



# U. S. Representative Tom Allen

## *Biography*

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In 2002, the voters of Maine's First Congressional District re-elected Tom Allen to represent them in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress. In January 2003, House Democratic leaders chose Tom for a coveted spot on the House Committee on Energy & Commerce. The Committee has principal responsibility for House oversight of food and drug safety, public health, air quality and environmental health, telecommunications, consumer protection, the supply and delivery of energy, and interstate and foreign commerce. Tom serves on the Committee's subcommittees on Energy & Air Quality, Environment & Hazardous Materials and Oversight & Investigations. Tom is also co-chair of the House Affordable Medicines Task Force and the Bipartisan House Oceans Caucus.

Skyrocketing health care costs, especially for prescription drugs, have been a special focus for Tom since he first entered Congress. In March 2003, he again introduced H.R. 1400, The Prescription Drug Fairness for Seniors Act, legislation to make prescription drugs available to older Americans at the average price charged to consumers in six other industrialized nations, resulting in an estimated 40 percent discount with no additional cost to the federal government. In June 2003, he introduced H.R. 2356, The Prescription Drug Comparative Effectiveness Act, a bipartisan initiative to authorize funding and direct the National Institutes of Health and the Agency for Healthcare Research Quality to conduct studies on prescription drugs that account for high levels of expenditures or use by individuals in federally funded health programs. H.R. 2356 has drawn support from AARP, Consumers Union, Rx Health Value and a number of health care advocacy organizations. The bill has also received editorial support from **The New York Times**, **Chicago Tribune**, **Los Angeles Times** and other newspapers around the country.

Tom has been a leader in the effort to thwart the Bush Administration's attempts to weaken the nation's landmark environmental statutes. He has been an especially outspoken critic of the proposed New Source Review rule that would allow aging power plants and other factories to expand without complying with the Clean Air Act regulations that apply to all other facilities. He has offered amendments in the Energy & Commerce Committee to overturn this rule as well as Administration initiatives to exempt the Department of Defense from environmental regulations.

In the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress Tom has also continued to push for Congress to fund fully the federal share of unfunded mandates in areas such as education and homeland security. He introduced legislation and proposed amendments to appropriations bills to require Congress to meet its financial promises under both the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the No Child Left Behind Act (NLCB). Extensive information about Tom's health care, education, environment and other initiatives, is available on his website: <http://tomallen.house.gov>

Born in Portland, Maine in 1945, Tom attended Portland's public schools and graduated from Bowdoin College in 1967. After earning a B.Phil in Politics as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, Tom worked for Senator Edmund S. Muskie and then attended Harvard Law School, graduating in 1974. While working in a Portland law firm for 20 years, Tom was active in civic affairs. He served on the City Council and as Mayor of Portland. In 1968, Tom married his high school classmate, Diana Bell. They have two daughters.

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