



Al Franken

U.S. Senator for Minnesota

Record of Legislative Accomplishment

Since taking office, Senator Al Franken has developed an impressive record of legislative accomplishments that focus on holding our nation's biggest institutions accountable to the American people they serve and finding commonsense solutions that improve people's lives.

- Inspired by a disabled Iraq veteran, Sen. Franken worked with Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota to understand how service dogs could help Minnesota's wounded warriors. With a number of his Republican colleagues, Sen. Franken successfully passed the ***Service Dogs for Veterans Act (S. 1495)***, which has paired service dogs with wounded veterans all over the country.
- The *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* included a requirement, modeled after Sen. Franken's ***Fairness In Health Insurance Act (S. 1730)***, that requires insurance companies to spend at least 80 to 85 percent of premiums on actual health care – not administrative costs, marketing, or profits. This legislation, based on existing Minnesota law, has already resulted in rebates for 123,000 Minnesotans – and millions more across the country – averaging around \$150 per family.
- The *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* also includes an amendment, based on Sen. Franken and Sen. Richard Lugar's (R-Ind.) ***Diabetes Prevention Act of 2009 (S. 2734)***, that will reduce the number of new diabetes cases in the U.S., resulting in significant health care savings and better health for all Americans. This was one of the few bipartisan provisions passed as part of health reform.
- The ***Restore Integrity to Credit Ratings Amendment***, introduced by Sen. Franken and Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), passed the Senate with bipartisan support as an amendment to the Wall Street reform bill. The amendment ends the conflicts of interest inherent in Wall Street's current pay-to-play credit rating system by making sure a bank or financial institution can't shop around among credit rating agencies to get a product's initial rating. This amendment has garnered editorial praise nationwide for being one of the toughest industry reforms in the Wall Street reform bill.
- The bill to reform ***No Child Left Behind*** was approved by the Senate education committee with bipartisan support. As a member of the committee, Sen. Franken successfully incorporated four amendments that would give schools **more flexibility** in testing, improve schools by **strengthening principal leadership**, create a stable school environment for **foster kids**, and ensure that teachers **aren't forcibly transferred** from their schools to meet equal funding requirements.

To keep up to date with what Senator Franken is doing, sign up for his newsletter at www.franken.senate.gov



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Providing Excellent Constituent Services

In his first term in office, Sen. Franken has:

- Answered more than 508,700 constituent letters on more than 300 issues
- Had his office successfully help more than 10,000 Minnesotans who asked for assistance
- Opened five Minnesota offices (St. Paul, St. Peter, St. Cloud, Northwest Minnesota, and Duluth)

Examples of Casework Successes

Fighting to Save the Brown Family's GM Franchise

When the recent economic downturn forced General Motors to cut hundreds of dealerships from its network, the Brown family dealership in Faribault was on the list, despite a 40-year record of successfully serving the region. After receiving the bad news, the Brown family couldn't find anyone at GM willing to listen to their appeals and to hear about the health of the franchise, and its importance to the community. The dealership employs 75 people, whose jobs were at stake.

After hearing about the Browns' long record of success, and GM's unresponsiveness to their appeals, Sen. Franken and his staff worked for months to bring GM and the dealership together. Through a series of contacts, GM became persuaded that the dealership deserved to keep its franchise.

Mike Brown, the dealership's general manager, credits **Sen. Franken for being able to "break through the bureaucracy" and help the Browns retain their GM franchise** and continue to provide jobs and service to people in the community and throughout the region.

Securing Seven Service Medals for Gail "Bud" Freeman

After returning to Duluth after World War II, Gail "Bud" Freeman worked for 65 years in private business and then for the Duluth School District. Mr. Freeman, a 90-year-old WWII Veteran, served in a unit that saw more than 500 days of combat in Italy and North Africa. Despite being wounded in battle, Mr. Freeman returned to Duluth without receiving the military service medals he had earned. Mr. Freeman's family told Sen. Franken about his honorable service.

Sen. Franken worked with the military on his behalf to secure seven service medals that he had earned. He then had the honor of pinning those medals on Mr. Freeman in front of his family and friends.

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