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Dear Annie,

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to update you on the work of the United States House of Representatives. This past week, the House passed a number of bills that would help preserve affordable housing units, stop the privatization of tax collection, and hold government contractors in Iraq accountable. You can read more about these bills below.

**Developments in Affordable Housing**

With a vote of 264 to 148, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2895, the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act of 2007. The National Affordable Housing Trust Fund would be the largest expansion in federal housing programs in decades, with a goal of producing, rehabilitating and preserving 1.5 million housing units over the next 10 years. The bill, if passed by the Senate and signed into law by the president, would allocate funding directly to states and local communities, without increasing government spending or the federal deficit. States and local communities would be able to use the funding to alleviate the crisis of affordable housing in their communities.

**Banning the Privatization of Tax Collection**

The House of Representatives passed H.R. 3056, the Tax Collection Responsibility Act of 2007, on October 10, 2007. This bill would repeal the authority of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to give government contracts to private companies to collect Federal income taxes and would also delay until 2012 a provision of current law that will require withholding 3% from most government payments for goods and services. To offset the reduction in federal revenue, H.R. 3056 would raise other revenue by taxing expatriate Americans that have relinquished their citizenship for tax purposes. This legislation is now awaiting consideration by the Senate.

**Holding Contractors in Iraq Accountable**

On October 9, 2007 the House of Representatives passed H.R. 400, the War Profiteering Act of 2007. This bill would make it a violation of federal law for any contractor to knowingly defraud, or attempt to defraud, the U.S. government while supporting U.S. missions abroad. Pentagon auditors say that questionable contract costs may top \$10 billion. Presently, federal law does not fully extend jurisdiction for contract fraud committed while working in support of U.S. missions abroad. H.R. 400 would also impose a fine and/or prison term of up to 20 years for knowingly defrauding the United States or a fine and/or prison term of up to 10 years for making false statements, or falsifying documents in connection with

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contracts, goods or services. This bill now must be taken up by the Senate and signed by the president in order to become law.

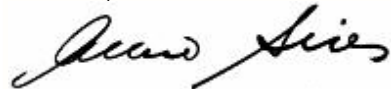
National Latino AIDS Awareness Day

Monday, October 15th marks National Latino AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD). This day serves as a reminder to the Hispanic community, as well as all Americans, about the importance of getting tested and learning about HIV. The theme of this year's NLAAD is "Wake up! Take Control! Take the HIV test!" With Latinos continuing to be disproportionately affected by HIV, comprising of over 20 percent of HIV/AIDS cases nationwide, events related to NLAAD's goal is to encourage Latinos to take action and get tested.

Thank you for taking the time to read my update from Washington. If you are a parent of a college-bound student or a college student yourself, please visit my website to find out more about federal financial aid options by following:

[http://www.house.gov/sires/students\\_aid.shtml](http://www.house.gov/sires/students_aid.shtml)

Sincerely,



Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

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