

## About Robert Brady

Congressman Robert A. Brady (D., Pa.) was sworn into office to represent the people of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District on May 21, 1998. The First Congressional District includes portions of South Philadelphia, West Philadelphia, North Philadelphia, Northeast Philadelphia, Southwest Philadelphia, Northwest Philadelphia, Center City and parts of Delaware County. District One is among the most ethnically diverse districts in Pennsylvania.

Born and raised in Philadelphia, he graduated from St. Thomas More High School, found employment as a carpenter and was soon part of the leadership of the carpenter's union. He continues to be a dues paying member of both the Carpenters and the teachers union.

Brady's interest in the well-being of the 1st district is exemplified through the various leadership positions that he held prior to becoming a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. The accomplishments include, but are not limited to serving as Deputy Mayor for Labor in the administration of Philadelphia Mayor W. Wilson Goode, a consultant to the Pennsylvania State Senate, a Pennsylvania Turnpike Commissioner, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority.

During his legislative career, Congressman Brady has consistently earned an "A" or 100 percent rating from the AFL-CIO, NAACP, The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda, the Human Rights Campaign and every other national human rights organization that scores Congress. In addition, Congressman Brady has twice been honored as a "Friend of the National Parks" by the National Parks Conservation Association for his contribution to protecting and enhancing the environment in America's national parks.

In the 107th Congress, which ended in December, 2002, Congressman Brady pushed an aggressive legislative agenda, winning \$600,000 in funding for the reinstallation of lights on the dangerous Platt Bridge and for the designation of the Port of Philadelphia as a militarily strategic port. This designation allows for defense supply shipping from the east coast out of the Port of Philadelphia; it also gives the port preference for federal grants for infrastructure improvements. Brady's independent legislative initiatives also included passing the Vocational and Technical Entrepreneurship Development Act of 2001, which would establish a \$21 million, three-year vocational and technical pilot program and passing the Emergency Response Disease Protection Act, which provided funding for an investigation of the work-related pathways for transmission of Hepatitis C among firefighters and other first responder unit workers.

In recognition of his growing influence and effectiveness in Congress, Brady was appointed to the position of Senior Whip. The appointment gives the Congressman responsibility for ensuring direct communication between Democratic leaders and the congressional legislative body and for ensuring that Members of Congress are aware of legislative issues of importance to working people and the disadvantaged.