

NEW JERSEY ADVOCACY NETWORK TO END HOMELESSNESS

PRESENTS THE

2008 CONGRESSIONAL REPORT CARD



**OUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES GRADED ON THEIR
COMMITMENT TO ENDING HOMELESSNESS**

FIND OUT THEIR POSITIONS ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

SECTION 8 REFORM

CHABOT AMENDMENT

CDBG LETTER

MCKINNEY-VENTO FUNDING

NATIONAL HOUSING TRUST FUND (HR 2895 AND S 2523)

HOMES FOR HEROES ACT (H.R. 3329 AND S. 1084)

**EXTRA CREDIT WAS GIVEN FOR THOSE WHO WENT BEYOND VOTING
AND CHAMPIONED OUR ISSUES**

PUBLISHED OCTOBER 6, 2008

REVISED OCTOBER 29, 2008

**NJ Advocacy Network to End Homelessness
2008 Congressional Report Card**

**2008 Congressional Report Card
Revised Edition**

After publishing the 2008 Congressional Report Card on October 6, 2008, it was brought to the attention of the New Jersey Advocacy Network to End Homelessness that in our effort to produce the report we had overlooked two items that had an impact on the scoring.

First, the vote on Homes for Heroes (H.R. 3329) in the House of Representatives was not a voice vote as indicated in the original Report Card but in fact was a roll call vote. The Advocacy Network was pleased that all thirteen members of the House of Representatives voted in favor of this important legislation that will address the severe problem of veteran's homelessness. The Report Card has been edited to reflect this positive action on behalf of the entire New Jersey Congressional Delegation.

Second, the McKinney Funding Letter, which requested that appropriators increase funding from \$1.636 (proposed by the President) to \$2 billion in fiscal year 2009, included one member of the New Jersey Congressional Delegation that we inadvertently did not credit with signing this important letter. The Report Card has been edited to reflect this positive action on behalf of Congressman Donald Payne.

The New Jersey Advocacy Network to End Homelessness regrets the omission of this information in the initial Report Card. This revised edition includes these changes and accurately reflects the positive and active support of the majority of the members of the New Jersey Congressional Delegation for ending homelessness in the Garden State.

The New Jersey Advocacy Network to End Homelessness looks forward to working with our members of Congress to insure that together we can achieve our common goal that no individual or family will be homeless anywhere in New Jersey.

New Jersey Advocacy Network to End Homelessness, October 29, 2008

**NJ Advocacy Network to End Homelessness
2008 Congressional Report Card**

The New Jersey Advocacy Network to End Homelessness is pleased to present this First Annual Congressional Report Card. This Report Card will allow all of us to know how our two Senators and thirteen members of the House of Representatives voted on key issues related to ending homelessness in New Jersey. The ratings are based on six key issues which include both votes and sign on letters on key issues. Because we believe that it takes more than voting for these issues, we gave extra credit to legislators who went beyond voting and championed our issues.

What were the issues that were used for the Report Card?

SEVRA: The Section Eight Voucher Reform Act (SEVRA) is a proposal to reform and vastly improve our Section 8 program. In the House, H.R. 1851 passed the House in July 2007 and a **Y** marks those Members who voted for the bill. In the Senate, SEVRA legislation was introduced by Senator Dodd (S. 2684), but is unlikely to be considered before Congress adjourns. For the Senators, a **Y** marks co-sponsorship of the bill.

New Section 8 Vouchers (Chabot Amendment): The SEVRA legislation includes an authorization of 100,000 new Section 8 vouchers. During House consideration of H.R. 1851, Representative Chabot (R-OH) offered an amendment to strike the new vouchers from the bill. A **Y** marks those members who correctly opposed the Chabot amendment.

CDBG Funding Letter: The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is one of our nation's largest and most important tools for community development. Distributed by formula to states and localities, CDBG grants provide communities with local control in deciding how to spend funds to meet housing and development needs for its low-income residents. The President's 2009 budget proposed a deep cut to CDBG, and a letter in the House and Senate called on Appropriators to reject this cut and instead increase funding to \$4.1 billion. A **Y** indicates the Member signed the letter to appropriators requesting increased CDBG funding.

McKinney Funding Letter: The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance program is our country's largest and most important federal program to combat homelessness. Although the program has received the support of the Administration through proposed funding increases, the President's proposed increase of only \$50 million over the Fiscal Year 2008 amount would not allow communities to build as much new permanent housing as it had the previous year. Letters circulated by Senators Reed (D-RI) and Martinez (R-FL) in the Senate and by Reps. Davis (R-KY) and Moore (D-WI) in the House, requested that appropriators increase funding from \$1.636 (proposed by the President) to \$2 billion in fiscal year 2009. A **Y** indicates the member signed the letter to appropriators.

H.R. 2895: The National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act proposes to create a permanent funding mechanism within the Department of the Treasury to produce, preserve, and rehabilitate rental housing for the lowest-income Americans. A similar proposal was included in

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H.R. 3221, which was enacted as part of a massive housing bill in July 2008. A **Y** indicates the Member voted for H.R. 2895 when it passed the House in October 2007.

S. 2523: The National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act is the Senate's version of the above-referenced bill and was introduced by Senator Kerry (D-MA). Unlike the House, S. 2523 did not receive separate consideration before being included in H.R. 3221. A **Y** indicates the Member was a cosponsor of the bill.

The **Homes for Heroes Act** was introduced in both the House of Representatives (H.R. 3329) and Senate (S. 1084), but was only voted on and passed by the House. This legislation would address the severe problem of veteran's homelessness and housing crises by authorizing new housing vouchers for homeless veterans and their families create the position of Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs at HUD, and a new \$200 million housing production program to benefit low-income veterans. A **Y** indicates the Member cosponsored the Homes for Heroes Act in the Senate and voted in favor of the bill in the House.

Extra Credit: Congressmen and Senators often engage in activities that are helpful to a cause without it fitting neatly into something that advocacy organizations can score. The Advocacy Network emailed all housing staffers in the delegation asking them to feel free to contribute ideas of activities the Member engaged in that were helpful in meeting the housing needs of homeless persons and families, and this section reflects some of the answers of those who chose to respond.

Grading Parameters

Based on the information collected for this year's report card including any extra credit, the New Jersey Advocacy Network to End Homelessness established a rating system to grade each member of the congressional delegation. The members, who supported a majority of the issues described below in the description of each member, were rated as **Very Supportive**. This would equate in report card language to a grade of A/B.

The members, who supported most of the issues described below in the description of each member, were rated as **Supportive**. This would equate in report card language to a grade of B-.

The members, who supported a minority of the issues described below in the description of each member, were rated as **Not Supportive**. This would equate in report card language to a grade of F.

What grade did our Senators and Representatives earn in 2008?

The New Jersey Advocacy Network to End Homelessness First Annual Congressional Report Card has resulted in a scoring range from top of the class to the bottom. The scores ranged from seven Very Supportive, seven Supportive and one Not Supportive. Overall, it is clear that our Senators and Representatives can and must do better. However, part of the responsibility lies with the citizens of New Jersey for not holding our members accountable.

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Name	SEVRA – Section 8 Reform	Chabot Amendment – additional Section 8 vouchers	CDBG Funding	McKinney Funding	Housing Trust Fund (S. 2523 and H.R. 2895)	Homes for Heroes (S. 1084 and H.R. 3329)
Senator Frank Lautenberg	N	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y
Senator Robert Menendez	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rep Robert Andrews (D-1st)	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Rep Frank LoBiondo (R-2nd)	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Rep Jim Saxton (R-3rd)	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Rep Chris Smith (R-4th)	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Rep Scott Garrett (R-5th)	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Rep Frank Pallone (D-6th)	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Rep Michael Ferguson (R-7th)	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Rep Bill Pascrell (D-8th)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rep Steve Rothman (D-9th)	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Rep Donald Payne (D-10th)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rep Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-11th)	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Rep Rush Holt (D-12th)	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Rep Albio Sires (D-13th)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

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2008 Congressional Report Card**

The following members of Congress were rated: Very Supportive

Senator Frank Lautenberg

Frank Lautenberg was elected to the Senate in 1982. He was re-elected in 1988 and 1994, and returned to win a fourth term in 2002. He serves on several committees including Appropriations and Budget. He is seeking reelection this year. He represents the entire state. Senator Lautenberg provided the following information for extra credit for this year's Report Card: Introduced and passed a resolution recognizing Homeless Youth Awareness Month.

The initial score was four out of five for a total of 80%.

The Extra Credit changed the score and insured his ranking as **Very Supportive**.

Senator Robert Menendez

Robert Menendez was elected to Congress in 1992, where he rose to become the third-highest ranking Democrat in the House of before taking office in the Senate in 2006. He serves on several committees including Budget and Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs. He is not up for reelection this year. He represents the entire state. Senator Menendez did not provide any information extra credit for this year's Report Card.

The initial score was five out of five for a total of 100% and insured his ranking as **Very Supportive**.

Congressman Rob Andrews

Rob Andrews (D-1st) is completing his tenth two year term. He is seeking reelection this year. He serves on the House Budget Committee as well as on the House Education and Labor Committee. He represents the residents of the First District of New Jersey, which is comprised of portions of Burlington, Camden and Gloucester Counties. Congressman Andrews did not provide any information for extra credit for this year's Report Card.

Thus, the initial and final score was five out of six for a total of 83% and insured his ranking as **Very Supportive**.

Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr.

Frank Pallone (D-6th) is completing his tenth full term in the U.S. House of Representatives. He is seeking reelection this year. He serves on the Energy and Commerce Committee. The Sixth District covers most of Middlesex County, and portions of Monmouth County, the township of Plainfield in Union County and Franklin in Somerset County.

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Congressman Pallone did not provide any information for extra credit for this year's Report Card.

Thus, the initial and final score was five out of six for a total of 83%. This resulted in his ranking as **Very Supportive**.

Congressman Bill Pascrell

Bill Pascrell (D-8th) is completing his sixth term in Congress. He is seeking reelection this year. He serves on several committees including the Ways and Means Committee. The Eighth District is comprised of is made up of 21 cities and towns in southern Passaic and northern Essex Counties.

Congressman Pascrell provided the following information for extra credit for this year's Report Card: Signed letters to increase funding for Public Housing Operating and Capital Fund. The initial score was six out of six for a total of 100%. The Extra Credit changed the score and insured his ranking as **Very Supportive**.

Congressman Donald Payne

Donald Payne (D-10th) is completing his tenth term in Congress. He is seeking reelection this year. He is a member of the Democratic Whip Organization and serves of several committees including the Education and Labor Committee. The Tenth District includes parts of Essex, Hudson and Union counties.

Congressman Payne did not provide any information for extra credit for this year's Report Card. Thus, the initial and final score was six out of six for a total of 100%. This resulted in his ranking as **Very Supportive**.

Congressman Albio Sires

Albio Sires (D-13th) is serving his first term in Congress. He is seeking reelection this year. He serves on the Foreign Affairs and Transportation and Infrastructure Committees. The Thirteenth District covers most of Hudson and portions of Essex, Middlesex and Union counties.

Congressman Sires provided the following information for extra credit for this year's Report Card: Led effort (House Dear Colleague letter to appropriators) to increase Public Housing Operating and Capital Fund. The initial score was six out of six for a total of 100%. The Extra Credit changed the score and insured his ranking as **Very Supportive**.

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The following members of Congress were rated: Supportive

Congressman Frank LoBiondo

Frank LoBiondo (R-2nd) was elected to Congress in 1994. He is seeking reelection this year. He serves on the Transportation and Infrastructure and Armed Services Committees. The Second District of New Jersey includes all of Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, and Salem counties and parts of Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties.

Congressman LoBiondo did not provide any information for extra credit for this year's Report Card. Thus, the initial and final score was four out of six for a total of 67%. This resulted in his ranking as **Supportive**.

Congressman Jim Saxton

Jim Saxton (R-3rd) is a 13-term member of the U.S. House of Representatives for New Jersey's Third Congressional District. He is not running for reelection. He serves on the Joint Economic and the Armed Services Committee. The Third District covers portions of Burlington, Ocean and Camden Counties.

Congressman Saxton did not provide any information for extra credit for this year's Report Card. Thus, the initial and final score was four out of six for a total of 67%. This resulted in his ranking as **Supportive**.

Congressman Chris Smith

Chris Smith (R-4th) has been a member of Congress since 1981. He is seeking reelection this year. He serves on the Foreign Affairs Committee. The Fourth District includes parts of Burlington, Mercer, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties.

Congressman Smith provided the following information for extra credit for this year's Report Card: Original sponsor of Housing Trust Fund and a strong advocate for homeless veterans. The initial score was three out of four out of six for a total of 67%. This resulted in his ranking as **Supportive**.

Congressman Michael Ferguson

Michael Ferguson (R-7th) was first elected to the Congress in 2000 and is currently serving his fourth and final term. He is not seeking reelection. He serves on the House Energy and Commerce Committee. The Seventh District includes portions of Hunterdon, Middlesex, and Somerset and Union Counties.

Congressman Ferguson did not provide any information for extra credit for this year's Report Card. Thus, the initial and final score was four out of six for a total of 67%. This resulted in his ranking as **Supportive**.

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Congressman Steve Rothman

Steve Rothman (D-9th) is serving his sixth term in Congress. He is seeking reelection this year. He serves on several committees including the Appropriations Committee. The Ninth District includes the southern portion of Bergen County, parts of northern Hudson County, and the Borough of Hawthorne in Passaic County.

Congressman Rothman did not provide any information for extra credit for this year's Report Card. Thus, the initial and final score was four out of six for a total of 67%. This resulted in his ranking as **Supportive**.

Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen

Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-11th) is completing his seventh term in Congress. He is seeking reelection this year. He serves on several committees including the Appropriations committee. The Eleventh District includes all of Morris and portions of Sussex, Somerset, Passaic, and Essex Counties.

Congressman Frelinghuysen did not provide any information for extra credit for this year's Report Card. Thus, the initial and final score was four out of six for a total of 67%. This resulted in his ranking as **Supportive**.

Congressman Rush Holt

Rush Holt (D-12th) is completing his fifth term in Congress. He is seeking reelection this year. He serves on several committees including Education and Labor. The Twelfth District includes portions of Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Somerset Counties.

Congressman Holt did not provide any information for extra credit for this year's Report Card. Thus, the initial and final score was four out of six for a total of 67%. This resulted in his ranking as **Supportive**.

The following members of Congress were rated: Not Supportive

Congressman Scott Garrett

Scott Garrett (R-5th) is completing his third term in Congress. He is seeking reelection this year. He serves on the House Financial Services and Budget Committees. The Fifth District includes all of Warren and portions of, Sussex, Passaic and Bergen Counties.

Congressman Garrett did not provide any information for extra credit for this year's Report Card. Thus, the initial and final score was one out of six for a total of 17%. This resulted in his ranking as **Not Supportive**.

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2008 Honor Roll	
Members who were ranked as Very Supportive (A/B)	
Name	Grade
Sen. Frank Lautenberg	Very Supportive
Sen. Robert Menendez	Very Supportive
Rep. Rob Andrews	Very Supportive
Rep. Frank Pallone	Very Supportive
Rep. Bill Pascrell	Very Supportive
Rep. Donald Payne	Very Supportive
Rep. Albio Sires	Very Supportive
Members who were ranked as Supportive (B-)	
Name	Grade
Rep. Michael Ferguson	Supportive
Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen	Supportive
Rep. Frank LoBiondo	Supportive
Rep. Rush Holt	Supportive
Rep. Steve Rothman	Supportive
Rep. Jim Saxton	Supportive
Rep. Chris Smith	Supportive
Members who were ranked as Not Supportive (F)	
Name	Grade
Rep. Scott Garrett	Not Supportive

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About Us

The New Jersey Advocacy Network to End Homelessness' mission is to advocate on a federal level for adequate funding for permanent affordable and supportive housing for homeless individuals and families. This is achieved with a variety of programs and initiatives. These include:

Congressional Reception

The New Jersey Advocacy Network to End Homelessness (NJANEH) is a statewide organization that coordinated the First Annual Congressional Reception on July 11, 2007. New Jersey was well represented by more than one hundred (100) New Jersey constituents including the formerly homeless, passionate advocates and housing providers from across the state. People traveled by train, bus and car to get there to be part of this unique opportunity to meet with our legislators to let them hear firsthand issues of importance to our communities.

The New Jersey Advocacy Network to End Homelessness held the Second Annual Congressional Reception on July 30, 2008. This year's reception was attended by more than 200 and had an even larger impact on federal policy issues that affect homeless individuals and families. Pictured above is Congressman Sires, the only member of Congress with both a perfect score and extra credit, posing with constituents at the Congressional Reception.



Voter Education

This includes not only this Congressional Report Card but voter registration drives with homeless individuals and families in all parts of NJ. Voter drives are being held in almost every county in NJ and many groups have committed to making this an ongoing part of their intake process.

Credits

The Advocacy Network to End Homelessness extends a special thank you to Jordan Press of the Corporation for Supportive Housing.

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Members of the Steering Committee of the Advocacy Network

Joyce Campbell

[Catholic Charities of New Jersey](#)

Alison Recca-Ryan

[Corporation for Supportive Housing](#)

Rev. Bruce H. Davidson

[Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry](#)

Peg Bucci

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Richard W. Brown

[Monarch Housing Associates](#)

[The New Jersey Anti-Poverty Network](#)

Andrea Krich

The New Jersey Alliance for the Homeless

Marlene Lao-Collins

[The New Jersey Catholic Conference](#)

Ed Murphy

[The Supportive Housing Association of New Jersey](#)

Membership

The New Jersey Advocacy Network to End Homelessness encourages new members. A full list of our members is available at: <http://www.endinghomelessnessinnj.org/membership/>

For more information contact:

New Jersey Advocacy Network to End Homelessness

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This report and related information is online at:

<http://www.endinghomelessnessinnj.org/report-card/>