

Federal Funding

Thus far in 2009, the 9th District has already received \$476 million in federal funding through direct congressionally-approved appropriations, grants and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding. Whether it is helping battlefield nurses take care of wounded soldiers on the front lines, ensuring Memphis International Airport continues to be a vital national transportation link for people and commerce, saving teaching jobs and special education programs in the Memphis and Shelby County schools, putting more cops on the street, modernizing public housing, creating jobs or ensuring the health and wellness of our community, federal funding is making a difference in our district.

Below is a sampling of some of the funding we've received. For a complete list, please visit my website – cohen.house.gov

2009 Appropriations Highlights	
University of Memphis – Battlefield Nursing Program	\$1,600,000
UT Health Sciences Center – Treatment of Hemorrhagic Shock	\$800,000
The MED – Emergency Room Expansion	\$476,000
Elvis Presley Boulevard Improvements	\$475,000
Memphis International Airport Improvements	\$4,500,000
Smith and Nephew – Trauma Hemostat	\$800,000
2010 Appropriations Highlights	
164th Airlift Wing – Engineering Maintenance & Training Facility	\$9,800,000
Operation Safe Community – Crime Prevention	\$1,000,000
Memphis City Schools – After School Programs	\$500,000
University of Memphis – Bio-Fuel Micro Refinery Program	\$500,000
Southwest TN Community College – Health Professions Training	\$400,000
Seismic Mitigation Study	\$325,000
BRIDGES – GED Program	\$300,000
Shelby County Community Services – Infant Mortality Prevention	\$200,000
University Place Revitalization	\$200,000
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funding	
Memphis/Shelby County Education (including Head Start)	\$107,259,373
Memphis Housing Authority	\$13,574,402
Memphis Police Department – Hired 37 New Officers	\$6,335,093
Operation Safe Community – Crime Prevention	\$6,122,040
Workforce Investment Network – Hired 2,353 Youth for Summer Jobs	\$4,900,000
Homelessness Assistance Grants	\$3,569,550
Memphis Area Transit Authority	\$17,772,564
Shovel-Ready Road Projects	\$5,354,249
Memphis VA Medical Center	\$2,163,973
2009 Grant Funding Awards	
Shelby County Youth Build	\$579,903
LeMoyn-Owen College HBCU Grant	\$800,000
HIV/AIDS Assistance	\$2,143,395
Assistance to Firefighter Grants	\$1,108,400
Cocaine and Alcohol Awareness Program	\$1,563,600
National Institutes of Health Research Funding	\$ 16,866,404

To view all the legislation that has been sponsored or co-sponsored on your behalf, visit
COHEN.HOUSE.GOV

Congressman Steve Cohen Guide To Constituent Services

Services Available Through My Memphis Office

Contact my District Office to get advice or assistance regarding:

- Social Security and Medicare Benefits
- Veterans Benefits and Military Service Issues
- Small Business Administration Loans and Services
- FHA, VA Home Loans
- Civil Rights Complaints (EEOC)
- Federal Grants
- Workers' Compensation Claims
- Civil Service Pensions and Benefits
- Railroad Retirement Benefits
- Passports
- IRS Problems

Seniors

We can ask the U.S. Treasury to replace lost Social Security checks, inquire on your behalf regarding Medicare reimbursement disputes and check the status of appeals of unfavorable decisions regarding retirement, disability or survivor benefits. Please contact my District office if your problem has not been resolved to your satisfaction.

Veterans

We can investigate and help you with denied veterans benefits such as pensions and medical care.

Student Information

Internships are available in my District and Washington, DC Offices. An internship provides an excellent opportunity to utilize academic lessons in a hands-on work environment. Internships may be full or part-time and may qualify for college credit.

In addition, we can provide information on federal student loan programs such as Pell Grants, Stafford Loans, PLUS Loans, Federal Work Study, Perkins Loans and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants.

Information is also available on the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Program, which includes the Tennessee HOPE Scholarship, the Aspire Award, the Tennessee HOPE Access Grant, the General Assembly Merit Scholarship and the Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant programs.

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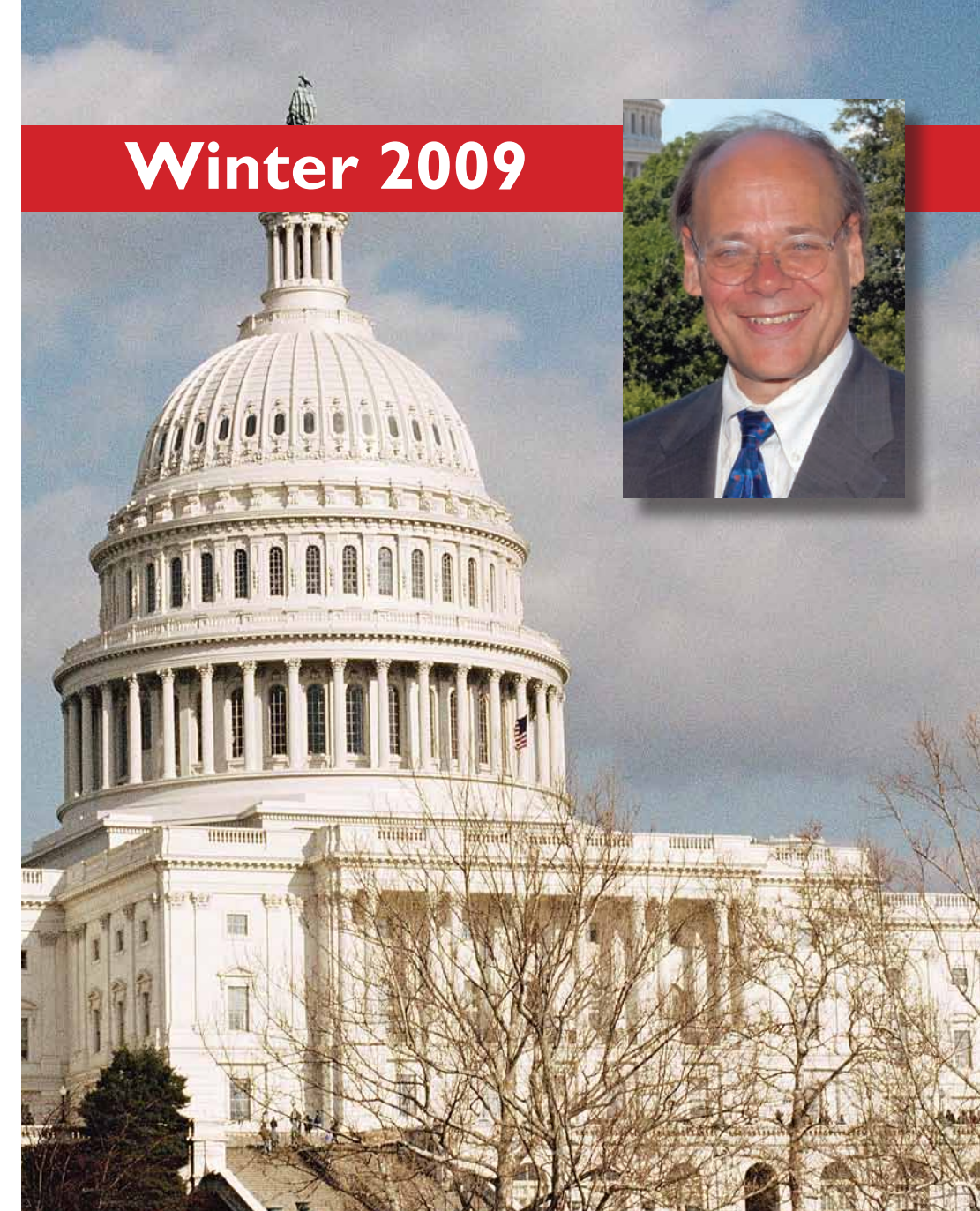
Steve Cohen

M.C.

Presorted Standard

CONGRESSMAN STEVE COHEN

Winter 2009



- Message from Congressman Cohen
- Legislative Update
- Job Creation
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- Constituent Services

Service Academy Nominations

Each year, I recommend high school graduates for admission to the United States service academies (Army, Navy, Air Force and Merchant Marines). Applicants must live in Tennessee's 9th Congressional District and be between the ages of 17 and 23. The nominations are made on a non-political, competitive basis. We suggest you begin the application process in your junior year of high school.

Non-Profit Organizations & Municipalities

Please visit my office or web site (cohen.house.gov) for information about opportunities to receive federal grants and federal loans.

Contact Me

Clifford Davis/Odell Horton Federal Building
167 North Main Street, Suite 369
Memphis, TN 38103
Telephone: (901) 544-4131
Fax: (901) 544-4329

WEBSITE: COHEN.HOUSE.GOV



Dear Friends,

It is an honor to serve you in Congress during this historic and challenging year. Your attendance at the five town halls we've had in the District this year, participation in the four telephone town halls we've conducted from Washington, and the many letters, emails and phone calls all help to best represent you. My voting record remains one of the best in Congress and will continue to be so in service to you.

Economy: Job Creation, Consumer Credit and Keeping Families in Their Homes

Congress has focused on turning the economy around, creating jobs and keeping families in their homes. I supported the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which has brought hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding to the 9th District. Those funds have helped retain teachers, maintain special education programs in the Memphis and Shelby County schools, hire 37 new Memphis police officers, purchase new MATA buses and fund road construction projects. The University of Memphis, the UT-Health Science Center, St. Jude and Memphis BioWorks have all received federal funding to promote medical and scientific research, creating new jobs in our community. I offered an amendment to the ARRA to provide an additional \$10 billion for the National Institutes of Health, an increase that was included in the final bill.

As Chairman of the Commercial and Administrative Law Subcommittee, I've worked to provide homeowners expanded mortgage relief as part of the bankruptcy process. In addition to voting for legislation to prohibit abusive practices by credit card companies, I also introduced legislation to prohibit employers from using credit checks as an excuse for denying employment to otherwise qualified applicants, with limited exceptions. To help those who have lost their jobs, I've supported legislation to extend unemployment benefits, increase Food Stamp payments, fund training programs to help displaced workers gain new skills in emerging industries and strengthen COBRA to help those who have lost their health insurance along with their jobs.

Health Care

One of the very first bills signed into law by the President was a reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which provides access to medical care for low-income children. The CHIP bill included my proposal permitting Arkansas and Mississippi to reimburse Tennessee for patient care their residents receive at The MED.

The health care reform bill will provide resources for more community health centers and family practice doctors in inner cities. It includes the provisions of my bill, the NEWBORN Act, to establish 15 pilot programs across the country aimed at lowering the rate of infant mortality and promoting research, education and access to prenatal care. Infant mortality is a serious issue for the 9th District and one which is a top priority for this Congressional office. For updates on health care reform, please visit cohen.house.gov

Memphis Post Offices

After hearing from many concerned citizens, it's a pleasure to be able to report that three Memphis post offices (Colonial Finance Unit, Peabody Place and White Station), slated to be closed, will remain open. Their closure would have left many Memphians without easy access to postal services.

Please peruse this newsletter for more information on legislation, funding and constituent services for the 9th District. Also, please visit cohen.house.gov or call (901) 544-4131 to sign-up for the weekly e-newsletter to learn more about efforts on your behalf both in Washington and in the District.

Most sincerely,

Contact

Telephone: (901) 544-4131

To receive periodic email updates on Congressional activity, please visit COHEN.HOUSE.GOV

Legislative Update

First Session of 111th Congress – the Year in Review

In 2009, significant legislation has been passed by the 111th Congress and signed into law. These bills will improve health care and pay equity, rebuild our economy, encourage community service and increase consumer protections for homeowners and credit card holders:

- H.R. 11, Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act
- H.R. 2, Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act
- H.R. 1, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
- H.R. 1388, Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act
- H.R. 1106, Helping Families Save Their Homes Act
- S. 386, Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act
- H.R. 627, Credit Cardholders Bill Of Rights
- H.R. 1256, Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act
- H.R. 1913, Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act
- S. 1793, Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act



Congressman Cohen presiding as Chair of the Commercial and Administrative Law Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee, which handles bankruptcy, among other issues.

In addition, the House has passed legislation to address the financial crisis by strengthening the oversight of Wall Street and cracking down on excessive CEO pay. H.R. 2765, the Libel Tourism Bill, which I authored and which passed the House, protects First Amendment rights.

This Congress has put veterans issues front and center by expanding employment services for homeless veterans and fully reimbursing emergency care, legislation which is awaiting Senate action.

During the first session of the 111th Congress, I have authored over 30 legislative measures. Among Democrats, I rank 5th in speaking appearances on the House floor and routinely manage bills, argue for amendments and recognize Memphians.

I am pleased that President Obama signed into law the National Defense Authorization Act, which includes a provision based on my bill, H.R. 1633, the Honor the WISH Act. The provision requires the Pentagon to report on the potential effects of expanding service members' disposition rights to someone other than a spouse, blood relative or adoptive parent.

Other legislation I have introduced so far includes:

- H.R. 3470, NEWBORN Act (Addresses infant mortality)
- H.R. 3149, Equal Employment for All Act (Prohibits credit checks for employment)
- H.R. 1412, Justice Integrity Act (Studies racial disparities in the criminal justice system)
- H.R. 4286, Restorative Justice in Schools Act (Reduces "Schools to Prison" pipeline)
- H.R. 2141, Interagency Council on Homelessness Reform Act of 2009
- H. Res. 260, Resolution Supporting Efforts to Reduce Infant Mortality in the U.S.
- H.R. 4287, Enhancing Livability for All Americans Act (Promotes livable communities)
- H.R. 3471, Real ID Repeal and Identification Security Enhancement Act
- H.R. 4283, Corporate Monitoring Bill (Promotes government transparency)
- Amendments that passed include increasing grant funding for nonprofits, historic preservation, infant mortality research, high speed rail and solar technology.

This Congress, I was honored to be selected to serve as a Regional Whip to help Majority Whip Clyburn and Speaker Pelosi count and lobby votes and also to be selected Chairman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law.

To learn more about these bills and other legislation, please visit cohen.house.gov or call (901) 544-4131.



Congressman Cohen meets with staff of the Harwood Center to discuss pending disabilities legislation.



Congressman Cohen welcomes revered civil rights leader Dr. Benjamin Hooks to Capitol Hill for a briefing on civil rights legislation pending before Congress (from left to right Rep. John Conyers (MI), Rep Diane Watson (CA), Dr. Benjamin Hooks, Rep. Steve Cohen)

Several hundred constituents attended the Town Hall Meeting on federal funding for the 9th District, held at The Links at Whitehaven in November.



9th District veterans recite the Pledge of Allegiance before meeting with the Congressman to discuss veterans benefits and services.

Job Creation, Transportation and Economic Development

I am a founding member of the bipartisan Congressional Jobs NOW! Caucus. I joined for one reason: to advocate for jobs, jobs and more jobs. Tennessee has one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation, especially among women and minorities. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has helped to create and save thousands of jobs in the 9th District that otherwise would have been lost because of the economic downturn. I'm pleased that the ARRA included millions of dollars in funding for the Summer Youth Jobs Program, which helps teenagers find jobs.

As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I've advocated for investments in transportation and infrastructure improvements because they are a proven and effective way of putting people back to work and are crucial to long-term economic development. Memphis is America's distribution hub and a major tourist destination for people around the nation and the world. Investing in our roads, runways, rivers and rails is crucial for the 9th District's economic success. As a member of the Transportation Committee's Aviation Subcommittee, I promote policies that will protect jobs at FedEx, the largest private employer in Memphis. Additionally, through my advocacy on the Railroads Subcommittee, I have received assurances from the Federal Railroad Administration that the Little Rock to Memphis high-speed rail feasibility study will be conducted.

Earlier this year, U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis accepted my invitation to visit Memphis and Sharp Manufacturing, where she learned of the company's plans to retrain and hire workers to manufacture solar panels as part of the "green economy."