



## The National Organization of Portuguese-Americans Legislative Alert December 29, 2009

The House and Senate will be out until mid-January 2010. Before leaving, the US Senate passed its version of health reform legislation, and the two Chambers will likely spend much of their energy on merging their respective bills for the first few weeks after they return.

Below are several pieces of legislation that were introduced the week of December 14-20, 2009. Some of these bills could have a major impact on our community. Please contact NOPA at [info@nopa-us.org](mailto:info@nopa-us.org) or 703-389-3512 if you have questions or concerns on any of the proposed legislation.

Also listed is an earmark on the Department of Defense appropriations bill (which was passed and signed into law on December 19, 2009) for USFORAZORES Portuguese National Employees.

### Important Legislation

#### December 15th

By Mr. ORTIZ (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. STARK, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. REYES, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. BACA, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. ANDREWS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. FALDOMAEGA, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. SIRES, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. NADLER of New York, Mr. OLVER, Ms. WATERS, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. FARR, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. WEINER, Mr. CLAY, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. WATSON, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. WELCH, Ms. CHU, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. POLIS of Colorado, and Mr. QUIGLEY):

**H.R. 4321.** A bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, Natural Resources, Ways and Means, Education



and Labor, Oversight and Government Reform, and House Administration, 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. BRIGHT (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania):

**H.R. 4309.** A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish tax-preferred Small Business Start-up Savings Accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. HALVORSON:

**H.R. 4311.** A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the increase in the expensing deduction for small businesses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ABERCROMBIE (for himself and Mrs. LOWEY):

**H.R. 4302.** A bill to increase loan limits for small business concerns, to provide for low interest refinancing for small business concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. MEEK of Florida (for himself, Mr. TIBERI, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, and Mr. HERGER):

**H.R. 4306.** A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the 15-year recovery period for qualified leasehold improvement property, qualified restaurant property, and qualified retail improvement property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

## **December 16th**

By Mr. RUSH:

**H.R. 4343.** A bill to establish in the Department of Commerce the Minority Business Development Program to provide qualified minority businesses with technical assistance, loan guarantees, and contracting opportunities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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. ISSA (for himself, Mr. REYES, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. MCKEON, and Mr.



TOWNS):

**H.R. 4350.** A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for nonimmigrant status for an alien who is the parent or legal guardian of a United States citizen child if the child was born abroad and is the child of a deceased member of the Armed Forces of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California (for herself and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California):

**H.R. 4381.** A bill to reform the H-2B program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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 Ms. WATERS (for herself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. KILDEE, and Ms. BORDALLO):

**H.R. 4404.** A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to provide treatment for diabetes in minority communities; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

## Disclosure of Congressional Earmarks and Congressionally Directed Spending Items

**December 16th**

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010 -- (House of Representatives)  
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The following was included in a list of congressional earmarks and congressionally directed spending items included in the amended bill or the explanatory statement, along with the name of each Senator, House Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner who submitted a request to the Committee of jurisdiction for each item so identified. Neither the amended bill nor the explanatory statement contains any limited tax benefits or limited tariff benefits as defined in the applicable House or Senate rules.

**Wage Issue Modification for USFORAZORES Portuguese National Employees - \$240,000 By Congressman Frank (MA).**

### 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 NOPA's Government Affairs Team at [info@nopa-us.org](mailto:info@nopa-us.org) or 703-389-3512.