



The National Organization of Portuguese-Americans Legislative Alert November 17, 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.

Important Legislation

November 3rd

The Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009 - Unemployment Insurance, Homebuyer Tax Credit and NOL Tax Credit

Earlier this month, Congress passed and the President signed into law, HR. 3548 -The Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009. The Senate passed the bill on 11/4/09 by a vote of 98 - 0 [Record Vote Number: 334](#). The House passed the bill on 11/5/09 by a vote of 403 - 12 [Roll No. 859](#).

The legislation allows workers in all 50 states to draw 14 weeks of federal unemployment benefits after exhausting their regular 26 weeks of state compensation. It would provide an additional six weeks in states with unemployment rates of at least 8.5 percent.

It also extends the first-time homebuyer and net operating loss carry back tax relief provisions. The homebuyer tax credit extension continues the \$8,000 first-time homebuyer credit through April 30, 2010. It also provides a \$6,500 credit to new purchasers who have lived in their current residence for five years or more. The net operating loss carry back (NOL) provision is expanded to allow U.S. companies of every size to carry back losses incurred in either 2008 or 2009 against income earned in any of the five prior years, limited to 50 percent of the taxpayer's income in the fifth year.

November 4th

Proposed legislation potentially to have affect on Portugal and other Portuguese-



speaking countries -

H.R. 4026. A bill to provide for the withholding of United States assistance to a foreign country in an amount equal to 110 percent of the total amount of costs incurred by United States hospitals and other medical facilities for the long-term care of aliens unlawfully present in the United States from that country during the preceding fiscal year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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.

November 7th

On the 7th, the House passed their health reform bill (H.R.3962) by a vote of 220 - 215 ([Roll no. 887](#)). The Senate will likely spend the next 4 weeks on their health reform bill with the intention of passing their version of health reform before the Christmas break.

Important Events

November 9th

Foreign Affairs - Briefing

Special Representative for Global Partnerships Ambassador Elizabeth Frawley Bagley (Ambassador to Portugal from 1994 to 1997) held a special briefing on the Shanghai 2010 World Expo at The State Department, 2201 C Street NW, Room 2209, Washington, D.C. for more information, call: 202-647-2492.

November 16th at 4pm

Immigration and Public Opinion: What's the Climate for Change - Discussion

Sponsored by: The Congress Project and the United States Studies Program at the Woodrow Wilson Center

Participants: House Standards of Official Conduct (Ethics) Committee Chairwoman Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif.; Rep. Dan Lungren, R-Calif.; H. Richard Friman, professor of political science in the Department of Political Science at Marquette University; and Richard Simon, staff writer for The Los Angeles Times

Location: One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C.

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

November 18th

National Tele-Town Meeting: Families, Freedom and Faith: Call to Action for



Immigration Reform

8:00 PM Eastern time/5:00 PM Pacific.
Featured Speaker: Congressman Luis Gutierrez

Purpose: To brief immigration reform advocates around the country and the progressive community as a whole.

To get on individually, register at this link:

<http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/o/5691/t/5324/signUp.jsp?key=2769>

If you have any further questions on how you can get involved, you can contact Nora Feely with campaign to Reform Immigration FOR America at nfeely@immigrationforum.org.

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.