



Working For Memphis

Since arriving in Congress, I have worked tirelessly for the Ninth District. I have pushed for policies and programs that bring good-paying jobs to Memphis, help grow our local economy, reduce hunger and poverty, protect voters' rights, provide health care, make college more affordable, and prevent crime. Other top agenda items include giving non-violent offenders a real chance to start over and help minority-owned businesses succeed. My office is always open to citizens who need assistance. Keep reading to learn about some initiatives my office has worked on over the last year:

Results For Our Community



Congressman Cohen discussed civil rights issues with President Obama.

It's been an honor to work closely again over the last year with President Obama and his Administration to ensure that Memphis and Shelby County receive their fair share of funding and support from the federal government. After years of work to secure a \$15 million TIGER grant funding the construction of the Main to Main project at Harahan Bridge, it was fulfilling to work with the launch in November. I am now working to secure another round of TIGER funding that will help our city grow and thrive. Mayor A C Wharton and I are pushing for Memphis to be named one of Secretary of Housing and Urban

Development Julian Castro's "Promise Zones," and we will continue to do so. It is a pleasure to report that two more Presidential nominations, District Court Judge Sheryl Lipman and TVA Board Member Ron Walter, were confirmed by the Senate in 2014 joining a long list of my recommendations to the President now serving the country in the Ninth District. In my time in Congress, I also recommended Judges John Fowlkes and Bernice Donald, U.S. Attorney Edward Stanton III, and TVA Board Member V. Lynne Evans. Working with the President to achieve his agenda and protect his legacy has helped shape my work for the Ninth District, with constituents consistently expressing their support for the President.

Fighting For Equal Justice and Against Excessive Police Force

Protecting civil rights has always been the central focus throughout my legal and political careers. Whether calling for a hearing into the highly-publicized excessive use of police force, working with the President and Attorney General Eric Holder to give non-violent offenders serving unjust sentences a second chance, or introducing legislation to address and prevent racially-biased practices like "stop and frisk" and help prevent instances of deadly force by police, during 2014 I continued my lifelong fight to ensure that all Americans, regardless of the color of their skin, receive equal treatment and equal justice under the law. It was a compliment to be selected by my colleagues to serve in the top Democratic post on the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice

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Developing Our Workforce, Supporting Minority Businesses & Cutting Unemployment

For years, my office worked to secure a \$1 million grant to start the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) Business Center in Memphis. Jobs are important to Memphis and bringing the MBDA to Memphis is one of the ways we can support local businesses and create jobs. In addition to hosting my annual Federal Procurement



Fair, I have worked with local minority business owners (pictured above) and Chamber of Commerce officials to bring more opportunities for minority contractors to our community. And in recent months, I have announced more than \$8 million in federal support for workforce development programs at colleges around the Ninth District as well as another \$8 million to help provide almost 1,000 long-term unemployed Memphians with the skills and training they need to find good-paying jobs in high-skills industries. Senator Elizabeth Warren asked to be the Senate sponsor of my Equal Employment for All Act, which would ensure that well-qualified job candidates cannot be denied a position simply because of a poor credit score. Senator Warren has helped increase national attention on the issue.

Preventing Crime and Helping Victims

We must do more to prevent crime as well as help victims find the justice they deserve, and those goals have been paramount in the past year. I announced more than \$1.5 million in federal funding to help fight the recent uptick in youth violence in Memphis through both in-school and out-of-school programs. I am also pleased to have secured an additional \$5 million in the 2015 government funding bill to fight our backlog of untested rape kits. If tested, these kits contain evidence that could help catch perpetrators and prevent additional violent attacks. Absolutely no one should be a victim of sexual assault and my push to ensure that our city receives the funding it needs to eliminate our backlog is a priority.

Expanding TennCare Coverage

As a founding member of the Congressional State Medicaid Expansion Caucus, I remain committed to ensuring that all Tennesseans are able to take advantage of the protections and benefits made available through President Obama's landmark Affordable Care Act. By delaying expansion of our state's Medicaid program (TennCare) as the law envisions, state officials are conveying a message that the state has little concern for those who are most in need. While Governor Haslam has recently taken some small steps to extend coverage to those who cannot afford it and are being left behind, I will continue working with him to fully expand TennCare as originally prescribed by the Affordable Care Act.

Protecting Voters' Rights

Unfortunately, the Tennessee Supreme Court upheld an unfair, burdensome, and restrictive state voter ID law and the United States Supreme Court struck down critical protections enshrined in the Voting Rights Act of 1965. With more than 300 successful voting rights lawsuits over the last 2 decades, it is obvious that voting discrimination is prevalent. These recent court decisions are making it harder for minorities, the elderly and young people to exercise a constitutional right that Americans hold sacred: the right to participate in the democratic process by voting. To address these rulings and help ensure that the right to vote is not denied to any American, I wrote the Voter ID Accessibility Act, which would help Tennesseans by providing access to information and assistance in obtaining required forms of identification, and I have cosponsored the Voting Rights Amendment Act, which will bring the critical civil rights law into the 21st century

Honoring and Working For Our Veterans

After reports of substandard care arose last year, I am pleased that follow-up reports show that the Memphis VA Medical Center (VAMC) has implemented almost all of the Inspector General's recommendations and is moving in the right direction. I was pleased to host VA Secretary Robert McDonald (pictured below) during his visit to Memphis and am proud to have supported the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act, which was signed into law by President Obama and will help VAMCs around the country hire more doctors, reduce wait times, and allow veterans who live far from their closest VAMC to seek care from closer private doctors. I will continue working to ensure that the Memphis VAMC receives needed resources including funding and improvements that will help minimize preventable deaths, eliminate redundancies that can impact patient care, and increase efficiency and veterans' trust in the system.



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Services Available Through My Memphis Office

Contact my District office for advice or assistance regarding:

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
Visas & Passports | IRS Problems
Social Security & Medicare Benefits

Veterans

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

Seniors, Social Security, and Medicare

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 appealed decisions regarding retirement or Social Security benefits. Please contact my District office if you need additional assistance.

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. You should begin the application process during your junior year of high school.

Student Information

Internships are available in my District and Washington, DC, offices. An internship provides the chance to utilize academic lessons in a real work environment, may qualify for college credit, and can be either full or part-time. We can also provide information on federal student loan programs like Pell Grants and Stafford Loans. Further information is available regarding the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Program, which includes the HOPE Scholarship, the Aspire Award, the HOPE Access Grant, the General Assembly Merit Scholarship and the Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant programs.

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Get Covered!

The **HealthCare.gov** insurance marketplace is now open for plan shopping and comparisons. If you already have insurance coverage through the **HealthCare.gov** marketplace, your plan will be automatically renewed for 2015 but you should still visit the newly-redeveloped, more stable, and easier-to-use HealthCare.gov to update your information, ensure you receive the full tax credit to which you are entitled, and review new options as cheaper insurance plans that better fit your needs may now be available. Please remember the open enrollment period closes on February 15th. If you need help enrolling in coverage or have questions about plan options, you can talk to trained experts in Memphis by visiting Seedco's Mid-South office at 22 North Front Street, Suite 900, or calling them at **(866) 720-1711**.

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS



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M.C.

Presorted Standard

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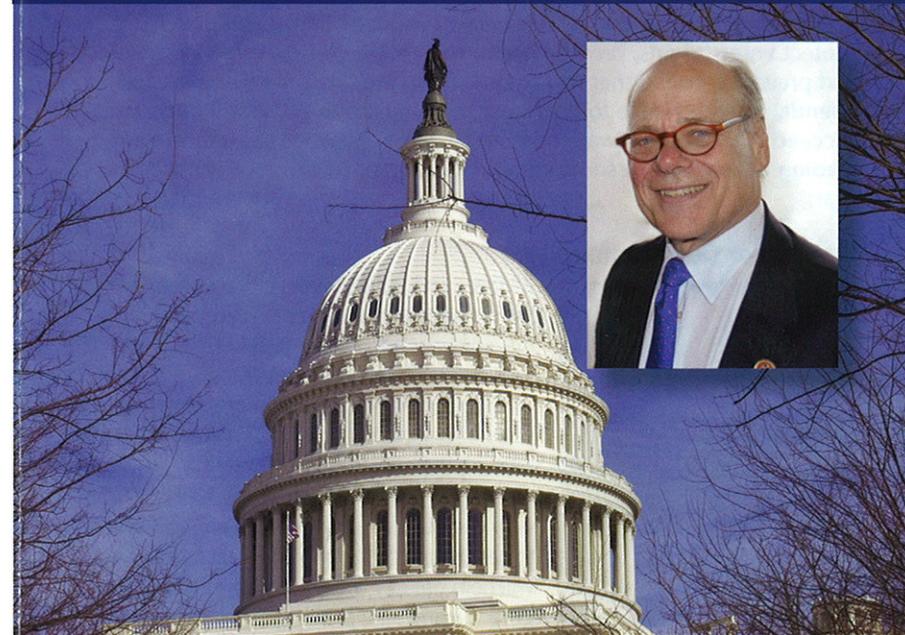
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CONGRESSMAN STEVE COHEN



Winter 2014/2015

District Issues Meeting

Please Join Me!

Friday, January 16, 2015
10 a.m. to 12 noon

The Clifford Davis/Odell Horton Federal Building
167 North Main Street, Suite 369

RSVP (901) 544-4131

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