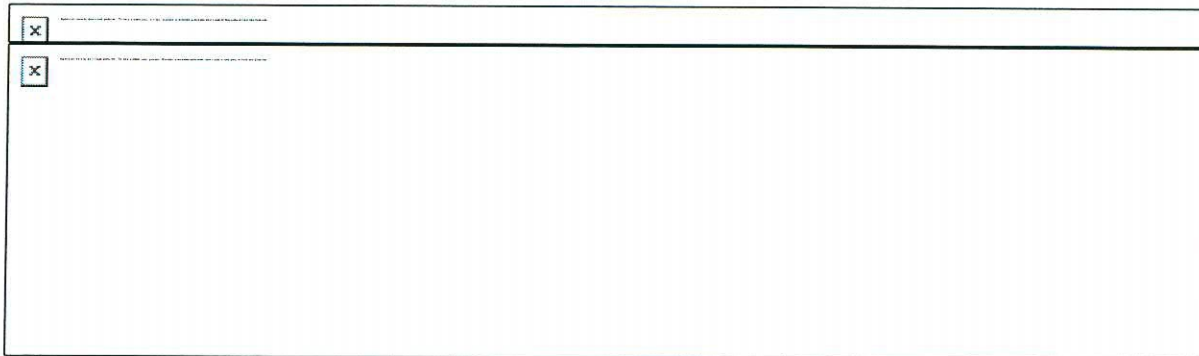




Lashway, Lisa

From: Rep. Rodney P. Frelinghuysen [Congressman.Frelinghuysen@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Friday, September 26, 2008 6:57 PM
To: Lashway, Lisa
Subject: Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen's e-Newsletter



eNews - September 26, 2008




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Stabilizing our Economy

At this writing, Congressional leaders and Administration officials are hammering out the details of a economic recovery package designed to ease the nation's current financial emergency.

 We are seeing serious negative effects in the credit markets with limited ability for people and businesses to borrow money. Many markets are essentially frozen, causing a crisis that affects every American –

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- Employees working for businesses dependent on available credit to cover payroll or buy inventory;
- Retirees who count on their stocks and other investments to pay their bills and for future expenses;
- Workers who have built pension funds and 401(k)s for their future security;
- Families who have seen their home values drop precipitously, and their nest eggs are directly related to that value;
- Families trying to buy homes or cars or secure student loans for college;
- Men and women who work every day to keep their small businesses afloat.

The details of the financial recovery package are still emerging, but Rep. Frelinghuysen has spelled out the elements that must be included to garner his

support:

Taxpayer Protection: "To every extent possible, the recovery package should be paid for by Wall Street, not taxpayers."

Oversight: "There can be no substitute for independent, non-partisan, aggressive oversight."

Wall Street Excesses: "While I generally think the free market should set executive salaries, I recognize that we cannot allow those who created this crisis to profit from it by receiving taxpayer dollars."

Success: "The American people must have a reasonable assurance that this proposed recovery plan will solve the current and future problems."

Never Again – "We must establish procedures and policies to ensure that this crisis will never recur. Ever."

"Congress must act and act expeditiously, in a bi-partisan manner, to restore consumer confidence," said Frelinghuysen. "The Democratic Leadership had scheduled to wrap up this session of Congress today. But Congress should not adjourn until we take decisive and effective action. We should stay here in Washington until we get the job done!"

Mental Health Parity Legislation Passes

The House passed H.R. 6983, the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, on Tuesday. Rep. Frelinghuysen is a co-sponsor of this legislation and has been a longtime advocate for people with mental illness.

"I strongly believe that insurance coverage for people with mental illnesses should be on an equal basis with other 'physical' illnesses," said Frelinghuysen. "That reform is long overdue, and I hope the President will sign the bill into law in the near future."

This landmark legislation would require group health plans to cover treatment of mental illness, drug or alcohol abuse equivalently to treatment and financial requirements that apply to medical and surgical benefits so the co-payments, deductibles and out-of-pocket expenses for mental health services cannot exceed those for treatment of physical illnesses.

House Leadership Fails the Appropriation Process

On Wednesday, the House passed H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act. The major significance of this bill is that it was used as a "Continuing Resolution" to fund 9 of the 12 appropriations bills until March 6, 2009.

The government's fiscal year ends next Tuesday, and the House Majority passed a last minute "Continuing Resolution" to fund the government through March of 2009. Throughout this year, only one regular appropriations bill was passed, forcing the need to pass this temporary extension to keep the government running. Not since 1950 have so few Appropriations bills been passed by the U.S. House of Representatives.

"It is a disappointment that the House Majority failed to give appropriations bills the consideration and debate they deserved," said Frelinghuysen. "The American people expect their elected officials to do their job and fund the government. Instead, the Majority has punted its responsibility to the next President."

Thanks to this forfeiture, the next President will face a major challenge "right out

of the gate” with less than two months to negotiate federal spending levels. The House has failed to get anything substantive done, which serves as a total surrender of its Constitutional responsibilities as a separate branch of government.

Frelinghuysen Given Friend of History

Last Friday, Frelinghuysen was awarded the “Friend of History Award” from *Friends of Historic Speedwell* for his commitment to protecting historic sites.

The event coincided with the reopening of the National Landmark Factory Building at Historic Speedwell, which was recently renovated. It is here that Alfred Vail and Samuel Morse worked on the telegram, which revolutionized the way people communicate.

“Northern New Jersey is fortunate to have so many historic locations, and Historic Speedwell certainly stands out as one of the best,” said Frelinghuysen. “It is our responsibility to protect these places so future generations can enjoy them as well.”

Also honored was Harold Benz who has volunteered at Historic Speedwell for 24 years. His work has been an integral part of Historic Speedwell’s success.

Speaks at Hanover Veterans Memorial Dedication

Last Saturday, Frelinghuysen was the keynote speaker at the dedication of the Hanover Veterans Memorial.

“I am proud to be a part of Hanover’s memorial dedication,” said Frelinghuysen. “This fitting tribute honors all those who have served and remembers those whose lives were lost defending our freedom. Americans owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our nation’s veterans from all generations. They have put their lives on the line to protect us.”

The memorial honors all Hanover veterans that have served in the Armed Forces and includes the names of all 19 Hanover veterans who lost their lives defending our country. The first veteran, Joseph Morris, lost his life during the Revolutionary War.

Receives Small Business Award

On Wednesday, the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the nation’s largest small-business group, recognized Rep. Frelinghuysen as a “Guardian of Small Business” for his work on behalf of small business owners.

“Supporting small business is fundamental to growing our economy and creating jobs,” said Frelinghuysen. “Small business is responsible for two-thirds of new jobs. Creating a positive small business environment is a serious responsibility for Congress. I will continue to support legislation to protect small business.”

A nonprofit, nonpartisan organization founded in 1943, the NFIB represents the consensus views of its 600,000 members in Washington and all 50 state capitals.

Spread the E-News!

Enjoy receiving this weekly e-newsletter? Tell your friends and neighbors to sign up at Rep. Frelinghuysen’s website at <http://frelinghuysen.house.gov/>