



Congresswoman Alma Adams [Follow](#)

Member of Congress proudly representing the 12th District of North Carolina  
Oct 2 · 7 min read

## September Congressional Update



Dear Friend,

September has been a busy both at home and in Washington, D.C. Take a look below to see what I've been up to.

Best Regards,

Congresswoman Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.





Each year, on Labor Day, we recognize the social and economic advancements of American workers on the first Monday of every September. This year, I celebrated the contributions of hardworking Americans, and the leadership of the organized labor movement, among friends at the 16th annual Charlotte Labor Day Parade. In Congress, I'll continue to be a strong advocate for fair and safe working conditions for all Americans.



I stand in solidarity with my Democratic colleagues, in the House and the Senate, to demand immediate passage of the DREAM Act to protect

DREAMers and ensure a prosperous future for our economy. [Watch by clicking here.](#)



This month, I visited the Raleigh Little Theatre to view the play, *Crowns*, based on a book of the same name, in which I'm featured. The play focuses on the history and importance of hats in the African American community. After the show, I spoke with Mike Williams, the curator of Arts Now, to discuss a wide variety of topics, including the many reasons I wear hats and my 40 years as a art professor at Bennett College. [Watch the discussion by clicking here.](#)



As chairwoman of the Bipartisan HBCU Caucus, I've made it my priority to advocate for the needs of HBCUs and the students they serve. This month, I was joined by Journey Rucker of Howard University's student-run Spotlight News Network. We discussed the White House's HBCU Initiative and the series of HBCU events I hosted for HBCU presidents and chancellors in Washington, D.C. last week. As we continue to push for increased resources for HBCUs, the support of HBCU leaders, students, and alumni is imperative. [Watch by clicking here.](#)



On September 17th, I was excited to be the guest speaker at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church's seminar "Civics 101: A Roadmap to Voter Empowerment." Now, more than ever, civic engagement in municipal, state, and federal government is critical. Nelson Henderson once said, "The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit." It's up to each of us to make work together to create a better future for the next generation.





I was proud to participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for ourBRIDGE's new after school center in East Charlotte. ourBRIDGE is an organization that focuses on helping children of immigrants and refugees integrate into the community through diversity education and intergenerational activities.



September is PACE (Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly)month! I joined PACE residents and staff at the Charlotte campus to hear their concerns about protecting Medicare and Medicaid, both of

which provides an avenue for healthcare coverage for millions of seniors, young people, and those who cannot afford it.



During National Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Week I convened a historic meeting at the U.S. Capitol with HBCU chancellors, presidents, Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Congressman Bobby Scott (D-VA), Ranking Member on the House Education and the Workforce Committee. I was proud to announce the House Democrat's HBCU priorities and to hear from HBCU leaders about the issues that impact their schools most. The time for talk is over. We must move forward with substantive legislative actions that ensure a prosperous future for HBCUs and the students they serve.



September is National Sickle Cell Awareness Month. This disease is personal to me because, as a child, I watched my sister suffer from it before she lost her battle with it at the age of 26. On Wednesday, I took to the floor of the House to encourage my colleagues to push for increased federal funding for additional research and treatment options. [Watch by clicking here.](#)



On Sunday, September 10, my district office participated in the El Grito celebration which recognizes the 207th Anniversary of the Independence of Mexico. Over 5000 people gathered in McAlpine Creek Park to hear our greetings delivered in English and Spanish.



## Legislative Update

### Key Letters

**Letter to President Trump, urging him to provide support to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands in the wake of Hurricane Maria:** This letter, sent on September 26, urges the president to further mobilize the Department of Defense to immediately deploy additional assets in support of Puerto Rican and U.S. Virgin Islands recovery efforts.

**Letter to HHS and CMS urging them to unfreeze Navigator grants and immediately release Notices of Award to 2017 program grantees:** Sent on September 12, this letter urged HHS and CMS to unfreeze Navigator grants and immediately release Notices of Award to 2017 program grantees. Navigators help consumers find and enroll in the health care plan that is best for them and their families.

**Letter to House Leadership supporting the reauthorization of Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Community Health Center Funds (CHCF):** This letter was sent on September 18 and asked for a five year reauthorization of CHIP and opposed any cuts to funding for Disproportionate Share Hospitals (DSH) or Community Health Center Funds.

**Letter to the Department of Energy, asking that they fund the HBCU Community Development Coalition:** The HBCU Community Development Coalition is a program that helps 14 schools, including Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, provide solar energy panels to nearby underserved communities.

**Letter to the Secretary of Labor, strongly supporting the salary level established in the 2016 Overtime Final Rule:** Sent on September 25, this letter urges the Department of Labor to use its authority under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) to maintain the salary level established in the overtime rule.

#### **Key Co-sponsorships**

**H.R. 3440, the DREAM Act, introduced by Rep. Roybal-Allard (D-CA) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)**

[Click here to learn more.](#)

**H.R. 3749, the SNAP Standard Medical Expense Deduction Act of 2017, introduced by Rep. Lawson (D-FL)**

[Click here to learn more.](#)

**H.R. 3699, the Urban Agriculture Production Act of 2017, introduced by Rep. Kaptur (D-OH)**

[Click here to learn more.](#)



**H.R. 3773, the Child Care for Working Families Act, introduced by Rep. Scott (D-VA)**

[Click here to learn more.](#)

**H.R. 2482, the Perkins Loan Extension Act, introduced by Rep. Pocan (D-WI) and Rep. Stefanik (R-NY)**

[Click here to learn more.](#)

**H.R. 502, to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund, introduced by Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ)**

[Click here to learn more.](#)



**Military Service Academy Day**

# JOIN US

## FOR THE 12<sup>th</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMY DAY



### CONGRESSWOMAN ALMA S. ADAMS, Ph.D.

Invites all high school students, parents, and teachers to attend the One Meck Military Service Academy Day.

The program will feature representatives from the

US Coast Guard, Military Academy at West Point, Merchant Marine, Air Force and the Naval Academy.

Join us to receive a comprehensive overview of the United States Service Academies,

and learn how high school students can be nominated to receive  
full scholarships to these prestigious institutions.

**Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
10:00 am to 12:00 pm**

**Hawthorne Academy of Health Sciences  
1411 Hawthorne Ln  
Charlotte, NC 28205**

For more information contact Mr. Kay Tembo at 704-344-9950 or [Kay.Tembo@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kay.Tembo@mail.house.gov)



**Satellite Office Hours**

*Satellite*  
**OFFICE HOURS**

**DAVIDSON, NC**  
216 SOUTH MAIN ST.  
1ST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
12:00 NOON - 2:00 PM

**HUNTERSVILLE, NC**  
HUNTERSVILLE ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER  
109 SOUTH OLD STATESVILLE RD.  
1ST AND 3RD TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON

**NC-12 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**

Visit my Satellite Offices in Davidson and Huntersville for assistance with veterans' benefits, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, immigration issues, federal grants, and more.



**Veterans Hotline**

**Veterans Casework:**  
[VAHelpNC12@mail.house.gov](mailto:VAHelpNC12@mail.house.gov)  
**veterans Hotline**  
Legislative Updates: 202-225-7475

[@RepAdams](https://twitter.com/RepAdams)

Do you need assistance with veterans benefits or have questions about veterans legislation being discussed in Congress? Please call the veterans hotline above or email [VAHelpNC12@mail.house.gov](mailto:VAHelpNC12@mail.house.gov). My staff is happy to assist you.



## Grants

My office can assist your organization with federal grants. For more information please contact Quanisha Collins in the Charlotte District office at (704) 344-9950 or [Quanisha.Collins@mail.house.gov](mailto:Quanisha.Collins@mail.house.gov).



## Congressional App Challenge



It's that time again! The Congressional App Challenge is back. Established by members of the U.S. House of Representatives in 2013, this competition is a nationwide event that allows high school students from across the country to compete by creating and exhibiting their software application (app) for mobile, tablet or computer devices. To learn how you, or someone you know, can get involved click [here](#).





# Stomp Out Hunger In The 12th District

September is Hunger Awareness Month