



U. S. Representative Tom Allen

Biography

In 2000, the voters of Maine's First Congressional District re-elected Tom Allen to represent them in the 107th Congress. Tom is a member of the Armed Services Committee (HASC) and its subcommittees on Military Procurement and Military Research & Development. Tom is the ranking member on the HASC's Merchant Marine Panel. He also serves on the Government Reform Committee and its subcommittees on Civil Service and National Security, Veterans Affairs & International Relations. He is also a Democratic Whip at Large. In just his third term, Tom has emerged as a national leader in developing legislation to reduce the price of prescription drugs for older Americans, clean up pollution from aging power plants and reform campaign finance laws.

Tom's top legislative priority in the 107th Congress is H. R. 1400/S. 699, The Prescription Drug Fairness for Seniors Act, legislation to provide older Americans access to the same discounts that HMOs and the federal government receive when they purchase prescription drugs. At Tom's request, the House Government Reform Committee examined the prices charged to older Americans and others who pay for their own drugs. The resulting study and subsequent studies in over 90 other congressional districts confirmed that older Americans across the nation pay, on average, almost twice as much as the drug companies' favored customers. On October 17, 1999, the award-winning CBS News program "60 Minutes" featured an interview with Tom by Mike Wallace in a report on pharmaceutical companies' price discrimination against seniors entitled "Why So Expensive?"(check out the special prescription drug page on Tom's website).

Tom has also introduced two major bills to curb air pollution. H. R. 1335, The Clean Power Plant Act, closes a gaping hole in our nation's clean air law which allows older coal and oil-fired utilities to continue to pollute our air nearly 30 years after passage of the Clean Air Act. In the 106th Congress Tom introduced and will soon re-introduce, The Omnibus Mercury Emissions Reduction Act, requires power plants and commercial and industrial boilers to achieve a 95 percent reduction in mercury emissions, which poison rivers, lakes and streams downwind.

Tom has devoted much of his legislative attention to matters involving Maine and the nation's children and families. His priorities include education, child care, health care and substance abuse. To combat declining student test scores, in the 106th Congress Tom introduced H.R. 3702, The Recruit and Reward Math and Science Teachers Act, legislation to create scholarships for math and science graduate students who choose careers as teachers in secondary schools.

In his first term, Tom garnered national attention as co-chair (with Arkansas Republican Asa Hutchinson) of a bipartisan freshman task force on campaign finance reform. Their Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act, to ban "soft money," tighten financial disclosure rules and regulate so-called "issue advocacy" ads in political campaigns, was one of the two major bipartisan reform bills in the 105th Congress.

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 one year 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, Gwen, 27, and Kate, 22.