

## A Pro-Labor Agenda is Pro-American

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Following is Congressman Steve Rothman's (D-NJ) statement in observance of Labor Day 2007:

"This Labor Day, I am happy to report that America is headed in a new, better direction. Between Labor Day 2006 and Labor Day 2007, Americans voted to put individuals in charge of Congress who take seriously the concerns of working Americans. As a result, in the last eight months, the House of Representatives has passed legislation to allow free choice for people to bargain for better wages, benefits, and working conditions; to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers in all 50 states; to allow shareholders to vote on excessive corporate executive pay; and to restore \$1.4 billion that President Bush cut from vital employment and training programs, including the dislocated worker program and Job Corps.

"Both the House and Senate have passed the largest college aid expansion since the GI Bill in 1944; a military pay raise; and an historic energy independence bill that will create millions of new American jobs in construction, efficient vehicle manufacturing, bio-fuels development, and renewable electric power.

"And Congress won enactment of the first federal minimum wage increase in 10 years; the first Pell Grant increase since 2003; and implementation of the 9/11 Commission recommendations to improve our homeland security and give first responders the tools they need to keep Americans safe.

"I am the first to admit that there's a lot of work yet to be done. But the job of restoring and protecting the American Dream is well under way. The President and his Republican allies in the Senate cannot stop all progress - especially when the vast majority of Americans demand change. After the last seven years of the Bush Administration, more and more people realize that a pro-labor agenda is pro-American. By Labor Day 2008, I expect there will be more progress to report."

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