

2014

Year in Review



Congressman

Raúl Grijalva

*Representing Arizona's 3rd
Congressional District*

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Welcome

Dear Friends,

For 12 years, I have been honored to represent our community in the United States House of Representatives. As the 113th Congress comes to a close and the 114th Congress prepares to be sworn in, it is my pleasure to share with you some of the highlights that made 2014 such a memorable year for me.

Our district, our state and our country face challenges that demand leadership, and in many cases, our community is on the front lines of issues impacting this nation as a whole: While people in every corner of our country debate our broken immigration system, Arizonans live with the consequences of that system each and every day; As Americans grapple with how to balance energy needs with vital environmental protections, the costs and benefits of this struggle are on full display in our home state; And as low-pay workers fight for the dignity of a livable wage, Arizonans don't need a TV to see the protests because they are happening on our very streets.



We have a stake in all of these fights and so many more, and I am as committed to finding solutions today as I was when my career in public service began more than four decades ago. I thank you for the privilege to serve, and welcome you to explore some highlights from my work in 2014.

Peace,

Raúl

###

Highlights from Throughout the Year

Annual Cesar Chavez March

Every March, the Annual Cesar Chavez march in Tucson commemorates the life and work of labor and civil rights leader Cesar Chavez. This year, a major film about Cesar Chavez was released nationally, and Congressman Grijalva attended and spoke at a special screening in Yuma, AZ.

On March 28th, Rep. Grijalva's office helped coordinate a special community screening and march in Tucson, which was attended by approximately 1,000 people.

John M. Roll U.S. Court House Dedication

On April 24th, Congressman Grijalva spoke at the dedication services of the John M. Roll U.S. Court House in Yuma, Arizona. Judge Roll was killed during the January 8, 2012 shooting in Tucson that injured then Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords.



Rep. Grijalva speaks at the dedication of the John M. Roll U.S. Court House in Yuma, AZ

The court house cost \$33.4 million and was built with funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. It holds two magistrate courtrooms, a judge's chambers, and U.S. Marshals Service. Senators John McCain and Jeff Flake were also in attendance, along with Representatives Paul Gosar, Ron Barber, and Gabrielle Giffords.

Border Economic Competitive Conference

On May 16th, 2014 Rep. Grijalva was the key note speaker at a Border Economic Competitiveness Conference in Rio Rico, AZ. The Congressman's office coordinated the conference with the Council of

States Governments West (CSGW). The event – *one of a series of border conferences held along the U.S.-Mexico Border* – drew more than 200 attendees interested in trade, economic development and border infrastructure.

Tucson Modern Street Car

On July 21st, more than a decade's-worth of hard work at the local, state and federal level culminated in the launch of Sunlink, the Tucson Modern Street Car. The 3.9 mile \$179 million project has already led to more than \$800 million in investment into downtown Tucson.



Rep. Grijalva at the launch of Sunlink, the Tucson Modern Street Car



Rep. Grijalva waves as the first Sunlink Modern Street Car rolls out of the station

Congressman Grijalva was instrumental in securing a \$63 million Department Of Transportation (DOT) Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant in 2010, which helped fund construction of the Sunlink Modern Street Car.

CARECEN Community Service Award

On September 25th, Rep. Grijalva was honored to receive the Community Service Award at the CARECEN 31st Annual Awards Dinner for his commitment to immigrant rights and for advocating sensible, smart and fair reform.

First Focus Campaign for Children's 2014 Champion for Children

On September 30th, Rep. Grijalva was honored as the *First Focus Campaign for Children's 2014 Champion for Children*. The award recognized his advocacy on behalf of children as legislator.

Mariposa Port of Entry

On October 15th, Congressman Grijalva attended the Mariposa Port of Entry expansion dedication in Nogales, Arizona. The expansion cost nearly \$250 million with funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. After an 8 year expansion project, the Mariposa Port of Entry is now open for business among the busiest ports in the country. The port will go from 4 car lanes to 12; from 4 cargo lanes to 8; from no formal designated pedestrian facilities to fully designated pedestrian facilities. It will also be the first port of entry on the entire US-Mexico border with fully dedicated bus lanes and inspection facilities.



Rep. Grijalva speaks at the dedication of the Mariposa Port of Entry expansion in Nogales, AZ

Annual Somerton Tamale Festival

On December 20th, Rep. Grijalva continued his annual tradition of joining the Somerton Tamale Festival coordinated by Los Diablitos. The non-profit group of Arizona State University alumni teams up with volunteers – *including staff from the Congressman's office* – to help raise funds for scholarships being awarded to college-bound low-income students. This year, approximately 15,000 people were in attendance.



Rep. Grijalva with Winners of the Somerton Tamale Festival

Elected Ranking Member of the House Natural Resources Committee

On November 19th, Rep. Grijalva was honored to be elected Ranking Member of the Natural Resources Committee in the 114th Congress:

“Our environmental protections will be challenged like never before under the Republican-controlled House and Senate, but under my leadership, Natural Resources Democrats will ensure the protections that took generations to build up will not be torn down.

“My drive and my passion as a legislator are for these issues and this committee. As Ranking Member, I will fight to ensure the American people are properly compensated for the minerals mined on federal land. I will continue my efforts to ensure oil companies don’t cut corners to place the pursuit of massive profits over the wellbeing of the American people. And while I will oppose Republican encroachments to environmental laws, I will work towards common ground wherever it can be found.”

*-Rep. Grijalva
November 19, 2014*



Congressional Progressive Caucus

Fighting for Fair Wages

- *In March*, Congressman Grijalva and the CPC sent a [letter](#) to the Department of Labor urging Secretary Thomas E. Perez to collect data on contractors that engage in wage theft.
- *This summer*, Congressman Grijalva and CPC members successfully attached wage theft amendments to four appropriations bills.
- In July, Congressman Grijalva and the CPC sent a [letter](#) to the President asking him to sign a Good Jobs Executive Order to reward contractors that treat their workers fairly.
- *On July 30th*, President Obama announced executive order seeking enhanced workplace conditions and rights for federal contract workers.

“This executive order ensures government agencies don’t reward companies that mistreat their workers. Taxpayer money should never support companies that do not support their own employees, and I’m glad to see the president act to ensure that no longer happens.”

-Rep Grijalva
July 30, 2014

Giving Voice to Unaccompanied Minors

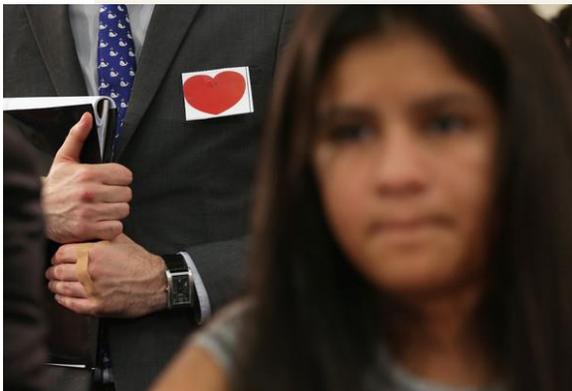
The Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC) held an Ad-Hoc Hearing to receive first hand testimony from unaccompanied minors currently in the United States and expert witnesses who stressed the importance of prioritizing the best interests of these children. The hearing can be seen [here](#). The Congressional Progressive Caucus previously sent a [proposal](#) to President Obama urging him to follow a kids first policy on the southern border.



A panel of unaccompanied minor immigrants testifies to members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus

“Today, we heard first-hand the great lengths to which the 57,000 unaccompanied minors who have sought refuge in our country have gone to reach safety. Their stories are a testimonial to the importance of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008. These Children have come to the United States to flee the violence and danger in their home countries, and it is imperative that we put the safety of these kids first and allow their right to due process to be protected.”

-Rep. Grijalva
July 21, 2014



The event coincided with a “Have a Heart” campaign in the hearing room and on social media. Members wore heart shaped pins and emphasized the need to address the human impact of the border crisis.

Policy and Legislative Highlights

Native Affairs: Passage of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Trust Land Act

On July 25th, President Obama signed into law Rep. Grijalva's Pascua Yaqui Tribe Trust Land Act (H.R. 507), which enables the Pascua Yaqui Tribe in Arizona to consolidate its landholdings and remove two isolated, undeveloped parcels of land from the Bureau of Land Management responsibility. The two 10-acre parcels are islands of "trapped" Federal land surrounded by Pascua Yaqui land on all sides. The tribe has developed a golf course in this area, and conveying these two parcels to the tribe will make managing the land easier for the tribe and the Federal Government.

Housing: Addressing Affordable Housing Shortages

- On July 21st, Rep. Grijalva was joined by 77 of his Democratic colleagues in Congress in sending a [letter](#) to Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) Mel Watt urging him to reverse a determination made in November 2008 to suspend contributions to the Housing Trust Fund and the Capital Magnet Fund.
- Members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, which Rep. Grijalva co-chairs, also urged Director Watt to re-fund the programs in a meeting earlier this year.
- On Dec. 11, FHFA announced that it will remove the funding suspension to the Housing Trust Fund and the Capital Magnet Fund, which will allow dedicated funds to return to the programs.

"By funding the Housing Trust Fund and the Capital Magnet Fund, the FHFA is helping to place roofs over the heads of our society's most vulnerable members. Construction and preservation of affordable housing will help stabilize communities across Arizona and the country that are still struggling to recover from a devastating mortgage crisis."

-Rep. Grijalva
Dec. 11, 2014

Social Security: Safeguarding Services and Benefits

After Congressman Grijalva's casework director alerted the Congressman that a Social Security Administration proposal to stop providing in person verification statements would harm his constituents he jumped to action.

In June 2014, Congressman Raúl Grijalva led 121 of his Congressional colleagues in sending a [letter](#) to Social Security Administration (SSA) Acting Administrator Carolyn W. Colvin, urging her to reconsider impending cutbacks. Those cutbacks – ending in-person requests for verification

statements and copies of Social Security Numbers (known as Numi-lites) from SSA offices – take effect this fall.

And On July 17th, SSA announced that they would heed the calls of Congressman Grijalva and his colleagues and maintain in person verification statements.

Immigration Reform: Expanding Opportunities for Aspiring Americans

On December 6, 2013, Rep. Grijalva sent a [letter](#) to President Obama requesting the Administration suspend any further deportations and expand the successful Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

On January 24, 2014, Rep. Grijalva led a second [letter](#) from 34 lawmakers to President Obama, pledging support for 543 faith-based, labor, neighborhood, legal and civil rights organizations that all supported the suspension of further deportations.

On November 20, 2014, President Obama announced a series of executive actions that will expand the population eligible for the DACA program and will allow parents of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents to request deferred action and employment authorization.

Health Care: Helping Hospice Patients

In June 2014, Congressman Grijalva joined colleagues in requesting Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) delay implementation of a Medicare Part D Hospice payment reform that had created confusion and was leaving hospice beneficiaries without access to needed medications.

On July 18, 2014 CMS released a [revised guidance](#) for Part D and hospice that removed confusion surrounding the previous policy and ensured that beneficiaries enrolled in hospice will continue to have access to their medications.

Labor: Better Protections for Agricultural Workers

On February 6th, Rep. Grijalva led a [letter](#) signed by 51 of his colleagues to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), calling for her to finalize updates to agricultural worker safety and training standards. The lawmakers expressed concerns over inadequate training sessions, the lack of right-to-know rules for farm workers about the health effects of pesticides and other chemicals, among others. On February 21st, EPA updated their standards to reflect the concerns raised in Rep. Grijalva's letter.

Environment: Following Through on Offshore Drilling Safety

Back in 2010 Congressman Grijalva led a request for an investigation into whether or not BP Atlantis, the largest oil and natural gas platform in the world, was operating improperly and risking catastrophe. Despite the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) assuring Members that there was “no evidence” that control problems created specific unsafe conditions, *this year* Congressman Grijalva discovered that a Freedom of Information Act report revealed that the Department of Interior had not shared dissenting views and potentially withheld relevant safety information. So Congressman Grijalva took action.

On November 6, 2014 Congressman Raúl Grijalva sent a letter to Secretary of Interior Sally Jewel, demanding answers and accountability after findings by a recent Inspector General (IG) report that BOEMRE suppressed contradictory findings by three engineers during an investigation into the BP Atlantis deepwater oil production facility.

LGBT: Protecting Unaccompanied Minors from Discrimination and Sexual Assault

On December 15th, Rep. Grijalva led a letter signed by 59 House Democrats to Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell expressing concern over the lack of adequate protection against discrimination and sexual assault for unaccompanied minors in the care of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). The lawmakers urged HHS to implement robust Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) regulations alongside guidance to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth from discrimination. Less than two weeks later, HHS published a rule on December 24th providing the protections called for in Rep. Grijalva’s letter.

National Park Service Heritage Initiative

On April 7th, Congressman Grijalva led a [letter](#) signed by 19 Members of Congress to Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, requesting a National Park Service Heritage Initiative to identify places and events associated with the story of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Americans for inclusion in the parks and programs of the agency. The very next month, on May 30th, Secretary Jewell announced that DOI was implementing the new study.

Making Government Work Better for You: Help With Federal Agencies

Overview

Congressman Grijalva's job is to help constituents get the services and benefits they earn from the federal government. Whether it's a passport, a late Social Security check, a missed Medicare payment, an immigration paperwork request, a mortgage modification, or any other business with a federal agency, Rep. Grijalva and his staff are ready to assist.

For more information, call his offices any time:

- ❖ Tucson: (520) 622-6788
- ❖ Avondale: (623) 536-3388
- ❖ Somerton: (928) 343-7933

Cases Opened with Federal Agencies

This year, Rep. Grijalva received over 850 assistance requests from constituents, these requests involved U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Social Security Administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs, National Banks and Mortgage Services, and many other agencies.

Cases Resolved with Federal Agencies

In 2014, Rep. Grijalva's office closed approximately 550 cases with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Social Security Administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs, National Banks and Mortgage Services, and many other agencies.

Saving You Money

The Congressman's office saved Southern Arizonan's close to \$3 million this year by recovering funds, getting checks released, preventing foreclosures and helping with agencies. This figure includes assistance with Social Security Administration disability claims, claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs, tax credit applications with the Internal Revenue Service, and mortgage loan modifications savings.

At a Glance

NUMBER OF **CASES OPENED** WITH VARIOUS FEDERAL AGENCIES: **854**

NUMBER OF **CASES RESOLVED** WITH VARIOUS FEDERAL AGENCIES: **549**

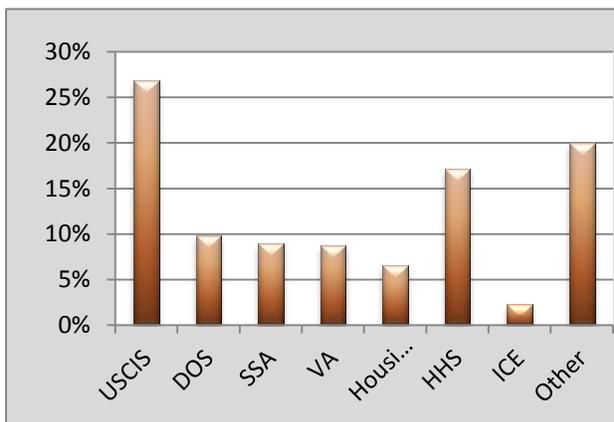
MONIES RECOVERED/SAVED FOR CONSTITUENTS: **\$2,922.588.41**

COMMUNICATING WITH CONSTITUENTS: **20,105** LETTERS AND EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE

Monies Recovered/Saved For Constituents

CMS	13,500.00
DFAS	15,437.16
FCC	140.00
HOUSING	2,711,110.40
IRS	12,210.43
OPM	5,276.32
SSA	91,334.75
USAF	10,716.00
USCIS	10,820.00
VA	52,043.35
Total	\$ 2,922,588.41

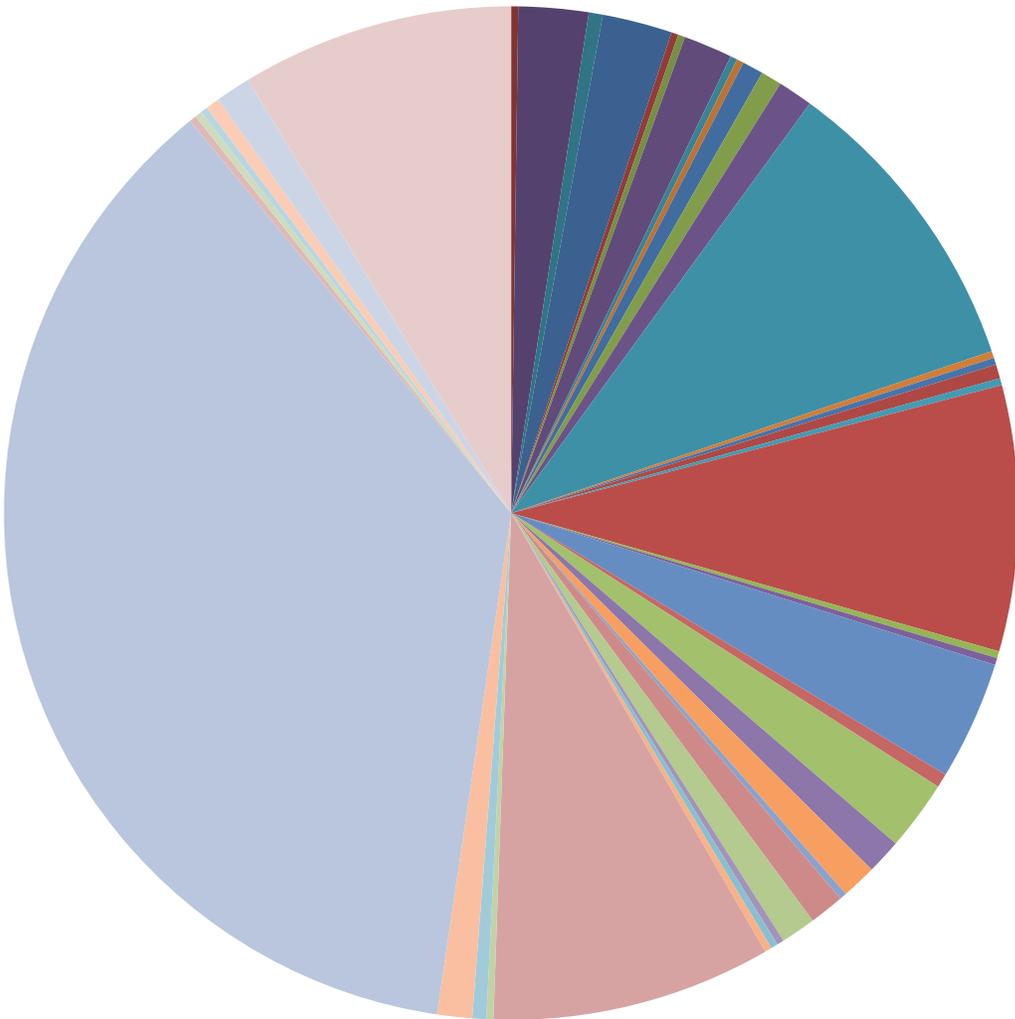
Completed Casework Requests by Federal Agency



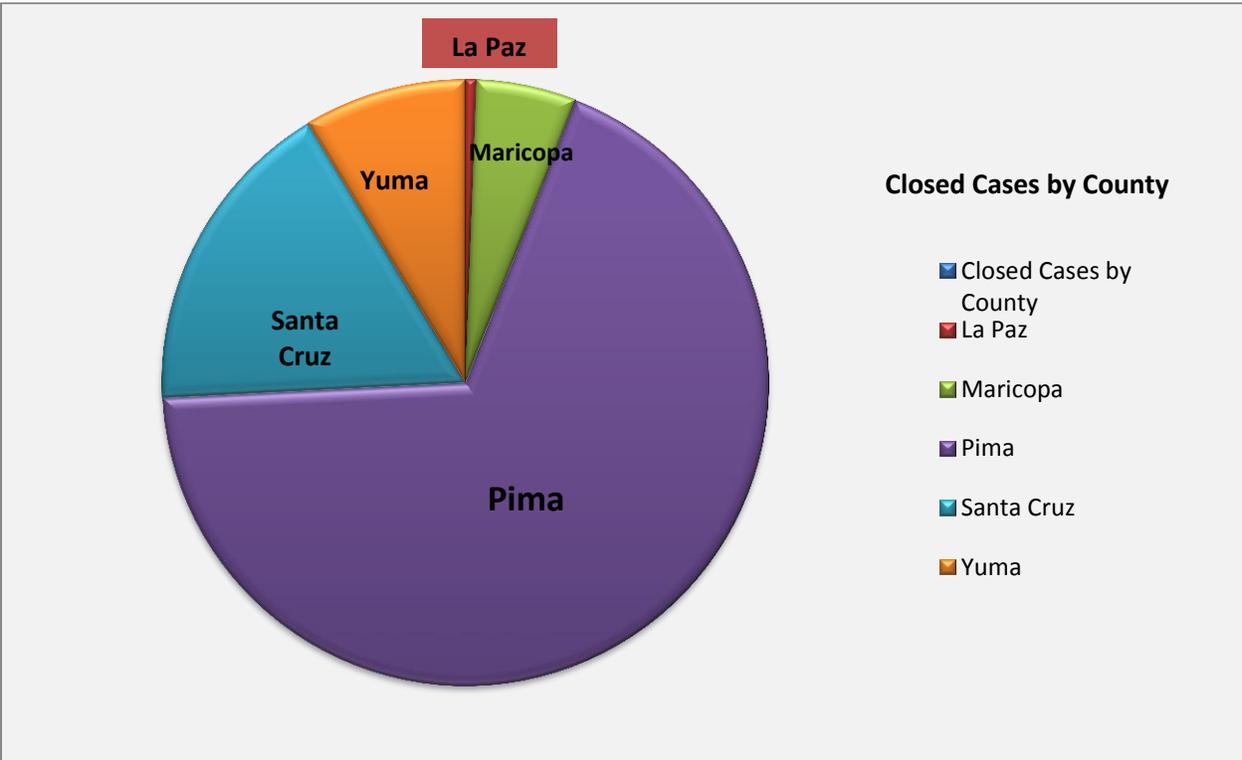
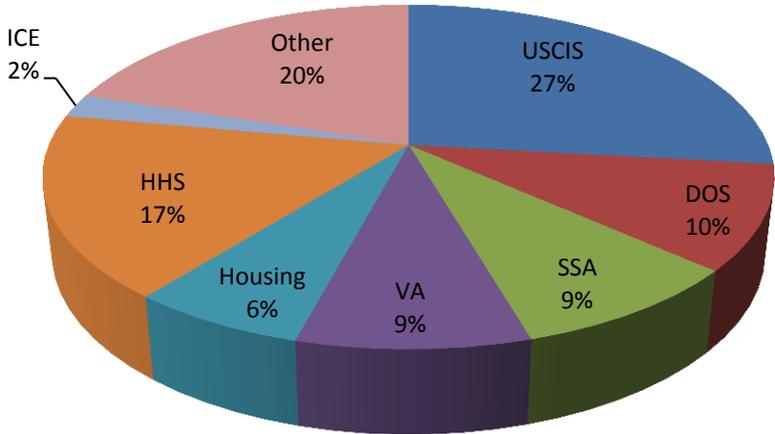
Federal Agency (%)	
USCIS	27%
HHS	14%
DOS	10%
SSA	9%
VA	9%
Housing	8%
ICE	2%
Other	21%

Other Agencies

- | | | | | |
|------------|--------|---------|-----------|-------------|
| ■ BIA | ■ BLM | ■ BOP | ■ CFPB | ■ CPS |
| ■ CUST | ■ DEA | ■ DHS | ■ DOC | ■ DOE |
| ■ DOI | ■ DOJ | ■ DOS | ■ DOT | ■ DOTR |
| ■ EEOC | ■ FAA | ■ FBI | ■ FCC | ■ GOV STATE |
| ■ GOVLOCAL | ■ GPO | ■ GSA | ■ HHS | ■ ICE |
| ■ IRS | ■ NCUA | ■ NPRC | ■ OOD | ■ OOJ |
| ■ OPM | ■ OSHA | ■ RRB | ■ SEC | ■ SSA |
| ■ SSS | ■ USAF | ■ USCIS | ■ US Copy | ■ USDA |
| ■ USMC | ■ USN | ■ USPS | ■ VA | |



Federal Agency Summary



Getting Government to Work for You: Constituent Service Success Stories

“When we’re able to help, that means a check gets sent on time, a wrongful foreclosure is prevented, a family is reunited or a veteran gets long overdue recognition for service.”

-Congressman Grijalva

Below are some of the gracious thank you notes and success stories from constituents who thought they’d hit a brick wall until they called Rep. Grijalva’s office.

Housing / Foreclosure

- ❖ A constituent sought help to save her home. Though she previously had been approved for financial assistance from the AZ Mortgage Relief Fund, the bank was refusing to rescind the sale of her home. The lender's failure to rescind the sale would make the modification obsolete and the financial assistance void. The AZ Mortgage Relief Fund provides homeowners up to \$50,000 in Loan Modification Assistance and up to \$20,500 in One-Time Recovery Assistance. Rep. Grijalva’s office contacted the lender and after careful consideration, they agreed to rescind the sale.



Social Security Administration

- ❖ A constituent needed assistance in obtaining his Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefit. Social Security Disability Insurance pays benefits to individuals that were “insured”, if the individual worked long enough and paid Social Security taxes. This individual had recently been laid off from his job after 13 years of employment and was

fighting end-stage renal disease. The loss of employment and his inability to seek employment while ill caused him to fall behind on his rent and other living expenses. At the time of applying for SSDI benefits, he was told it could take months and possibly years to process his claim. Rep. Grijalva's office contacted the Social Security Administration; they became aware of his financial hardships and need to obtain benefits while he undergoes medical treatment. After they reviewed his claim, they expedited his claim and awarded \$1,800 in back pay and monthly payments of \$1,000.

U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services & Department of State

- ❖ Samuel contacted Rep. Grijalva after receiving notification from the U.S. Embassy in Cameroon stating there was intent to deny the immigrant visas for his children. Last year, the Congressman's office reviewed the evidence presented to the U.S. Embassy and believed the intent to deny was an error. They worked with U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services to reaffirm the petitions for Samuel's children and we recently were notified that the U.S. Embassy granted the children's visas. Additionally, Rep. Grijalva's office informed Samuel that the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 made it possible for his foreign-born children to acquire U.S. citizenship automatically upon fulfillment of certain conditions while under the age of 18.

*You listened when no else listened; you shared my frustration and despair... You listened.
From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you!*

Department of Veterans Affairs

- ❖ A veteran requested assistance related to a reimbursement from Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System (SAVAHCS). After being assured that his hospital stay would be covered by the VA, he was still being billed. In order to avoid ruining his exceptional credit he decided to pay the amount charged and request reimbursement for his payment. After unsuccessful attempts to get reimbursed, he sought help from Rep. Grijalva. After contacting the SAVAHCS, the constituent received his first reimbursement and a couple of months later received the remaining reimbursement payment.

**Thank you for your help,
with my VA problem.**

Affordable Care Act

- ❖ Dan called Rep. Grijalva's office seeking assistance with Marketplace enrollment. Due to miscalculations in his salary, Dan had been unable to enroll in the Marketplace and was concerned because of a quickly approaching deadline. After speaking with two supervisors, his issue was still unresolved. Congressman Grijalva's office became involved and successfully assisted Dan with his enrollment. The liaison carefully reviewed his application and fixed the error - once corrected Dan received the proper tax credit notification, and was able to choose a health plan.