Congressman Steve Cohen

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 an 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.
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-redesigned, 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 Seidco’s Mid-South office at 22 North Front Street, Suite 900, or calling them at (866) 720-1711.

Stay In Touch With Me Online:
Facebook.com/CongressmanSteveCohen
Twitter.com/RepCohen
YouTube.com/RepCohen