



THE

AL GREEN REPORT

Proudly Representing Texas' 9th Congressional District

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114th Congress, Session 2



January 2016

COMBATting INVIDIOUS DISCRIMINATION ON ALL FRONTS

Dear Friends:

As the second session of the 114th Congress begins, it is evident that we must redouble our efforts to combat invidious discrimination on all fronts.

There are too many instances in our great nation of consumers experiencing practices that appear facially neutral but yield results that indicate invidious discrimination. From so-called voter-ID laws to auto lending and the mortgage market, there is more work to be done.

As the Ranking Member of the Financial Services Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, I have worked closely with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to shine a light on reports of invidious discrimination and the efforts by some to obscure or not investigate indications of invidious discrimination. I have also worked with the Honorable Maxine Waters to pass legislation establishing the current Offices of Mi-

nority and Women Inclusion to monitor as well as help facilitate contracting, hiring, and the promotion of capable, competent, and qualified minorities and women within the financial regulators.

We do this work because there is still much work to be done to ensure that all hard-working Americans are being treated fairly as they endeavor to make the American Dream a reality. Americans who work hard and play by

the rules should not have invidious discrimination as a barrier to American Dream opportunities.

Going forward, I will continue to combat invidious discrimination on all fronts.

Sincerely,

Al Green
Your Congressman

ANNUAL LABOR LEADERS' MEETING

(Houston, TX)--On October 15, 2015, Congressman Al Green, a strong advocate of workers' rights, hosted his Annual Labor Leaders' Meeting with Keynote Speaker, Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez. Congressman Al Green introduced Secretary Perez as one who fights every day for working men and women. Union leaders and local officials from across the Greater Houston Area and Texas voiced their concerns on labor issues.

"Last week, President Obama convened the Summit on 'Worker Voice' to highlight the role workers and unions have played in building our economy and increasing shared prosperity for all Americans," said Secretary of Labor Perez. "This morning I was fortunate to join Rep. Al Green and union leaders for a breakfast to celebrate their commitment to protecting collective bargaining and the rights of workers. It's no coincidence that when unions are strong, working families thrive. To create a better life for millions of middle-class families, we must continue to support 'Worker Voice' and the unions



Congressman Al Green and Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez at a press conference after the Annual Labor Leaders' Meeting.

that have

made a powerful difference in people's lives by providing greater economic security and helping them punch their ticket to the middle class."

During the 114th Congress, Congressman Al Green, a long-time proponent of making the minimum wage a living wage, re-introduced the Original Living American Wage Act. The legislation would link the federal minimum wage to fifteen percent over the federal poverty threshold for a family of four (\$24,250) and adjust the minimum wage every four years to ensure that inflation does not erode its purchasing power.

"Too many people in our great nation are working full-time and living in poverty. If you work full-time, you should be able to live above the poverty line," Congressman Al Green said. "One of the main goals of America should be the elimination of poverty wages: raising the wage to a living wage will help us accomplish this."

Secretary Perez praised Congressman Al Green's commitment to protecting workers' rights as well as specifically addressing the important role unions play in building the middle class in our nation.

THANKSGIVING PARADE AND SUPER FEAST



Congressman Al Green riding a bike in the City of Houston's 66th Annual Thanksgiving Day Parade.

(Houston, TX)--On

Thanksgiving, November 26, 2015, Congressman Al Green participated in the City of Houston's 66th Annual Thanksgiving Day Parade. The parade showcased much of the city's finest, including food, culture, sports, and notable local figures.

Afterward he volunteered at the 37th Annual Thanksgiving "Big Super Feast" hosted by the Citywide Club.

"I am proud to salute Bishop Woodard for hosting the 'Big Super Feast,' which over the years has provided hundreds of thousands with Thanksgiving meals," Congressman Al Green said. "I am also honored to be one of his thousands of volunteers."



Congressman Al Green volunteers at the 37th Annual Thanksgiving "Big Super Feast."

ETHIOPIAN NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION

(Houston, TX)—On September 12, 2015, Congressman Al Green attended the Ethiopian New Year's Celebration hosted by the Ethiopian Community Organization in Houston.

"The Ethiopian Community Organization, through events such as these, promotes positive cultural understanding in our community," Congressman Al Green said. "The individuals involved work selflessly to put on programs like this for the enrichment of our community."



Congressman Al Green with an Ethiopian-American family at the New Year's Celebration.

VETERANS DAY PARADE

(Houston, TX)--On November 11, 2015, Congressman Al Green participated in the City of Houston's Veterans Day Parade and spoke at the City of Houston's Regional Veterans Day Commemoration Ceremony.

"I care passionately about veterans having all the resources a grateful nation can provide them to



Congressman Al Green on a parade float with other elected officials at the City of Houston's Veterans Day Parade.

lead meaningful and productive lives," Congressman Al Green said. "Legislation to support our brave veterans transcends partisanship as well as ideology in Congress and should remain one of the top priorities for a government that benefits so greatly from their many sacrifices."

WWII DIVERSITY AND WORLD PEACE EVENT

(Houston, TX)—On November 7, 2015, Congressman Al Green attended the "World War II 70th Anniversary and Celebration of Diversity and World Peace Event." The ceremony was a City of Houston Citizenship Month event that was organized by the Southern News Group and International Trade Center. It is estimated that approximately 25,000 people viewed the grand opening ceremony at Minute Maid Park.

"The 'WWII 70th Anniversary and Celebration of Diversity and World Peace Event' wonderfully celebrated the vibrancy and diversity of the Houston community," Congressman Al Green said. "Moreover, I would like to share my heartfelt appreciation with the International Trade Center and the Southern News Group, under the leadership of its Chairman Wea Lee, for their hard work in producing this important event. I look forward to their future enriching events and efforts."



Congressman Al Green with honorees and their family members at the ceremony.

FINANCIAL SERVICES FIELD HEARING “NEW ORLEANS: TEN YEARS AFTER THE STORM”

(New Orleans, LA)—On November 6, 2015, Congressman Al Green was in New Orleans, LA with his colleagues for an official House Financial Services Housing and Insurance Subcommittee hearing entitled “New Orleans: Ten Years After the Storm.” The hearing examined the ongoing response – at the local, state, and federal



Congressman Al Green in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans, near a dyke at the point where it broke when Hurricane Katrina struck.

opportunity to view areas impacted by Hurricane Katrina, including the Lower Ninth Ward.

“There is no doubt that the large-scale displacement of families because of Hurricane Katrina

has been a significant challenge. The burden of this displacement was largely that of homeowners and renters as many did not have adequate resources to return and/or rebuild. Due to numerous cases where private landlords and the public housing authority did not rebuild, available housing stock in the city decreased, which caused affordability issues across New Orleans. To date, according to the Housing Authority of New Orleans, approximately 26 percent of the public housing stock that existed prior to Hurricane Katrina has been restored,” Congressman Al Green said. “This is why it is so important for Congress to continue supporting efforts by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to increase the

affordable housing stock in New Orleans.”

Congressman Al Green also recognized the efforts of the City of Houston to help residents of New Orleans who found themselves in exigent circumstances because of Hurricane Katrina.

“I am proud to say that my hometown of Houston greeted the victims of Hurricane Katrina with open arms,” Congressman Al Green said. “According to the Houston Chronicle, city officials assisted 250,000 Louisianans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The immediate response included opening the Houston Astrodome, located in the Congressional District I represent, as a place of temporary housing and donating millions of dollars in services, goods and housing.”



Congressman Al Green with (from left to right) Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, and Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, along with residents at a New Orleans Housing Authority site.

government levels – to the housing needs of residents affected by Hurricane Katrina. Prior to the hearing, Congressman Al Green and his colleagues were given an



Congressman Al Green standing outside the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Charter High School in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans. It was rebuilt after Hurricane Katrina severely damaged it.

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114TH CONGRESS: SELECT SPONSORED PENDING LEGISLATION

- **H.R.122** : Original Living Wage Act of 2015 (1/6/2015)
- **H.R.123** : FHA Alternative Credit Pilot Program Reauthorization Act of 2015 (1/6/15)
- **H.R.125** : FHA In-Person Servicing Improvement Act of 2015 (1/6/2015)
- **H.R.126** : Students Voicing Opinions in Today's Elections (VOTE) Act (1/6/15)
- **H.R.127** : Transportation for Heroes Act of 2015 (1/6/2015)
- **H.CON.RES.2**: Honoring and praising the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its 106th anniversary. (1/6/15)
- **H.RES.13**: Recognizing the significance of Black History Month (1/6/15)
- **H.R.251** : Homes for Heroes Act of 2015 (1/9/15)
- **H.R.252**: Comprehensive Homes for Heroes Act of 2015 (1/9/15)
- **H.R.372**: Housing Fairness Act of 2015 (1/14/2015)
- **H.R.934** : Redistricting and Voter Protection Act of 2015 (2/12/15)
- **H.R.1124**: CAM TIP Act of 2015 (2/26/15)
- **H.R.2033**: Nepal Temporary Protected Status Act of 2015 (4/27/15)
- **H.RES.238**: Promoting minority health awareness and supporting the goals and ideals of National Minority Health Month in April 2015, which includes bringing attention to the health disparities faced by minority populations of the United States such as American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders. (4/30/15)
- **H.RES.295**: Supporting local law enforcement agencies in their continued work to serve our communities, and supporting their use of body-worn cameras to promote transparency to protect both citizens and

officers alike. (6/3/15)

- **H.RES.329**: Encouraging the celebration of the month of June as LGBTQ Pride Month. (6/18/15)
- **H.R.3347**: Byron Nash Renal Medullary Carcinoma Awareness Act of 2015 (7/29/15)
- **H.R.3348** : PROTECT Act of 2015 (7/29/15)
- **H.CON.RES.84**: Recognizing former United States Federal Judge Frank Minis Johnson, Jr. for his role in the civil rights movement. (10/1/15)
- **H.RES.518**: Honoring and praising the American Jewish Committee (AJC) on the occasion of its 109th anniversary. (11/5/15)
- **H.AMDT.384 to H.R.2577** An amendment to increase funding for Renewals of Expiring Section 8 tenant-based annual contributions contracts under Public and Indian Housing Programs by \$75 million. (6/3/15)
- **H.AMDT.389 to H.R.2577**: An amendment to increase funding for the Community Planning and Development- HOME Investment Partnerships by \$293 million and strikes the last two provisos in the Community Planning and Development-HOME Investment Partnerships Program.



Congressmen Emanuel Clever and Al Green.

- **\$22.5 million in funding for police body-worn cameras in H.R. 2029, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016**: More commonly referred to as the omnibus spending bill. This inclusion of funding comes on the heels of H. Res. 295, passed by the House in June 2015, which Congressman Al Green sponsored and Congressman Clever was an original cosponsor.

114TH CONGRESS: SELECT COSPONSORED PENDING LEGISLATION

- **H.R.12**: Voter Empowerment Act of 2015 (3/19/15)
- **H.R.20**: Government By the People Act of 2015 (1/21/15)
- **H.R.448**: Women's Health Protection Act of 2015 (1/21/15)
- **H.R.483**: Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act of 2015 (1/22/15)
- **H.R.563**: Honoring Our WWII Merchant Mariners Act of 2015 (1/27/15)
- **H.R.676**: Expanded & Improved Medicare For All Act (2/3/15)
- **H.R.699** : Email Privacy Act (2/4/15)
- **H.R.1031** : Promoting U.S. Jobs Through Exports Act of 2015
- **H.R. 1123**: Protecting Immigrants From Legal Exploitation Act of 2015 (2/26/15)
- **H.R.1260** : American Opportunity Tax Credit Act of 2015 (3/4/15)
- **H.R.1286**: Child Tax Credit Permanency Act of 2015 (3/4/15)
- **H.R.1294**: Meeting the Inpatient Health Care Needs of Far South Texas Veterans Act of 2015 (3/4/15)
- **H.R.1786**: James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act (4/14/15)
- **H.CON.RES.35** : Recognizing the significance of Equal Pay Day
- to illustrate the disparity between wages paid to men and women (4/14/15)
- **H.R.1908** : Housing Financial Literacy Act of 2015 (4/21/15)
- **H.R.1933** : End Racial Profiling Act of 2015 (4/22/15)
- **H.R.2495** : TIGER Grants for Job Creation Act (5/21/15)
- **H.R.2642** : Community Lender Regulatory Relief and Consumer Protection Act of 2015 (6/3/15)
- **H.R.2680**: HALT Campus Sexual Violence Act (6/4/15)
- **H.R.2867** : Voting Rights Advancement Act
- of 2015 (6/24/15)
- **H.R.3035** : Credit Access and Inclusion Act of 2015 (7/13/15)
- **H.R.3068** : Restore Honor to Service Members Act (7/15/15)
- **H.R.3185**: Equality Act (7/23/15)
- **H.R.3696** : Medicare Premium Fairness Act of 2015 (10/7/15)
- **H.R.3713** : Sentencing Reform Act of 2015 (10/8/15)
- **H.R.3838** : Fairness in Incarcerated Representation Act (10/27/15)
- **H.R.4172** : Credit Access and Inclusion Act of 2015 (12/3/15)