

# FORTNEY PETER STARK

Seeking Position of: U.S. Representative, District 13

www.petestark.com

**1. *If elected, what are your top priorities during your term? What would you like to accomplish and how would you go about doing so? Please be specific.***

My top priority is to continue to support America's economic recovery and to create jobs. I supported the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and my congressional district received \$60.6 million as of as of May 30, 2009. These investments included t\$12 million for transportation and infrastructure; \$15.1 million for education; \$21.4 million for Social Security and \$8.1 million for Small Business Administration. I will continue to introduce and support legislation that includes fiscal discipline and accountability, to benefit working men and women, the disabled, the jobless, seniors and children, who are among the most vulnerable members of our society.

**2. *How have you in the past and how will you in the future use your position to expand the presence and influence of Asian Pacific Americans in public policy and politics?***

I will continue to support Asian Pacific American representation in all areas of government.

**3. *What have you done that demonstrates your commitment to and effectiveness in promoting Asian Pacific American interests in the following areas (and if you have not contributed in these areas, please discuss any area(s) in which you have made a contribution):***

***Education***

In the 111th Congress, I voted for HR 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which pumped \$11 billion to California schools and provided a lifeline in response to California's budget shortfall. The Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act, which I supported and was signed by the President on March 30th, directed \$68 million from banks to invest in Pell Grants and Community Colleges.

***Health Care***

As Chair of Health Subcommittee, I worked to develop health care reform legislation. I voted for the recently enacted legislation, and will work to improve some of the flawed components, in particular Medicare. We lost a provision in the House bill that ensured medicare beneficiaries in private plans would never pay higher cost-sharing for Medicare services than if they were enrolled in traditional Medicare. I was also disappointed in the lack of a public health insurance option and will work toward adding it in future.

I played a major role in

***Civil Rights***

I opposed the Patriot Act and I will continue to support the repeal of "don't ask don't tell" legislation. I voted in favor of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act which amended the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to ensure a woman's ability to challenge unequal pay. I will continue to request

that Congressional appropriations committees fully support family planning programs and programs focused on eliminating Violence Against Women. I will continue to support the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). I have introduced Every Child Deserves a Family Act. This legislation would prohibit adoption and foster care programs that receive any federal money from discriminating based on sexual orientation or marital status when they place a child with an adoptive or foster family. I support Comprehensive Immigration Reform, and the protection of immigrant workers.

### ***Business***

The house passed H.R. 3631, the Medicare Premium Fairness Act, a bill I wrote. This legislation protects senior citizens and people with disabilities from an unfair increase in the 2010 Medicare Part B premiums. I support the President's proposal creating a Consumer Financial Protection Agency that would be solely devoted to protecting consumers and would have authority over a variety of financial activities, including credit cards and mortgages. I also support reforms that give regulators the powers and tools to impose tough rules on firms that pose the biggest risk in our financial systems. The health reform bill will provide relief for small businesses struggling with health care costs. It will provide generous tax credits to employers that provide health coverage to their employees and will reduce costs by setting up insurance exchanges where small businesses can go to purchase affordable coverage for their workers.