

Roster of Elected Officials Joining AASP Keeps Growing

In 1999, Lesley Devine was the first elected official in the nation to become a member of AASP. Ms. Devine, who is divorced and the mother of two adult daughters, is the Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Calabassas, California.

The following year, Brad Sherman became the first member of Congress to join AASP. Congressman Sherman, who is single, represents portions of Los Angeles in the United States House of Representatives.

AASP Executive Director Thomas F. Coleman met with Sherman and Devine recently. Coleman thanked them for their show of support and informed them that dozens of other state and local elected officials – both Democrats and Republicans – have followed their lead.

We are pleased to announce that three more members of Congress have recently joined AASP.

Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher, a single mother, represents a district in Northern California. Congressman Maurice Hinchey, who is married, represents a district which is located in upstate New York. Congressman Nick Rahall, who is divorced, represents portions of West Virginia.

In the coming weeks, we will be inviting hundreds of unmarried elected officials throughout the United States to join AASP. We will also be contacting hundreds of mayors and council members – whether married or single – in cities where a majority of households are headed by unmarried adults.

The United States is in a process of social and demographic transformation. Within a year or two it is expected that unmarried adults will head up a majority of our households.

As this shift occurs, our leaders will need to become more familiar with the needs of this new unmarried majority. More officials are joining AASP because they know they can come to us for reliable information about single and unmarried Americans.



Lesley Devine, Thomas Coleman, and Brad Sherman at Ms. Devine's home in California



Rep. Ellen Tauscher



Rep. Maurice Hinchey



Rep. Nick Rahall

Arizona Congressman Commends AASP

"Thank you for providing my office with the information packet commemorating National Singles Week. I found the packet informative and your newsletter, *Unmarried America*, is a good source of news and information for your readers.

"The American Association for Single People is to be commended for its advocacy on behalf of your members. I am opposed to unfair treatment of single people whether they are widows/widowers, divorced, or never married.

"The Winter 2001 edition of your newsletter noted that about 14 percent of the American population is currently without health insurance coverage and that many of them are single.

"I have authored legislation in the past giving individuals the same health care tax credit that businesses enjoy and the ability to shop for health care coverage that suits their needs. The intent of the legislation has been to reduce our nation's health coverage gap. Many single people will find obtaining health care coverage easier under the legislation. The bill will be introduced this spring.

"Thank you again for contacting my office. When issues arise that affect AASP members and my unmarried constituents, please do not hesitate to let me know."



Sincerely,
Rep. John Shadegg
December 21, 2001