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Jason Smith Stops Federal Funds for Sanctuary Cities

SEPTEMBER 08TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Smith authors and passes bill to prevent Sanctuary Cities from using Missourians' tax dollars

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jason Smith authored and passed an amendment this evening by a vote of 225-195 that stops federal highway funds for sanctuary cities. Cities like San Francisco use federal tax dollars to improve their roads, highways and bridges while at the same time breaking U.S. law by protecting all illegal immigrants in their city from deportation. The legislation echoes an earlier executive order by President Trump to cut off federal grants to sanctuary cities by prohibiting all federal transportation, housing and development funds from going to sanctuary cities for the coming fiscal year.

“We are a nation of law and order, and cities that actively work against the law of the land should face consequences. I am proud to say that my home state of Missouri doesn’t have any sanctuary cities which is exactly why Missourians’ hard-earned federal tax dollars shouldn’t go to U.S. cities that cannot follow the law of the land,” **said Congressman Smith.** “The bottom line is, cities and counties that fail to work with us to make America safe cannot be trusted with federal funds.”

Over 300 cities and counties have policies to stonewall the federal government and prevent the Department of Homeland Security from effectively enforcing the United States’ immigration laws. Smith’s legislation would keep more than \$56.5 billion federal tax dollars from going to sanctuary cities.

“I completely agree with President Trump, sanctuary cities are a threat to the safety of Missourians and all Americans,” **said Congressman Smith.** “That is why I am fighting to keep federal funds away from cities like San Francisco that violate federal laws and use Missourians’ hard-earned federal tax dollars to harbor and shield criminals from the full reach of the law.”

This amendment builds on Smith’s *No Transportation Funds for Sanctuary Cities Act* which would prevent sanctuary cities from receiving any federal highway funds.

Smith has a strong record of voting for and passing legislation that secures America’s border and puts the safety of Missourians first.

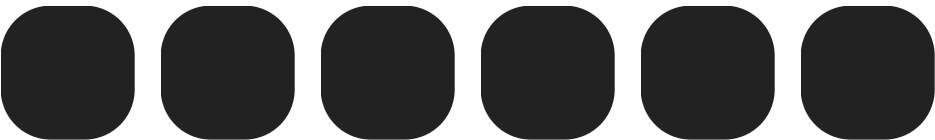
In June, with the support of President Trump, Smith acted to give U.S. Customs and Border Protection more resources to secure the border by making it easier for them to hire military veterans and law enforcement officers. In July, he continued his work to enhance U.S. security by advancing Kate’s Law which will keep Missouri and all Americans safe from the danger of crimes committed by illegal immigrants. At the same time, he voted for the No Sanctuary for Criminals Act, which increases penalties for Sanctuary Cities and disqualifies them from receiving some federal funds.

The text of Smith’s legislation can be found [here](#).

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Congressman Jason Smith's Capitol Report - Up Close: A Presidential Pay Raise

SEPTEMBER 05TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Congressman Smith Capitol Report
Up Close: A Presidential Pay Raise
September 1, 2017

Our tax system is rigged, designed to help only the most powerful people who can afford the most expensive tax lawyers to find their way through tricky tax loop holes. This week, I joined President Donald Trump in Springfield to talk about our complicated and unfair tax code, the work we must do to fix it, and how we are going to give hardworking Americans a pay raise in the process.

Since 2001, the tax code has changed 6,000 times. That's more than one time a day. Due to these constant changes, most Americans have to hire a tax expert to crack our tax code and figure out how much they owe the federal government, spending their own hard-earned money to find out how much more of their paycheck they are going to have to send to Uncle Sam. It doesn't need to be this complicated! Your tax return should fit on a single sheet of paper.

The U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means is the only committee in Congress that has the authority to fix our broken system. As the only member of Congress from Missouri on this committee, I have had the privilege of fighting for a fairer and flatter tax code, not only for our congressional district, but all of Missouri.

We have not seen true tax reform since Ronald Reagan was President, and it is high time for a better deal on taxes. The work I am doing with the Ways & Means Committee and the White House is going to jump-start America's economy and help Missourians win again. The bottom line is, the government should be taking the least amount of money from you as possible. We must make major changes to our tax code will lower tax rates and give folks in southeast and south central Missouri an instant pay raise so they can spend more of their hard-earned money on raising their families and investing in their futures.

Truly changing and fundamentally reforming the U.S. tax code is the best way to give American workers an increase in their take home pay. When America's economy is healthy, it grows at roughly 3.5%, but since the beginning of the Obama Administration, it has hardly topped 2%. Our tax plan is going to return our country to more than 3% growth. Over the next ten years, this growth will result in \$10 trillion dollars of new economic activity, 12 million new jobs and a \$7 trillion dollar pay raise for the American

worker.

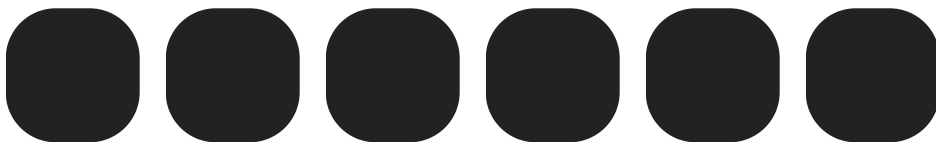
As it stands today, our outdated tax code actually incentivizes American businesses to move their headquarters and jobs where the tax rates are lower. We can't compete, and this is unacceptable. By lowering the tax rate for American employers creating jobs in our country, we are going to make American businesses more competitive, bringing more opportunity, higher wages and a better quality of life to people across the country.

When I was with the President in Springfield this week he told me he has his pen in hand, ready to sign historic tax cuts, and that he's depending on Congress to deliver. The liberal obstruction we saw on everything from confirming President Trump's cabinet to repealing and replacing Obamacare is unacceptable. The question for liberals in Congress should be simple: Do you believe American workers deserve a raise? I know I do. I am hopeful that the obstructionists and people who are more concerned with defeating our President than doing their job will finally come together to do what's right for the American families and workers to grow our economy.

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Congressman Jason Smith's Capitol Report - Education Our Way

AUGUST 26TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Congressman Jason Smith's Capitol Report - Education Our Way

Congressman Jason Smith Capitol Report
Education Our Way
August 25, 2017

Another school year has begun and the sights and sounds of Friday night lights are filling the air. The beginning of a new school year and the return of high school football also reminds me about the importance of local choice, local control and local leadership over the education of the children raised here in south central and southeast Missouri.

Parents and educators who live here, who raise their families here and who know what's best for our children should be making the decision about their education, not some bureaucrat in Washington. Our teachers are in these classrooms to teach, not to spend hours pushing paper to comply with federal testing standards which try to compare our children to ones raised in San Francisco. Teachers should be free to educate, not worrying about Washington regulations looming over them as they work to inspire their students.

I was at Jefferson R-7 High School last spring when the school superintendent gave me a MASSIVE stack of papers that the federal government was requiring him to fill out, wasting hours upon hours of his time complying with government rules instead of using his time to focus on the local school district. This kind of interference from Washington in our classrooms is unacceptable.

When I first joined Congress, we were able to pass legislation that would give local control back to our schools. Unfortunately, Senate Liberals and the Obama Administration wanted to keep their federal power over Missouri schools. They sent a watered-down version of the bill back to us, taking away the local control provisions I fought so hard for. I voted against this legislation because I know our schools run best

when they are managed on the local level, and this bill left too much decision-making power about your child's education in the hands of Washington bureaucrats.

During my time in office, I have visited schools in all thirty counties which make up the 8th Congressional district. I relish the opportunity to interact with teachers, students and parents to hear more about what issues they are facing in the classroom and how I can help them. Beyond the challenges of keeping up with unrealistic and burdensome federal requirements, teachers consistently tell me they are struggling to keep their classrooms stocked with supplies, with many taking money out of their own paycheck to buy materials needed to help their students learn. Because of this, I co-authored legislation that provided hardworking teachers with a tax cut on the supplies they buy on their own which will help our teachers save money while providing supplies for their students.

At almost all of my stops, I also heard about how much waste was being created by programs like Michelle Obama's federally mandated school lunch plan. In 2010, then First Lady Michelle Obama along with liberal leaders like Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid took their interference from the classroom to the lunch room and unveiled new government rules for how your kids should eat when they are at school, creating more expenses and unfunded Washington mandates for our local school districts – often resulting in schools having to scale back the amount of meals they could afford to serve.

As students get back to school and you head out to enjoy the local high school football game, Congress must get back to work and take action on tax cuts, infrastructure investments, lowering healthcare costs, and improving national security. As we work on these issues, I will continue my fight to keep Washington out of Missourians' homes, pocketbooks, family farms and children's classrooms, making sure you and your family can enjoy the freedom of locally controlled schools.

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Congressman Jason Smith's Capitol Report - Total Eclipse of the Heartland

AUGUST 21ST 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Congressman Jason Smith's Capitol Report - Total Eclipse of the Heartland

Congressman Smith Capitol Report Total Eclipse of the Heartland August 18, 2017

On Monday, August 21, 2017, Missourians and folks all across the United States will experience a once in a lifetime event, the 2017 Great American Solar Eclipse. The last time this happened in the continental U.S. was nearly 40 years ago. What's even more exciting is that a total solar eclipse has not been seen in our area since 1442!

For a couple of minutes around noon on Monday, you can expect total darkness. Birds will stop singing, crickets will start chirping, and your farm animals may think it's time to head back to the barn for the night. During this time, while the sun is directly behind the moon, we will be able to see stars and planets we can't normally see. We will also be able to see the "corona," or the outer edge, of the sun.

In the parts of Missouri that are along the "path of totality," they are expecting record breaking crowds. Hotels and motels have sold out, and I've even heard about folks renting space on their farms for tourists in RVs and people who want to set up camp to watch the eclipse.

According to the St. Louis Eclipse Task Force, the eclipse will cut across Missouri starting at St. Joseph in the West and cross over to Ste. Genevieve in the East. More than 3 million Missourians live in the path of totality. Areas of our district that will be in the path of totality include DeSoto, Farmington, Festus, Hillsboro, Perryville, Potosi, Ste. Genevieve and Sullivan.

The Great American Eclipse is a once in a lifetime event, but it’s also a great example of the growing agri-tourism and entertainment industry in our area. As I’ve taken the month of August to focus on farms, I have seen just how quickly this industry is growing, and I am excited that we have a truly cosmic event to spur this industry along. In fact, at one of my stops in Jefferson County, they were getting ready to host an eclipse viewing event on their farm handing out eclipse viewing glasses, Sun Chips and more eclipse-themed gear! This natural phenomenon is bringing visitors from all over the world to our little corner of the country, and while they are here, they’ll see for themselves what makes it great to live in the 8th.

We have an awesome opportunity to enjoy Missouri’s great outdoors and spend time with friends and family, but we have to do it safely. Remember, you cannot look directly at the sun without damaging your eyes, so you must wear a pair of certified solar eclipse glasses. If you can’t find these, you can watch online. For more information about local events near you, visit MissouriEclipse2017.com

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Senator Blunt Co-Sponsors Arla Harrell Act

AUGUST 17TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Senator Blunt Co-Sponsors Arla Harrell Act

Blunt-Backed Arla Harrell Act Signed Into Law

Washington, D.C. - U.S. Senator Roy Blunt (Mo.) released the following statement after President Trump signed the Arla Harrell Act, which Blunt cosponsored, into law.

“The VA has inexcusably denied benefits to Arla Harrell and countless other WWII veterans who suffered lifelong illness due to the unconscionable experiments they were forced to endure,” Blunt said. “These veterans put their lives on the line for our country, only to face a broken bureaucracy that refuses to acknowledge the wrong that was done to them and provide the care they need as a result. I’m pleased this measure is now law, and heroes like Arla will finally receive the acknowledgement, assistance, and care they deserve.”

According to an NPR report, mustard gas experiments were conducted on an estimated 60,000 World War II veterans by the Army and Navy at more than a dozen locations. Due to the decades of secrecy surrounding the experiments, the vast majority of these veterans have had their claims denied by the VA. The Arla Harrell Act requires the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense to revise their policies for processing claims for mustard gas exposure, and to reconsider all previously denied claims. The bill requires the VA to presume that a veteran experienced full-body exposure to mustard gas or lewisite unless proven otherwise.

In the final days of World War II, an 18-year-old Army private from Missouri named Arla Wayne Harrell was sent to Camp Crowder, where he said he was twice exposed to mustard gas.

He didn’t talk about it for years. When he finally did, he told his family that the Army warned him he’d be thrown in jail if he ever disclosed the experiments. Harrell, known as “Arlie,” has been rejected three times by the Department of Veterans Affairs for claims to help treat a lung disorder and skin cancer that his family believes are connected to that exposure.

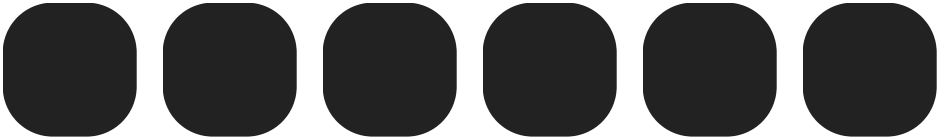
Harrell is in a nursing home in Macon, Missouri unable to walk or speak.

But 55 pages of military records in his family’s possession show that right after Arlie Harrell said he was twice tested with mustard gas, in late July 1945, he was hospitalized at Camp Crowder with a high fever and a sore throat. The Army diagnosed it as nasopharyngitis — an inflammation of mucous membranes between the nose and throat — along with tonsillitis and severe gum disease.

Harrell and his wife, Betty, raised three daughters and two sons in Kansas City, and later, in the town of Bevier, Missouri. Harrell was a truck driver and mechanic; his wife worked as a nurse.

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