

On Monday, my friend and colleague [Rep. John Lewis](#) visited Trenton to speak with area children and share stories from his remarkable life.

As you may know, Rep. Lewis was a leading light of the Civil Rights Movement, as well as an architect of and keynote speaker at the 1963 “March on Washington.” As chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, he led a national wave of student activism and sit-ins – and despite more than 40 arrests, physical attacks, and serious injuries, he has remained a devoted advocate of the philosophy of nonviolence.

During his time in Trenton, Rep. Lewis spoke movingly about one of the most crucial civil rights issues of our time: the continued discrimination against gays and lesbians in our community who wish to marry. In his words:

“Dr. King used to be asked when it came to the question of interracial marriage, he said, ‘Races don’t fall in love and get married, individuals fall in love and get married.’ If two men want to fall in love and get married, two women, it’s their business. It’s not the role of the federal government or the state government to intervene. It is a question of human dignity, a question of human rights. I think the day will come in New Jersey and across our country when we look back on this period and say we’re just silly. We’re just foolish. Let’s do what is right, what is fair, and what is just.”

Keeping Up with Congressional Hearings

Since 1995, the Library of Congress’s [THOMAS](#) website has made federal legislative information freely available to the public, including the full text of bills and resolutions, records of Congressional votes, and more. Now, THOMAS is also providing free, live webcasts of House committee proceedings for public viewing.

To watch any House committee hearing live, visit <http://thomas.loc.gov/video/house-committee>
[e](#) . The Library also will soon begin archiving previous committee proceedings – creating the first one-stop shop for House committee video content.

Combating Outsourcing

This week I joined as a cosponsor of the United States Call Center Worker and Consumer Protection Act (H.R. 3596), introduced by Rep. Tim Bishop (NY-01) to discourage US companies from sending call center jobs overseas. In May of 2010, I helped pass into law the American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act to end the ability of companies to misuse the foreign tax credit to avoid taxes by moving jobs offshore.

These are only partial answers to the outsourcing and off-shoring problems. We should invest

more in business and educational initiatives supporting local research and development. And we must change trade policies that make it difficult for companies to export products but easy to export jobs.

Sincerely,

Rush Holt
Member of Congress