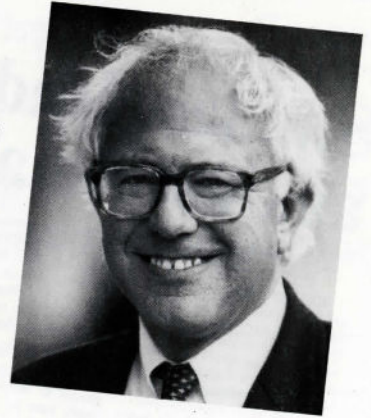


A MESSAGE FROM BERNIE SANDERS

Dear Fellow Vermonter,

*The election on November 3rd is about whether the United States Congress will represent the interests of **all** the people, or just the needs of the wealthy and powerful who contribute huge sums of money to both political parties.*

As the only Independent in Congress, and Chairman of the House Progressive Caucus, I have helped lead the opposition to the reactionary and extremist agenda pushed by Speaker Newt Gingrich and the Republican leadership. I have also vigorously opposed President Clinton and the Democrats when they have been wrong.



America is a great country, but we can and must do better.

It is wrong that the richest one percent of the population owns more wealth than the bottom ninety-five percent, while the average Vermonter continues to work longer hours for lower wages.

It is wrong that we continue to waste tens of billions each year on unnecessary military spending and corporate welfare, while forty million Americans have no health insurance and elderly Vermonters are unable to afford prescription drugs.

It is wrong to give huge tax breaks to billionaires while cutting back on Medicare, veterans' needs and environmental protection.

It is absurd that, at a time when a good education is vital to the economic well-being of every worker and the entire country, millions of middle-class families cannot afford the high cost of a college education.

I am very proud and honored to be taking Vermont's common sense values to Washington, and representing our great state in Congress.

I would very much appreciate your support for re-election.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Bernie".

Bernard Sanders
U.S. Congressman

**Sanders
for
Congress
'98**

BERNIE SANDERS IS FIGHTING FOR A BETTER WORLD

Sanders leads chorus against Asian bailouts

By Jon Frandsen
Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers and policy advocates from right and left banded together Thursday to denounce huge economic aid packages for Asian countries as a bailout of large banks and investment houses that knowingly made high-risk loans.

eastern Asia approached collapse last fall, the IMF promised huge rescue packages in exchange for economic reforms in those countries — \$57 billion to South Korea, \$43 billion to Indonesia and \$17 billion to Thailand.

Impact weighed

But critics say average working people in those countries are acutely hurt by the financial help usually hurt by the austerity measures

BankAmerica and Citibank. The James Glassman, a fellow at the conservative American Enterprise Institute and a columnist for The Washington Post, also harshly criticized bailouts for troubled economies, saying they are a sign to investors that the IMF will shield them from risk.

"Bad investments, like bad ideas, must be allowed to fail in the marketplace," Glassman said. "Capitalism without bank-

Sanders wins ranking role on panel

By Jon Frandsen
Free Press Washington Writer

WASHINGTON — Rep. Bernard Sanders, I-Vt., has been elected the top minority member of the House Banking and Financial Services subcommittee on General Oversight and Investigations, putting him in a stronger position to challenge federal trade and economic policy.

The new post will give Sanders, who will be working with subcommittee Chairman Spencer Bachus, R-Ala., more leverage on issues he has made concerns: questioning the bailout of troubled Asian economies through the International Monetary



Sanders

The panel has oversight responsibility for a large sector of the government, including the Treasury Department, the Federal Reserve System, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and trade policy.

governing their... for example, for members from lending program banks that have practices," Sanders

"I want to (IMF) represent will of Congress. Only one of the House opposed Sanders day, reflecting Sanders' own a rank other House last year. That first ently made pendent in leadership mittee.

Social Security 'crisis' invented, lawmakers say

Sanders, Leahy criticize Wall St.

The Associated Press

BENNINGTON — The Social Security "crisis" has been manufactured by Wall Street firms to drive up stock dividends, Rep. Bernard Sanders, I-Vt., and Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., said Tuesday in a town meeting for senior citizens.

"That's a lie. There is no crisis. ... There is a problem."

Rep. Bernard Sanders, I-Vt.

progressive. As it stands, the lowest paid worker pays the same 6.2

Sanders Decries High Price of Prescription Drugs

By DIANE DERBY
Vermont Press Bureau

MONTPELIER — Burlington AIDS activist Peter Kurth, who was first diagnosed HIV-positive in 1989, figures the cost of his medications runs between \$12,000 and \$15,000 a year.

"And that's on the low end of what a typical AIDS patient needs," said Kurth.

With a \$2,500 annual cap on his insurance policy to pay for such drugs, the balance is ultimately borne by taxpayers through federal funding of clinical trials or AIDS support programs.

At 88, Eleanor VanVechten expects to spend more than \$5,000 on prescription drugs this year.

"That's up from less than \$2,000 she spent just two years ago," she said. "because I've acquired a few more

the "right" diseases. "It is a difficult situation," VanVechten said, explaining how one small bottle of eye medicine for her glaucoma costs \$66 and is used up in a month's time.

VanVechten is able to help pay for the drugs because she no longer has to shoulder the expense of having a car (poor eyesight keeps her from driving).

It is a trade-off that advocates say is typically faced by elderly people on fixed incomes.

National Institutes of Health to require drug companies to charge "reasonable prices" for drugs that are developed with taxpayers' help.

He is also pushing for legislation that would provide up to \$500 a year to senior citizens with incomes under \$15,000 to help offset the costs of prescription drugs.

According to Sanders, the U.S. government spent \$32 million and 15 years to develop a drug to treat breast cancer before turning the drug over to Bristol-Myers-Squibb.

That company now charges \$10,000 for a year's supply of the drug Taxol, even though it costs only \$500 to make, he said.

"At the expense of sick Americans, they make over \$1 million that drug everyday, and that drug was developed by the tax-

disturbed lives on been Congress

ing the Social Security trust fund contains more \$500 billion, enough to pay almost all benefits for the next 75 years, Sanders asked a crowd of about 50 people at a Senior Meeting if they had heard of the benefit system was bankrupt.

"That's a lie," Sanders said. "There is no crisis. ... That's a problem."

Sanders said Wall Street firms are trying to weaken the public's confidence in the Social Security system.

Sanders' Bill Aims to Stop Child Slavery

From Wire Reports

As a result of a quiet maneuver by House and Senate conferees, Congress has passed the nation's first ban on imports of goods made by forced or indentured child laborers, children who are sold into bondage by their parents and who must often work a decade or more to buy their freedom.

The bill's sponsors say it will greatly affect the importing of rugs and carpets from Pakistan and India, where some children as young as 4 are sold into bondage. Human rights organizations estimate that South Asia has more than 15 million indentured child laborers.

This is extremely important as a moral issue," said Rep. Bernard Sanders, I-Vt., who introduced the legislation in the House. "Consumers in the United States of America should

"Consumers in the United States shouldn't be purchasing goods made by children who are ... virtual slaves."

Rep. Bernard Sanders

aren't purchasing goods made by children who are indentured servants and virtual slaves. We should not do business this way, and we should not be perpetuating this system."

(See Page 8: Labor)

Sanders will fight to raise minimum wage

By Nancy Bazilchuk
Free Press Staff Writer

Middle- and lower-income workers have continued to see declines in income in spite of a booming economy, a trend that argues for a higher minimum wage and a change in trade policy, Rep. Bernard Sanders I-Vt., said Tuesday.

"In the midst of this so-called economic boom," Sanders said, "the real wages of the vast majority of workers have declined."

frighteningly large number of working Vermonters do not earn enough money to take care of their basic needs."

One study done by Burlington's Peace and Justice Center indicated that 21 percent of families with two children and both parents working full-time were unable to provide for their basic needs.

the Bennington plant's 36 employees had firsthand knowledge of the real wage decline.

She said at its peak in the 1980s, the company had 200 employees. Now, 36 remain, and many are working part-time or on lay off another

worker supposed to do, to survive on jobs that pay \$5 or \$6 an hour? We have to stop exporting jobs just to boost the bottom line."

What they pay

Rep. Bernard Sanders, I-Vt., said Tuesday that many small businesses need to pay employees a livable wage. Sanders said he will look at what Vermont congressional delegates' entry-level workers' annual leave packages are worth for the three off-

ers: \$22,575.

James Jeffords, R-Vt.

Patrick Leahy, D-Vt.

Treasury OKs IMF query

Sanders influential in prompting questioning

By Jon Frandsen
Free Press Washington Writer

WASHINGTON — The Treasury Department on Tuesday averted what could have been a nasty confrontation with a House Banking subcommittee by agreeing to have one of its top officials face tough questions about the "veil of secrecy" at the International Monetary Fund.

The department initially had to permit the U.S. execu-

Bernard Sanders, I-Vt., the top minority member on the panel, warned Treasury officials they would take strong action — perhaps even sub-



Sanders

poena Lissakers — if they did not permit her testi-

about its activities and of bailing out large banks that made risky loans in developing countries.

The IMF is especially vulnerable because the administration is seeking \$18 billion from Congress to replenish the fund as a result of the multibillion-dollar bailout of Asian countries late last year. Without the money, IMF has warned, it might not be able to act in a crisis.

"If the American people are being asked to contribute \$18 billion to the IMF, we need to know

Sanders backs bill to fight battering

Anne Wallace Allen
The Associated Press

MONTPELIER — Considering a bill that would breathe new life into Bernard Sanders' efforts to fight domestic violence.

Professional and collegiate athletes have a great influence on young men in this country, Sanders said at a news conference Monday. "I think if we can turn some of these guys into strong advocates against domestic violence, they can have an impact on young men."

Sanders held the news conference to promote legislation recently introduced in Congress to require the Federal Bureau of Investigation to report on the number of young men who are victims of domestic violence.

What Vermonters are saying about Bernie:

Ron Pickering, President, Vermont AFL-CIO:
"Bernie Sanders has perhaps the strongest pro-worker record in the U.S. Congress. He has led the effort to raise the minimum wage, and to create decent-paying jobs for Vermonters."

Jeff Hatch, USN Ret., Rutland County:
"As a Republican and a veterans' advocate, I'm proud to support Bernie Sanders. He understands that it is wrong to turn our backs and cut programs for the veterans of this country who have put their lives on the line to defend America."

Marge Power, Older Women's League:
"Bernie has been a leader in Congress in assuring funds for LIHEAP, fighting cuts to Medicare, and educating people about the dangers of privatizing Social Security. Seniors in Vermont are proud to have Bernie Sanders representing their interests in Congress."

Bobby Starr, Vermont State Representative and Chair of the Agriculture Committee:
"Bernie Sanders is a real fighter for the Vermont family farmer. Working with Senators Leahy and Jeffords, he helped lead the effort to pass the Northeast Dairy Compact, which is a real help to our farmers."

Bob Hoffman, Caledonia County:
"As a life-long hunter and trapper, I appreciate Bernie's support on sportsmen's and environmental issues."

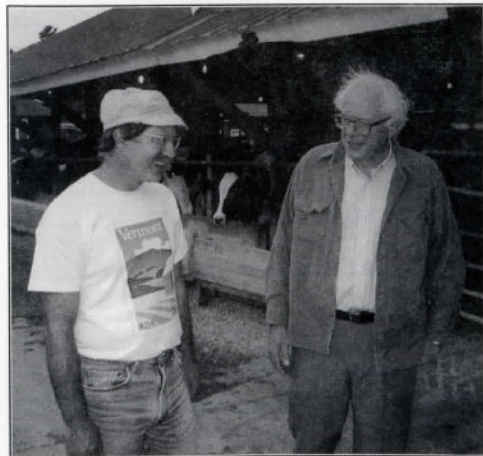
Elaine Alfano, State Representative from Washington County:
"Bernie Sanders never forgets that his job is to represent average folks in Washington. He has articulated a sane set of national priorities that puts the needs of Main Street ahead of the needs of Wall Street."

Organizations listed for identification purposes only.



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Bernie this year.
Fill out the reverse side and
return it to us. Thanks!*



The Choice is Clear!

BERNIE '98

Independent for Congress

Yes, I want to help keep Bernie in Congress as Vermont's Representative

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I would like to volunteer on the campaign

I would like to host a fundraising event

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____

I pledge \$ _____ per month through November

Charge my contribution to my credit card
Acct. # _____
Exp. date _____

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Sanders for Congress

P.O. Box 391, Burlington VT 05402

OR CALL (802) 862-1505

As the only Independent in Congress, Bernie has drafted and passed legislation to...

- Create and fund the National Cancer Registry Act, which is now playing a vital role in fighting cancer.
- Increase funding for the senior nutrition program. Over forty percent of those helped live below the poverty level.
- Ban the importation of products made by Third World children who are indentured servants.
- Save tens of millions of dollars in "corporate welfare."
- Improve the treatment of veterans who are suffering from Gulf War Illness.
- Accelerate the delivery of veterans' medical records to enable faster VA health and disability benefits.
- Increase funding of the National Guard Starbase Youth Program.
- Create the Small Minimum Grant for Chapter 1 and Special Education.
- Stop the U.S. military from buying products manufactured by the Chinese government.
- Pay \$4.9 billion in Small Business Initiatives by eliminating a tax break for large corporations overseas.
- Stop discrimination against battered women in housing and insurance coverage.
- Stop U.S. bailouts for banks and speculators who make loans to foreign countries.
- Discourage the World Trade Organization (WTO) from overriding U.S. environmental laws.
- Increase payment-in-lieu-of-taxes to towns that have national forests.
- Require the Export-Import Bank to fund firms that reinvest and create jobs in America.
- Make certain that Congress does not reduce Social Security benefits.
- Raise the minimum wage.
- Protect family farmers and keep the Northeast Dairy Compact intact.
- Release all possible LIHEAP funds for home heating fuel assistance.
- Require drug companies to charge a reasonable price for products developed with taxpayer funding.

And Bernie has led the fight in Congress to...

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