

# Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi

Washington Update  
March 2006



Dear Friend,

As we begin a new session of Congress, many of our courageous men and women in uniform are in Iraq engaged in a war of choice that has already cost more than 2,200 lives. In Washington, D.C., we have seen the greed of special interests placed above the needs of American families.

We also begin the session recognizing that we must ensure America remains the leader in innovation. My colleagues and I have worked with leaders from the high-technology, venture capital, academic, biotechnology and telecommunications sectors to identify priorities that will guarantee our national security and prosperity, expand markets for American products, and assert economic leadership throughout the world. We were proud to create our Innovation Agenda that will keep America competitive in the world through improvements in education, science, small-business and renewable energy.

In January, many of you joined me at a town meeting on national security issues: the war in Iraq, our veterans, warrantless electronic surveillance and homeland security. I look forward to continuing our dialogue to make our country safer, support our troops, honor our veterans and protect our civil liberties.

The climate of corruption in Washington led to the passage of a confusing Medicare prescription drug bill that has raised the cost of prescription drugs for middle-income seniors and made it difficult for beneficiaries to obtain their much-needed prescriptions. I am fighting to extend the time beneficiaries may enroll in this program without penalty and to make these benefits more accessible to those who need them.

On the subject of reform, Democrats believe in putting the people's interests, not the special interests, first. To that end, we have introduced our Honest Leadership and Open Government Act to eliminate lobbyists' access and influence and to create the most open and honest government in history.

Only by restoring truth and trust in our government can we roll out an agenda to renew America's promise. I look forward to hearing from you on these and other issues of concern.

Sincerely,

Nancy

Visit <http://www.house.gov/pelosi>



Representative Pelosi meets with Marina Middle School students to discuss their upcoming trip to Washington, D.C.

## National Security Town Meeting

In January, I was proud to participate in a town meeting on national security with more than 1,000 constituents. At Marina Middle School, we met to discuss the war in Iraq, warrantless electronic surveillance, homeland security and our commitment to our veterans.

At the meeting, I had an opportunity to share many of my views on these issues:

- **Iraq:** The war of choice in Iraq, which I opposed and continue to oppose, has not made America safer. Based on a false premise, the war has had a devastating cost in lives, taxpayer dollars and our reputation throughout the world. Our mission must be to end military involvement in Iraq as soon as practicable, considering the safety of our troops and the security of the American people.
- **Veterans:** As our troops promise to leave no one behind on the battlefield, we should leave no veteran behind when their service ends. My Democratic colleagues and I introduced a comprehensive package of benefits called the New GI Bill of Rights for the 21st Century, guaranteeing access to education and health care and the opportunity for good jobs to our veterans.
- **Domestic Surveillance:** Our government needs the best possible intelligence to protect the American people. That intelligence must, however, be produced in ways that are consistent with our Constitution, our laws and our national values. Congress had addressed this in our Foreign Intelligence Security Act. The President is not above the law, and should not be able to act alone. This was recognized by our Founding Fathers, who understood the delicate balance between liberty and security. I am urging congressional hearings on the issue of the President's warrantless electronic surveillance of American citizens, and will continue to protect and defend the American people and our Constitution.
- **Homeland Security:** When the United States was attacked on September 11, 2001, promises were made to the American people that their government would improve their security. More than four years later, our first responders do not have equipment to communicate with each other, cargo in ports and on planes is not screened, nuclear and chemical plants are not protected, and the Administration has refused to purchase nuclear materials to keep them out of the hands of terrorists.

To protect our country, America must have a military second to none. We must stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We must build diplomatic alliances to keep the peace. We must fight terrorism wherever it exists, and as we protect and defend the American people, we must protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

## The Innovation Agenda: A Commitment to Competitiveness to Keep America #1

America built the world's most vibrant economy and has led the world in scientific discoveries. Now other countries are challenging our status as the world leader in innovation.

After several months of seeking out the best thinking on how to secure America's place as the world leader in innovation, Democrats unveiled our "Innovation Agenda: A Commitment to Competitiveness to Keep America #1." This agenda challenges Congress and the country to renew our commitment to public-private partnerships to secure America's leadership and unleash the next generation of discovery, invention and growth. Our agenda would:

- **Secure a qualified teacher in every math and science K-12 classroom, so that through scholarships and financial assistance, we will add 100,000 new scientists, mathematicians and engineers to America's workforce in four years;**
- **Double federal funding for the National Science Foundation in the next five years, promote the public-private partnerships that translate new ideas into marketable technologies, and modernize and make permanent the R&D tax credit;**
- **Provide every American affordable access to broadband services within five years;**
- **Achieve American energy independence in 10 years; and**
- **Create a competitive small-business environment for innovation, provide affordable health insurance, small-business financial support and technical assistance, reduce regulation, and protect intellectual property.**

America cannot remain the world leader in innovation unless every person has access to quality health care.

There will be those who say we can't afford these investments. Democrats believe we cannot afford not to make them. Our Innovation Agenda is part of our vision for a stronger America. Our commitment to competitiveness is a decision for the future.

You can learn more about our Innovation Agenda at <http://www.house.gov/pelosi>



Representative Pelosi joins Helen Waukazoo of the Friendship House Association of American Indians at an event honoring Rep. Pelosi with the 2005 Federal Home Loan Bank Friends of Housing Award for her work in Congress.

CONGRESSWOMAN NANCY PELOSI

www.house.gov/pelosi  
sf.nancy@mail.house.gov

**District Office**

450 Golden Gate Ave. - 14th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 556-4862

**Washington, D.C. Office**

2371 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4965

Nancy Pelosi

M.C.  
Presorted Standard



This mailing was prepared, published, and mailed at taxpayer expense.

10367

## Medicare Prescription Drug Law: Confusing, Complicated, Broken

The Medicare prescription drug law shows the cost of the environment of corruption in Congress. As seniors sign up for drug plans under the Medicare prescription drug law, hundreds of thousands of Americans are having difficulty obtaining their prescriptions. Many are being turned away or overcharged. Twenty-six states, including California, had to intervene for their citizens, and some declared "public health emergencies."

This confusing, complex law was wrongly designed to prohibit the government from negotiating lower drug prices or from reimporting lower-cost drugs from other countries. Some of the law's congressional backers were even applying for jobs with the drug industry while Congress considered the bill. This is unacceptable.

Democrats are fighting to give beneficiaries immediate access to medicines, reimburse states for the costs this confusing system forced on them, and give Medicare the power to negotiate with drug companies for lower prices. We are working to give seniors a six-month extension to choose drug benefit plans. We are fighting to replace this bad law and give Americans the prescription drug benefit they need.

## Investing in San Francisco

As your Representative, I was proud to win federal funds this year for the San Francisco Bay Area. Our focus this year was on San Francisco's transportation needs. The following are some of the projects that were funded in fiscal year 2006:

### Transportation and Infrastructure

- \$81.9 million for the BART-San Francisco International Airport Extension
- \$58.8 million for the seismic retrofit of the Golden Gate Bridge
- \$29 million for construction of the Transbay Terminal to provide bus and rail services
- \$25 million for the San Francisco Muni Third Street Light Rail Project to extend the light rail line underground into San Francisco's Chinatown district
- \$9.25 million for replacement of the Doyle Drive approach to the Golden Gate Bridge
- \$7 million for Muni bus and bus facility upgrades

### Education

- \$4.5 million for the California Academy of Sciences to support technologies and educational programming for the Morrison Planetarium in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco
- \$2.5 million for the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary to develop a permanent exhibit at the California Academy of Sciences about California's four marine sanctuaries

### National Parks

- \$20 million for the Presidio Trust
- \$5.4 million for trails and bikeways for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and the Presidio
- \$2 million for the Presidio of San Francisco to restore the Main Parade Ground and for the development of a Presidio History Center