



# **NEW JERSEY ADVOCACY NETWORK TO END HOMELESSNESS**

**PRESENTS THE**

## **2009 CONGRESSIONAL REPORT CARD**



**OUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES GRADED ON THEIR  
COMMITMENT TO ENDING HOMELESSNESS**

**FIND OUT THEIR POSITIONS ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:**

**HEARTH ACT (HR1877/S808)**

**SECTION 811 REFORM (HR1675/S1481)**

**HUD'S 2010 BUDGET**

**HOMES FOR HEROES ACT (H.R. 3329 AND S. 1084)**

**EXTRA CREDIT WAS GIVEN FOR THOSE WHO WENT BEYOND VOTING  
AND CHAMPIONED OUR ISSUES**

**PUBLISHED JANUARY 29, 2010**



## NJ Advocacy Network to End Homelessness 2009 Congressional Report Card

**T**he New Jersey Advocacy Network to End Homelessness is pleased to present the Second Annual Congressional Report Card. This Report Card documents how our two Senators and thirteen members of the House of Representatives voted on key issues related to ending homelessness in New Jersey. The ratings are based on votes on four key issues and attendance at the 2009 Congressional Reception. Because we believe that it takes more than voting for these issues, we gave extra credit to legislators who went beyond voting and championed our issues.

### **What were the issues that were used for the Report Card?**

**HEARTH (HR1877/S808):** The HEARTH Act is the first significant reauthorization of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance programs in nearly 20 years and allocates millions more to homelessness prevention, rapidly re-housing homeless families, and providing permanent supportive housing for homeless people with disabilities. It also modernizes and streamlines housing and services to more efficiently meet the needs of people seeking assistance.

**Section 811 (HR1675/S1481):** The Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act of 2009, would authorize a new Section 811 demonstration program on community integration for people with disabilities and would improve the existing Section 811 production program with changes that provide states and localities with a new infusion of critically needed Section 811 capital and project-based rent subsidy funding to produce more permanent supportive housing.

**HUD's 2010 Budget:** The final HUD FY10 budget authority is \$46.1 billion, a \$4.5 billion increase over FY09 funding. The majority of programs were funded above the President's budget request. This funding will support 10,000 new VASH vouchers for homeless veterans, and additionally, homeless assistance grants receive an increase of \$188 million over the FY09 level. The \$1.865 billion funding level is above the House level of \$1.85 billion and below the Senate level of \$1.875 billion.

The **Homes for Heroes Act** was introduced in both the House of Representatives (H.R. 3329) and Senate (S. 1084), but was only voted on and passed by the House. This legislation would address the severe problem of veteran's homelessness and housing crises by authorizing new housing vouchers for homeless veterans and their families create the position of Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs at HUD, and a new \$200 million housing production program to benefit low-income veterans. A **Y** indicates the Member cosponsored the Homes for Heroes Act in the Senate and voted in favor of the bill in the House.

Attendance at the **2009 Congressional Reception** was used as the final scoring category. If the member of Congress attended they received full credit. If they sent an aide they were given half



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credit. If they did not attend or send an aide they received zero for this category. A **Y** indicates the Member and **Half** that an aide attended.

**Extra Credit:** Congressmen and Senators often engage in activities that are helpful to a cause without it fitting neatly into a category that advocacy organizations can score. The Advocacy Network emailed all housing staffers in the delegation asking them to feel free to contribute ideas of activities the Member engaged in that were helpful in meeting the housing needs of homeless persons and families, and this section reflects some of the answers of those who chose to respond.



Although we did not include them in the scoring of this year's Report Card we continue to monitor the progress of the following pending legislation that the Advocacy Network supports:

**SEVRA (HR3045):** The Section Eight Voucher Reform Act (SEVRA) is a proposal to reform and vastly improve our Section 8 program.

**SELHA (HR3636/S1523):** The Services to End Long Term Homelessness which is crucial to ending homelessness.

**National Housing Trust Fund (HR2856/S731):** This legislation would provide a permanent funding mechanism within the Department of HUD to produce, preserve, and rehabilitate rental housing for the lowest-income Americans.

### Grading Parameters

Each vote was given the same weight. The score is the percentage of the times the vote supported efforts to end homelessness in NJ.

<b>A+ = Extra Credit is required to receive an A+</b>	<b>B+ = ≥ 82% &lt; 91%</b>	<b>C+ = ≥ 55% &lt; 64%</b>	<b>D+ = ≥ 28% &lt; 37%</b>	<b>F = &lt; 10%</b>
<b>A = 100%</b>	<b>B = ≥ 73% &lt; 82%</b>	<b>C = ≥ 46% &lt; 55%</b>	<b>D = ≥ 19% &lt; 28%</b>	
<b>A- = ≥ 91% &lt; 100%</b>	<b>B- = ≥ 64% &lt; 73%</b>	<b>C- = ≥ 37% &lt; 46%</b>	<b>D- = ≥ 10% &lt; 19%</b>	



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**What grade did our Senators and Representatives earn in 2009?**

**T**he New Jersey Advocacy Network to End Homelessness Second Annual Congressional Report Card has resulted in a scoring range from top of the class to the bottom. The scores ranged from **three A+'s, one A, four B+'s, five B's, one C+ and one D**. Overall, it is clear that our Senators and Representatives can and must do better. However, part of the responsibility lies with the citizens of New Jersey for not holding our members accountable.

<b>2009 Congressional Report Card</b>						
<b>Name</b>	<b>HEARTH HR1877 S808</b>	<b>Section 811 HR1675 S14</b>	<b>HUD Budget</b>	<b>HOMES for HEROES HR403 S1160</b>	<b>Reception</b>	<b>Grade including extra credit</b>
Senator Frank Lautenberg	Co-Sponsor	NA	Y	Co-Sponsor	N	B+
Senator Robert Menendez	Y	Sponsor	Y	Co-Sponsor	Half	A+
Rep Robert Andrews (D-1st)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Half	B+
Rep Frank LoBiondo (R-2nd)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	B
Rep John Adler (R-3rd)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	B
Rep Chris Smith (R-4th)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Half	B
Rep Scott Garrett (R-5th)	N	N	N	Y	N	D
Rep Frank Pallone (D-6th)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	B
Rep Leonard Lance (R-7th)	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	B
Rep Bill Pascrell (D-8th)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Half	B+
Rep Steve Rothman (D-9th)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Half	B+
Rep Donald Payne (D-10th)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A+
Rep Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-11th)	Y	Y	N	Y	N	C+
Rep Rush Holt (D-12th)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A+
Rep Albio Sires (D-13th)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Half	A



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### Senator Frank Lautenberg

**F**rank Lautenberg was elected to the Senate in 1982. He was re-elected in 1988 and 1994, and returned to win a fourth term in 2002 and a fifth term in 2008. He serves on several committees including Appropriations; Commerce, Science and Transportation; and Environment and Public Works. He represents the entire state. Senator Lautenberg received extra credit for this year's Report Card by supporting funding for the National Housing Trust Fund, sponsoring the HEARTH Act, and Homes for Heroes.

The initial score was four out of five for a total of 80% and with the extra credit his final grade was a **B+**.

### Senator Robert Menendez

**R**obert Menendez was elected to Congress in 1992, where he rose to become the third-highest ranking Democrat in the House before taking office in the Senate in 2006. He is Chairman, Banking Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development. He serves on several other committees including Budget, Energy and Natural Resources, Finance and Foreign Affairs. He represents the entire state. Senator Menendez received extra credit for this year's Report Card by supporting funding for the National Housing Trust Fund and for sponsoring SELHA.



The initial score was four and one-half out of five for a total of 90% and with the extra credit his final grade was **A+**.

### Congressman Rob Andrews

**R**ob Andrews (D-1<sup>st</sup>) is serving in his eleventh two year term. He serves on the Budget Committee, the Education and Labor Committee and Armed Services. He represents the residents of the First District of New Jersey, which is comprised of portions of Burlington, Camden and Gloucester Counties. Congressman Andrews did not provide any information for extra credit for this year's Report Card.

The initial score was four and one-half out of five for a total of 90% and without any extra credit his final grade was **B+**.



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### **Congressman Frank LoBiondo**

**F**rank LoBiondo (R-2<sup>nd</sup>) was elected to Congress in 1994. He is seeking reelection this year. He serves on the Transportation and Infrastructure and Armed Services Committees. The Second District of New Jersey includes all of Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, and Salem counties and parts of Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties.

The initial score was four out of five for a total of 80% and without any extra credit his final grade was **B**.

### **Congressman John Adler**

**J**ohn Adler (D-3<sup>rd</sup>) is a first term member of the U.S. House of Representatives for New Jersey's Third Congressional District. He serves on the Financial Services and Veterans Affairs Committee. The Third District covers portions of Burlington, Ocean and Camden Counties. Congressman Adler did not provide any information for extra credit for this year's Report Card.

The initial score was four out of five for a total of 80% and without any extra credit his final grade was **B**.

### **Congressman Chris Smith**

**C**hris Smith (R-4<sup>th</sup>) has been a member of Congress since 1981. He serves on the Foreign Affairs Committee. The Fourth District includes parts of Burlington, Mercer, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties.

The initial score was four out of five for a total of 80% and without any extra credit his final grade was **B**.

### **Congressman Scott Garrett**

**S**cott Garrett (R-5<sup>th</sup>) is completing his third term in Congress. He serves on the House Financial Services and Budget Committees. The Fifth District includes all of Warren and portions of, Sussex, Passaic and Bergen Counties.

The initial score was one out of five for a total of 20% and without any extra credit his final grade was **D**.



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### **Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr.**

**F**rank Pallone (D-6<sup>th</sup>) is completing his tenth full term in the U.S. House of Representatives. He serves on the Energy and Commerce as well as the Natural Resources Committees. The Sixth District covers most of Middlesex County, and portions of Monmouth County, the township of Plainfield in Union County and Franklin in Somerset County.

The initial score was four out of five for a total of 80% and without any extra credit his final grade was **B**.

### **Congressman Leonard Lance**

**L**eonard Lance (R-7<sup>th</sup>) was first elected to the Congress in 2008 and is currently serving his first term. He serves on the House Committee on Financial Services. The Seventh District includes portions of Hunterdon, Middlesex, and Somerset and Union Counties.

The initial score was four out of five for a total of 80% and without any extra credit his final grade was **B**.

### **Congressman Bill Pascrell**

**B**ill Pascrell (D-8<sup>th</sup>) is completing his sixth term in Congress. He serves on several committees including the Ways and Means Committee. The Eighth District is comprised of 21 cities and towns in southern Passaic and northern Essex Counties.

The initial score was four and one-half out of five for a total of 90% and without any extra credit his final grade was **B+**.

### **Congressman Steve Rothman**

**S**teve Rothman (D-9<sup>th</sup>) is serving his sixth term in Congress. He serves on several committees including the Appropriations Committee. The Ninth District includes the southern portion of Bergen County, parts of northern Hudson County, and the Borough of Hawthorne in Passaic County.

The initial score was four and one-half out of five for a total of 90% and without any extra credit his final grade was **B+**.



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### Congressman Donald Payne

**D**onald Payne (D-10<sup>th</sup>) is completing his tenth term in Congress. He is a member of the Democratic Whip Organization and serves on several committees including Foreign Affairs as well as the Education and Labor Committee. The Tenth District includes parts of Essex, Hudson and Union counties. Congressman Payne received extra credit as a sponsor of SELHA.

The initial score was five out of five for a total of 100% and with the extra credit his final grade was **A+**.

### Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen

**R**odney Frelinghuysen (R-11<sup>th</sup>) is completing his seventh term in Congress. He serves on several committees including the Appropriations committee. The Eleventh District includes all of Morris and portions of Sussex, Somerset, Passaic, and Essex Counties.

The initial score was three out of five for a total of 60% and with the extra credit his final grade was **C+**.

### Congressman Rush Holt

**R**ush Holt (D-12<sup>th</sup>) is completing his sixth term in Congress. He serves on several committees including Education and Labor, Natural Resources and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. The Twelfth District includes portions of Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Somerset Counties.

The initial score was five out of five for a total of 100% and with the extra credit his final grade was **A+**.

### Congressman Albio Sires

**A**lbio Sires (D-13<sup>th</sup>) is serving his second term in Congress. He serves on the Foreign Affairs and Transportation and Infrastructure Committees. The Thirteenth District covers most of Hudson and portions of Essex, Middlesex and Union counties.

The initial score was four and a half out of five for a total of 90% and with the extra credit his final grade was **A**.



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<b>2009 Honor Roll</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Grade</b>
Sen. Robert Menendez	A+
Rep. Donald Payne	A+
Rep. Rush Holt	A+
Rep. Albio Sires	A
Sen. Frank Lautenberg	B+
Rep. Rob Andrews	B+
Rep. Bill Pascrell	B+
Rep. Steve Rothman	B+
Rep. Frank Pallone	B
Rep. Leonard Lance	B
Rep. Frank LoBiondo	B
Rep. John Adler	B
Rep. Chris Smith	B
Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen	C+
Rep. Scott Garrett	D



## NJ Advocacy Network to End Homelessness 2009 Congressional Report Card

### About the New Jersey Advocacy Network to End Homelessness

The New Jersey Advocacy Network to End Homelessness' mission is to advocate on a local, state and federal level for adequate funding and sound practices that will end homelessness for individuals and families. This is achieved with a variety of programs and initiatives. These include:

#### Congressional Reception

The NJANEH coordinated the First Annual Congressional Reception on July 11, 2007. New Jersey was well represented by more than one hundred (100) New Jersey constituents including the formerly homeless, passionate advocates and housing providers from across the state. People traveled by train, bus and car to get there to be part of this unique opportunity to meet with our legislators to let them hear firsthand issues of importance to our communities.



The New Jersey Advocacy Network to End Homelessness held the Second Annual Congressional Reception on July 30, 2008, which attended by more than two hundred (200) and had an even larger impact on federal policy issues that affect homeless individuals and families. The Third Annual Congressional Reception was attended by more than three hundred and fifty (350) formerly homeless people, passionate advocates and housing providers from across the state on July 28, 2009.

#### County Homeless Trust Funds

The Advocacy Network was the leader in the campaign for the County Homeless Trust Funds. The Trust Funds will allow counties that have developed plans to end homelessness to have a recurring source of funding that would be dedicated to achieving their goals. The funds must be used for programs that not only are consistent with local plans but also measurably reduce homelessness while demonstrating cost savings over time. By focusing the trust funds on proven strategies, this initiative will play a crucial role in helping to shift the current homeless delivery system from one that manages homelessness to one that will end homelessness.

#### State Policy

The Advocacy Network is developing a comprehensive and dynamic set of policy positions to coordinate state homeless policies with an ending homelessness strategy instead of continuing to manage homelessness.

For more information go to: <http://www.njaneh.org>

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<http://www.njaneh.org/report-card-2009/>



## NJ Advocacy Network to End Homelessness 2009 Congressional Report Card

### Members of the Steering Committee of the Advocacy Network

#### Statewide Members

Alison Recca-Ryan, President, [Corporation for Supportive Housing](#)  
Joyce Campbell, Vice-President, [Catholic Charities of New Jersey](#)  
Arnold Cohen, [Housing and Community Development Network of NJ](#)  
Rev. Bruce H. Davidson, [Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry](#)  
Lee Zandstra, [Lutheran Social Ministries in New Jersey](#)  
Marlene Lao-Collins, [The New Jersey Catholic Conference](#)  
Anna Payanzo, [The Supportive Housing Association of New Jersey](#)  
Daniel Altilio, [United Ways of NJ](#)  
Steve Schultz, [Volunteers of America, Delaware Valley](#)

#### Northern Region

Mary Rossettini, [Advance Housing](#)  
Debra Underwood, [Project Live](#)

#### Central Region

Andrea Krich, Treasurer, [Making it Possible to End Homelessness](#)  
Herb Levine, Secretary, [Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness](#)

#### Southern Region

Hillary Dugger Colbert, [Community Planning and Advocacy Council](#)  
Laura Rodgers, [Jewish Family Service of Atlantic and Cape May Counties](#)

Consumer [Scott Fairman](#) and Richard Leigh

#### Membership

The New Jersey Advocacy Network to End Homelessness encourages new members. A full list of our members is available at: <http://www.njaneh.org/membership/>

#### For more information contact:

New Jersey Advocacy Network to End Homelessness  
650 South Broad Street, 3rd Floor, Trenton, NJ 08611  
Phone: (609) 392-7820 • Fax: (609) 392-7818  
Email: <mailto:alison.recca-ryan@njaneh.org> • Website: <http://www.njanh.org/>

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