

**REP.
RUSH
HOLT**

Solving Problems for Constituents

www.holt.house.gov

You can take advantage of useful services that my office provides to all residents of New Jersey's 12th Congressional District. For example, I work with the Social Security Administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the IRS, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to help individuals and families when they are dealing with problems related to any of these agencies. I can also help people dealing with problems related to travel or immigration, and have helped constituents find lost applications, reconstruct missing files, and obtain needed information.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you think I can be helpful. I have attached a cut-out card for your convenience. Assistance is available on all types of problems, including:

- Housing issues
- Social Security and Medicare
- Small business assistance
- IRS problems and questions
- Immigration services
- Consumer assistance
- Flag requests
- Mail delivery
- And more...



Rush Holt regularly meets with constituents to hear their views and assist with problems they're having with the government.

Representative Rush Holt

*As your Congressman, I am here to help.
Contact me any time.*

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**To learn more or to send me an e-mail,
go to: www.holt.house.gov**

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M.C.
PRSRT-STD

REPRESENTATIVE RUSH HOLT

Report to Mercer County

JULY 2004

Dear Friend:

From Hopewell to West Windsor, and from Trenton to Princeton, residents of Mercer County are working hard, raising families, and contributing to their communities. Like many other areas of New Jersey, I find that Mercer County residents care about issues like education job creation, education, and health care. I want you to know that I am working hard to give voice to your concerns.

More globally, Mercer County is also contributing its sons and daughters to active, Reserve, and National Guard units that are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. This is a difficult time for them and their families, and Congress must give them the logistical, financial, and strategic support they need so their service is successful, safe, and brief.

I have put together these articles to provide you with information about some of the work I am doing in the U.S. House of Representatives and locally to represent the interests of Mercer County. I hope you will find this information useful.

It is my privilege and pleasure to serve as your representative in the U.S. House of Representatives. In order to be able to represent you, I look forward to hearing from you about the issues that affect you and your family.

Sincerely,

Rush Holt
Member of Congress

P.S. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the average commute in Mercer County is more than 25 minutes. Enclosed you will find information on what I am doing to fund projects that reduce congestion and improve our local roads. See *Working for Mercer County*.

New Jersey Office:

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Please visit my Web site at www.holt.house.gov to learn more about what I am working on, and to sign-up for my occasional e-mail newsletter, the [eGenda](#).

Mercer County has unique needs and concerns. In order to represent it well, I travel across the county to visit with residents, businesses, schools, and community groups to hear about local challenges and develop effective, workable solutions. I am proud that I have been able to deliver for Mercer County by securing federal funding to help address a range of local needs, such as:

- Modernization of the Trenton train station (\$750,000);
- Road improvements to reduce street flooding in Hopewell and Lawrence (\$600,000);
- Enhancement of the forensic laboratory at the College of New Jersey, which partners with the New Jersey State Police Crime Lab (\$225,000);
- Security, circulation, and technology upgrades at the Princeton Public Library (\$100,000);
- Construction of the new Ujima community center in Ewing (\$75,000);
- Purchase of equipment necessary for an emergency public notification system in West Windsor (\$45,000); and



Rush presents a \$100,000 check representing the federal appropriation he secured for computer upgrades at the Princeton Public Library.

- Construction of a bike path running along Route 29 through Trenton, Ewing, Hopewell, West Amwell, and Lambertville (\$1,000,000).

If there is a local issue or problem you think I should know about, please do not hesitate to contact me at (609) 750-9365 or 1-87-RUSH-HOLT. ▶

Funding the Fight Against Cancer

According to the American Cancer Society, 43,830 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in New Jersey this year alone. Scientists and doctors across the country are working to find cures, but Congress needs to support their research more strongly. I am working to ensure that Congress:

- Increases funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Science Foundation (NSF), which are conducting or funding the most groundbreaking health research in the world.

- Passes legislation (H.R. 1746) authorizing the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to expand its study of links between the environment and diseases such as breast cancer.
- Reforms Medicare in a way that truly creates a guaranteed, universal, and meaningful prescription drug benefit for all seniors (H.R. 1199). ▶

Last year, I began a regional economic development effort called *Einstein's Alley*. This effort is dedicated to creating jobs, attracting businesses to Central New Jersey, promoting research-based, innovative companies, and enhancing the livability of communities.

Small businesses, which are such a critical part of our local economy, need sensible policies that encourage investment and make employee healthcare more affordable. Some steps Congress should take immediately are:

- **Fully fund loans for small businesses.** I recently voted to maintain full funding for the U.S. Small Business Administration's 7(a) Loan Program, which provides more than \$79 million in long-term loan guarantees for small businesses. New Jersey businesses received more than two thousand 7(a) loans last year, which in turn leveraged \$451 million in new investment. This program was slated for reduction by the Administration in Washington. It remains to be seen whether these funds will survive final negotiations with the Senate.
- **Make the research and development tax credit permanent, and increase the tax deduction**

available for small business investment. These tax changes will help innovative companies make long-term investments in R&D, which lead to job creation and new products.

- **Pass the Small Business Health Insurance Promotion Act (H.R. 4356).** This bill would make small businesses or self-employed individuals eligible to receive a 50% tax credit to defray the cost of health insurance, and would create multi-insurer pools to provide comprehensive and affordable health insurance choices to small employers and the self-employed. ▶



Rush listens to local business and community leaders during a meeting of "Einstein's Alley," an initiative to promote innovation and create jobs in Central New Jersey.

Making College More Affordable

Getting a college education has never been more important – or more expensive. According to the U.S. Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, tuition and fees for a four-year college degree have risen 115% over inflation since 1980, while median household income has risen only 20%. In other words, the cost of a college education has risen at a rate far faster than families' ability to pay.

I have introduced the "Higher Education Affordability and Fairness Act," which would permit all families to

deduct up to \$10,000 in tuition, room & board, and other expenses for each student, every year they are in school. This would expand eligibility by removing income restrictions, and increase the current deduction by \$8000 per year. If parents have more than one child in college simultaneously, the bill allows deductions up to \$15,000 per year. I've also sponsored legislation to expand student aid and Pell Grant eligibility, and support providing more scholarships to students who pursue careers in high-priority fields like teaching and nursing. ▶