

Biographies



REP. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

<http://jacksonlee.house.gov/>

Democrat—18th District of Texas, Chairwoman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection, House Committees on the Judiciary, Homeland Security, and Foreign Affairs Committee

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee represents the 18th Congressional District of Texas, centered in Houston. She earned a B.A. in Political Science from Yale University, and a J.D. from the University of Virginia. She has authored several immigration bills, such as the "Save America Comprehensive Immigration Act of 2007", which sets forth a humane solution to the immigration problem in America. She introduced legislation to enhance federal enforcement of hate crimes and played a significant role in the renewal and reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act. She contributed an amendment to the NASA reauthorization bill to ensure equal access for minority and economically disadvantaged students to NASA's education programs. She launched a grant program to bring more women of color in the field of space and aeronautics. She is a founder of the newly formed Algerian Caucus and has been actively engaged on the issue of Darfur. She met with Sudanese refugees in Chad for whom she secured additional funding, and African Union soldiers in Sudan. *Congressional Quarterly* named her as one of the 50 most effective Members of Congress. *U.S. News and World Report* named her as one of the 10 most influential legislators in the House of Representatives. She received the 16th Annual Phillip Burton Immigration & Civil Rights Award. In recognition of her outstanding contributions to Science, the National Technical Association of Scientists and Engineers honored the Congresswoman with its Top Women in the Sciences Award, and was awarded the "Legislator of the Year" by the National Mental Health Association for her outstanding work on mental health legislation.