

June 2016

CONGRESSWOMAN TERRI SEWELL

REPRESENTING ALABAMA'S 7TH DISTRICT

Friends,

It is an honor to serve you in Congress! One of the most important responsibilities I have as your Representative is to update you on the work we are doing on your behalf. This newsletter serves as an update on the progress we have made both in Washington and in Alabama's 7th Congressional District during the month of June.

For more information on recent developments in our office, please visit our website at <http://sewell.house.gov/>.

Sincerely,



“Sit-In For Justice”



Look at @repjohnlewis after 24 hours on the House floor. Not deterred and not defeated!! So proud to sit with hero!



My colleagues and I joined Representative John Lewis in a “sit-in” on the floor of the House of Representatives to express our disapproval of the inaction of Congress in addressing gun violence after the senseless loss of lives in the tragic Orlando nightclub shooting.

Congress has repeatedly failed to consider common sense gun safety measures that would protect our communities while preserving the rights of responsible gun owners. While we are staunch supporters of the Second Amendment, we believe that strengthening background checks, eliminating gun show loopholes, and preventing potential terrorists from acquiring assault weapons will not limit the rights of lawful gun owners to protect and defend themselves.



More join us! @repjohnlewis @SenWarren #NoBillNoBreak #NoFlyNoBuy



The rising tide of gun violence continues to claim far too many lives. It's time for Congress to act. We cannot continue to mourn these tragedies without doing all we can to prevent them. Let's stop the violence!

Petition to Force Vote on Bill Restoring the Voting Rights Act

I recently signed a discharge petition to bring to the House floor and force an immediate vote on the Voting Right Advancement Act of 2015, my bipartisan bill I introduced last year. June 25 marked the third anniversary of the *Shelby v. Holder* decision by the Supreme Court that struck down a key component of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that identified and attacked discrimination before it occurred.

We are proud to join the Democratic Caucus' effort to force an immediate vote to restore and strengthen the Voting Rights Act. America represents the greatest democracy in the world. How can we claim that title when the path to the ballot box continues to be obstructed by restrictive laws that make voting harder and not easier for eligible voters? The answer is this—we cannot. We must renew our commitment to protecting the right to vote for all Americans.



Supporting CFPB Regulations of Payday Loan Industry



We are proud to support proposed CFPB regulations requiring payday loan lenders to offer affordable loan payments based on income and personal expense. These regulations would require lower costs and reasonable durations of time to repay loans. The proposed rules also limit the ability of lenders to access borrowers' checking accounts through ACH.

These types of fast cash loans specifically target financially vulnerable communities where residents have limited access to traditional bank loans or credit.

We are confident the proposed rules will empower consumers to make better financial decisions for themselves. We strongly support the adoption of these proposed regulations and will continue to fight for greater consumer protections.

Constituent Letter

A Lowndes County Veteran contacted our Montgomery Office April 2013 regarding the status of his Disability Compensation claims. Our office worked with the VA Regional Office and the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) in Washington, DC. His claims were remanded from the BVA to the Regional office on multiple occasions. The BVA notified our office that our Veteran would be entitled to more than \$50,000.00 in retroactive benefits.

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!



Standing For Alabama Catfish Farmers



This month, we urged our colleagues in the House to block a resolution passed by the Senate that overturns the USDA's Catfish inspection rule mandated by the 2008 and 2014 Farm Bills. When this inspection rule was passed, the catfish inspection program was moved from the FDA to the USDA, ensuring that both foreign and domestic catfish sold in this country met the same high standards as other proteins.

This rule was a positive move by Congress to ensure that catfish are inspected for the health and safety of American families. The USDA's inspection program accomplished this goal and is far more effective than the FDA alone. The FDA inspected less than .2% of imported catfish-like species.

There is substantial evidence suggesting that imported catfish represents a significant food safety threat to the American public. The Senate, by passing this new resolution, is attempting to gut this provision which compromises the health and safety of American families.

Nothing is more important than providing safe food for Americans and their families. That is why we urged our fellow Members of Congress not to consider anything that jeopardizes this principle! We will do everything we can to block this resolution and protect the dinner tables of all American families.

Bill Passes the House naming the "Amelia Boynton Robinson Post Office Building" in Selma

I was honored to sponsor a bill to designate a U.S. Postal Service facility in Selma as the "Amelia Boynton Robinson Post Office Building." We are pleased to announce it passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in the House and has now been sent to the Senate for consideration.

Both Sen. Sessions and Sen. Shelby are supportive of this legislation and we are hopeful it will soon pass through the Senate to be presented to President Obama for signing.

Mrs. Boynton Robinson, the matriarch of the Voting Rights Movement, made a significant impact as a chief participant in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, and the final Selma to Montgomery March. She personified the essence of an American hero through her courageous and passionate fight for the fundamental right to vote for every citizen in this nation.

Amelia Boynton Robinson represents the heart, spirit, and essence of Selma and the 7th District's critical role in the Civil and Voting Rights Movements.

We are proud to sponsor this legislation to pay tribute to one of Selma's own.

