



The 7th Express

Proudly Moving Alabama's 7th Congressional District Forward
Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell

January 2014

Friend,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you in Congress! One of the most important responsibilities I have as your representative is to update you on the work my staff and I are doing. This newsletter will serve as a monthly update on the progress we have made both in Washington and in Alabama's 7th Congressional District.

For more information, please visit our website at <http://sewell.house.gov/>. If I or a member of my staff can be of any assistance to you and your family this February, feel free to contact our offices and we will do what we can to assist you.

Sincerely,

REMEMBERING NELSON MANDELA



On December 10, 2013, Congresswoman Sewell attended memorial services for former South African President Nelson Mandela in Johannesburg, South Africa. She was included in a U.S. delegation of 23 members of congress. As one of the millions throughout the world inspired by his sacrifices and achievements, Congresswoman Sewell was honored to share with South Africa and her congressional colleagues in commemorating the life and legacy of one of history's most inspirational and courageous freedom fighters. Read Congresswoman Sewell's statement on the passing of Nelson Mandela [here](#) and the memorial service [here](#).

ENROLLING CONSTITUENTS IN THE HEALTHCARE EXCHANGE

On December 11th and 19th, we hosted Affordable Care Act (ACA) workshops in Selma and Grove Hill. In October and November, we hosted workshops in Birmingham, Demopolis and Montgomery. An estimated 500 constituents attended our 5 healthcare workshops. Our staff was joined by Alabama navigators and healthcare experts from Alabama Arise to assist constituents with enrollment.

PROJECT R.E.A.D.Y. WORKSHOP

On December 6th, our office hosted our 5th Project R.E.A.D.Y. workshop at Trenholm State Technical College. Attendees were offered job readiness training and assistance. This workshop was the fifth Project R.E.A.D.Y. workshop we hosted in 2013. Our other workshops were hosted at Lawson State, the University of West Alabama, Wallace State Selma, and Shelton State.

VOTING RIGHTS AMENDMENT ACT OF 2014

Earlier in January, a bi-partisan effort to create a legislative solution to reinstate the pre-clearance provision of the Voting Rights Act came to fruition with a coverage formula that does not include the State of Alabama. Federal oversight has proven to be highly effective in giving Alabama voters the security they deserve throughout every stage of the electoral process. I, therefore, cannot support this legislation in its current form. Although progress has been made, the need for federal oversight still exists in Alabama. No right is more fundamental to our democracy than the right to vote and this bill, in its current form, falls short in providing adequate protections for the people of Alabama. I look forward to working with my colleagues to strengthen the VRA Amendment Bill so that it ensures all vulnerable communities, like those in Alabama, are included under the preclearance provision. Read our press statement about the Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2014 [here](#).

OMNIBUS FUNDING BILL

On January 15, Congress took a step in the right direction by passing the bipartisan funding bill in 2014. We were pleased with this legislation because it funds the federal government in a responsible manner and ends the drastic cuts imposed by sequestration. The legislation issues a reprieve for those facing flood insurance premium increases, addresses sexual assault in the Department of Defense, repeals last year's cuts to veteran's benefits, restores full funding for Head Start and boosts funding for Early Head Start. The omnibus agreement is a welcomed departure from the harmful sequestration cuts that have undermined our National Security, harmed American families and weakened our fragile economic recovery. Read our press statement about the Omnibus Funding bill [here](#).

2014 FARM BILL

On January 29, Congress came to a bipartisan, bicameral agreement on a five-year farm bill after two years of negotiations to pass a farm bill that meets the needs of both our farmers and those who rely upon nutrition assistance programs. We supported the bill because, while not perfect, it does represent a compromise that broadens access to irrigation, promotes our catfish industry and strengthens rural infrastructure. Read our press statement about the 2014 Farm Bill [here](#).

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS



Congresswoman Sewell invited Selma's Mayor George Evans to be her guest at the President's State of the Union Address. As Selma prepares to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Bloody Sunday, the Selma to Montgomery March, and the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, our office found it fitting to invite Mayor Evans to the event. Read Congresswoman Sewell's statement about her State of the Union guest [here](#).

In his address, the President provided a concrete plan to grow the economy, strengthen the middle class, and enhance opportunities for all Americans. We share President Obama's belief that we must invest in America's future by providing a livable wage, promoting education and investing in skills training and job readiness. Read our response to the President's State of the Union [here](#).

MLK DAY



Rep. Sewell was honored to speak at the MLK Unity Breakfast hosted by the Links, Inc.-Selma Chapter on Martin Luther King Day.

PROJECT R.E.A.D.Y



Rep. Sewell speaks to participants at our 5th Project R.E.A.D.Y. Workshop on December 6th at Trenholm State Technical College.

ACA WORKSHOP



Rep. Sewell speaks to attendees at our healthcare workshop in Grove Hill.

CONNECT WITH US



Please be sure to "like" us on [Facebook](#), and follow us on [YouTube](#) and [Twitter](#) to receive Congressional updates and keep abreast of office events!

It is an honor to serve the 7th District in Congress.
I'll be back in touch again soon!

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Terri".

Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress