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THE WASHINGTON CYBER REPORT

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



This month, the House Majority began the 110th Congress with its "First 100 Hours" agenda. Under the new House rules enacted by the majority party, much of this legislation was moved under closed rules, skipping the entire Rules committee process, including hearings, markups, and amendment debate.

Legislation that passed under these new rules, denying a vote on any amendments or substitute legislation included:

The Fair and Minimum Wage Act of 2007, H.R. 2, which amends the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, increases the federal minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour to \$5.85 after sixty days of enactment, followed by an increase one year later to \$6.55 an hour, and another increase one year later to \$7.25. I voted in support of H.R. 2 but am hopeful that when it is addressed in the Senate, they will incorporate much-needed relief for small businesses.

The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007, H.R. 3, passed the House without my support. Legislation regarding stem cells has received a lot of attention in recent years; however, at this time, I do not feel the need to enhance embryonic stem cell research above what the president has already authorized. Just this month, a revolutionary new report regarding amniotic stem cells was made public demonstrating that stem cells with enormous potential can be harvested from amniotic fluid. The promise of this new study provides increasing evidence that genuine alternatives to embryo-destructive research exist.

The Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2007, H.R. 4 would require the federal government to negotiate drug prices. On January 10, 2007, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) issued a letter to House Energy and Commerce Chairman Dingell stating that the Secretary of Health and Human Services would be "unable to negotiate prices across the broad range of covered Part D drugs that are more favorable than those obtained by Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs) under current law." I voted against H.R. 4 because I don't think we should restrict seniors' access to the prescriptions they need and the pharmacies they use, especially on the

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NEW OFFICE AND NEW WEBSITE

My staff in Washington, D.C. has just completed a move to our new office in room 422 of the Cannon House Office Building. While we have been based in the Cannon Building for the past four years, our new location gives the staff a little more space, which is always a premium in Washington, D.C.

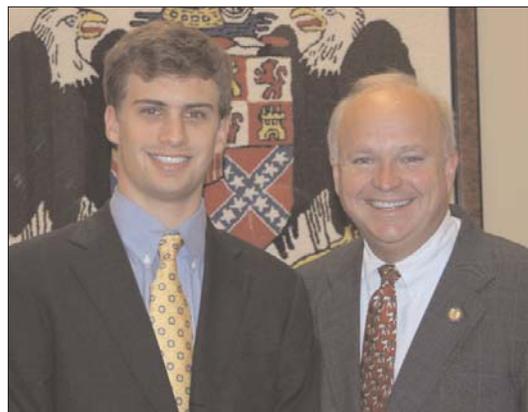
If you or your family are making plans to visit Washington anytime soon, please note the change in our office location. Our D.C. telephone number, (202) 225-4931, remains the same.

Speaking of new venues, we have also just launched my new, official website to provide constituents with improved online services and information. The website can be accessed at <http://bonner.house.gov>.

Among the many features, the new website includes detailed information on the following items: flag requests; U.S. Capitol tours, visiting Washington, D.C.; and dealing with federal bureaucracies. An enhanced student section provides an application for internships, information on service academy nominations, and provides younger children with educational resources. There are also sections that feature biographical information; my official photo; and archived press releases, weekly columns, radio clips and newsletters.

My staff and I have been working for the past several months to update our website with the goal of making it more user-friendly. This new, and hopefully improved, website is now live on the Internet, and I invite my constituents to visit and welcome your comments and suggestions.

Matt Weinstein of Mobile served in my Washington, D.C. as an intern. He recently went to work for the people of Alabama's Third Congressional District, joining the staff of Congressman Mike Rogers.



Matt was an outstanding intern, and we wish him the best of luck.

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heels of a nonpartisan report stating seniors would not save additional money with government interference.

The College Student Relief Act of 2007, H.R. 5 would phase-in cuts in the interest rate charged to undergraduate student borrowers under the Federal Family Education Loan and Direct Loan programs, to 3.4% from July 2011 to January 2012 only. The rate from that point forward would be set at 6.8%. Mandating a reduced loan rate for only six months will not help to reduce the cost of a college degree. While I did not vote for H.R. 5, I did support an alternative that would have helped those students most in need while reducing the costs to the taxpayer. Unfortunately, this alternative did not pass the House.

The CLEAN Energy Act of 2007, H.R. 6 is a measure I believe will encourage the United States to become more dependent on foreign sources of energy. It would establish fees for producing and non-producing federal oil and gas leases in the Gulf of Mexico. The fees collected pursuant to H.R. 6 would be held in reserve by the federal government and would not be shared with any Gulf Coast states. For this and other reasons, I voted against this measure.



A group from Spring Hill College, in Washington for "March for Life," dropped by to visit. Pictured with me are (l-r) Christopher McCabe, Chelsea Myers, Sister Patricia Huffman, Sarah Ampleman, and Chris Boutries. Chris is currently serving as an intern in my Mobile District Office.

From the mailbox...

Dear Mr. Bonner,

I'm writing you this letter to thank you and your fine staff for all the help you provided me in getting my husband's disability. I had tried and was at my wits' end, when you and your staff got us the appointments with the law judge, wrote me letters with updates when the Social Security department often put me on hold, didn't return my calls or just were not available to talk to me.

It means so much to have such a wonderful congressman working for us, the people. Without all of your efforts, I feel sure I would still be waiting for a confirma-

ACADEMY NOMINATIONS

This month, I am proud to announce the list of students from the First District who have received a nomination through my office to one of the nation's five service academies.

An appointment to one of these five academies - the United States Military Academy at West Point, the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, the United States Coast Guard Academy at New London, and the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point - is, in itself, a great accomplishment, and there is a great deal of competition for the slots which become available each academic year. Every one of these young men and women has set a standard of academic excellence during their high school and college careers and should be commended for their efforts to secure one of these prestigious nominations.

Congratulations to the following students who have received nominations to the various academies for the Class of 2011!

Robert Dillard, Mobile, Magnolia Springs Baptist Academy
Ricky Elliott, Mobile, Baker High School
Bob Guilfoyle, Orange Beach, Pensacola Catholic High School
Matthew Hancock, Mobile, Cottage Hill Christian Academy
A'lanson Hoffman, Bay Minette, Baldwin County High School
Jonathan Klein, Foley, Foley High School
Kalin Krause, Mobile, St. Paul's Episcopal School
Seth Labak, Silverhill, Robertsdale High School
Ross Malugani, Fairhope, Fairhope High School
Oakland McCulloch, Mobile, Massanutten Military Academy
J. J. Nelson, Daphne, Bayside Academy
Jeff Pendley, Daphne, Daphne High School
Chase Pritchard, Mobile, Murphy High School
Myea Rice, Mobile, LeFlore Preparatory Academy
Lee Steiner, Mobile, University of South Alabama
Kyle Sweetser, Mobile, Baker High School
Jake Walker, Wagarville, Leroy High School
Teneasha Washington, Mobile, Murphy High School
Curtis Wilson, Mobile, McGill-Toolen Catholic High School
Evan Wilson, Mobile, UMS-Wright Preparatory School

tion to see the law judge. I know how much you all did for me and my family, and I want you to know how much it means that our family can be at ease, and that we will be taken care of. Playing the part of wife, bread winner, mother, and student were at times overwhelming. I felt so pinched and against the wall trying to keep everything together and dealing with a husband that is so different than the man I married.

I prayed a lot and God led me to you, and you all are my shining star!! May God bless you all.

Sincerely,
A satisfied constituent from Brewton

