

Gutierrez Priority: Ensuring The Safety And Security Of All Americans

“I am working every day to increase our national security, protect Americans and strengthen our economy.”

– Congressman Luis Gutierrez

Congressman Gutierrez is working in a bipartisan manner with his colleagues to send a clear message that to anyone who would use terror and violence to advance their goals: America will defend freedom and keep our people safe.

He is supporting a national strategy that helps to guarantee that we bring terrorists to justice and that we prevent future attacks.

Effective counter-terrorism measures. Luis supports measures that will give our law enforcement agencies the tools and resources they need to keep Americans safe. He voted in favor of legislation increasing resources for the FBI to hire more agents, upgrade equipment and offer rewards leading to the apprehension of terrorists.

Stopping chemical and biological weapons. Luis is advocating for a \$1.5 billion plan to prevent chemical and biological terrorism. The funding would go to increased intelligence, preparedness and medical care.

Helping public safety officers. Luis supported a new law to speed federal benefits payments to public safety officers and the families of officers who were killed or suffered catastrophic injuries in connection with the terrorist attacks.

Protecting our economy. Our economy has felt the effects of the terrorist attacks and Luis is fighting for measures that protect and strengthen our economic vitality.

He supports increased federal investment in the industries most affected by the attacks and a comprehensive economic stimulus package that will keep Americans working. For displaced workers, Luis is fighting for increased unemployment and health insurance benefits and additional job training.

Making Air Travel Safe

Luis strongly supports aggressive steps to guarantee the safety of every American air traveler. He supports stringent federal oversight of air safety procedures and employees. He has supported placing armed U.S. Marshalls on flights and taking steps to prevent access to the cockpit. He supports measures to demand better training for all airline security personnel.

Luis will continue to fight for airline security, but will not support legislation that discriminates against the working men and women of the 4th Congressional District. Luis opposed a bill that would have prevented legal immigrants and any American who has been a citizen for less than five years from holding some jobs.

In voting against this discriminatory legislation, Luis noted that new citizens and legal immigrants serve in America’s armed forces, work as police officers and firefighters and that any qualified individuals who pass extensive background checks should be allowed to hold airline security jobs. He will continue to fight for effective airline security legislation that is fair to all Americans and residents of our community.



M.C.

Presorted Standard

CONGRESSMAN

Luis Gutierrez

reports to you

Dear Friend:

Much has changed in our nation and our community since the tragic events of September 11.

All Americans have experienced sorrow and anger, but we have also shared something more: an unyielding determination to help the victims of the attack, to bring the perpetrators to justice and to make certain our nation is more safe and secure.

As your representative in Congress, I am working to ensure our nation reaches these goals. I want to make certain our law enforcement agencies have the resources and tools they need to keep Americans secure. I’m working to make sure we take steps to keep air travel safe. I’m committed to an aggressive campaign to keep us safe from chemical and biological weapons. Finally, in the aftermath of this attack we must take steps to protect and strengthen our economy.

And while we must have an unprecedented commitment to national security at this time, I know that you also want me to stay focused

on the other priorities that are vital to the people of the 4th Congressional District.

In this report, I also want to share with you some of my work on education. Improving our schools is an issue of fundamental importance to every family from Pilsen to Wicker Park, from Little Village to Logan Square. Keeping our kids safe and giving them the education they deserve is a non-negotiable part of our American dream.

I join you in mourning what we have lost, but I know all of you share my pride at the strength and unity our nation has shown in response to this tragedy. I look forward to working with you to guarantee that America emerges from this senseless attack stronger, safer and more united than ever.




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Gutierrez' Bill Would Assist Members Of Armed Forces & Their Families

“The risks of military service should not be compounded by financial risks to the families of the brave men and women of our armed forces.”

—Congressman Luis Gutierrez



Congressman Gutierrez was joined by members of the National Guard, Armed Forces Reservists and Veterans as he details plans to help men and women serving our country in the war on terrorism.

Congressman Gutierrez has introduced legislation to ease the financial burdens confronting the families of full-time armed forces personnel, as well as members of the Reserves and the National Guard who are called up for active duty in the war on international terrorism.

The Service Members' and Military Families' Financial Protection Act of 2001 (HR 3173)

- ▶ Prevents evictions of families whose household incomes drop when a wage-earner is placed on active duty. Under his bill, relief would apply to families with monthly rent or mortgage payments of up to \$1,950.
- ▶ Increases life insurance benefits available to service members' beneficiaries. Under current

law, payouts from military life insurance are capped at low levels, and most private life insurance policies will not even pay out as a result of war-related incidents. Gutierrez' bill would allow members of the military to opt for coverage of up to \$1 million, and will give them the peace of mind that their families will be adequately safeguarded.

- ▶ Stiffens current criminal penalties for those who attempt to cheat families of military personnel.
- ▶ Recognizes the contributions of women in the armed forces. His bill replaces outdated policy language with gender-neutral wording that adequately reflects the essential roles played by women in both the U.S. military and the American economy.

Working To Keep Our Children Safe And Modernize Our Schools

“Our children cannot receive a world-class education as long as they learn in outdated facilities with obsolete technology.”

—Congressman Luis Gutierrez

Luis is taking an aggressive approach to modernizing schools, reducing class sizes and putting the latest, most advanced learning tools within the grasp of every student.

- ▶ He has cosponsored and worked to enact legislation to finance \$25 billion in bonds to modernize public schools.
- ▶ He is working to pass bills that will authorize \$1 billion during the year ahead for educational technology—a priority for urban school districts.
- ▶ He is also sponsoring the effort to double funding for Title I programs, the key pool of support for schools in lower-income communities, and to strengthen accountability measures to make certain that students—and educators—are performing up to the highest standards.

Keeping Our Kids Safe

Luis' agenda places a priority on reducing the threats of guns, drugs and crime in and around Chicago-area schools.

He is fighting to maintain and enhance the successful Safe & Drug Free Schools Program—including measures allowing

parents to transfer their children away from dangerous schools.

He is a sponsor of bills to create more community learning centers, to provide after-school programs that prevent juvenile crime and reduce the risk that kids will be exposed to crime from adults or their peers.

Helping Every Student To Attend College

Gutierrez Legislation would cut drop-out rates and make college affordable.

Recent studies show that as many as 50,000 to 70,000 students without immigrant status graduate from high school every year. Most of them came to America when they were small children. Many are outstanding students who want to reach the American dream of receiving a college education.

Congressman Gutierrez comes to you to listen to your concerns about education and other priorities. He regularly holds community offices in neighborhood locations such as grocery stores.



Congressman Gutierrez frequently visits schools and community centers to talk with students and parents about their concerns.

Unfortunately, many of them find that their hopes for further education must end with high school, since they are prohibited from receiving financial aid in the form of in-state tuition to public colleges and universities.

Thousands more drop out before that point, citing their lack of access to financial aid as the primary factor in their decision to quit school.

Luis' bill would repeal those prohibitions. Relief under the bill would be available to students enrolled in secondary or post-

secondary education programs, or who have applied to a two- or four-year college.

Helping students who are helping their communities.

Congressman Gutierrez is working to help young people who are taking on important roles in the community—volunteering for social service agencies, working in homeless shelters, assisting in seniors' centers or tutoring younger students.

His Youth Service Scholarship Act (H.R. 2487) creates college scholarships for students from lower- and moderate income families who fulfill at least two academic years of service to their community.

The bill is the product of ongoing partnership between Congressman Gutierrez and local groups such as the Brighton Park community and Blocks Together, as well as from the National Training and Information Center and National Peoples Action who have worked to assist young people who are volunteering their time and talents in their neighborhoods.