



## Jim Himes: An Independent Voice for Southwest Connecticut

*Jim Himes is new to politics. His experience in the private and non-profit sectors give him an important perspective on the challenging issues facing our neighborhoods, our state, and our country. Jim used that expertise to lead on Wall Street Reform, and he helped write provisions in the energy reform bill based on his work with an affordable housing non-profit. Jim is a thoughtful leader who does his own research, reads the bills before him, and gathers input from his constituents and community leaders before casting any vote. Jim's record shows he'll do what's best for Connecticut - whether that means standing with his party or against them.*

### By the Votes

Jim Himes has broken with his party on key fiscal and ethics issues

- According to the *Washington Post*, Jim Himes has the most independent voting record of any New England Member of Congress.
- On economic issues, Jim Himes has voted more conservatively than 42 percent Members of the U.S. House. (*National Journal*).
- Himes voted against \$200 billion in spending pushed through by Congress.
- Himes has repeatedly crossed the aisle to vote in favor of ethics investigations into the tie between earmarks and campaign contributions and voted against earmarks for private companies.

### On the Issues

**Economic Policy:** Jim gave the pay raise Members of Congress automatically received in 2009 to charity. Jim supported the Recovery Act at the urging of economists from the far left to far right, helped pass legislation to reduce foreclosures, and wrote new rules for Wall Street. When Jim took office the country was bleeding over 700,000 jobs a month, and now we are adding jobs. GDP has moved from contracting at 7.9 percent in the first quarter to increasing at a rate of 4.5 percent in the fourth quarter of 2009.

**Fiscal & Spending Issues:** Jim sponsored PAYGO, voted against \$200 billion in spending, voluntarily won't take campaign contributions from lobbyists at entities where he secures congressionally directed funding.

**Taxes:** Jim supports temporary extension of all current tax rates, but permanent extension would cost \$3.5 trillion over the next 10 years. Jim introduced the Telecommuter Tax Fairness Act to keep companies from taxing non-residents that work in their state. Jim helped pass the largest middle class tax cut in history.

**Small Business:** Jim voted for the Small Business Financing and Investment Act, which overhauled SBA's loan program to lower loan interest rates and make loans more attainable for small businesses. He also authored an amendment that created a low-income small business training program.

**Health Care:** Jim supported all efforts to increase competition in the health insurance market. In fact, he authored the provision in the health care reform bill that **allows health insurance to be sold across state lines** if the state legislatures in those states agree.

**Wall Street Reform:** Jim helped write the new law that ends taxpayer funded bailouts, provides new consumer protections, and drags the derivatives market into the light of day.

**Ethics:** Jim has crossed the aisle over a dozen times to votes in support of investigations into the tie between earmarks and campaign contributions and led the effort to change the Rules of the House to require Members of Congress to return unspent per diem fund from travel to the taxpayers. Himes also voted to remove Charlie Rangel from his position as Chair of the Ways & Means Committee.