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

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