

ARTICLE FOR NEWSLETTER
MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY AS A NATIONAL HOLIDAY

Senator Tsongas is an original co-sponsor of S. 400, a bill to designate January 15th, the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as a legal public holiday.

This bill, which is law in 19 states including Massachusetts, has been before the Congress since Dr. King's death in 1968.

Tsongas has co-sponsored this measure every session he has served in Congress. He was also a supporter of a successful effort during the last session of Congress to authorize the placement of a statue of Dr. King in the halls of the Capitol. Dr. King is the first Black to be memorialized in this manner.

The importance of declaring Dr. King's birthday a national holiday cannot be over-estimated. Numerous gains were made in the moral fight against racism and discrimination by Dr. King and they are a credit to all Americans. We as a nation should be proud to honor this hero of peace and non-violence for his commitment to equality and justice for all people.

Declaring Dr. King's birthday as a national holiday will serve as a constant reminder to all Americans, particularly our youth that change through faith, education and commitment is not only possible, it is inevitable.