



Legislative Alert ©

September 28, 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 federal policy and proposed legislation, please contact NOPA's Government Affairs Team at info@nopa-us.org or 703-389-3512.

Legislative Update

Congress came back from their break two weeks ago and will leave again at the end of this week for election recess, where they will be until the Congressional 'lame-duck' session begins the week of November 15th. The past three weeks have been marked by both legislative action and inaction.

Last week, Congress passed a Small Business bill, which was signed into law by the President on Monday. Last week also marked the 6 month anniversary of the new health reform legislation being signed into law, in which several key provisions took effect.

To go with this action, we saw some issues stall out or get punted to the lame-duck session. Some Members of Congress sought to attach the DREAM Act immigration bill as an amendment to the Department of Defense authorization bill, but the inability to garner 60 votes to kill a filibuster left that effort stalled. However, the next day, Senator Durbin (D-IL), along with Sen. Lugar (R-IN) and Leahy (D-VT) introduced the Dream Act as a stand-alone bill and we could see votes on the bill during the lame-duck session later this year. Another issue to be pushed off until the late November session is debate and votes on extending the 'Bush tax cuts' that were passed in 2001 and expire at the end of this year. The middle and low income tax cuts will easily pass both the House and Senate, but the point of contention is what to do with the upper-income tax cuts.

Before Congress leaves this week, there is only one must-pass piece of legislation, the 'continuing resolution'. Since Fiscal Year 2010 ends September 30th, Congress will need to enact stop-gap funding to keep the government operating on October 1st, when Fiscal Year 2011 begins. This will be a short-term continuing resolution, likely to run until the end of November or beginning of December, to cover funding until Congress can pass full appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 2011.



DREAM Act: Bi-Partisan Immigration Bill Introduced

Last Thursday, Senator Durbin (D-IL), along with Sen. Lugar (R-IN) and Sen. Leahy (D-VT) introduced **S. 3827: Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act of 2010**. There will not be votes on this before the election break, but we believe we could see votes on it in the lame-duck session. In this political climate, we're pleased to see a bi-partisan bill on such a critical issue. While we strongly urge passage of the DREAM Act, we understand this would be only a step towards improving immigration law, yet the dire need for comprehensive immigration remains.

We urge you to contact your elected officials and voice your opinion on this bill and the need for comprehensive immigration reform. You can find our statement on immigration reform from earlier this year at: <http://www.nopa-us.org/resources/NOPA+Immigration+Reform+Press+Release.pdf>

Additional info on The DREAM Act:

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. **LUGAR**, and Mr. **LEAHY**):

S. 3827. A bill to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to permit States to determine State residency for higher education purposes and to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain alien students who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States as children, and for other purposes; read the first time.

You can find the full legislation text of the bill (20 pages) here:

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:s3827pcs.txt.pdf

Find and Contact your Congressional Delegation:

U.S. Senate: http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

U.S. House: <https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>

If you have any questions about these or any other proposed and/or passed bills, please contact NOPA at info@nopa-us.org or 703-389-3512.

Small Business Bill Signed Into Law

On Monday, September 27th, the President signed **H.R.5297, the Small Business Jobs Act**, into law after the House of Representatives passed it last week and the Senate passed it the week before.

Some key provisions in the bill include:

- 100 percent exclusion from capital gains taxes on investments in small businesses;



- A \$10,000 tax deduction for start-up expenditures - doubling current levels;
- Increased Section 179 expensing, permitting up to \$500,000 in capital investments that business can expense;
- New tools to help small businesses export which will leverage more than \$1 billion in exports;
- Increased Small Business Administration (SBA) loan limits and improved access and lower costs for small business to access SBA loans;
- A targeted \$30 billion Small Business Lending Fund to provide small community banks with capital to increase small business lending; and
- \$1.5 billion in grants to support \$15 billion in new small business lending through already successful state programs.

A complete summary, legislative text and more information on the Small Business Jobs Act is available on the Finance Committee website at:

<http://finance.senate.gov/legislation/details/?id=da799068-5056-a032-5229-92cebbd2b7a0>

Health Reform Provisions Implemented

Several key provisions of the federal health reform law went into effect last Thursday, marking the overhaul's six-month anniversary.

Beginning last Thursday, insurers are no longer permitted to rescind coverage for technical mistakes made on patient applications. Insurers also are prohibited from denying coverage to children ages 18 and younger based on pre-existing conditions.

Other provisions that took effect on September 23rd will:

- End lifetime monetary limits on insurance coverage;
- Allow adult children to remain on their parents' plan until age 26
- Require insurers to provide certain no-cost preventive services, such as colonoscopies, immunizations and mammograms
- Allow consumers to appeal claims decisions through an external review process.

A full list of provisions and when each one will take effect can be found at www.healthcare.gov

You can find the Democrats and Republican's views on the bill below:

Fact sheet from the Democrats: http://dpc.senate.gov/dpcdoc.cfm?doc_name=fs-111-2-147

Fact sheet from Republicans:



http://www.politico.com/static/PPM170_100921_implementation.html

Time.com piece on '**What the New Health Care Rules Will and Won't Do**'-
<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,2020917,00.html>

Events of Interest

***** Upcoming *****

Immigration

The Brookings Institution - Discussion
09/28/2010 at 09:00 am

The Brookings Institution holds a discussion on "Crossing Borders: From Myth to Sound Immigration Policy."

Highlights:

9 a.m.: Former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, co-chairman of the Council on Foreign Relations, delivers welcoming remarks

9:15 a.m.: Panel on "The Economic Evidence on Immigration"

10:30 a.m.: Panel on "Immigration Policy: Impacts on Workers, Employers, and America's Future"

11:30 a.m.: Gov. Bill Richardson, D-N.M., delivers keynote remarks

Location: Washington Court Hotel, 525 New Jersey Avenue NW, Grand Ballroom, Washington, D.C.

Contact: 202-797-6105, events@brookings.edu; <http://www.brookings.edu>

Immigration

The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research (AEI) - Discussion
09/29/2010 at 09:00 am

The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research (AEI) holds a discussion on "The Employment-Based Immigration Reform Solution."

Participants: Henry Olsen of AEI; Pia Orrenius of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas; Madeline Zavodny of Agnes Scott College; Tamar Jacoby of Immigration Works USA; and Michael Clemens of the Center for Global Development

Location: AEI, 1150 17th Street NW, Wohlstetter Conference Center, 12th Floor, Washington, D.C.

Contact: Veronique Rodman, 202-862-4871, vrodman@aei.org;

<http://www.aei.org> [Note: Register online: <http://www.aei.org/event100303>]

Foreign Affairs



The Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) Book discussion

09/29/2010 at 06:00 pm

The Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) holds a book discussion on "The New Brazil," as a part of the "Year of Demography" at SAIS.

Participants: author Riordan Roett, director of the SAIS Latin American Studies Program; Francisco Gonzalez, associate professor of Latin American studies at SAIS; Margaret Daly Hayes, principal at EBR Associates; and Kellie Meiman, managing director of McLarty Associates

Location: SAIS, Nitze Building, 1740 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Kenney Auditorium, Washington, D.C.

Contact: Felisa Neuringer Klubes, 202-663-5626, fkлубes@jhu.edu;

<http://www.sais-jhu.edu> [Note: The public should RSVP to 202-663-5790 or kkornell@jhu.edu]

*** Past Events ***

Foreign Affairs

The Atlantic Council - Discussion

09/20/2010

The Atlantic Council holds a discussion on "Global Governance 2025: At a Critical Juncture" in conjunction with the public release of the "U.S.-E.U. Joint Report on Long-term Prospects for Global Governance."

Participants: Fred Kempe, president and CEO of the Atlantic Council; Mathew Burrows, counselor at the U.S. National Intelligence Council; Giovanni Grevi, senior researcher at FRIDE and former senior research fellow at the European Union Institute for Security Studies; William Burke-White, policy planning staff member at the State Department; Banning Garrett, director of the Program on Asia at the Atlantic Council; and Alvaro de Vasconcelos, director of the European Union Institute for Security Studies

Contact: Patrick deGategno, 202-463-7226, pdegategno@acus.org

Foreign Affairs

The Woodrow Wilson Center (WWC) - Briefing

09/22/2010

The Woodrow Wilson Center (WWC) holds a briefing on "The Presidential Election in Brazil."

Participants: Ricardo Mendes, managing partner of Prospectiva Consulting; Paulo Sotero, director of the Brazil Institute; and Joao Augusto de Castro Neves, founding partner and political analyst for CAC Consultoria



Contact:202-691-4000; <http://www.wilsoncenter.org>

Foreign Affairs

The Woodrow Wilson Center (WWC) - Discussion
09/22/2010

The Woodrow Wilson Center (WWC) holds a discussion on "Public Opinion in Brazil: Findings from the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project."

Participants: Richard Wike, associate director of the Pew Global Attitudes Project; Juliana Measce Horowitz, senior researcher at the Pew Global Attitudes Project; Paulo Sotero, director of the WWC's Brazil Institute; and Ricardo Mendes, executive director of Prospectiva Consulting

Contact:202-691-4000; <http://www.wilsoncenter.org>

Immigration

Cornell University's College of College of Agriculture and Life Sciences - Briefing
09/24/2010

Cornell University's College of College of Agriculture and Life Sciences holds a briefing on "Impacts of U.S. Immigration Policies: A Look at Local Communities' Responses to National Concerns."

Participants: Cornell sociologists Max Pfeffer and Pilar Parra

Contact:202-434-8035

Immigration

John Wilcock, Diversity Visa Program officer at the Visa Office of the Bureau of Consular Affairs - Briefing

09/27/2010 at 1:00 pm

John Wilcock, Diversity Visa Program officer at the Visa Office of the Bureau of Consular Affairs holds a briefing for foreign media on "2012 Diversity Visa Lottery Program and Registration."

Contact:202-504-6300; <http://www.fpc.state.gov>

About Us

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](#). 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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