Accomplishments of Sample Congresses

Social Issues

101st Congress
(1989-1990)

Housing Programs
First major overhaul of federal housing programs since 1974; Congress moved to increase the nation's stock of affordable housing.

Child Care
Passed $18.3 billion in tax credits and $4.25 billion in new grant programs to help low- and moderate-income families pay for child care.

Emergency AIDS relief
Authorized $875 million in 1991 fiscal year for programs to help health and social service organizations cope with the rising costs of AIDS epidemic.

Immigration
First major revision of immigration laws in 25 years; allowed for more immigrants, especially those with education and skills, to be admitted to U.S.

Economic Issues

Budget Reduction Package
Budget deficit is to be reduced by $28 billion by 1991 fiscal year and by $236 billion in five years.

Defense Spending
Reduced defense spending by $288 billion.

104th Congress

Health Insurance
Enables workers to keep their health insurance even if they change jobs; makes getting insurance easier for people with pre-existing conditions.

Welfare Reform Bill
Limits number of years one can receive benefits; job training or employment must be sought.

Family Tax Relief
Provides $189 billion in tax relief for families over the next five years.

Environmental Issues

Clean Air Act
First successful rewrite of the Clean Air Act. Calls for reduction in toxic emissions from industry and smog.

Oil-Spill Liability
Increases liability of oil spillers and imposes stiffer criminal and civil penalties.

Minimum Wage
Increases the $4.25 an hour minimum wage by 90 cents in two steps.

Safe Drinking Water Act
Authorizes $7.6 billion for loans to improve deteriorating water systems and requires that customers be notified of chemicals and bacteria in water.