



The National Organization of Portuguese Americans

Legislative Alert ©

March 10, 2010

As a part of NOPA's mission to empower Portuguese-Americans, this Legislative Alert is sent out every two weeks as pertinent developments occur in order to keep the community informed of legislative action at the national level. This objective, non-partisan report aims to educate those interested about action on Capitol Hill that may affect the Portuguese-American community at large.

If you have any questions about this or other legislation, please contact NOPA's Government Affairs Team at info@nopa-us.org or 703-389-3512.

Legislation of Interest

February 22nd

By Mr. HALL of New York:

H.R. 4637. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the amount allowed as a deduction for start-up expenditures, to provide a standard home office deduction, to increase the amount allowed as a deduction for meals and entertainment expenses of small businesses, and to extend bonus depreciation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

March 5th

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mrs. HUTCHISON):

S. 3077. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State to refuse or revoke visas to aliens if in the security or foreign policy interests of the United States, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to review visa applications before adjudication, and to provide for the immediate dissemination of visa revocation information; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. HARPER):

H.R. 4758. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State to refuse or revoke visas to aliens if in the security or foreign policy interests of the United States, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to review visa applications



before adjudication, and to provide for the immediate dissemination of visa revocation information; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POMEROY (for himself and Mr. MORAN of Kansas):

H.R. 4779. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage the creation and growth of small business and reduce the cost of complying with the tax requirements; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARTER (for himself, Ms. TITUS, Mr. LOBIONDO, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MICA, Mr. OLSON, Mr. BONNER, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, and Mr. MCCOTTER):

H.R. 4764. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make employers of spouses of military personnel eligible for the work opportunity credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

New Jersey Legislative Alert

The Governor of New Jersey is cutting 12,000 legal immigrant adults and freezing adult enrollment in Family Care (SCHIP funded) effective **April 1st**. There are some questions as to whether the Governor has legal authority to make these changes without approval from the state legislature. To review the list of budget adjustments, visit the following link (The FamilyCare cuts start on page 11 under Human Services):

<http://acnj.org/admin.asp?uri=2081&action=15&di=1609&ext=pdf&view=yes>

Courtesy of The Association for Children of New Jersey

US Senate Introduces Resolution Expressing Support for Madeira Island Victims

Senate Resolution 436 (Expressing Support for the People Affected by the Natural Disasters on Madeira Island) was accepted by Unanimous Consent on the Senate floor **March 4, 2010**. You can read the full text of the Senate resolution below, which introduced by Senators Whitehouse (RI), Kerry (MA), Reed (RI) and Brown (MA):

SENATE RESOLUTION 436--EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE NATURAL DISASTERS ON MADEIRA ISLAND -- (Senate - March 04, 2010)

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Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. *Kerry*, Mr. *Reed*, and Mr. *Brown* of Massachusetts) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 436

Whereas on February 20, 2010, a powerful storm hit Madeira Island, the largest of the islands that comprise the Madeira Autonomous Region of Portugal, resulting in a series of devastating flash floods and mudslides;

Whereas the storm caused boulders, trees, and earth to be hurled against buildings, carried away vehicles, and washed away roads and bridges on the south side of Madeira Island, an area that includes Funchal, the capital of the Madeira Autonomous Region;

Whereas 42 people have lost their lives, 151 people have received treatment for injuries at the main hospital in Funchal, and hundreds of people have been displaced;

Whereas the storm destroyed a large portion of the water and communication infrastructure on Madeira Island;

Whereas José Sócrates, the Prime Minister of Portugal, has promised "all necessary aid" to Madeira, and Alberto Joao Goncalves Jardim, the President of the Madeira Autonomous Region, has consulted with European Commission President José Manuel Barroso to seek further assistance;

Whereas a Portuguese Navy frigate has dispatched troops to Madeira Island, with Portuguese divers and a medical team also arriving to offer emergency assistance;

Whereas the Government of Portugal has announced 3 days of national mourning for those who lost their lives in this disaster;

Whereas the United States is providing assistance through the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance of the United States Agency for International Development;

Whereas there are approximately 400 citizens of the United States on Madeira Island, with United States officials continually working to ensure their safety and well-being; and

Whereas a community of approximately 1,500,000 Portuguese-Americans, strongly represented in the States of Rhode Island and Massachusetts, maintain deep and enduring ties with Portugal and Madeira Island: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate--

(1) mourns the loss of life and expresses its deepest condolences to the families of those killed and injured by floods and mudslides resulting from the storm that hit Madeira Island on February 20, 2010;

(2) expresses solidarity between the people of the United States and Madeira, recognizing the historical ties between Portuguese-Americans, Portugal, and the Madeira Autonomous Region; and

(3) applauds the courageous rescue efforts of fire, medical, and military personnel and other volunteers in response to the flooding and mudslides.

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Senate Floor Action - (Senate - March 04, 2010)

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 434, S. Res. 435, **S.**



Res. 436, S. Res. 437, and S. Res. 438.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

Allan Katz Reported Favorably Out of Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Allan Katz was favorable reported out of Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to become the Ambassador to the Portuguese Republic. The next and final step for confirmation will come as a full vote on the Senate floor. The confirmation vote, which will require a simple majority (51), has not been scheduled yet. The Senate is the only chamber that works on nominations, so a majority vote on the full Senate floor will be the final step of the confirmation process. Below is the executive report from committee action on February, 24th:

SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE -- (Senate - February 24, 2010)

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Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. Res. 414, expressing the Sense of the Senate on the recovery, rehabilitation, and rebuilding of Haiti following the humanitarian crisis caused by the January 12, 2010, earthquake in Haiti;
S. 2961, to provide debt relief to Haiti;
S. Res. 400, urging the implementation of a comprehensive strategy to address instability in Yemen, with amendments;
S. Res. 404, supporting full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and other efforts to promote peace and stability in Sudan;
and **The nominations of Allan J. Katz, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Portuguese Republic.**

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE -- (Senate - February 24, 2010)



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The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. KERRY for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*Allan J. Katz, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Portuguese Republic.

Nominee: Allan J. Katz.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: \$2,300, 12/17/07, Obama for America; \$1,274, 3/3/08, A Lot of People for Dave Obey; \$500, 8/22/08, Linda Ketner for Congress; \$500, 10/30/08, Joe Garcia for Congress; \$2,000, 12/23/05, Bill Nelson for US Senate; \$300, 6/11/04, Akerman Senterfitt PAC; \$300, 6/24/04, Akerman Senterfitt PAC; \$300, 7/15/04, Akerman Senterfitt PAC; \$250, 3/20/08, Suzanne Kosms for Congress; \$500, 12/25/07, David Loeb sack for Congress; \$53.83, 7/31/08, Obama for America; (53.83), 9/30/08, returned--Obama for America; \$2,246, 7/31/08, Obama for America; (\$2,246), 12/31/08, returned--Obama for America; \$2,300, 7/31/08, Obama for America; \$1,000, 9/5/02, Florida Leadership PAC; \$350, 5/9/01, Grassley Committee Inc.; \$250, 3/31/00, Patsy Kurth for congress; \$1,000, 2/12/02, Friends of Max Cleland; \$500, 7/11/03, Bob Graham for President; \$250, 6/27/01, Citizens for Mark Shriver; \$500, 12/23/03, Wasserman-Schultz for Congress; \$250, 9/30/03, Dean for President; \$873, 3/8/01, A Lot of People for Dave Obey; \$1,000, 10/1/99, Bill Nelson for US Senate; \$500, 4/26/06, Friends of Hillary; \$2,000, 4/19/04, John Kerry for President; \$1,000, 3/16/00, Carnahan for Senate Committee; \$1,000, 3/16/98, Friends of Bob Graham Committee; \$250, 4/11/03, Harold Ford Jr for Tennessee; \$300, 8/29/00, DNC Services Corporation; \$250, 3/17/06, McCaskill for Missouri; \$1,000, 11/1/99, Bill Bradley for President; \$500, 10/21/98, Victory in New York; \$500, 10/20/98, Schumer `98.

2. Spouse: Nancy E. Cohn: \$500, 4/22/05 Ron Klein for Congress; \$1,000, 6/30/08, Suzanne Kosmas for Congress; \$2,300, 3/31/07, Obama for America; \$2,300, 7/31/08, Obama for America; \$250, 1/18/04, Campaign for Florida's Future; \$1,000, 10/27/04, Campaign for Florida's Future; \$1,200, 12/19/03, Howard Dean for America; \$1,000, 3/28/02, Katy Sorenson for Congress (\$826.00 was returned); \$1,000, 12/29/99, Bill Bradley for President.

3. Children and Spouses: Ethan Katz, Son: Several small contributions, all of which were



less than \$100 for which he did not keep records: Bradley for President, 1999; McCain for President, 2000; Dean for America, 2003-04; Obama for America, 2007-2008. Hagit Katz, Daughter-in-law: no contributions. Matthew Katz, Son: no contributions.

4. Parents: Deceased: no contributions.

5. Grandparents: Deceased: no contributions.

6. Brothers and Spouses: N/A: no contributions.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Joanne Katz: \$250, 10/14/04, DNC Services Corporation; \$382, 8/21/04, America Coming Together. In addition, several small contributions, all of which were less than \$100 for which she did not keep records: Obama for America, 2007-08; Democratic National Committee, 2008; Carnahan for Senate, 2009. Michelle Bartlett: no contributions.

Donate Now -

NOPA Opens Madeira Credit Card Donation Account

NOPA has opened a specific account to take credit card donations for our Portuguese brothers and sisters trying to rebuild their lives in Madeira. If you still have not donated yet and desire a more convenient process than making a bank wire transfer, you can send your contribution by going to the NOPA website, www.nopa-us.org, and click the donation button to proceed and use your credit card. All donations will be sent to the Cruz Vermelha Portuguesa (Portuguese Red Cross). Those still wishing to make a donation via bank transfer can find the account information on our site as well.

The source for all Congressional legislation information on this report was the THOMAS system from The Library of Congress (<http://thomas.loc.gov/>). Links for each of the bills listed above direct readers to the THOMAS web page specific to the bill.

You can find a PDF file of this and other alerts at NOPA's [website](http://www.nopa-us.org). If you have any questions about this or other legislation, please contact NOPA's Government Affairs Team at info@nopa-us.org or 703-389-3512.

The National Organization of Portuguese-Americans is a national non-profit, tax exempt organization that supports and works with communities and organizations to advocate for and empower Portuguese-Americans. If you feel inspired to join our mission, please send your tax deductible contribution to:

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