



The National Organization of Portuguese-Americans Legislative Alert November 3, 2009

Dear Friends of NOPA,

To better inform and serve you, we are trying out a new format for the Legislative Alert. To maximize its purpose and value, please send us your comments and what information you would like to see included. All comments and suggestions can be sent to info@nopa-us.org, or you can call NOPA's Executive Director, Francisco Semião, at 703-389-3512.

Thank you.

Oct 19th

Senate Bills Introduced

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 1796. An original bill to provide affordable, quality health care for all Americans and reduce the growth in health care spending, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

Senate Floor Activity

Measures Passed:

Medicare Physicians Fairness Act--Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on [S. 1776](#), to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the update under the Medicare physician fee schedule for years beginning with 2010 and to sunset the application of the sustainable growth rate formula, occur at a time to be determined with the concurrence of the two Leaders. Pages [S10517-18](#)

October 20th

Senate Bills Introduced

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 1817. A bill to temporarily raise the limits on certain loans under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.



House Bills Introduced

By Mr. SCHRADER (for himself, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. HALVORSON, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona):

H.R. 3854. A bill to amend the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to improve programs providing access to capital under such Acts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. BACA:

H.R. 3855. A bill to amend title 13, United States Code, to make clear that each decennial census, as required for the apportionment of Representatives in Congress among the several States, shall tabulate the total number of persons in each State, and to provide that no information regarding United States citizenship or immigration status may be elicited in any such census; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

October 21st

Senate Bills Introduced

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 1832. A bill to increase loan limits for small business concerns, provide for low interest refinancing for small business concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado:

S. 1833. A bill to amend the Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009 to establish an earlier effective date for various consumer protections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

October 30th

Senate Floor Activity

Unemployment Compensation Extension Act--Agreement:

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 4 p.m. on Monday, November 2, 2009, Senate resume consideration of [H.R. 3548](#), to amend the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 to provide for the temporary availability of certain additional emergency unemployment compensation, and that the filing deadline for first-degree amendments be 3 p.m., Monday, November 2, 2009, and the filing deadline for second degree-amendments be 4 p.m., Monday, November 2, 2009. Page [S10962](#)

October 22nd



Senate Bills Introduced

By Mr. BROWNBACK:

S. 1835. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow 5-year carryback of operating losses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 1843. A bill to provide increased penalties for health care fraud; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BENNETT, and Mr. REID):

S. 1858. A bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form; read the first time.

Senate Floor Activity

Conference Reports:

Unemployment Compensation Extension Act--Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of [H.R. 3548](#), to amend the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 to provide for the temporary availability of certain additional emergency unemployment compensation, occur at 2:30 p.m., on Tuesday, October 27, 2009. Page [S10709](#)

House Bills Introduced

By Mr. KRATOVIL:

H.R. 3898. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the temporary increase in limitations on expensing of certain depreciable business assets; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LEWIS of Georgia (for himself, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. CROWLEY, and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 3901. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the administration of, and reduce fraud related to, the first-time homebuyer tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HELLER:

H.R. 3902. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the first-time homebuyer tax credit and to eliminate the first-time homebuyer requirement and increase the adjusted gross income limitations with respect to such credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REHBERG:

H.R. 3903. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a partial exclusion



of interest from the gross income of individuals, to increase retirement plan contribution limitations, and to temporarily suspend minimum distribution requirements for certain defined contribution plans; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BERKLEY (for herself, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, and Mr. NUNES): H.R. 3905. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 1-year termination of the estate tax, to increase the estate and gift tax unified credit, and to coordinate a reduction in the maximum rate of tax with a phaseout of the deduction for State death taxes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. HALVORSON: H.R. 3908. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide the work opportunity tax credit with respect to a designated family member of a veteran with a service-connected disability if the veteran is unable to work; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Statements from Our Portuguese-American Elected Officials

Congressman Nunes (R-CA)

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2442, BAY AREA REGIONAL WATER RECYCLING PROGRAM EXPANSION ACT OF 2009 -- (House of Representatives - October 15, 2009)

I just want to make sure that we set the record straight on this salmon fishing issue. A lot of people are probably watching out there and wondering, well, are these salmon fishermen really out of work? The truth is that the salmon fishermen can still fish; they just can't fish for salmon. And that is because the government--us, this body--and others told the fishermen that they cannot fish for salmon. Every other country in the world can fish for salmon, just us.

So not only are we not allowing the salmon fishermen to fish, we are also paying them not to fish; several hundred million dollars we have given the salmon fishermen so that they will not fish for salmon. Meanwhile, we have 40,000 people that are without work, and they get nothing.

So there is no correlation between these pumps that have run for 50 years and salmon fishermen not fishing, except for this: the government says, salmon fishermen, you can't fish for salmon. The government also says, keep the pumps shut off so that people in the San Joaquin Valley don't have any water and can't grow any crops to provide Americans food. So this whole argument about the poor salmon fishermen is complete fiction.

I would like to know where my colleagues were--some of them who were in this body--in the 1980s when they ran every Portuguese American fisherman out of the San Diego area. There were several thousand mostly Portuguese fishermen, and nobody came to their aid.



They fished for tuna. All those jobs were lost to foreign countries. And now all of a sudden we're here and we're worried about salmon fishermen? Bogus, absolutely bogus. Shameful on this body.

The NOPA Legislative Alert

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.

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 Paulo Araujo, Director of Government Relations, at paraujo@nopa-us.org.