

Congressman

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# Tom Smith

Tenth Congressional district of Missouri



*A place to learn about my positions and tell me your thoughts.*

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## ISSUE SPOTLIGHT

[Tom Smith's Position on Energy Independence and ANWR \(posted 5/23/06\)](#)

We need to lessen our dependence on foreign sources of energy. This will make America more secure. Conservation has an important role to play, but is not the complete solution. We also need to eliminate the political barriers that prevent us from making more use of domestic sources of energy.

One domestic source of energy is the oil and gas that lies under and near ANWR, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

As Congressman Tom Smith put it in a speech on the House floor: "The Congress should do what is best for the country. We do not have to choose between our independence and the environment. We can get oil from ANWR with a balanced, safe, and environmentally friendly approach. Unfortunately, on this issue the radical environmentalists will not listen to reason, and they have tried to inflame public opinion."

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Congresswoman

# Naomi Caison News

Monthly News, Opinions and Ideas from Texas' 15th District U.S. Representative

June 16, 2006



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## **PAST**

### **Action on Immigration reform**

An immigration bill is still weeks or even months away, but there has already been a great deal of progress. Passing a bill into law is the final step in a complex process. Right now, several competing bills are up for consideration, and Congress is facing up to the difficult decisions that balance national security against our traditionally open border—and our open society.

Some of the policy options would affect every American. For example, some claim that a national identity card which included fingerprint data would make the job of enforcement much easier. Are you personally willing to carry such a card? [Share your opinion](#)

As Congresswoman Caison put it: "I am impatient with the process. But I have come to realize that the discussions and the debates can help separate the good ideas from the bad, and the final result is better law. These bills can run to hundreds of pages, and they have immediate impact, good and bad, on the lives and livelihood of Americans. We act in haste at our peril."

▶ [Read more](#)

### **Hurricane Relief**

This week the House allocated \$20 billion for hurricane relief, to help Gulf Coast communities that are still recovering from last year's battering. The same spending bill also supports for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, including \$2 billion to combat roadside bombs.

Congresswoman Caison stated: "We are helping our fellow citizens recover from the devastating effects of Katrina. But equally important, we are exercising good stewardship over federal tax dollars. The untold story of this bill is what we did *not* spend: We rejected \$14 billion of unnecessary spending that had been added by the Senate." ▶ [Read more](#)

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Congressman



Steve Tyndell

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Weekly Newsletter, June 19, 2006

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*Each week, I bring to your attention an important issue—usually one that has been neglected by the media. Please send me your comments on this newsletter and suggestions for future topics: [Contact Congressman Tyndell](#)*

### The American Health Care Problem

**T**wo years of work resulted this week in a report on America's health care system, by a panel of 15 citizens and experts. The report describes a system of affordable health care for all Americans, and sets the target date of 2012. A follow-up report will detail the policy recommendations that lead to that goal.

Congress created the Citizen's Health Care Working Group as part of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003, which I had voted for. The panel arranged dozens of town hall meetings around the country, and listened to what Americans have to say about health care.

Surprisingly, the panel found a broad consensus among the 23,000 Americans who came to meetings or submitted comments. Among the experts, there has been a raging debate: Is health care more like car maintenance, or more like car accident insurance? Car maintenance is clearly the responsibility of the individual, while for accident insurance people join together to "share the risk". You always hope that you do not have an accident, but with insurance you know that if you do have an accident, you will be covered financially.

That is the debate among the experts. But based on the panel's results, there is no disagreement among the non-experts: We all think that health care is like insurance.

I don't agree with everything in the preliminary report of the Working Group, but I know that it is an important milestone on the road to fixing health care. The panel's report is an excellent example of the work that Congress is continually performing on behalf of the American people. However, progress toward solving national problems is not as interesting to the news media as the latest shouting match, like this week's conflict in Congress over an Iraq resolution. A total of two articles have appeared about the panel's report—and one was in a Turkish newspaper, *Haber Saglik*, which I'm sure few of you subscribe to. [Link to more information](#) ▶

You can learn more about this panel, and read the report yourself if you wish, at:  
<http://www.citizenshealthcare.gov/>

Or follow this link for more about the work that Congress is doing to address our nation's health care problems: [Tyndell On Health Care](#)

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