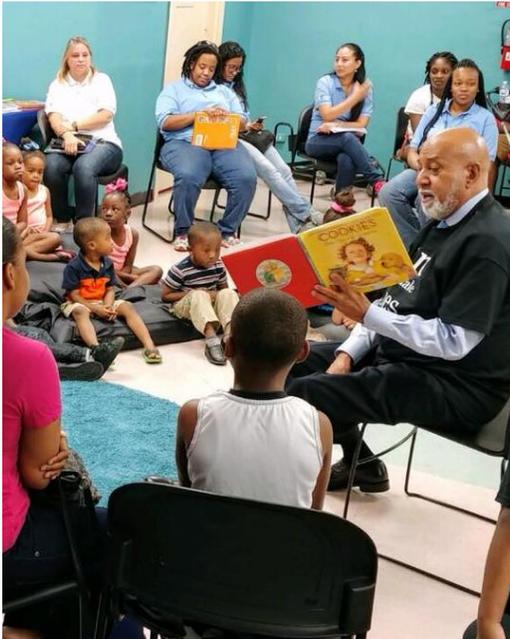


# Legislative Accomplishments of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress



**Office of Congressman Alcee L. Hastings**  
**Florida's 20<sup>th</sup> Congressional District**

**Table of Contents**

<b>Greeting from Congressman Hastings.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Legislation</b>	
<b>Bills and Resolutions Introduced.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Amendments Offered and Cosponsored.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Committee and Caucus Memberships.....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Letters</b>	
<b>Letters Sent to the White House, Federal Agencies, State Agencies,     Congressional Leadership, and Global Leaders.....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Grant Letters and Letters of Support.....</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Letters Signed.....</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Appropriations</b>	
<b>FY 2018 Appropriations Requests.....</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>FY 2019 Appropriations Requests.....</b>	<b>138</b>
<b>Rules Managed.....</b>	<b>164</b>
<b>Briefings.....</b>	<b>168</b>
<b>Congressional Record Statements.....</b>	<b>176</b>
<b>Constituent Correspondence.....</b>	<b>252</b>

December 2018

Dear Friend,

I am pleased to provide this summary of my office's accomplishments during the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. My office worked tirelessly throughout the past two years to advance the priorities of South Florida, our state, and our nation. I am proud of what we have accomplished and look forward to building upon these successes during the next session of Congress.

During the 115th Congress, I introduced 33 bills and resolutions, co-sponsored more than 800 pieces of legislation, and offered a range of amendments to legislation considered on the House floor. I successfully secured millions of dollars in additional funding for issues important to our community, including cybersecurity, breast cancer research, and Everglades restoration, and worked with my colleagues to pass legislation that will improve animal welfare throughout our country and across the globe.

As Co-Chair of the Florida Delegation, I organized meetings over the past two years to discuss our state's needs and advocate for issues of the greatest significance to South Florida. And, as the Senior Member of the House Rules Committee, I managed 33 rules on the House Floor and pushed back against GOP efforts to repeal healthcare reform, weaken protections for the working class, and provide trillions of dollars of handouts to their political benefactors.

I was pleased to send and sign onto hundreds of letters to Florida officials and leaders across the globe, assist cities in our region in securing valuable grant funding, and submit nearly 1,000 requests for Congressional appropriations. I proudly launched a new website to make it easier for my constituents to connect with me and responded to more than 50,000 letters on a wide range of topics. My offices helped hundreds of people in my district navigate the federal government to secure benefits they rightly earned. From the Glades to Miramar to Riviera Beach, I am proud to represent the 20<sup>th</sup> district and will continue to advocate for each of my constituents' needs.

The 115<sup>th</sup> Congress has not been without its challenges. The Trump Administration has taken our country in a dangerous direction, repealing measures protecting our air and water, while removing American leadership from the world stage. The President continues to equivocate on critically important issues like the resurgence of white nationalism, enduring racial disparities, and gun violence, dividing our country with prejudicial attacks aimed at ethnic minorities, religious minorities, women, the disabled, and the very concept of a free press.

The President and his supporters in Congress have done little to address the needs of real America. Health insurance markets have been left destabilized, national infrastructure continues to languish, and the President's trade war with the world continues to escalate. Little has been done to protect insolvent pension plans that put millions of Americans at risk of financial ruin. Families remain separated at the border, and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA) is still in limbo. Rather than addressing these important issues, President Trump has spent one of every four days of his presidency at his private golf clubs, at a cost of millions of dollars in taxpayer funding. His disastrous tax bill left low-income and middle-class families out in the cold in order to cut taxes for his wealthiest benefactors, adding more than \$2 trillion to the national debt. We deserve better from our president.

There are many important challenges still facing our country. I will continue to work hard to promote legislation and policies that create jobs, protect our environment, improve educational opportunities for our children, and preserve the national security, health and well-being of all American citizens. I approach every piece of legislation with the attention it rightfully deserves, and when it comes time to cast my vote, I rely on both my conscience and my constituents' views to guide me. I thank you for placing your trust in me to represent you in Washington. I look forward to continuing to advocate for our community in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress. With warm and personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alcee L. Hastings". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

## Legislation Introduced

I proudly introduced 33 bills and resolutions in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. Below, please find descriptions of the legislation I introduced.

1/03/2017 **H.R. 157, *The Combatting Terrorism in Tunisia Emergency Support Act of 2017***

H.R.157 declares that it is the policy of the United States to assist the government of Tunisia in eliminating terrorist organizations operating within its borders and preventing fighters in Syria from returning to Tunisia. The legislation authorizes the Department of State to provide assistance to strengthen and reform Tunisia's security sector, support Tunisia's efforts to combat terrorism, provide assistance to support Tunisia's democracy and civil society, provide assistance to support Tunisia's border security by enhancing its capabilities to interdict illicit weapons trafficking, reprogram certain funds to support Tunisia's economic reforms; and enter into a memorandum of understanding with Tunisia to increase military cooperation, including joint military exercises, personnel exchanges, and enhanced strategic dialogue.

**Cosponsors:** 1

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs

1/03/2017 **H.R.158, *The Corey Jones Act***

H.R.158 prohibits the award of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant funding to local police departments that do not prohibit plain-clothes officers from engaging in routine traffic stops in unmarked vehicles. The legislation is named after Corey Jones, a resident of Lake Worth, who was shot and killed by a plain-clothes law enforcement officer operating an unmarked vehicle during the early hours of October 18, 2015.

**Cosponsors:** 8

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary

1/03/2017 **H.R.159, *To expand the workforce of veterinarians specialized in the care and conservation of wild animals and their ecosystems, and to develop educational programs focused on wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine***

H.R.159 authorizes the Department of the Interior to award grants to wildlife or veterinary institutions to create additional clinical and research positions for wildlife and zoological veterinarians. Preference must be given to institutions that will create positions in areas of need, including wildlife disease research and training, disease surveillance, ecology and wildlife population management, and conservation and management of the health of endangered, threatened, and sensitive species.

**Cosponsors:** 16

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources

1/03/2017 **H.R.161, *The Services for Ending Long-Term Homelessness Act***

Amends the *Public Health Service Act* to require the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to design national strategies to address chronic homelessness. This legislation seeks to end the problem of unstable housing through matching grants providing mental health services, substance use disorder treatment, and other services designed to help individuals and families make progress toward self-sufficiency.

**Cosponsors:** 5

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce

1/03/2017 **H.R.164, *Increasing Access to Voluntary Screening for HIV/AIDS and STIs Act of 2017***

This bill amends title XVIII (Medicare) and title XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act to require Medicare and state Medicaid programs to provide routine HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infection (STI) screening services. State Medicaid programs must provide these services without cost sharing for the screened individual.

The bill amends the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and the Internal Revenue Code to require group health plans and health insurers to provide coverage for routine HIV/AIDS and STI screening under no less favorable terms than other routine health screenings. The bill prohibits activities to avoid these requirements.

**Cosponsors:** 1

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committees on Energy and Commerce, Education and the Workforce, Ways and Means, and Oversight and Government Reform

1/03/2017 **H.R.165, *Restoring the Partnership for County Health Care Costs Act of 2017***

To amend titles XVI, XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Social Security Act to remove limitations on Medicaid, Medicare, SSI, and CHIP benefits for persons in custody pending disposition of charges.

**Cosponsors:** 6

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means

1/03/2017 **H.Res.30, *Recognizing the importance of nonprofit organizations to the economy of the United States and expressing support for designation of September as "Nonprofit Organization (NPO) Recognition Month"*.**

H.Res.30 recognizes the importance of nonprofits to the communities they serve, the issues they support, and the economy of the United States, and supports the designation of Nonprofit Organization Recognition Month.

**Cosponsors:** 2

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

1/3/2017 **H.R. 168, *Donate for Disaster Relief Act of 2017***

H.R. 168 amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow individual taxpayers to designate an amount (not less than \$1) of any overpayment of income tax to a Disaster Relief Fund, established by this bill, for the purpose of providing relief for major disasters declared under the *Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act*.

**Cosponsors:** 9

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means and the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

1/3/2017 **H.R. 160, *Ending Corporal Punishment in Schools Act of 2017***

H.R.160 amends the *General Education Provisions Act* to prohibit the Department of Education (ED) from providing funding to any state or local educational agency (LEA) that allows its school personnel to inflict corporal punishment upon a student. ED may award three-year grants to states or LEAs to assist them with improving school climate and culture. Grants must be used to implement school-wide positive behavior programs.

**Cosponsors:** 8

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce

1/3/2017 **H.R. 163, *Gun Manufacturers Accountability Act***

H.R.163 amends the *Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act* to repeal provisions that prohibit state or federal civil actions or administrative proceedings from being brought against firearm or ammunition manufacturers, sellers, importers, dealers, or trade associations for criminal or unlawful misuse of a firearm.

**Cosponsors:** 2

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary

1/3/2017 **H.R.162, the Haitian Educational Empowerment Act of 2017**

H.R.162 directs the Department of State to establish a scholarship program for eligible Haitian students who were enrolled as full-time students in a Haitian or U.S. university or institution of higher education, and whose studies were interrupted as a result of the January 12, 2010 earthquake or the October 2016 hurricane. The legislation authorizes the State Department to make grants to institutions of higher education that have enrolled a significant number of Haitian students who were enrolled as full-time students in a Haitian university at the time of the earthquake or hurricane

**Cosponsors:** 5

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs

1/3/2017 **H.J.Res.10, Authorization of Use of Force (AUMF) Against Iran Resolution**

H.J.Res.10 would enable a very important conversation regarding the use of military force to take place in Congress before any action military action is taken to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon. The War Powers Act of 1973 forbids the President from committing America's armed forces for periods of more than 60 days unless Congress declares war or grants Congressional authorization in the form of an AUMF. Unfortunately, since 2002, the United States has been guided by a broadly written AUMF that has frozen Congress out of conversations related to military engagements. For too long Congress has not had the opportunity to weigh in on decisions to commit American troops overseas. This cannot be allowed to continue.

**Cosponsors:** None sought

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs

1/4/2017 **H.Con.Res. 4, Expressing support for temporary protected status for Haitian nationals currently residing in the United States, and for other purposes**

H.Con.Res.4 expresses support for granting temporary protected status to Haitian nationals currently residing in the United States, and the Haitian people and government as they work to rebuild from years of natural disasters, economic hardship, and political turmoil.

**Cosponsors:** 6

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the House Committee on the Judiciary

1/09/2017 **H.R.379, *The Justice for Yazidis Act***

H.R.379 expands mental health, physical therapy, and other health services provided by the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to religious minority groups that have suffered the greatest persecution under the Islamic State (IS). This legislation establishes a P2 Processing system for Iraqi and Syrian religious minority groups, allowing individuals to apply directly to the United States for refugee status.

**Cosponsors:** 6

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committees on the Judiciary, Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, and Appropriations

2/16/2017 **H.Res.68, *Condemning Palestinian incitement and reaffirming the special bond between Israel and the United States.***

H.Res.68 condemns Palestinian incitement to violence, which led to a wave of more than 300 lone-wolf terrorist attacks in Israel throughout between 2015 and 2017. This resolution condemns terrorism, calls on the Palestinian Authority and the international community to condemn incitement and acts of violence against Israeli citizens, and expresses support for the numerous individuals and organizations working to encourage cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians and to bring an end to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.

**Cosponsors:** 3

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs

3/07/2017 **H.R.1406, *the Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act of 2017***

H.R.1406 amends the *Animal Welfare Act* to prohibit people from knowingly slaughtering a dog or cat for human consumption. In addition, the bill prohibits people from knowingly transporting, possessing, buying, selling, or donating: (1) a dog or cat to be slaughtered for human consumption, or (2) dog or cat parts for human consumption.

**Cosponsors:** 246

**Last Action:** Agreed to in the House, passed by voice vote

3/16/2017 **H.R.1570, the African Descent Affairs Act of 2017**

H.R.1570 directs the Department of State to establish an Office of Global African Descent Affairs, to be headed by the Director and Special Advisor to the Secretary on Global African Descent Affairs. Functions of the office include: 1) advising the Secretary of State and directing policies, programs, and funding relating to the human rights and the advancement of people of African descent internationally, 2) developing and managing the Fund for African Descent Affairs to invest in solutions to combat racial discrimination and create economic and other opportunities for people of African descent internationally, 3) directing U.S. government resources to respond to needs for protection, integration, resettlement, and empowerment of people of African descent in U.S. policies and international programs, and 4) compiling an annual report on U.S. government activities relating to people of African descent.

**Cosponsors:** 15

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs

5/18/2017 **H.Res.231, *Celebrating the importance of the 15th Anniversary of the Arab Peace Initiative as a meaningful effort by Arab countries to the commitment of peace in the Middle East.***

H.Res.231 highlights the importance of the Arab Peace Initiative and urges all parties to continue working towards the normalization of bilateral relations with Israel.

**Cosponsors:** none sought

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs

5/23/2017 **H.R.2610, the Taxpayers Require Urgent Mandatory Protection from Egregious Debt (TRUMPED) Act of 2017**

H.R.2610 allows state and local governments to recover their costs for providing protection to government officials and other individuals allowed Secret Service protection who travel to those jurisdictions for a period of more than 24 hours to visit real property in which such officials or individuals, or their spouses, have any ownership interest. The bill also grants a recovery right to any business that is significantly adversely affected by the provision of such protection.

**Cosponsors:** 2

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary

5/25/2017 **H.R.2691, *Everglades for the Next Generation Act***

H.R.2691 amends the *Water Resources Development Act of 2000* to authorize the Department of the Army, after completing an implementation report prepared for a project under the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and without any further congressional authorization, to carry out: (1) any project identified in the plan for which a project implementation report is completed that is in accordance with an integrated delivery schedule approved by the Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District, provided that the report is completed by five years after the date of the enactment of this bill; and (2) any group of projects under the plan that the Corps determines will provide regional or watershed ecosystem or water supply benefits if constructed in accordance with a project implementation report approved by the Corps and the district by such date.

**Cosponsors:** 2

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

6/20/2017 **H.Res.393, *Expressing support for addressing the Arab-Israeli conflict in a concurrent track with the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and commending Arab and Muslim-majority states that have improved bilateral relations with Israel.***

H.Res.393 expresses support for the concurrent-track approach to the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process, which encourages Arab and other Muslim-majority states to improve bilateral relations with Israel while at the same time seeking to advance a negotiated two-state resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The resolution reaffirms American commitment to a two-state solution, commends Arab and Muslim-majority states that have taken steps to improve bilateral relations with the State of Israel, and urges the resumption of bilateral negotiations between the State of Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

**Cosponsors:** 39

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs

7/11/2017 **H.Res.433, *Disapproving of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee Inscription of Hebron as a Palestinian World Heritage Site in Danger.***

H.Res.433 expresses disapproval of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO's) World Heritage Committee Inscription of the ancient city of Hebron as a Palestinian World Heritage Site in danger, including the Cave of the Patriarchs, the second most holy site in Judaism.

**Cosponsors:** 6

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs

10/26/2017 **H.Res.591, Denouncing the ongoing violence against the Rohingya people of Burma**

H.Res.591 denounces the ongoing violence perpetrated by the Burmese (Myanmar) government and military against the Rohingya and all violent actions taken by the Arkan Rohingya Salvation Army. The resolution calls on the Burmese government to allow all members of the media, international aid groups, and a United Nations fact-finding mission unfettered access into and throughout the state of Rakhine in Burma, and urges the international community to do everything possible to help Bangladesh continue to provide life-saving assistance to Rohingya refugees.

**Cosponsors:** None sought

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs

1/03/2018 **H.Res.19, Supporting the goals and ideals of Jubilee Day**

H.Res.19 recognizes the contributions of the Jubilee Singers to the musical landscape of the United States and supports the goals and ideals of Jubilee Day.

**Cosponsors:** 4

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce

1/03/2018 **H.Res.20, Recognizing the importance of nonprofit organizations to the economy of the United States and expressing support for designation of September as "Nonprofit Organization (NPO) Recognition Month"**

H.Res.20 recognizes the importance of nonprofits to the communities they serve, the issues they support, and the economy of the United States. Supports the designation of Nonprofit Organization Recognition Month.

**Cosponsors:** 2

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

1/03/2018 **H.R.166, Outpatient Mental Health Modernization Act of 2017**

H.R.166 amends title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act to cover nutritional planning, meals, and transportation as partial-hospitalization services under Medicare.

**Cosponsors:** 4

**Last Action:** Referred to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

1/08/2018 **H.Res.680, *Celebrating the 40th anniversary of Keiser University and recognizing the university as a vital institution of higher education, developing a diverse student population that impacts numerous aspects of the State of Florida and the global economy.***

H.Res.680 congratulates Keiser University on its 40th anniversary.

**Cosponsors:** 19

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

1/08/2018 **H.R.4739, *The Build America Act***

H.R.4739 transitions two discretionary grant programs, the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Grant Program (TIGER Grants) and the Capital Investment Grant Program (CIG), into mandatory programs and upscales their funding award \$120 billion in merit-based infrastructure funding over the coming decade. The legislation increases the motor vehicle fuel excise tax by 35 cents to fully fund these programs and the Department of Transportation's Highway Trust Fund.

**Cosponsors:** 3

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Ways and Means

06/06/2018 **H.Res.925, *Recognizing people of African descent and Black Europeans***

H.Res.925 celebrates the collective history and achievements made by people of African descent, reaffirms the importance of inclusion and the full and equal participation of people of African descent around the world in all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural life, and recognizes that, as a result of their skin color and ancestry, many Black Europeans have wrongfully experienced injustices in the public and private sector.

**Cosponsors:** 2

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs

6/14/2018 **H.Res.942, *Expressing support for the honoring of the City Commission of the City of Lauderdale Lakes, Broward County, Florida***

H.Res.942 congratulates the all-minority, all-woman City Commission of Lauderdale Lakes, Florida, the first of its kind in the nation.

**Cosponsors:** 4

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

6/22/2018 **H.Res.401, *Urging all nations to outlaw the dog and cat meat trade and to enforce existing laws against such trade***

H.Res.401 calls for an end to the dog and cat meat industry and urges all nations to outlaw the dog and cat meat trade. Affirms the commitment of the United States to the protection of animals around the world.

**Cosponsors:** 152

**Last Action:** Agreed to in the House, passed by voice vote

6/22/2018 **H.Res.958, *Expressing support for the recognition of the Dillard Center for the Arts Jazz Band for winning first place in the 2018 Essentially Ellington Competition, one of the most prestigious national high school jazz band competitions in the country***

H.Res.958 recognizes the achievements and first place win of the Dillard Center for the Arts Jazz Band in the 2018 Essentially Ellington Contest in New York City.

**Cosponsors:** 4

**Last Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce

**Amendments Offered**

I sponsored and cosponsored a total of 39 amendments during the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. Below, please find descriptions of these amendments:

7/13/2017 *An Amendment requiring the President to report to Congress on any coordination between American Armed Forces and local forces conducting military operations in regions held by the Islamic State where these captives may be held, printed in House Report 115-212*

**Amendment to:** H.R.2810, the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018*

**Offered by:** Rep. Thornberry (R-TX) as part of En Bloc No. 2

**Cosponsors:** None Sought

**Last Action:** House amendment agreed to, approved by voice vote.

7/11/2017 *An amendment striking subsection (d) of section 418 of title 37, United States Code, pertaining to the issuance of footwear to members of the uninformed service.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2018

**Sponsored by:** Rep. Sanford (R-SC)

**Cosponsors:** Rep. Hastings, Rep. McClintock (R-CA), and Rep. Garrett (R-VA)

**Last Action:** Committee amendment, withdrawn

7/11/2017 *An amendment Encouraging the prioritization of military readiness over oil and gas exploration and extraction in existing testing and training areas available for military use.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2018

**Sponsored by:** Rep. Crist (D-FL)

**Cosponsors:** Rep. Castor (D-FL), Rep. Hastings, Rep. Soto (D-FL), Rep. Murphy (D-FL), Rep. Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Rep. Pallone (D-NJ), Rep. Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), Rep. Beyer (D-VA), Rep. Mast (R-FL), Rep. Frankel (D-FL), Rep. LoBiondo (D-NJ), Rep. Lawson (D-FL), Rep. Demings (D-FL), and Rep. Deutch (D-FL)

**Last Action:** Committee amendment, not made in order

9/05/2017 *H.Amdt.387, an amendment that prohibits NOAA from using funds to relocate the Southeast Fisheries Science Center located in Virginia Key, Florida.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 3354, the *Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018*

**Offered By:** Rep. Gaetz (R-FL)

**Sponsored By:** Rep. Deutch (D-FL)

**Cosponsored:** Rep. Hastings, Rep. Curbelo (R-FL), Rep. Frankel (D-FL), Rep. Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), and Rep. Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)

**Last Action:** House amendment agreed to, passed by voice vote.

9/05/2017 *An amendment that prohibits NOAA from using funds to relocate the Southeast Fisheries Science Center located in Virginia Key, Florida.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 3354, the *Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018*

**Sponsored By:** Rep. Deutch (D-FL)

**Cosponsored:** Rep. Hastings, Rep. Curbelo (R-FL), Rep. Frankel (D-FL), Rep. Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), and Rep. Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)

**Last Action:** Committee amendment, withdrawn

9/05/2017 *An amendment increasing funding for the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) by \$3.03 million, offset with HUD IT accounts, and eliminating the sunset date on USICH.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 3354, the *Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018*

**Sponsored by:** Rep. Lee (D-CA)

**Cosponsors:** Rep. Waters (CA), Rep. Hastings, Rep. Gomez (D-CA), Rep. Bonamici (D-OR), Rep. Quigley (D-IL), Rep. Pingree (D-ME), and Rep. McCollum (D-MN)

**Last Action:** Committee amendment, not made in order

9/05/2017 *An amendment prohibiting funds from being made available to reduce the number of refugees admitted to the U.S. below Fiscal Year 2017 levels.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 3354, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018

**Sponsored by:** Rep. Pascrell (D-NJ)

**Cosponsors:** Rep. Lieu (D-CA), Rep. Brownley (D-CA), Rep. Schiff (D-CA), Rep. Hastings, Rep. Vargas (D-CA), and Rep. Delaney (D-MD)

**Last Action:** Committee amendment, not made in order

9/27/2017 **H.Amdt.326**, *An amendment (numbered 97 printed in Part B of House Report 115-295) to designate \$12 million for programs benefiting the Ethiopian-Israeli community*

**Amendment to:** H.R.3354, the *Interior and Environment, Agriculture and Rural Development, Commerce, Justice, Science, Financial Services and General Government, Homeland Security, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, State and Foreign Operations, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, Defense, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, Legislative Branch, and Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, Fiscal Year 2018*

**Cosponsors:** None Sought

**Last Action:** House amendment not agreed to, failed by voice vote.

9/27/2017 **H.Amdt.327**, *An amendment (numbered 98 printed in Part B of House Report 115-295) to designate \$20 million for psychosocial support programs for religious and ethnic minorities persecuted by ISIS*

**Amendment to:** H.R.3354, the *Interior and Environment, Agriculture and Rural Development, Commerce, Justice, Science, Financial Services and General Government, Homeland Security, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, State and Foreign Operations, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, Defense, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, Legislative Branch, and Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, Fiscal Year 2018*

**Cosponsors:** None Sought

**Last Action:** House amendment not agreed to, failed by voice vote.

11/30/2017 **H.Amdt.489, *To exempt alumni of the PeaceCorps, AmeriCorps, and other national service programs under the Corporation for National and Community Service from the two year probationary period***

**Amendment to:** H.R.4182, the *Ensuring a Qualified Civil Service Act of 2017*

**Cosponsors:** None Sought

**Last Action:** House amendment not agreed to, failed 195-221

11/30/2017 ***An amendment exempting veterans from the two year probationary period***

**Amendment to:** H.R.4182, the *Ensuring a Qualified Civil Service Act of 2017*

**Cosponsors:** None Sought

**Last Action:** Committee amendment, not made in order.

11/30/2017 ***An amendment exempting Americans with disabilities from the two year probationary period***

**Amendment to:** H.R.4182, the *Ensuring a Qualified Civil Service Act of 2017*

**Cosponsors:** None Sought

**Last Action:** Committee amendment not made in order.

11/30/2017 ***An amendment exempting minorities serving in traditionally underrepresented areas of the civil service from the two year probationary period***

**Amendment to:** H.R.4182, the *Ensuring a Qualified Civil Service Act of 2017*

**Cosponsors:** None Sought

**Last Action:** Committee amendment, not made in order.

3/15/2018 ***An Amendment Allowing the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to fill any vacant position within the VA, regardless of whether the position was vacated before or after the hiring freeze imposed on January 23, 2017***

**Amendment to:** H.R.1367, *To improve the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to hire and retain physicians and other employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes*

**Offered by:** Rep. Hastings

**Cosponsors:** None Sought

**Last Action:** Committee amendment, not made in order

4/26/2018 *An Amendment Requiring the FAA to study and submit to Congress a report on technologies developed by international entities that have been installed in American airports and aviation systems, and aviation safety technology implemented by international entities that may assist in improving American aviation operations and safety, printed in House Report 115-650*

**Amendment to:** H.R.4, the *FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018*

**Offered by:** Rep. Bill Shuster (R-PA) as part of En Bloc No. 3

**Cosponsors:** None Sought

**Last Action:** House amendment agreed to, approved by voice vote.

**Note:** This amendment was also included in the base text of H.R.302, the *FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, as amended*, which passed in the House of Representatives on September 25, 2018.

5/22/2018 *An Amendment Directing the Secretary of State and the Director of USAID to consult with the Secretary of Defense to establish protocols for the purpose of advising, training, and assisting indigenous partners in the rescue, caring for, and relocation of captives of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), including the safe relocation of internally displaced persons (IDPs)*

**Amendment to:** H.R.5515, the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019*

**Offered by:** Rep. Hastings

**Cosponsors:** None Sought

**Last Action:** Committee amendment, not made in order

5/22/2018 *An amendment requiring the Department of Defense to provide additional consideration to qualified applicants from Minority-Serving Institutions in Direct Hiring.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 5515, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019

**Sponsored by:** Rep. Adams (D-NC)

**Cosponsors:** Rep. Hastings (D-FL)

**Last Action:** Committee amendment, not made in order

5/22/2018 **H.Amdt.370, *An amendment promoting increased participation in Federal procurement by HBCUs.***

**Amendment to:** H.R. 5515, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019

**Sponsored by:** Rep. Adams (D-NC)

**Cosponsors:** Rep. Hastings (D-FL)

**Last Action:** House amendment agreed to, adopted by voice vote. No similar provision was included in the Senate Amendment. The House recessed.

5/22/2018 ***An amendment requiring the Administrator of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy to report to Congress on the progress of all Federal departments and agencies in complying with Executive Order 12928***

**Amendment to:** H.R. 5515, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019

**Sponsored by:** Rep. Adams (D-NC)

**Cosponsors:** Rep. Hastings (D-FL)

**Last Action:** Committee amendment, not made in order

5/22/2018 **H.Amdt.644, *An amendment helping students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISI) access the Department of Defense Cyber Scholarship Program***

**Amendment to:** H.R. 5515, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019

**Offered by:** Rep. Thornberry (R-TX) as part of En Bloc No. 6

**Sponsored by:** Rep. Aguilar (D-CA)

**Cosponsors:** Rep. Chu (CA), Rep. Bishop, Sanford (GA), Rep. Carbajal (CA), Rep. Johnson, Hank (GA), Rep. Norton (DC), Rep. Correa (CA), Rep. Veasey (TX), Rep. Serrano (NY), Rep. Hastings, Alcee (FL), Rep. Lujan (NM), Rep. Kelly, Robin (IL), Rep. Lowenthal (CA), Rep. Brown (MD), Rep. Fudge (OH), Rep. Takano (CA), Rep. Butterfield (NC), Rep. Rush (IL), and Rep. Hanabusa (HI)

**Last Action:** House amendment agreed to, passed by voice vote.

5/23/2018 *An amendment Directing the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress on military installations that have been available for disaster recovery over the past 10 fiscal years, and installations assessed to be available for fast response in the future, printed in House Report 115-702*

**Amendment to:** H.R.5515, the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019*

**Offered by:** Rep. Thornberry (R-TX) as part of En Bloc No. 1

**Cosponsors:** None Sought

**Last Action:** House amendment agreed to, approved by voice vote.

5/24/2018 *An amendment Authorizing the Secretary of Defense to establish a joint Military Transition Outreach Pilot Program for contacting service-members within 30–90 days post-separation and/or retirement from active duty, printed in House Report 115-702*

**Amendment to:** H.R.5515, the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019*

**Offered by:** Rep. Thornberry (R-TX) as part of En Bloc No. 7

**Cosponsors:** None Sought

**Last Action:** House amendment agreed to, approved by voice vote.

6/05/2018 *An amendment that streamlines the authorization process for Everglades' restoration projects over the next five years by allowing the Corp to begin work on projects included in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan without seeking a separate congressional authorization for each project.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 8, the *Water Resources Development Act of 2018*

**Offered By:** Rep. Hastings

**Cosponsors:** Rep. Soto (D-FL)

**Last Action:** Committee amendment, not made in order

6/06/2018 *H.Amdt.662, an amendment that directs the Secretary to provide technical assistance on construction to a state agency that is carrying out congressionally authorized projects. Such assistance would be reimbursed by the state agency. Protects existing authorities under Davis-Bacon.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 8, the *Water Resources Development Act of 2018*

**Offered By:** Rep. Shuster (R-PA)

**Sponsored By:** Rep. Posey (R-IN)

**Cosponsored:** Rep. Hastings, Rep. Mast (R-FL), Rep. Wilson (D-FL)

**Last Action:** House amendment agreed to, passed by voice vote.

- 6/07/2018 **H.Amdt.753, *An amendment (numbered 5 printed in Part B of House Report 115-712) to increase funding for cybersecurity of the electric power grid, offset by funding for fossil energy research and development***
- Amendment to:** H.R.5895, the *Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2019*  
**Cosponsors:** None Sought  
**Last Action:** House amendment not agreed to, failed by voice vote.
- 6/20/2018 ***An amendment that allows certain long-term Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders to apply for Legal Permanent Residency in the United States.***
- Amendment to:** H.R.4760, the *Securing America's Future Act*  
**Offered By:** Rep. Hastings  
**Cosponsors:** None Sought  
**Last Action:** Committee amendment, not made in order
- 6/20/2018 ***An amendment that allows certain long-term TPS holders to apply for Legal Permanent Residency in the United States.***
- Amendment to:** H.R.6136, the *Border Security and Immigration Reform Act*  
**Offered By:** Rep. Hastings  
**Cosponsors:** None Sought  
**Last Action:** Committee amendment, not made in order
- 6/26/2018 ***An amendment to increase funding for the training and retention of cybersecurity professionals under the Navy Operation and Maintenance Account by \$10,000,000***
- Amendment to:** H.R.6157, the *Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019*  
**Offered by:** Rep. Hastings  
**Last Action:** Committee amendment, withdrawn
- 6/26/2018 ***An amendment to increase funding for the training and retention of cybersecurity professionals under the Army Operation and Maintenance Account by \$10,000,000***
- Amendment to:** H.R.6157, the *Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019*  
**Offered by:** Rep. Hastings  
**Last Action:** Committee amendment, withdrawn

6/26/2018 ***An amendment to increase funding for the training and retention of cybersecurity professionals under the Air Force Operation and Maintenance Account by \$10,000,000***

**Amendment to:** H.R.6157, the *Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019*

**Offered by:** Rep. Hastings

**Last Action:** Committee amendment, withdrawn

6/26/2018 ***An amendment to increase funding for the training and retention of cybersecurity professionals under the Marine Corps Operation and Maintenance Account by \$10,000,000***

**Amendment to:** H.R.6157, the *Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019*

**Offered by:** Rep. Hastings

**Last Action:** Committee amendment, withdrawn

6/26/2018 ***H.Amdt.815, An amendment (numbered 16 printed in Part A of House Report 115-783) to increase Peer-Reviewed Breast Cancer Research Program funding by \$5,000,000***

**Amendment to:** H.R.6157, the *Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019*

**Offered by:** Rep. Visclosky (D-IN) on behalf of Rep. Hastings

**Cosponsors:** None Sought

**Last Action:** House amendment agreed to, approved by voice vote.

6/27/2018 ***H.Amdt.821, An amendment (numbered 4 printed in House Report 115-785) to increase funding for the training and retention of cybersecurity professionals under the Defense-Wide Operation and Maintenance Account by \$5,000,000.***

**Amendment to:** H.R.6157, the *Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019*

**Offered by:** Rep. Rosen (D-NV) on behalf of Rep. Hastings

**Cosponsors:** Rosen (NV)

**Last Action:** House amendment agreed to, approved by voice vote.

- 7/10/2018 *An Amendment Directing the Director of National Intelligence to develop and implement an Intelligence Community (IC-wide) pilot program that recognizes significant acts of achievement by intern students resulting in a noteworthy contribution to a successful accomplishment to an IC mission or activity.*
- Amendment to:** H.R. 6237, the *Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019*  
**Offered by:** Rep. Hastings  
**Cosponsors:** None Sought  
**Last Action:** Committee Amendment, withdrawn
- 7/11/2018 *An Amendment to the National Security Act to include in its list of statutorily-required positions on the National Security Council a Cybersecurity Coordinator. The Cybersecurity Coordinator shall be paid at the rate of basic pay for level III of the Executive Schedule.*
- Amendment to:** H.R. 6237, the *Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019*  
**Offered by:** Rep. Hastings  
**Cosponsors:** None Sought  
**Last Action:** Committee amendment, not agreed to
- 7/11/2018 *H.Amdt.847, an amendment that ensures that rebuilding plans are successful in rebuilding overfished fish stocks.*
- Amendment to:** H.R. 200, the *Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act*  
**Sponsored By:** Rep. Huffman (D-CA)  
**Cosponsored:** Rep. Hastings  
**Last Action:** House amendment not agreed to, failed by voice vote.
- 7/11/2018 *An amendment Inserting the findings of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence with respect to the Intelligence Community Assessment (ICA) regarding Russian activities and intentions in the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election.*
- Amendment to:** H.R. 6237, the *Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019*  
**Sponsored by:** Rep. Torres (D-CA)  
**Cosponsors:** Rep. McGovern (D-MA), Rep. Hastings (D-FL), and Rep. Polis (D-CO)  
**Last Action:** Committee amendment, not made in order

7/12/2018 **H.Amdt.860**, *An amendment (numbered 6 printed in House Report 115-815) to direct the Director of National Intelligence to create and implement a plan that expands the recruitment efforts of all intelligence agencies geographic parameters used in recruitment efforts so that rural and other underserved regions across the nation are more fully represented in such efforts.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 6237, the *Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019*

**Offered by:** Rep. Hastings

**Cosponsors:** None Sought

**Last Action:** House amendment agreed to, approved by voice vote.

7/18/2018 *An amendment that prohibits funds to conduct offshore drilling and seismic testing.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 6147, the *Interior, Environment, Financial Services and General Government, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2019*

**Sponsored By:** Rep. Sanford (R-SC)

**Cosponsored:** Rep. Hastings, Rep. LoBiondo (R-NJ), Rep. Beyer (D-VA), Rep. Rooney (R-FL), Rep. Gaetz (R-FL), Rep. Posey (R-FL), Rep. Katko (R-NY), Rep. Rutherford (R-FL), Rice (R-SC), Rep. Jones (R-NC)

**Last Action:** Committee amendment, not made in order

**Committee Memberships**

**House Rules Committee**  
Senior Democratic Member

**House Rules Committee**  
**Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process**  
Ranking Democratic Member

**U.S. Helsinki Commission**  
Ranking Democratic Member

**Caucus Memberships**

Congressional  
Homelessness Caucus  
**Co-Founder/Co-  
Chairman**

Congressional Pollinator  
Protection Caucus  
**Co-Founder/Co-  
Chairman**

Democratic Caucus'  
Congressional Task  
Force on Job Creation  
**Co-Chairman**

Democratic Israel  
Working Group  
**Co-Chairman**

Everglades Caucus  
**Co-Chairman**

Florida Congressional  
Delegation  
**Democratic Chairman**

Friends of Jordan  
Caucus  
**Vice Chair**

Global Road Safety  
Caucus  
**Co-Chairman**

House Sugar Caucus  
**Co-Chairman**

Tunisia Caucus  
**Co-Founder/Co-  
Chairman**

Afterschool Caucus

Algae Energy Caucus

Algeria Caucus

Americans Abroad  
Caucus

Bicameral  
Congressional Caucus  
on Parkinson's Disease

Bipartisan  
Congressional Task  
Force on Alzheimer's  
Disease

Bipartisan Cystic  
Fibrosis Caucus

Caribbean Caucus

Children's Caucus

Coalition for Autism  
Research and Education

Coast Guard Caucus

Community College  
Caucus

Congressional Academic Medicine Caucus	Congressional Afghan Caucus	Congressional Anti-Bullying Caucus	Congressional Anti-Terrorism Caucus
Congressional Animal Protection Caucus	Congressional Army Caucus	Congressional Arts Caucus	Congressional Asthma and Allergy Caucus
Congressional Bicameral High-Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail Caucus	Congressional Black Caucus	Congressional Black Caucus Energy and the Environment Taskforce	Congressional Black Caucus Gaming Taskforce
Congressional Boating Caucus	Congressional Caucus on the European Union	Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth	Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues
Congressional Caucus on the Judicial Branch	Congressional Caucus on Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children	Congressional Caucus on Turkey and Turkish Americans	Congressional Caucus on Women in the Military
Congressional Coastal Caucus	Congressional Contaminated Drywall Caucus	Congressional Diabetes Caucus	Congressional Fire Services Caucus
Congressional French Caucus	Congressional Gaming Caucus	Congressional Gulf Coast Caucus	Congressional Heart and Stroke Coalition
Congressional HIV/AIDS Caucus	Congressional Human Trafficking Caucus	Congressional Humanities Caucus	Congressional Mental Health Caucus
Congressional Morocco Caucus	Congressional Out of Poverty Caucus	Congressional Philanthropy Caucus	Congressional Singapore Caucus
Congressional Social Work Caucus	Congressional Taiwan Caucus	Congressional Task Force Against Anti-Semitism	Congressional Trails Caucus
Congressional TRIO Caucus	Congressional Ukrainian Caucus	Congressional Universal Health Care Reform Caucus	Congressional Wildlife Refuge Caucus
Congressional Zoo & Aquarium Caucus	Dairy Farmers Caucus	Diversity and Innovation Caucus	Friends of Canada Caucus

Friends of Norway Caucus	Friends of Switzerland Caucus	Home Health Caucus	House Cancer Caucus
House Hunger Caucus	House Special Operations Forces Caucus	House Specialty Crop Caucus	House Trade Working Group
Housing Stabilization Task Force	India Caucus	International Conservation Caucus	International Workers Rights Caucus
Labor and Working Families Caucus	Land Conservation Caucus	LGBT Equality Caucus	Macedonia Caucus
Malaria Caucus	National Eating Disorders Awareness Caucus	National Marine Sanctuary Caucus	National Parks Caucus
Native American Caucus	NextGen 9-1-1 Caucus	Populist Caucus	Port Security Caucus
PORTS Caucus	Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Caucus	Rural Education Caucus	Rural Health Care Coalition
Sportsman's Caucus	Sudan Caucus	Tuberculosis Elimination Caucus	Urban Caucus
	U.S.-Mexico Friendship Caucus	U.S.-Mongolia Friendship Caucus	

**Letters Sent to the White House, Federal Agencies, State Agencies,  
Congressional Leadership, and Global Leaders**

Throughout the year, my office routinely communicates with the White House, federal and state agencies, Congressional leadership, and leaders around the world. Below, please find a comprehensive list of all the letters my office sent during the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic and Description</b>
2/16/2017	<p><b>Urging Action on Ending the Global Dog Meat Trade and the Annual Dog Meat Festival in Yulin, China</b> <b>Addressed to:</b> Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA)</p> <p>This letter followed up on an earlier letter to Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) regarding H.Res.30, <i>Condemning the Dog Meat Festival in Yulin, China and urging China to end the dog meat trade</i>, which I introduced with bipartisan support on January 6, 2017. The letter respectfully requested Speaker Ryan and Majority Leader McCarthy to bring H.Res.30 to the floor for a vote without delay. During the Yulin Dog Meat Festival, thousands dogs are slaughtered. Millions of dogs are killed for human consumption every year in China. The trade often includes criminal activity and the theft of pets, and poses a serious risk to human health. The World Health Organization (WHO) has linked the trade to trichinellosis, cholera and rabies. On September 12, 2018, H.Res.401, and updated version of H.Res.30, passed the House of Representatives.</p>
2/16/2017	<p><b>Urging Action on Ending the Global Dog Meat Trade and the Annual Dog Meat Festival in Yulin, China</b> <b>Addressed to:</b> Hon. Rex Tillerson, Secretary of State</p> <p>This letter urged Secretary Tillerson to condemn the Dog Meat Festival in Yulin, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China, and to oppose the worldwide dog meat trade. This letter also drew Secretary Tillerson’s attention to H.Res.30.</p>
2/16/2017	<p><b>Urging Action on Ending the Global Dog Meat Trade and the Annual Dog Meat Festival in Yulin, China</b> <b>Addressed to:</b> Ambassador Cui Tiankai, Embassy of the People’s Republic of China</p> <p>The letter expressed deep concern for the dogs that are horribly mistreated during the Dog Meat Festival in Yulin, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China and drew Ambassador Tiankai’s attention to H.Res.30.</p>

- 3/16/2017 **Urging President Trump to Raise Yulin Dog Meat Festival with President Xi During Upcoming Visit**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald John Trump

This letter strongly urged President Trump to raise the issue of the Dog Meat Festival in Yulin, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China, and the global dog meat trade with President Xi Jinping during their summit scheduled to take place in April 2017 at Mar-a-Lago. The letter also drew the President's attention to H.Res.30 and H.R. 1406, the *Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act of 2017*, which would prohibit the slaughter of dogs and cats for human consumption in the United States.

- 3/24/2017 **Urging the Extension of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian nationals residing within the United States**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. John Kelly, Secretary of Homeland Security

This letter urged Secretary Kelly to extend the TPS designation for Haitian nationals residing within the United States for 18 months.

- 4/11/2017 **FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Rick Scott, Governor of Florida

The FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) collects detailed data from participating law enforcement agencies on acts of animal cruelty, including gross neglect, torture, organized abuse, and sexual abuse. The NIBRS captures highly detailed information on each incident of crime, thus providing a much deeper understanding of victims, offenders, and circumstances surrounding the commission of a crime. The State of Florida, on the other hand, uses the Summary Reporting System, which provides only aggregate monthly tallies of crimes. This letter urged Governor Scott to implement the NIBRS database to help mitigate crime and protect our communities.

- 4/13/2017 **Letter Concerning *State of Florida v. Daniela Torres***  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Rex Tillerson, Secretary of State

The letter urged Secretary Tillerson to exert pressure on Brazilian officials to enter into an extradition treaty with the United States so that individuals like Ms. Daniela Torres can be returned to the United States to stand trial.

4/25/2017 **Support for the Ethiopian-Israeli community**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Rex Tillerson, Secretary of State

The Ethiopian-Israeli community is a traditionally underserved population in Israel. Of the 141,200 Ethiopians living in Israel today, two thirds were born in Ethiopia, many of whom lived in rural villages before coming to Israel. Because of the cultural differences, a number of enduring shortfalls in education, literacy, and other areas persists. Many American philanthropic organizations, such as the Jewish Federations of North America and private stakeholders, are already actively engaged in improving the outlooks for the Ethiopian-Israeli community. Additional partnerships between the government of Israel, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Israel (JDC-Israel) and Keren Hayesod-United Israel Appeal work tirelessly to support interventions benefiting Ethiopian-Israeli youth. While these programs are significant, the funding is unfortunately not sufficient. I wrote Secretary Tillerson urging him to reprogram un-obligated funding to establish a competitive grant program to support the integration of Ethiopian-Israelis into Israeli society

4/26/2017 **Financial Service Regulations: Short-term, small-dollar credit options and Operation Choke Point**  
**Addressed To:** President Donald Trump

This letter regarded two important and urgent financial services matters: the regulation of short-term, small-dollar credit options, and the limiting of legally-operating businesses' ability to access banking services as a result of Operation Choke Point. In regards to short-term, small-dollar credit, my office partnered with millions of citizens in engaging the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) as it has worked through the rulemaking process to regulate this form of credit. Five-and-a-half percent of all Americans have used a short-term loan in the past; for those individuals, access to short-term credit is not a luxury, but a necessity, in some cases to keep the lights on, ensure a child has school supplies, or to cover healthcare costs.

5/2/2017 **Urging House Leadership to Bring Yulin Resolution to the House Floor for a Vote Before June 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-WI) and House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA)

The letter urged Speaker of the House Paul Ryan and House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy to allow for consideration of H.Res.30, *Condemning the Dog Meat Festival in Yulin, China, and urging China to end the dog meat trade*, before the June 21, 2017, the date of the Yulin Dog Meat Festival.

05/08/2017 **Human Trafficking Education**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Dr. Robert Avossa, Superintendent, School District of Palm Beach County, and Hon. Robert W. Runcie, Superintendent, Broward County Public Schools

Florida has the third highest rate of trafficking in persons (TIP) in the country, and Broward and Palm Beach Counties respectively rank 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> for in-state TIP incidences. Many child victims of TIP are students in the public schools systems. School administrators and staff need to be aware that these reprehensible crimes are taking place right in our community, and that no school is immune from traffickers. Educators and school personnel are well positioned to help identify and report suspected abuse and instances of trafficking. My letter to the Broward and Palm Beach Superintendents urged them to incorporate TIP education in their curriculums.

5/11/2017 **President Trump Executive Order on Offshore Drilling**

**Addressed To:** Hon. Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior

On April 28, 2017, President Trump signed an executive order directing the Department of the Interior to review where offshore drilling should be occurring and to potentially start a new 5-year planning process for offshore leasing. This letter urged Secretary Zinke to continue to adhere to the recently approved 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf and Oil and Gas Leasing Program and keep the Atlantic and Pacific OCS Regions off-limits.

5/18/2017 **Board of Scientific Counselors at the Environmental Protection Agency**

**Addressed To:** Hon. Scott Pruitt, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency

This letter expressed concerns over reports that several members of the Board of Scientific Counselors at the Environmental Protection Agency had been dismissed.

6/13/2017 **Disaster Claims Adjusters**

**Addressed To:** House Financial Services Committee Ranking Member Maxine Waters

As Congress debated reauthorizing the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), I sent this letter in support of codifying the longstanding Department of Labor (DOL) interpretation of the *Fair Labor Standards Act* (FLSA) pertaining to insurance claims adjusters responding to natural disasters. The long standing interpretation allows adjusters to better assist victims in the wake of a disaster while preserving the important protections of the FLSA.

6/14/2017 **Offshore Drilling 5-Year Plan**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior

On April 28, 2017, President Trump signed an executive order directing the Department of the Interior (DOI) to review where offshore drilling should be occurring and to potentially start a new 5-year planning process for offshore leasing. As Members of Congress opposed to oil and gas leasing in the U.S. Arctic Ocean, this letter urged Secretary Zinke to continue to adhere to the recently approved 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program (Program) and keep our still unspoiled, unique Arctic Ocean off limits to any new oil and gas lease sales.

07/18/2017 **Hiring Freeze of American Diplomatic Spouses**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Rex Tillerson, Secretary of State

The Department of State's hiring freeze prohibited the appointment of eligible family members to embassy and consulate positions, raising the risk of hundreds of American diplomatic positions worldwide being left vacant, including national security positions at large U.S. diplomatic missions in Moscow, Beijing, and Frankfurt. Furthermore, long wait times for spouses hired before the hiring freeze seeking security clearances precluded important posts from being filled in a timely manner. This letter urged Secretary Tillerson to lift the hiring freeze in order to improve morale and improve the ability of American embassies and missions to function efficiently.

7/25/2017 **National Marine Sanctuaries and Marine National Monuments**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Commerce

This letter urged support for the 11 National Marine Sanctuaries and Marine National Monuments under review as part of Executive Order 13795, "Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy." National marine sanctuaries and marine national monuments, designated through the *National Marine Sanctuaries Act* and the *Antiquities Act*, are critical in keeping our oceans healthy and productive. These protected areas reduce the impacts of human activities on marine ecosystems, protect rare and endangered species, increase the productivity of surrounding fisheries, and help maintain local cultures, economies, and livelihoods that depend on the marine environment.

9/18/2017 **Congratulating the Federation of Bangladeshi Associations in North America on its 31st Convention**

**Addressed To:** The Federation of Bangladeshi Associations in North America (FOBANA)

The letter congratulated FOBANA on its important work and its 31st convention with specific accolades for the Bangladesh Association of Florida for its important work in Florida and for hosting the convention.

9/18/2017 **Urging the Extension of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian nationals residing within the United States**

**Addressed To:** Hon. Elaine Duke, Acting Secretary of Homeland Security

This letter urged Acting Secretary Duke to extend the TPS designation for Haitian nationals residing within the United States for 18 months.

10/4/2017 **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) June 2016 Proposed Rulemaking on Payday, Vehicle Title, and Installment Loans**

**Addressed To:** President Donald Trump

After announcing a Proposed Rulemaking on Payday, Vehicle Title, and Installment Loans, the CFPB received millions of comments from working-class Americans expressing their fears about losing access to short-term loans that are often their only source of credit. The CFPB has failed to substantively address where consumers will be able to turn to fulfill their critical financing needs - needs that will without question remain. The proposed rule may give rise to illegal offshore and predatory sources of lending, which is hardly a positive outcome for an agency whose mission is to protect consumers. This letter urged President Trump to take any action necessary to stop this rule, so that a more balanced short-term, small-dollar credit rule can be crafted that appropriately balances the need to protect consumers with the need of consumers to have access to these vital forms of credit.

10/06/2017 **Disaster Claims Adjusters**

**Addressed To:** House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Nita Lowey

This letter requested that language be included in the next supplemental appropriations package ensuring the timely processing of insurance claims filed by those affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, as well as any future disasters.

10/16/2017 **FEMA Disaster Relief**

**Addressed To:** Hon. Elaine Duke, Acting Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS), and Hon. Brock Long, Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

This letter outlined to DHS and FEMA the concerns of numerous mayors and city managers in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. These concerns included the lack of contractors and subcontractors available to fulfill debris removal contracts and the lack of specificity when it comes to debris removal on private roads.

10/25/2017 **Urging Conferees of the *National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)* for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 to include reporting requirements on the protocols related to the rescue, care, and treatment of captives of the Islamic State (IS)**

**Addressed To:** FY18 NDAA Conference Committee Leaders - Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain and Ranking Member Jack Reed, and House Committee on Armed Services Chairman Mac Thornberry and Ranking Member Adam Smith

This letter urged the conferees of the FY18 NDAA to include reporting requirements on any standing protocols related to the rescue, care, and treatment of captives of the Islamic State (IS). I sponsored an amendment establishing these reporting requirements in the House version of the NDAA, which was adopted by voice vote in July 2017.

10/26/2017 **Puerto Rico Cost-Share Agreements - Hurricane Maria Relief**

**Addressed To:** President Donald Trump

The *Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act* (Stafford Act) authorizes the President to provide Federal disaster assistance to supplement State, Tribal, U.S. Territories and local efforts. Generally, the Federal government shares the cost with the State and U.S. Territories for a major disaster or emergency. However, when conditions warrant, the President may waive some or all of the cost-sharing requirements for public assistance programs. Through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Permanent Work, FEMA can provide financial support to help State, Tribal, and U.S. Territories restore facilities through repair or restoration, to pre-disaster design, function, and capacity. Under Permanent Work, also referred to as Categories C-G, FEMA can help restore roads and bridges; water control facilities; buildings and equipment; public utilities; and parks, recreation, and other facilities. Categories C-G assistance is the main source of federal funding available to help local communities rebuild and recover as quickly as possible. This letter urged President Trump to approve Puerto Rico's request for Permanent Work Assistance funds to help the U.S. territory rebuild and recover following the devastation left by Hurricane Maria.

10/28/2017 **Congratulating the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) on its 23rd Anniversary**

**Addressed To:** Friends of CAIR

This letter congratulated CAIR on its 23rd anniversary and for its important work in standing up against attacks against Muslim Americans in defense of their civil liberties.

11/12/2017 **Congratulating the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) on its 120th Anniversary**

**Addressed to:** Members of the ZOA

This letter congratulated ZOA on its 120th anniversary and for its tireless advocacy for the Jewish people and the state of Israel.

11/27/2017 **Rights of Women under Office of Refugee Resettlement Custody**

**Addressed To:** Hon. Eric Hargan, Acting Secretary of Health and Human Services

In *Garza v. Hargan*, a 17-year-old undocumented immigrant fought to get an abortion while in the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement. While that case was successful, and Jane Doe was able to get an abortion, the Trump Administration has no intention of allowing other women in ORR custody to gain access to these services. In some cases, ORR went through great lengths to interfere with young women's constitutional right to abortion. This letter directed the Acting Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to stop this unconstitutional and appalling policy of blocking women in ORR custody from accessing the full array of reproductive health options, including abortion.

12/8/2017 **Reject FY2018 Appropriations Anti-Environmental Riders**

**Addressed To:** Speaker of the House Paul Ryan and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi

This letter expressed grave concern over a number of harmful provisions in the *Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018* that would undermine endangered species conservation and threaten one of our country's most important wildlife conservation laws -- the *Endangered Species Act*. The letter urged party leaders to ensure that these controversial and far-reaching provisions are not included in the final spending legislation.

12/21/2017 **Letter Expressing Concern about ongoing blasting affecting the residents of the City of Miramar**

**Addressed To:** Hon. Jimmy Patronis, Chief Financial Officer in his capacity as Florida's Fire Marshall

The letter urged Mr. Patronis to ensure that the state funds appropriated to ascertain the effects of the ongoing blasting take into account the full range of impacts from the blasting including any physical damage to property and any adverse health effects suffered by residents impacted by the blasting.

1/4/2018 **Urging House Leadership to Allow Vote on Bipartisan Animal Welfare Legislation**

**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-WI) and House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA)

This letter urged Speaker of the House Paul Ryan and House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy to allow for consideration of H.R.1406, the *Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act*, and H.Res.401, a resolution urging all nations to outlaw the dog and cat meat trade, during the Second Session of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress.

1/9/2018 **Florida Delegation Letter - Oil Drilling Safety Rules**

**Addressed To:** Hon. Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior

The U.S. Department of Interior proposed weakening critical oil drilling safety rules adopted in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon tragedy. Members of the Florida Delegation urged Secretary Zinke not to weaken these safety regulations because Florida's coastal communities depend on a clean and healthy ocean.

1/9/2018 **Oil Drilling Safety Rules**

**Addressed To:** Hon. Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior

As Floridians know all too well, an oil spill can devastate a regional economy and inflict long-term environmental damage. This letter asked Secretary Zinke to reject any proposals to roll back regulations that were specifically adopted to address systemic safety failures that led to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill.

1/27/2018 **Federal Courthouse Construction - Fort Lauderdale**

**Addressed To:** President Donald Trump

The letter urged President Trump to include funding for the construction of the following three new federal courthouses in his FY18 Budget Request: the Middle District of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg; the Northern District of Alabama, Huntsville; and the Southern District of Florida, Fort Lauderdale.

02/16/2018 **Asylum Seekers in Israel**

**Addressed To:** Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu, State of Israel

Thousands of Eritrean and Sudanese asylum seekers have taken refuge in Israel over the past decade. The Israeli government initially welcomed these individuals, but has since taken a very hard line in opposing them. At one point, just six asylum seekers had been given asylum out of 50,000. Earlier this year, the Government announced its intention to deport all of the asylum seekers to an unnamed nation in Africa. I joined with members of the Congressional Black Caucus to express concern for these migrants, and urged the Government of Israel to work with the United Nations to pursue an alternative means for responding to those seeking refuge in Israel.

2/27/2018 **Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) Branch Office - Miramar, Florida**

**Addressed To:** Hon. Emily Murphy, Administrator of the General Services Administration

This letter expressed concern regarding a situation at an Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) branch office located at 2805 SW 145<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Miramar, Florida. The building is privately owned by GSA ICE Miramar, LLC. Beginning in 2016, the ICE facility modified its available services, resulting in a significant increase in the volume of patrons visiting the site daily. Since then, patrons, at times ranging from 300-400, have commenced staging at the facility as early as 4:00 AM and as late as 7:00 PM. The situation has continued to worsen and is now negatively impacting the safety of the surrounding areas.

4/9/2018 **Election Assistance Commission Grants**

**Addressed To:** Hon. Ken Detzner, Florida Secretary of State

In November 2016, 139 million Americans cast their ballots in the midst of a major cyber-enabled influence operation at the hands of the Russian government. According to U.S. intelligence reports, hackers targeted voting registration systems in 21 states and attempted to penetrate voting equipment vendors, political parties, and local election boards. As instructed by the FY18 Omnibus, the Election Assistance Commission made \$19,187,003 available to the State of Florida to secure voting equipment. This letter urged Florida's chief state election official to request these funds to help fortify Florida's election equipment and systems databases, as well as provide cybersecurity training to election officials.

04/9/2018 **Congratulating the State of Israel on its 70th Anniversary of Independence**  
**Addressed To:** H.E. Lior Haiat, Consul General of Israel, Miami

I have a deep appreciation and respect for Israel and Israeli culture, and have visited Israel 18 times as a Member of Congress. For more than half a century, the United States and Israel have shared common bonds of democracy and economic vitality, forging close partnerships in science, academia, and more, As Co-Chair of the Democratic Israel Working Group; I am fully committed to educating my fellow Members of Congress on the importance of the special relationship between our two countries.

4/13/2018 **Border security between Haiti and the Dominican Republic**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Kirstjen Nielsen, Secretary of Homeland Security and Hon. John J. Sullivan, Acting Secretary of State

This letter urged the Secretaries to assist Haiti and the Dominican Republic as they work to strengthen infrastructure at their border, train border security personnel, and obtain and improve technological enhancements such as drones, sensors, and cameras along the border.

5/9/2018 **Florida Firearm Preemption Letter**  
**Addressed To:** Speaker Richard Corcoran, Florida House of Representatives, and Senate President Joe Negron, Florida Senate

This letter addressed the February shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, where a 19-year-old used a semiautomatic AR-15 to methodically murder 14 of his former classmates and three teachers. In the wake of this horrific tragedy, countless Floridians demanded reforms to gun policy at the local level. Florida's laws make that impossible, as Florida Statute §790.33 reserves for the state the exclusive right to regulate firearms. This law not only prevents localities from enacting any kind of firearm measure, but also subjects a violating locality or local official to a civil fine – a provision that we believe may be unconstitutional given that legislators are immune from civil liability for legislative activities. This letter urged Florida party leaders to prioritize the repeal of this law and allow local officials to enact reasonable firearm measures that best reflects the views of their constituents.

- 6/14/2018 **Urging House Leadership to Schedule H.Res.401 for a Vote**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-WI) and House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA)

This letter again urged Speaker of the House Paul Ryan and House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy to allow for consideration of H.R.1406, the *Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act*, and H.Res.401, a resolution urging all nations to outlaw the dog and cat meat trade.

- 6/15/2018 **Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) Branch Office - Miramar, Florida**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Emily Murphy, Administrator of the General Services Administration and Hon. Kirstjen Nielsen, Secretary of U.S. Department of Homeland Security

This letter followed up on the concerning conditions at an Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) branch office located at 2805 SW 145<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Miramar, Florida (Miramar ICE Facility). On February 27, 2018, my colleagues and I wrote to Administrator Murphy expressing our concerns with the operations at the Miramar ICE Facility, specifically noting that the programming and service changes at the location resulted in various parking and safety challenges, as well as humanitarian concerns including lack of shelter, water, and restroom availability for the 250-300 patrons standing in line outside for hours.

- 6/15/2018 **Florida Debris Removal Contracts - Post-Hurricane Irma**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Rick Scott, Governor of Florida

This letter expressed concern with the dangerous, delayed, and disorderly debris removal process in South Florida following Hurricane Irma, as well as reports indicating that the Scott Administration approved emergency contracts for debris removal after Hurricane Irma rather than honoring contracts already agreed upon. The State's unclear guidance and insufficient assistance left many Florida cities and counties on their own to deal with debris left over from Hurricane Irma, which lingered on their streets into the winter months. This letter asked the Scott Administration to provide Members of the Florida Delegation with the legal, policy, and planning changes it had made to ensure that Floridians will not suffer from a repeat of last year's unacceptable conditions.

6/28/2018 **Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration - Atlantic Ocean**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior

This letter strongly opposed Secretary Zinke's secretarial order to move forward with offshore oil and gas exploration in the Atlantic Ocean. The decision to move forward with permits for seismic airgun surveys for subsea oil and gas deposits puts at risk the vibrant Atlantic Ocean economies dependent on healthy ocean ecosystems, which generate \$95 billion in gross domestic product and support nearly 1.4 million jobs each year.

07/13/2018 **One-Touch Make-Ready (OTMR) Wireline Broadband Deployment**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Ajit Pai, Chairman of the Federal Communications Committee

OTMR proposals would allow companies seeking to add equipment to utility poles to move pre-existing equipment, wires, and utility lines. While I am supportive of efforts to improve efficiency, I am concerned that well-intentioned streamlining efforts that bypass skilled workers may lead to increased service disruptions and decreased worker safety. Professional line workers are in the best position to safely and adeptly move existing utility lines while ensuring worker safety and reliable service. These individuals are by-and-large career employees in career level jobs with health and retirement benefits. Should the Commission bypass these workers, American consumers would undoubtedly pay a price through added delays. As the Commission considered action on OTMR proposals, I urged them to respect existing collective bargaining agreements that allow line workers to maintain control over their own materials and facilities; thereby ensuring work is done safely and properly.

7/18/2018 **FEMA Reimbursements - Debris Removal**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. John Kelly, Acting Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security

In addition to offering strong support for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement of disaster recovery costs incurred by state and local governments, this letter also expressed concern that tens of millions of federal taxpayer dollars were being wasted by the Governor of Florida, as a result of exorbitant price-gouging for debris removal services following Hurricane Irma.

- 7/19/2018 **Harmful Algal Blooms Reauthorization**  
**Addressed To:** Speaker of House Paul Ryan and House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy

This letter urged Speaker Ryan and Majority Leader McCarthy to bring S. 1057, the *Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2017*, to the floor for a vote. Introduced in the Senate by Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL), Senator Rob Portman (R-OH), and Senator Gary Peters (D-MI), this legislation would reauthorize the *Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998* (HABHRCA) through FY 2022. The measure would also reauthorize the Harmful Algal Bloom Federal Interagency Task Force and formally add the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to the task force, granting the federal government the authority to declare severe algal blooms or hypoxic events as events of national significance, allowing states and localities access to disaster-like funding, and permitting private donations to be used to fund recovery for events of national significance.

- 7/23/2018 **Family separation as a result of certain Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC) implementing a blockade against Qatar**  
**Addressed To:** H.R.H. Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to the United States

This letter urged the Ambassador to work with Qatar and other stakeholders to find a way to end the blockade Saudi Arabia is leading against Qatar by concentrating on the reunification of families currently separated because of the blockade.

- 8/2/2018 **Urges Farm Bill Conference Committee to Retain Ban on Dog and Cat Meat Trade**  
**Addressed to:** Chairmen K. Michael Conaway (R-TX) and Pat Roberts (R-KS), and Ranking Members Collin C. Peterson (D-MN) and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) of the 2018 Farm Bill Conference Committee

This letter urged the 2018 Farm Bill Conference Committee to retain legislation prohibiting the slaughter of dogs and cats for the purpose of human consumption in the United States, a practice that has remained legal in 44 states. On March 3, 2017, I introduced H.R. 1406, the *Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act of 2017*. Language was included in both the 2018 House and Senate Farm Bills. On September 12, 2018, H.R.6720, a modified version of H.R.1406, passed the House of Representatives.

- 8/20/2018 **Protecting Children from Lead Exposure in School Drinking Water**  
**Addressed To:** The Honorable Betsy DeVos, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education and The Honorable Andrew Wheeler, Acting Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

This letter express nationwide crisis and concerns regarding children’s exposure to lead in school drinking water, and want to ensure that states and localities have the funding and resources necessary to remediate lead in their schools and throughout their drinking water system if it is discovered.

- 8/30/2018 **Stoneybrook Apartments, Request for Section 8 Pass-Through Lease**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Ben Carson, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Residents of Global Ministries Foundation (GMF) owned properties, including Stoneybrook, have been forced to live with leaking ceilings and water pipes, exposed wires, asbestos, and toxic black mold. These conditions pose an immediate health and safety risk and have led to dozens of units being condemned by cities in Florida. This letter urged the Department of Housing and Urban Development to approve requests for Section 8 Pass-Through Leases to ensure tenants of these dilapidated complexes will have access to safe and sanitary temporary housing until necessary repairs are made.

- 9/11/2018 **Insurance Adjusters Claims - Disaster Recovery Efforts**  
**Addressed To:** House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Chairman Tom Cole and Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro

This letter requested that language be included in the Labor and Health and Human Services appropriations package ensuring the future timely process of insurance claims filed by those affected by natural disasters. The language had previously passed in the House of Representatives as part of H.R. 2874, the *21<sup>st</sup> Century Flood Reform Act*. Including a permanent codification of this language would provide additional clarity with respect to the FLSA’s application to certain claims adjusters.

9/14/2018 **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB's) Small-Dollar, Short-Term Credit Rule**

**Addressed To:** Hon. Mick Mulvaney, Acting Director, CFPB

This letter requested an extension of the compliance date for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB's) small-dollar, short-term credit rule. More than half of Americans do not have full access to banking services. According to a 2016 Federal Reserve study, forty-six percent of adults cannot cover an unexpected expense of \$400. For these constituents, small-dollar, short-term loans offer an important lifeline in times of need and can help ensure that an unexpected expense does not become a financial calamity with lifelong consequences.

10/26/2018 **Birth Control Coverage**

**Addressed To:** Hon. Steven Mnuchin, Secretary of Commerce; Hon. Alex Acosta, Secretary of Health and Human Services; and Hon. Eric Hargan, Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services

This letter strongly opposed to two interim final rules (IFRs) released on October 6, 2017 that left women across the United States without access to health insurance coverage for birth control. The letter further called on the Administration to rescind these IFRs and restore policies that facilitate access to affordable contraception for millions of women.

11/04/2018 **Congratulating the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) on its annual Justice Louis D. Brandeis Gala Awards Dinner**

**Addressed to:** Members of the ZOA

This letter congratulated ZOA on its tireless advocacy for the U.S.-Israel Relationship.

12/04/2018 **Urging Reforms to the Farm Service Agency's Livestock Indemnity Program**

**Addressed To:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture

All animals deserve basic levels of humane treatment. This letter called for common sense reforms to promote the humane treatment of farm animals and the responsible use of taxpayer dollars in the Farm Service Agency's Livestock Indemnity Program.

### Grant Letters and Letters of Support

My office has the ability to weigh in with federal agencies regarding grant applications and other requests made by constituents and organizations I represent in Congress. Below, please find a comprehensive list of all the letters of support submitted by my office during the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic and Description</b>
3/13/2017	<p><b>Grant Title: FEMA’s Assistance to Firefighters Grant</b> <b>Applicant:</b> City of Deerfield Beach, Florida <b>Addressed To:</b> Hon. Bridget Bean, Acting Chief Component Human Capital Office, Federal Emergency Management Agency</p> <p>Serving a population of 80,000, the Deerfield Fire Rescue Department (DFRD) provides fire rescue and emergency services to a large residential community with a strong commercial development and award winning beaches. Such demands place a heavy burden on DFRD resources and its ability to provide critical first response and emergency services to the community. The City applied for an AFG grant to provide funds for the procurement of a 30’ Fire Rescue Boat with fire suppression and patient access capabilities.</p>
4/28/2017	<p><b>Grant Title: Federal Emergency Medical Services Grant Program</b> <b>Applicant:</b> City of Miramar, Florida <b>Addressed To:</b> Hon. Celeste Philip, Florida Secretary of Health and Surgeon General</p> <p>The City of Miramar sought funding under the Florida Emergency Medical Services Grant Program to enhance and update their first responder equipment and training</p>
5/4/2017	<p><b>Grant Title: Florida Division of Historical Resources’ Small Matching Grant, Broward County Historic Property Survey -- Phase I</b> <b>Applicant:</b> Broward County <b>Addressed To:</b> Dr. Timothy Parson, Florida Division of Historical Records</p> <p>This project sought to conduct property surveys to find potentially historic locations within communities that have not had prior historic surveys under the County’s Historic Preservation jurisdiction.</p>

5/30/2017 **Grant Title: Florida Department of State's Cultural Facilities Grant Program**  
**Applicant:** Palm Beach Zoo & Conservation Society  
**Addressed To:** Florida Division of Cultural Affairs (Review Committee)

The letter supported Palm Beach Zoo & Conservation Society's application to the Florida Department of State's Cultural Facilities Grant program. The Zoo's grant proposal sought funding for the construction of a Conservation Amphitheater and exhibits for three of its rarest and most endangered animals, showcasing the Zoo's dual mission of conservation and education.

06/14/2017 **Grant Title: Port Security Grant Program (PSGP)**  
**Applicant:** Port of Palm Beach  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Bob Fenton, Acting Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Funding from the PSGP would allow the Port to continue making critical investments in the building, sustainment, and delivery of core capabilities that are essential to achieving the goals of the National Preparedness System. The Port sought funding to complete Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) projects, enhance Maritime Domain Awareness through the installation of cameras and monitoring technology, and expand Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive (CBRNE) prevention, protection, and response capabilities

7/6/2017 **Grant Title: USDA Rural Housing Preservation Grant**  
**Applicant:** Real Estate Education and Community Housing, Inc.'s (REACH)  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture

R.E.A.C.H. is a Florida 501(c)(3) not for profit charitable organization and a HUD approved Housing and Foreclosure Counseling Agency. Since its founding over ten years ago, R.E.A.C.H. has strived to inspire and motivate low to moderate income Floridians to take the necessary steps to achieve and sustain home ownership through education, counseling, and grant assistance. In the last four years alone, R.E.A.C.H. has delivered over 200 renovated properties to low and moderate income families in Florida. This project seeks to upgrade outdated, obsolete, and unsafe electrical boxes in the primary residences of low to moderate income families within the city of Belle Glade, Florida.

7/11/2017 **Grant Title: Fiscal Year 2017 Community Oriented Policing Services**  
**Applicant:** City of West Palm Beach  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Russ Washington, Acting Director, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice

This grant proposal from the City would allow for the hiring of ten full time officers to increase the number of officers in their Emergency Field Force Team.

7/11/2017 **Grant Title: Public Assistance Funding Appeal**  
**Applicant:** Palm Beach County and the City of Pahokee  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Brock Long, Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

In 2012, during the aftermath of Hurricane Isaac, President Obama issued a major disaster declaration for the State of Florida (FEMA-4084-DR-FL), which made Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Funding available to Bay, Collier, Escambia, Franklin, Gulf, Martin, Monroe, Okaloosa, Palm Beach, St. Lucie, and Santa Rosa Counties. From that declaration, the City of Pahokee in Palm Beach County, Florida was awarded approximately \$584,520 in funding to reconstruct floating docks at the Pahokee Marina that were destroyed as a result of the rapid water level rise of Lake Okeechobee during the storm. The Project was to have been completed by October 18, 2016, however before work could be completed, the City was ordered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to cease work on the marina project due to the efforts to rehabilitate the Lake Okeechobee Dike. As a result, the City was forced to file an extension of the project deadline to allow the USACE to complete work. Given the City's efforts to complete the project on time, despite unexpected federal roadblocks and unforeseen delays out of their control, the letter requested FMEA's full and fair consideration of the appeal submitted by Palm Beach County and the City of Pahokee for their efforts to obtain an extension to reconstruct the Pahokee Marina.

8/14/2017 **Grant Title: Fiscal Year 2017 Community Oriented Policing Services**  
**Applicant:** City of Lauderdale Lakes  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Jeff Sessions, Attorney General, Department of Justice

FY17 COPS funding was sought to enhance public safety in the region through the hiring of a new motorcycle certified sworn law enforcement officer.

- 8/15/2017 **Grant Title: Fiscal Year 2017 Community Oriented Policing Services**  
**Applicant:** City of Deerfield Beach  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Jeff Sessions, Attorney General, Department of Justice

Due in part to Florida's economy, as well as greater access to the Atlantic Ocean, parks, nature preserves, and a large business community, the City of Deerfield Beach has become an attractive destination for homeless or displaced individuals and families – a population most often known for having difficulty finding resources or unable to maintain or find meaningful employment. The City of Deerfield Beach sought funding to help enhance public safety and community policing in the region through the hiring of new community police officers.

- 10/03/2017 **Grant Title: Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA)**  
**Applicant:** Port Everglades, Intermodal Freight Connector Project  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Elaine Chao, Secretary of Transportation

Port Everglades sought funding to support the construction of additional cargo berths, container cranes, and crane rail infrastructure. Funding under the INFRA program is critical for Port Everglades' installation of state-of-industry infrastructure, increasing its capacity so that it continues to fulfill its role as a nationally significant global gateway.

- 11/27/2017 **Grant Title: National Endowment for the Arts "Our Town" Grant**  
**Applicant:** City of Miramar  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Jane Chu, Chairwoman of the National Endowment for the Arts

Miramar sought funding to enhance the identity of the "Historic Miramar" neighborhood through the mapping and connecting of historic and cultural assets, as well as bolstering arts, cultural activities, and overall economic development.

- 2/20/2018 **Grant Title: Fannie Mae's Sustainable Communities Innovative Challenge**  
**Applicant:** Legacy Communities Initiative, Inc.  
**Addressed To:** Fannie Mae, Sustainable Communities Innovation Challenge

The grant application for Legacy Communities Initiative, Inc. sought funding to establish a partnership with Fannie Mae in order to encourage creative and innovative ideas that address the affordable housing crisis now facing the nation in a comprehensive way. The Legacy Communities Initiative provides expert assistance to each community to network communities, train community builders, help them understand how to develop funding and resources to address their concerns and to help communities develop activities that protect and preserve their businesses and cultures, sacred places and families.

- 4/27/2018 **Grant Title: Fannie Mae’s Sustainable Communities Innovative Challenge**  
**Applicant:** Everglades College, Inc. (Keiser University)  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Mark Green, Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

Keiser University sought funding under USAID’s Office of American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (USAID/ASHA) grant program, which fosters creative and innovative ways for promoting understanding of the U.S. abroad. ASHA provides assistance to schools, libraries, and medical centers outside the United States that serve as a study and demonstration centers for American ideas and practices. USAID/ASHA grants help cultivate positive relationships between citizens of the United States and other nations.

- 5/9/2018 **Grant Title: Children’s Services Administration Section (CSAS) of the Broward County General Services Grant**  
**Applicant:** Helping Abused Neglected and Disadvantaged Youth (HANDY)  
**Addressed To:** Linda Krepel, Senior Special Projects Coordinator, Broward County Board of County Commissioners

Funding was sought under (CSAS) to improve the quality of life of Broward County children by effectively and efficiently developing a System of Care in collaboration with other community stakeholders. Handy has a 30 year history of providing robust support to at risk youth and work intensively to connect them with the support they need to thrive as productive, contributing adults. Their track record of supporting disconnected youth with educational and technical/trade related opportunities is worthy of national praise.

- 5/29/2018 **Grant Title: Florida Division of Cultural Affairs’ Arts and Culture Funding**  
**Applicant:** Zoological Society of the Palm Beaches  
**Addressed To:** Ms. Sarah Stage, Grants Manager, Florida Division of Cultural Affairs

The grant application for the Zoological Society and Palm Beach Zoo and Conservation Society sought funding to assist in both enhance the cultural and educational life of residents in Florida’s 20<sup>th</sup> Congressional district, as well as supporting the economy by bolstering tourism in West Palm Beach. The Palm Beach Zoo and Conservation Society is one of the driving forces of tourism for the county, attracting more than 330,000 visitors each year.

6/07/2018 **Grant Title: Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI)**

**Applicant:** Brightline Trains, LLC

**Addressed To:** Hon. Ron Batory, Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)

Brightline sought funding to assist with corridor improvements throughout their system, including additional gates, traffic delineators, active warning signs, and additional public education programs. These safety enhancements are critical to increasing public awareness and ensuring public safety at railroad crossings across the Brightline service area.

6/13/2018 **Grant Title: Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment (ATCMTD)**

**Applicant:** Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

**Addressed To:** Hon. Elaine Chao, Secretary of Transportation

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Broward MPO sought funding for the design and implementation of the *Managing the Unexpected Everyday Initiative*, which will provide much needed traffic operations improvements to the downtown Fort Lauderdale area.

6/14/2018 **Grant Title: Low or No Emission Vehicle Program**

**Applicant:** Broward County Transit

**Addressed To:** Hon. K. Jane Williams, Acting Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

Broward County sought funds to support their Zero Emission Bus and Advanced Solar Photovoltaic Panel Installation Project. The County intends to utilize this funding to purchase 10 electric busses and support the installation of 2,199 advanced solar panels on the roof of the building at the Copans Operations and Maintenance Facility in Pompano Beach, FL.

6/25/2018 **Grant Title: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE) Program**

**Applicant:** Opportunities Industrialization Centers of South Florida's (OIC)

**Addressed To:** Mr. Scott Logan, Director, Office of Legislative Affairs and Budget Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services

The grant application for OIC sought funding from SRAE to significantly assist OIC in continuing their implementation of evidence-based education models in the area of sexual risk avoidance. OIC has had a presence in Florida's 20<sup>th</sup> Congressional District since 2004 and has been an important member of the community by providing programming in the area of adolescent pregnancy prevention (APP), and specifically sexual risk avoidance.

7/13/2018 **Grant Title: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH)**

**Applicant:** Broward Regional Health Planning Council (BRHPC), Inc.

**Addressed To:** Mr. Michael De Lucca, MHM, President and CEO, Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Inc.

The grant application for Broward Regional Health Planning Council (BRHPC), Inc. sought funding on behalf of Broward REACH to continuing their mission to improve nutrition, increase access to physical activity opportunities, and strengthen connections between the community and clinical care in the African American/Black populations experiencing above-county average rates of health disparities. Broward REACH has been an important member of the community by implementing evidence-based public health programs to reduce health disparities and improve health outcomes of residents of my district.

7/17/2018 **Grant Title: Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD)**

**Applicant:** Port Everglades, Intermodal Freight Connector Project

**Addressed To:** Hon. Elaine Chao, Secretary of Transportation

As the largest International containerized cargo port in Florida and one of our nation's fastest growing ports, Port Everglades sought this funding to expand critically needed cargo berths and crane rail infrastructure to ensure its continued success into the future.

8/06/2018 **Grant Title: DOT Bus and Bus Facilities Program**  
**Applicant:** City of Miramar Transit Enhancement Program  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Elaine Chao, Secretary of Transportation

Miramar requested funding to replace two buses, purchase an additional bus with wheelchair positions, install 20 bus shelters, and upgrade the City's transportation hub facility.

8/15/2018 **Grant Title: Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program**  
**Applicant:** Pompano Beach Fire Rescue  
**Addressed To:** Mr. Thomas DiNanno, Grants Program Directorate, FEMA

This letter expressed strong support for Pompano Beach Fire Rescue's (PBFR) application to Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program. Pompano Beach Fire Rescue serves as the host applicant for 20 municipalities in Broward County who protects over 1.2 million permanent residents, 272,072 seasonal residents, and millions of tourists every year. This purchase will immediately cover half of the equipment necessary to make the system fully functional. Funding will ease the financial burden on participating cities, and will allow the fire departments to maintain operability after the radio system switch is made.

8/28/2018 **Title: Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center**  
**Applicant:** Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center  
**Addressed To:** Stephen D. Nimer, MD Director, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center

This letter expressed support for the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center's application, full and fair consideration to receive National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation.

9/12/2018 **Grant Title: Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements ("CRISI") Grant**  
**Applicant:** Brightline Trains, LLC  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Ron Batory, Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration

This letter supported the grant application from Brightline trains, LLC for funding under the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program administered by the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation as outlined in their Notice of Funding Opportunity, published in the Federal Register on July 19, 2018.

9/20/2018 **Grant Title: National Endowment for the Arts’ “Our Town” Grant Program**  
**Applicant:** City of Tamarac  
**Addressed To:** Mary Anne Carter, Acting Chairman National Endowment for the Arts

The City of Tamarac sought funding for their “Biz Box” project which would utilize retrofitted sea-cargo containers to create “Tamarac Village” which, in turn, would have professional shops, restaurants, residential units, and a park.

10/09/2018 **Grant Title: Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) 2018 Grant**  
**Applicant:** City of Pompano Beach  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Elaine Chao, Secretary of Transportation

Pompano Beach sought funding under the BUILD Grant Program to support its Dixie Highway Streetscape Improvements Program. These improvements are crucial to the future of Downtown Pompano Beach. Having already invested millions of dollars to improve safety and make the downtown area a vibrant destination, BUILD funding would help the city to provide lighting, bus shelters, drainage infrastructure, and landscaping to create a much more business friendly environment while also increasing safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. The City’s residents and small, independent businesses and will see a tremendous benefit from completion of this project, as would all who visit.

### Letters Signed

Below, please find a comprehensive list of all the letters I signed onto during the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic and Description</b>
1/12/2017	<p><b>The Pardon of all Lawful Permanent Residents</b> <b>Addressed To:</b> President Barack Obama <b>Primary Sending Office:</b> Representative Nydia Velazquez (D-NY)</p> <p>This letter asked President Obama to pardon all Lawful Permanent Residents who were legally deportable based solely on minor criminal offenses arguing that these individuals were productive members of the community and had resided in those communities for considerable periods of time.</p>
2/8/2017	<p><b>Civil Rights Abuses of Individuals Detained by Customs and Border Patrol</b> <b>Addressed To:</b> Mr. John Roth, Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security and Ms. Veronica Venture, Acting Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the Department of Homeland Security <b>Primary Sending Office:</b> Representative Jose Serrano (D-NY)</p> <p>This letter urged the immediate investigation into whether those taken into custody by Customs and Border Patrol agents were being denied access to legal counsel in general and in cases where the agents had been required to provide such access by court order.</p>
2/8/2017	<p><b>Rejecting President Donald Trump's call for an Investigation into Voter Fraud in the 2016 Presidential Election</b> <b>Addressed To:</b> President Donald Trump <b>Primary Sending Office:</b> Representative Derek Kilmer (D-WA)</p> <p>This letter urged the President to abandon his call for largely unsubstantiated cases of voter fraud to be investigated and instead join Members of Congress to address the real issue of voter disenfranchisement.</p>
2/14/2017	<p><b>Title X Family Planning</b> <b>Addressed To:</b> Speaker of the House Paul Ryan and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi</p> <p>Despite promises to focus on jobs and the economy, Republicans started the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress with a total assault on women's choices, access to care, and economic security. This letter expressed grave concern for efforts to undermine Title X family planning through the Congressional Review Act.</p>

- 2/16/2017 **Improper Contact Between the Trump Campaign and the Russian Government**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Jeff Sessions, Attorney General, Department of Justice  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Joe Crowley (D-NY)

This letter expressed concern over allegations that former National Security Advisor Lt. Gen. Michael T. Flynn and individuals employed by Donald Trump's presidential campaign engaged in improper contact with Russian government and intelligence officials prior to the election and/or the transition. The letter urged the Attorney General to commence an investigation into these allegations.

- 2/17/2017 **Federal Communications Commission - Lifeline Program**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Ajit Pai, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Anna Eshoo (D-CA) and Representative Yvette Clarke (D-NY)

This letter expressed disappointment for the Federal Communications Commission's February 3<sup>rd</sup> decision to revoke the Licensed Broadband Providers (LBP) designations for nine providers. Under the Lifeline Support for Affordable Communications program, LBPs offer discounts for wireline and wireless services to eligible, low-income consumers in every state, territory, commonwealth, and on tribal lands. Low-income consumers, who utilize the Lifeline program, will certainly suffer as a result of this order. This letter urged Chairman Pai to reverse course immediately.

- 2/17/2017 **Steps Taken to Secure President Trump's Resort Mar-a-Lago**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Joseph P. Clancy, Director of the U.S. Secret Service  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Katherine Clark (D-NY)

This letter requested the Director of the Secret Service to provide answers to questions related to how the Secret Service secures Mar-a-Lago, including how the Secret Service vets guests staying at the resort, whether the resort employees workers from foreign countries who may wish to gain access to national security information, and how much these efforts and other security efforts cost.

2/17/2017 **H-2B Visa Recipients Employed at President Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Edward Hugler, Acting Secretary Department of Labor  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Clark (D-NY)

This letter requested documentation related to H-2B visas issued for workers employed at President Trump's club, Mar-a-Lago. Specifically, the letter requested answers to several questions including (1) did any of the 64 visas that were approved go to Russian nationals? (2) Did the Department of Labor vet any of the H-2B visa holders employed by the club to determine whether they had any connection to foreign intelligence services. (3) Whether the Department of Labor was aware of vetting processes conducted by other federal agencies related to H-2B visa holder employed by the President's Club.

3/1/2017 **Civil Liberties Training for Custom and Border Patrol (CBP) Agents**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. John Kelly, Secretary of Homeland Security  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jared Polis (D-CO)

This letter requested Secretary Kelly provide Congress with answers to several questions including (1) what type of training do CBP personnel receive with respect to the rights of lawful permanent residents and valid visa holders who are encountered at ports of entry? (2) How often are CBP agents required to participate in training courses throughout their careers with the Agency? (3) What type of training do CBP agents receive on constitutional rights and how many hours of training are agents required to attend on civil rights at the Academy stage and beyond?

3/2/2017 **Title IX Protections for Transgender Students**  
**Addressed To:** President Donald Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Mark Pocan (D-WI)

This letter urged President Trump to reconsider his decision to rescind important Title IX guidance detailing schools' obligation to protect transgender students from discrimination.

3/8/2017 **Secretary Kelly's Proposal to Separate Families at the U.S. border**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. John Kelly, Secretary of Homeland Security  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Karen Bass (D-CA)

This letter took exception to Secretary Kelly's proposal to separate families seeking refuge at the U.S. border and urged him to reconsider the implementation of such a harmful immigration policy.

- 03/09/2017 **Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Detention of Victim of Domestic Violence Seeking Protective Court Order**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Thomas Homan, Acting Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (US-ICE)  
**Primary Sending Office:** Rep. Val Demings (D-FL)

In early 2017, ICE personnel detained an alleged victim of domestic violence while she was seeking a protective court order, escorting the victim from the courtroom so that she could be detained outside of the courthouse. An affidavit noted that agents “conducted surveillance” at the courthouse to determine the exact time and place of the court hearing prior to entering the courtroom. This letter expressed concern over this practice and urged ICE to issue guidance so that victims of crimes are not afraid to seek justice in our court systems.

- 03/10/2017 **Overtime Costs Incurred Protecting the President in Residences Outside of the White House**  
**Addressed To:** House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Nita M. Lowey  
**Primary Sending Office:** Members of the Palm Beach County Delegation

The Palm Beach County Delegation requested funding to reimburse local law enforcement entities for overtime costs incurred while protecting the President in residences other than the White House. Repeated visits to Mar-a-Lago have required local law enforcement to pay extraordinary amounts of overtime to officers to keep the President safe.

- 03/10/2017 **Urging President Trump to Appoint a Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism**  
**Addressed To:** President Donald Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Eliot L. Engel (D-NY)

During previous Presidential Administrations, the U.S. State Department's' Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism was crucial in documenting human rights abuses against Jewish communities abroad as well as developing and implementing policies designed to combat Anti-Semitism. The Trump Administration, however, did not fill the position. This letter urged his Administration to prioritize filling the post.

- 03/13/2017 **Urging the Department of Transportation (DOT) to Refrain from Compelling Airlines to Engage in Business Relationships with For-Profit Corporations**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Elaine Chao, Secretary of Transportation  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Sam Graves (R-TX) and Daniel Lipinski (D-IL)

This letter urged DOT not to move forward with regulations compelling airlines to share their proprietary information with other private entities. Forcing airlines to distribute or advertise their products through for-profit intermediaries is not in the best interest of consumers. Like any other type of business, airlines should have the freedom to compete and choose how and where to sell their products so long as they comply with federal standards for fair and honest business practices.

- 3/14/2017 **Secretary Pruitt's Climate Change Comments**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Scott Pruitt, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)

This letter raised significant concerns over Administrator Pruitt's comments on CNBC's Squawk Box regarding climate change. Appearing on the program, Administrator Pruitt said he does not believe carbon dioxide is a primary contributor to global warming, stating that, "measuring with precision human activity on the climate is something very challenging to do and there's tremendous disagreement about the degree of impact, so no, I would not agree that it's a primary contributor to the global warming that we see."

- 03/16/2017 **Miami-Dade County Coastal Renourishment Programs**  
**Addressed To:** Lieutenant General Todd Semonite, Commanding General and Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE)  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Frederica S. Wilson (D-FL) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)

The Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WINN) Act authorized USACOE coastal nourishment programs. This letter urged the ACOE to included two programs under WINN: a pilot program for the beneficial reuse of dredged material (Sec.1122) and a study on the benefits and impacts of using domestic and nondomestic sources of sediment for shoreline protection (Sec.1143).

03/24/2017 **Urging President Trump to Reaffirm the United States' Long-Standing Bipartisan Commitment to a Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**

**Addressed To:** President Donald Trump

**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives David E. Price (D-NC) and Gerald E. Connolly (D-VA)

For decades, American Presidents and Israeli Prime Ministers of all political parties have publicly supported and worked towards a peace agreement that recognizes Israel's right to exist as a Jewish, Democratic state, consisting side-by-side with a demilitarized Palestinian state in peace and security. American leadership is critical to this goal. This letter urged the President to reaffirm this commitment and support a just and lasting two-state solution.

3/29/2017 **Federal Courthouse Construction - Fort Lauderdale**

**Addressed To:** Senate Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government Chairman Shelley Capito (R-WV) and Ranking Member Chris Coons (D-DE), and House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government Chairman Tom Graves (R-GA) and Ranking Member Mike Quigley (D-IL)

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Ted Deutch (D-FL) and Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL)

The letter urged appropriators to include sufficient funding in the General Services Administration account for Fiscal Year 2018 to ensure that the following three courthouse constructions projects can move forward: the Middle District of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg; the Northern District of Alabama, Huntsville; and the Southern District of Florida, Fort Lauderdale.

4/5/2017 **President Trump's Campaign Promises to "get tough on" China**

**Addressed To:** President Donald Trump

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)

This letter urged the President to honor his word and protect American workers by declaring China a currency manipulator.

- 04/06/2017 **Famine and Food Insecurity in South Sudan, Yemen, Somalia, and Nigeria**  
**Addressed To:** House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Nita M. Lowey, and Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Thad Cochran and Vice Chairman Patrick Leahy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Thomas J. Rooney (R-FL)

This letter urged the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to allocate no less than \$1 billion in additional funding to address famine and food insecurity in South Sudan, Yemen, Somalia, and Nigeria, where more than 20 million people are facing starvation due to conflict and drought. The United Nations called the famine the “largest humanitarian crisis” since the organization was founded in 1945. An additional 50 million people survive day-to-day on whatever can be found to eat.

- 4/6/2017 **Conduct of the Royal Saudi Air Force (RSAF) in Yemen**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. James Mattis, Secretary of Defense and Hon. Rex Tillerson, Secretary of State  
**Primary Sending Office:** Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA)

This letter requested that the Department of Defense and Department of State report to Congress on why the Trump Administration overturned the previous Administration’s policy of not selling precision-guided munitions to Saudi Arabia due to the RSAF’s inability to successfully target such munitions.

- 4/10/2017 **Trump Administration Support for the Anti-Houthi Coalition Militaries led by Saudi Arabia**  
**Addressed To:** President Donald Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Mark Pocan (D-WI)

This letter requested that the President provide Congress with any legal rationale for U.S. participation in hostilities against Houthi forces in Yemen.

- 5/1/2017 **Zika Virus**  
**Addressed to:** House Appropriations Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Nita Lowey  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Filemon Vela (D-TX)

The letter urged the Chairman and Ranking Member to ensure that funding was made available to programs dedicated to the eradication of the Zika virus.

5/4/2017 **Florida's Specialty Crop Industry**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Commerce  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Thomas Rooney (R-FL) and Ted Yoho (R-FL)

Florida's farmers and ranchers provide an economic impact of over \$120 billion and serve as the foundation for over 2 million jobs. Furthermore, Florida is the second largest producer of specialty crops in the United States. The letter raised concerns regarding the unfair trade practices with respect to Mexico's exports of produce to the United States. Mexico's exports of bell peppers, strawberries and watermelon have soared over the past couple of years--which is disproportionately impacting the economic vitality of Florida's unique agriculture industry.

5/18/2017 **Opposing the Trump Administration's Proposal to Eliminate the South Florida Geographic Initiative**  
**Addressed To:** President Donald Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)

This letter urged President Trump to revisit the decision to eliminate the South Florida Geographic Initiative (SFGI). SFGI helped South Florida communities face numerous and complex environmental issues that affect the well-being of the public and the area's natural resources, including those related to agriculture, population expansion, land use changes, and the long-term protection of the unique subtropical landscape and biodiversity of the region.

5/18/2017 **Urging Secretary Zinke to visit the Everglades**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior  
**Primary Sending Officer:** Senator Marco Rubio (D-FL)

This letter urged Secretary Zinke to visit the Everglades to see first-hand the critical role the Department of Interior plays in restoring the Everglades.

5/24/2017 **Security and Exchange Commission's 2009 Corporate Board Diversity Rule**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Jay Clayton, Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Gregory Meeks (D-NY)

This letter urged the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to improve the SEC's 2009 corporate diversity rule by defining the term "diversity" in the Rule and limiting a company's discretion in what it is allowed to report to the SEC related to the company's efforts to diversify its corporate board.

- 06/06/2017 **Funding for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum**  
**Addressed To:** House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Chairman Ken Calvert and Ranking Member Betty McCollum  
**Primary Sending Office:** Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy (D-FL)

This letter urged the Appropriations Committee to fund the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum at \$57 million for Fiscal Year 2018, the same amount enacted the year prior. The President's FY18 budget request sought a \$3 million reduction for the museum's budget, jeopardizing its mission even as Anti-Semitism rises across the globe.

- 06/12/2017 **Urging Action to Fix the Highway Trust Fund**  
**Addressed To:** House Committee on Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady and Ranking Member Richard Neal  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Sam Graves (R-TX) and Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)

The Highway Trust Fund is the primary account for funding repairs to maintain our nation's roads and bridges and is financed primarily by federal motor fuel excise taxes. The Fund is supposed to be self-sufficient but has operated at a deficit for years, instead relying on transfers of general funds and other offsets, in order to avoid increasing the gas tax. This letter urged the House Committee on Ways and Means to seek a long-term solution to the fix the Highway Trust Fund to ensure that the Department of Transportation has the resources it needs to maintain our nation's highways.

- 06/14/2017 **Unemployment Trends in the African-American Community**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Janet Yellen, Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Al Green (D-TX)

Congress passed the Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act in 1977, establishing the Federal Reserve's dual mandate of promoting full employment and maintaining price stability. At the time, the unemployment rate in the African American community averaged 14 percent, compared to 6.2 percent in the white community. Chairwoman Yellen expressed willingness to encourage the Fed to study and analyze unemployment trends in the African American community while testifying before the House Financial Services Committee on February 15, 2017. This letter underscored the view that long-standing employment disparities still exist today and warrant further study.

- 6/14/2017 **Rangel and Pickering Fellowship Programs, Department of State**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Rex Tillerson, Secretary of State  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Joaquin Castro (D-TX)

This letter urged the Secretary of State to immediately issue waivers for the incoming class of Rangel and Pickering fellows, respectively, so that they would not be forced to choose between indefinite unemployment and a non-career track temporary position due to the State Department's hiring freeze.

- 06/22/2017 **Funding of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)**  
**Addressed To:** House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Nita M. Lowey  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Steve Knight (R-CA) and Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY)

H.R.244, the *Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2017*, provided \$16.4 billion for the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA), which was \$127 million more than the FY16 enacted level. This letter encouraged the House Committee on Appropriations to fully fund the FAA again in FY18 to ensure that it continues to have the safest, most robust aviation system in the world.

- 6/22/2017 **Support for the Government of Iraq**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Salim al-Jabouri, Speaker of Iraqi Council of Representatives  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Adam Kinzinger (R-IL)

This letter stated that it was in the national security interest of the United States to maintain a strong U.S.-Iraq partnership and ensure a viable democratic future for Iraq and its people.

- 06/30/2017 **Urging President Trump to Appoint a White House Liaison to the Jewish Community**  
**Addressed To:** President Donald Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Jacky Rosen (D-NV)

The tradition of appointing a White House Liaison to the Jewish Community dates back more than forty years. Given increased Anti-Semitism and the rise of the Boycott, Divest, and Sanction (BDS) movement, the need for a dedicated point of contact for the American Jewish Community remains paramount. This letter encouraged the President to fill this role without delay.

- 06/30/2017 **Urging Secretary of State Tillerson to Fill the Position of Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Rex Tillerson, Secretary of State  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Nita M. Lowey (D-NY, Christopher H. Smith (R-NJ), Eliot L. Engel (D-NY), and Edward R. Royce (R-CA)

This letter followed up on the March 2017 letter to President Trump urging him to fill the U.S. State Department's' Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism. After it was reported that the Administration would leave the position vacant, this letter to Secretary Tillerson urged him to maintain staff in the Office to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism and questioned his intention to comply with the requirements of the FY17 Omnibus that the position be filled in a timely manner.

- 07/06/2017 **President Trump's Voter Fraud Commission and the Publication of Voters' Personal Information**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Rick Scott, Governor of Florida  
**Primary Sending Office:** Members of the Florida Delegation

President Trump's Advisory Commission on Electoral Integrity - the so-called 'Voter Fraud Commission' - sought the pull voter files from every state with the intention of making every voter's personal information available to the public. More than half of all states refused to provide this sensitive information to the Commission, which was established to investigate "widespread voter fraud" in the United States despite no evidence in support of such a claim. This letter urged Governor Scott these states in refusing to turn over access to Florida voter rolls to the Commission.

- 7/10/2017 **National Network for Manufacturing Innovation**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Commerce  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Darren Soto (D-FL)

This letter urged Secretary Ross to have the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) name a second Manufacturing Innovation Institute using fiscal year 2017 National Network for Manufacturing Innovation funds. To this end, the letter made Secretary Ross aware of the Institute for Sensor and Imager Materials and Manufacturing application submitted by the International Consortium for Advanced Manufacturing Research.

- 07/26/2017 **Apportionment of Water Resources of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basin between Florida, Alabama, and Georgia**  
**Addressed To:** President Donald Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL), Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL), and the Florida Congressional Delegation

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) has a vital responsibility to operate a series of water control structures throughout the ACF Basin for a variety of purposes, including flood risk management, navigation, hydropower, recreation, fish and wildlife conservation, and water supply storage. This watershed has far-reaching economic benefits in all three states, yet, as a result of overconsumption caused by the refusal of one state to implement sensible water conservation practices, downstream communities in Florida have been devastated. This letter urged the Administration to ensure that any *Amicus* brief submitted by USACE to the Supreme Court in *Florida v. Georgia*, litigation pending as a result of the resulting dispute, to take a neutral role.

- 8/10/2017 **Concern that comments made by President Trump Increased tensions between the United States and North Korea**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Rex Tillerson, Secretary of State  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative John Conyers Jr. (D-MI)

This letter urged Secretary Tillerson to convey to President Trump and other Administration officials the importance of speaking and acting with the utmost caution with any and all issues related to North Korea and its nuclear capabilities.

- 8/18/2017 **Letter Concerning the White Nationalist Rally Held in Charlottesville, VA and other White Supremacy Activity**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Jefferson B. Sessions III, United States Attorney General, and Hon. Elaine Duke, Acting Secretary Department of Homeland Security  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Val Demings (D-FL)

This letter urged the Attorney General and Acting Secretary to forcefully condemn illegal activities undertaken by white supremacists, restore grants the Trump Administration wrongly eliminated to groups working to address the spread of white supremacy, and ensure that harmful policies that disenfranchise minority groups, like barriers to voting, are immediately reversed.

8/21/2017 **Re-evaluating the Naming of Military Installations after Figures who Fought for the Confederacy**

**Addressed To:** Hon. Jim Mattis, Secretary of Defense

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Mike Thompson (D-CA)

This letter urged the Secretary of Defense to start a process to reevaluate the naming of those military installations that bear the name of figures who fought on behalf of the Confederacy in order to find American military figures that better represent the true spirit of our Nation.

8/31/2017 **NAFTA Renegotiations**

**Addressed To:** Hon. Robert Lighthizer, U.S. Trade Representative

**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Neal Dunn (R-FL) and Thomas Rooney (R-FL)

As Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, we would like to express our support for the Administration's goal included in the *Summary of Objectives for the NAFTA Renegotiations* to seek "a separate domestic industry provision for perishable and seasonable products" in antidumping and countervailing duty proceedings. That improvement is critically needed to ensure that the perishable and seasonal sectors in Florida, the Southeast, and the broader nation have viable access to remedies that address the unfair trading practices being used by importers of Mexican fresh fruit and vegetables.

9/6/2017 **Removing One of Florida's National Statuary Hall Collection Statues from the United States Capitol**

**Addressed To:** Hon. Richard Corcoran, Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)

This letter urged Speaker Corcoran to take up legislation that would authorize the removal of Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith's statue from the United States Capitol.

9/6/2017 **Removing One of Florida's National Statuary Hall Collection Statues from the United States Capitol**

**Addressed To:** Hon. Joe Negron, President of the Florida Senate

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)

The letter urged Senate President Negron to take up legislation that would authorize the removal of Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith's statue from the United States Capitol.

9/6/2017 **Removing One of Florida's National Statuary Hall Collection Statues from the United States Capitol**

**Addressed To:** Hon. Rick Scott, Governor of Florida

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)

The letter urged Governor Scott to prioritize the removal of the statue honoring Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith located in the United States Capitol.

9/6/2017 **Reimbursement of Funds Expended by Palm Beach County Law Enforcement Associated with Protecting President Trump Between his Election and the Inauguration**

**Addressed To:** Hon. Jefferson B. Sessions III, Attorney General

**Primary Sending Office:** Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL)

This letter supported Florida's application seeking funds to offset costs related to Palm Beach County law enforcement's expenditures related to protecting president Trump between his election to the presidency to the inauguration, which cost approximately \$963,000.

09/07/2017 **Funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)**

**Addressed to:** Senate Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Agriculture Chairman John Hoeven and Ranking Member Jeff Merkley, and House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Agriculture Chairman Robert Aderholt and Ranking Member Sanford Bishop

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Gwen Moore (D-WI)

This letter urged Senate and House appropriators to provide \$6.3 billion for WIC in Fiscal Year 2019. WIC is the premier health nutrition program supporting low-income mothers and young children for preventing nutrition-related diseases and disorders. This funding is needed to meet caseload and address a number of critical WIC set-asides and initiatives.

- 09/08/2017 **Assistance to the Caribbean Following Hurricane Irma**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Rex Tillerson, Secretary of State, and Hon. James N. Mattis, Secretary of Defense  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Eric Swalwell (D-CA) and Eliot L. Engel (D-NY)

This letter asked for urgent help from the Administration for Americans stranded in the islands of the Caribbean following Hurricane Irma. Knowing that more hurricanes were in the immediate forecast for the region, this letter stressed that time was of the essence to ensure that disaster relief was expeditiously brought to the islands.

- 9/12/2017 **Inviting the U.S. House of Representatives' Leadership to Visit Florida to Witness First-hand the Damage Done by Hurricane Irma**  
**Addressed To:** Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, and House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Nita Lowey  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)

This letter invited House leadership to Florida to see first-hand the damages caused by Hurricane Irma.

- 9/14/2017 **Maintaining U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) record keeping at the National Archives**  
**Addressed To:** Mr. David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Yvette D. Clarke (D-NY)

This letter urged Mr. Ferriero to rescind any provisional approval given to ICE to shorten the time ICE had to maintain records related to sexual assaults, solitary confinement, deaths in custody, and abuses that occur during regular detention and monitoring.

- 9/22/2017 **Tax Incentives for those Affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria**  
**Addressed To:** House Committee on Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady and Ranking Member Richard Neal  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)

This letter urged the Chairman and Ranking Member to offer assistance to those hurt by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria through the creation of a package of tax incentives that will help hasten activities related to recovery and rebuilding.

9/27/2017 **Hurricane Maria**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Nydia Velazquez (D-NY)

The letter urged the President to commit more of the Department of Defense's assets to the recovery efforts in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

9/29/2017 **Disaster Assistance in the Supplemental Appropriations Bill**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Mick Mulvaney, Director Office of Management and Budget  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz

This letter thanked Director Mulvaney for taking swift action in response to the natural disasters that devastated much of the southern United States in August 2017, and that, although the passage of the supplemental appropriations bill was an important first step in important recovery efforts, the funds needed to be expended more quickly so as to keep pace with actual demand for recovery services.

10/02/2017 **Requesting Emergency Supplemental Funding for Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria Disaster Response**  
**Addressed To:** Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen, and Ranking Member Nita M. Lowey  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Eliot Engel (D-NY)

Hurricanes Irma and Maria wreaked havoc on the Caribbean, including U.S. territories Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. As the United States took the first step in providing emergency funding to rebuild on the mainland, this letter called for emergency funding to cover our neighbors in the Caribbean as well.

10/3/2017 **U.S. Policy Toward North Korea**  
**Addressed To:** President Donald Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Stephanie Murphy (D-FL)

This letter urged President Donald Trump to adopt a strong, strategic, and steady policy toward North Korea in order to stop that country's advancement toward an arsenal of nuclear weapons with the capability to threaten the United States and its interests.

- 10/06/2017 **Hurricane Supplemental Package**  
**Addressed To:** Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Thad Cochran and Vice Chairman Patrick Leahy, and House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen, and Ranking Member Nita Lowey  
**Primary Sending Office:** Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Bill Nelson (D-FL)

The three hurricanes that hit U.S. soil in September 2017 significantly stretched federal agencies, first responders, and community resources. The Trump Administration put forth a proposal to infuse sorely needed support into FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund. The Florida Delegation sent this letter respectfully requesting additional resources to respond to these disasters.

- 10/10/2017 **Violations of Current Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Policies Regarding Enforcement Actions in Sensitive Locations**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Elaine Duke, Acting Secretary of Homeland Security  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jose Serrano (D-NY)

This letter requested information related to how the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) keeps track of complaints related to instances of Department officials not following Department policy related to questioning people in sensitive locations including, but not limited to, hospitals, churches, and schools.

- 10/12/2017 **Opposing the State Department's Decision to Roll Back Critical Investments in Africa**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Rex Tillerson, Secretary of State  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA)

This letter urged Secretary Tillerson to reaffirm that sustainable development; economic growth, human rights, and humanitarian assistance in Africa are tantamount to U.S. national security interests and remain critical investments in the prosperity and security throughout the continent.

- 10/16/2017 **Human Rights Abuses in Turkey**  
**Addressed To:** H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey  
**Primary Sending Office:** The United States Helsinki Commission

The prolonged State of Emergency in Turkey has undermined the nation's democratic institutions and impacted bilateral relations between our countries. By facilitating sweeping purges with no evidentiary standards, the Turkish State of Emergency has upended countless lives and undercut the rule of law. Thousands of activists have been detained indefinitely. This letter urged President Erdogan to immediately restore fair judicial treatment and ensure basic human rights in Turkey.

- 10/16/2017 **Florida's Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP)**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)

Members of the South Florida Congressional Delegation sent this letter urging Secretary Purdue to extend the deadline for applying for D-SNAP aid following Hurricane Irma. D-SNAP is a critically valuable tool that can keep members of our communities from going hungry after a disaster or emergency. Some of the application sites in South Florida were closed early due to poor weather conditions, making it difficult for some families to apply for benefits.

- 10/25/2017 **Hurricane Disaster Funding**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Mick Mulvaney, Director of the Office of Management & Budget  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Tom Rooney (R-FL)

This letter requested an additional \$2.5 billion in emergency disaster relief funds in President Trump's disaster relief fund requires to Congress that can immediately alleviate the overwhelming financial impact of Hurricane Irma on Florida's agriculture industry.

- 11/03/2017 **Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) Program**  
**Addressed To:** Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain and Ranking Member Jack Reed, and House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mac Thornberry and Ranking Member Adam Smith  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Adam Kinzinger (R-IL)

The Afghan SIV program was first enacted through the *Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009* to provide a life-saving path for Afghan nationals who worked alongside U.S. troops, diplomats, and contractors in the wake of the American invasion of Afghanistan. Many of these individuals are still in Afghanistan and face imminent threats from the Taliban, Al Qaeda, and other hostile groups. Nearly 13,000 individuals are at some stage of their application to the SIV program, yet fewer than 1,400 visas remain. This letter urged the House and Senate Armed Services Committee to authorize 4,000 new visas for this program.

- 11/3/2017 **U.S. Military Presence in Niger**  
**Addressed To:** President Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA)

This letter urged the President to consult with and obtain authorization from Congress for any further combat operations in Niger, including providing information on the nature of the current mission and the legal justification for the same.

- 11/3/2017 **Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian Nationals Residing in the United States**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Elaine Duke, Acting Secretary of Homeland Security  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Cedric Richmond (D-LA) in his capacity as Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC)

This letter urged Secretary Duke to extend the TPS designation for the statutory maximum of 18-months for Haitian nationals residing within the United States.

11/15/2017 **Providing Guidance for American Citizens from Puerto Rico for Accessing Medicaid and Medicare**

**Addressed To:** Hon. Seema Verma, Administrator Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Stephanie Murphy (D-FL)

This letter urged Administrator Verma to swiftly prepare and publish a fact sheet that explained how American citizens from Puerto Rico who had relocated to Florida would be able to access their Medicaid or Medicare benefits, respectively.

11/22/2017 **Banning of African Elephant Trophies from Zimbabwe and Zambia**

**Addressed To:** President Donald Trump

**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Vern Buchanan (R-FL)

After the Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS) reversed its policy of prohibiting the import of African elephant trophies from Zimbabwe and Zambia, President Donald Trump signaled that he would retain the ban. This letter supported retaining the ban on elephant trophy imports and urged the President to maintain American leadership in global conservation efforts.

11/27/2017 **Emergency Disaster Assistance to Address Crop Losses in Florida After Hurricane Irma**

**Addressed To:** Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, and House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Nita Lowey

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Thomas Rooney (R-FL)

This letter urged House Leadership and appropriators to support language crafted by Representative Rooney that would allow the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide \$1.5 in emergency disaster assistance to address the catastrophic crop losses Florida producers suffered due to Hurricane Irma.

- 12/11/2017 **Hurricane Disaster Relief Funding**  
**Addressed To:** Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Thad Cochran and Vice Chairman Patrick Leahy, and House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen, and Ranking Member Nita Lowey  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Lois Frankel (D-FL) and Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL)

The letter asked House and Senate appropriators to maintain Section 539 of H.R. 3354, the *Make America Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act*, in order to provide certainty to cities and counties relying on disaster assistance grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance Program as they recover from natural disasters.

- 12/12/2017 **Preserving the Johnson Amendment**  
**Addressed To:** House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady and Ranking Member Richard Neal, and Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch and Ranking Member Ron Wyden  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative James Clyburn (D-SC)

The letter urged the Chairmen and the Ranking Members to preserve the Johnson Amendment in any final conference report that accompanied H.R. 1, the *Tax Cut and Jobs Act*, to protect spiritual sanctuaries from becoming venues for partisan politics.

- 12/13/2017 **Damage to Farms During the 2017 Hurricane Season**  
**Addressed To:** House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Nita Lowey, and Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Thad Cochran and Ranking Member Patrick Leahy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Senator John Cornyn (R-TX)

This letter expressed concern for farmers directly affected by the 2017 hurricane season, and urged Congressional appropriators to provide the necessary resources for them to recover from storm-related losses.

- 12/18/2017 **Human Rights Abuses in Egypt**  
**Addressed To:** Vice President Mike Pence  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Ted Deutch (D-FL), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), David N. Cicilline (D-RI), and French Hill (R-AR)

Egypt and the United States have had a long and enduring partnership predicated on strong military and counter-terrorism cooperation, shared security goals, and a shared vision for peace in the region. In recent years, independent civil society groups in Egypt have been the target of a concerted government effort to stop them from operating. Minority groups and members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community have been particularly affected, as have independent media organizations. This letter urged Vice President Pence to raise these issues ahead of his visit to Egypt.

- 12/19/2017 **U.S. Marine Corps National Defense Cadet Corps (NDCC)**  
**Addressed To:** House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mac Thornberry and Ranking Member Adam Smith  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Kevin Brady (D-PA)

The NDCC program is similar to the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (J-ROTC) program, but relies on local school districts for a larger portion of its funding. The NDCC has helped communities in a variety of ways, including improved academic achievement, increased rates of community service, and leadership. In late 2017, the Marine Corps announced a legal review of U.S. Code Title 10 to ensure that NDCC schools are in line with existing guidance. NDCC funding was suspended during the review, creating a sudden shortfall of funding for certain programs. This letter urged continued funding of NDCC programs as well as a permanent funding solution that avoids future funding shortfalls.

- 12/19/2017 **U.S. Army Ground Mobility Vehicle Program (GMV)**  
**Addressed To:** House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Defense Chairwoman Kay Granger and Ranking Member Peter J. Visclosky  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Charlie Crist (D-FL) and Brian Mast (R-FL)

This letter urged conferees of the FY18 Department of Defense (DOD) Appropriations Bill to maintain House provisions related to the Army's GMV funding, including language maintaining the existing U.S. SOCOM contract awarded in August 2013.

- 12/20/2017 **Executive Order 13815 and the Iraqi Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) Program**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. James Mattis, Secretary of Defense, Hon. Rex Tillerson, Secretary of State, and Hon. Kirstjen Nielsen, Secretary of Homeland Security  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Adam Kinzinger (R-IL)

Executive Order 13815 (President Trump’s Muslim Ban) would indiscriminately prevent many of our Iraqi partners from accessing a pathway to safety in the United States. Congress has frequently acted in a bipartisan manner to establish and extend legal pathways to safety such as the Special Immigrant Visa program (SIV) for Iraqi and Afghans who worked alongside American troops. The Executive Order placed a 90-day waiting period on refugees from 11 nations, including Iraq, in addition to Executive Order 13780, which mandated a 120-day shutdown of refugee admissions through USRAP. This letter opposed the combined 210-day delay imposed by the Administration for Iraqi nationals, and urged the Administration to create an exemption for SIV recipients.

- 1/18/2018 **National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas and Leasing Program**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) and Jared Huffman (D-CA)

This letter expressed strong opposition to the inclusion of lease sales in the Atlantic, Arctic, and Pacific Oceans, and Eastern Gulf of Mexico in the Draft 2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program (National OCS Program) that was announced on January 4, 2018. This draft plan elevates the interests of the oil and gas industry above all others, while ignoring public input, sound science, and the impacts of climate change on our environment. This letter urged Secretary Zinke to return to the drawing board and remove the lease sales in the Atlantic, Arctic, and Pacific Oceans, and the Eastern Gulf of Mexico from the new National OCS Program.

1/18/2018 **Democratic Spending Priorities**  
**Addressed To:** President Donald Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Peter Welch (D-VT)

This letter urged the President to consider Democratic budgetary priorities, including the preservation of the agreement in the *Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013* that required increased spending to be spread evenly between defense spending and non-defense discretionary accounts, providing resources to communities fighting the opioid epidemic, providing assistance to veterans, protecting Dreamers, providing funding to CHIP, protecting pensions, and providing additional disaster relief to Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Texas, Florida, and states impact by wildfires.

1/24/2018 **Offshore Drilling - Florida Waters Under Consideration**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior  
**Primary Sending Office:** Senators Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Marco Rubio (R-FL)

Following Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Acting Director Walter Cruickshank's statement that the Planning Areas off Florida's coasts are still under consideration for offshore drilling, this letter expressed strong opposition to any attempt to open up the eastern Gulf of Mexico to oil and gas drilling. This area has been off-limits under law since 2006 and must remain protected. It is critical to our national security interests as well as the tourism-driven economy of Florida.

1/29/2018 **Title X Family Planning**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Mick Mulvaney, Director of the Office of Management and Budget  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY) and Diana DeGette (D-CO)

This letter requested support for domestic and international family planning in the President's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request by providing at least \$1.5 billion for international family planning and reproductive health.

- 1/31/2018 **FEMA Disaster Relief - Hurricane Maria**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Brock Long, Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Darren Soto (D-FL) and Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon (R-PR) and Senators Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Marco Rubio (R-FL)

This letter requested that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) continue distributing supplies of food and water in Puerto Rico. Many U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico continue to struggle, some lacking access to power or running water, 133 days after Hurricane Maria devastated the island. Many Puerto Rican localities still face significant challenges accessing basic needs, and FEMA has played a critical role in ensuring Puerto Ricans across the island are receiving these goods and services.

- 2/1/2018 **Medicare Advantage**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Seema Verma, Administrator of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Brett Guthrie (R-KY)

This letter expressed strong support for the Medicare Advantage program.

- 02/05/2018 **Department of Labor (DOL) Proposed Rulemaking: Tipped Worker Provisions under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Alexander Acosta, Secretary of Labor  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (D-VA) and Senator Patty Murray (D-WA)

DOL proposed rescinding provisions of regulations that clarify tips are the property of employees, regardless of whether the employer takes a tip credit or pays the employee the full federal minimum wage. This proposed rulemaking is contrary to Congressional intent and reverses the Secretary of Labor’s decades-long view of tip as the property of employees. This letter strongly opposed this change.

2/5/2018 **Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office)**  
**Addressed To:** President Donald J. Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) and  
Dave Reichert (R-WA)

In advance of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Budget, this letter expressed strong support for robust funding for the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) within the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) and the programs the office administers on behalf of our nation's law enforcement officers. It is imperative the COPS Office remains an independent agency within the DOJ so that it may continue to support community policing efforts that build trust and mutual respect between law enforcement officers and communities.

2/7/2018 **Urging Secretary Azar to Fill the Autism Coordinator Position at the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex M. Azar, Secretary of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Mike Doyle (D-PA) and Christopher H. Smith (R-NJ)

The designation of an autism coordinator is required by Section 2 of Public Law 113-157, the Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education, and Support Act of 2014 (Autism CARES Act of 2014), however it was vacant for several months following Dr. Thomas E. Novotny stepping down in September 2017. The Autism CARES Act of 2014 specifies that the designated official will implement Autism Spectrum Disorder activities, utilizing the strategic plan developed by the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee. This letter, sent by members of the bipartisan Congressional Autism Caucus, urged the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to swiftly designate an interagency Autism Coordinator. On February 28, 2018, HHS responded by designating Ann E. Wagner, Ph.D., as National Autism Coordinator.

- 2/14/2018 **Opposing Unlawful Medicaid Work Requirements**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex M. Azar, Secretary of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)

On January 11, 2018, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that the agency would allow states to require a person to work in order to have access to Medicaid. On January 12, CMS gave unprecedented approval to a so-called Section 1115 waiver request from Kentucky and Indiana allowing these states to include work requirements for Medicaid coverage. These types of requirements have routinely been deemed by previous administrations as unlawful. Linking health coverage to a work requirement would undermine access to health care, and contradict the plain text and purpose of the law. This letter opposes the Administration's actions to allow, for the first time in the Medicaid program, a work requirement as a condition of coverage.

- 2/16/2018 **Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Scott Pruitt, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Donald Beyer (D-VA)

This letter sought clarification of Administrator's Pruitt's statement before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee that there has been "no decision or determination" on whether the Environmental Protection Agency will take steps to "repeal or replace the [greenhouse gases] endangerment finding." This position was inconsistent with previous statements that endangerment finding "needs to be enforced and respected." The letter sought to know whether Administrator Pruitt stood by his comments he made during his confirmation hearing, and if not, asked to understand why his position had changed.

- 2/26/2018 **Requesting the Nomination of a Director to the Office of Violence Against Women**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald John Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Brendan F. Boyle (D-PA)

The Office on Violence Against Women within the Department of Justice is tasked with leading the federal government in "developing the national capacity to reduce violence against women and administer justice for and strengthen services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking." More than one year of taking office, the Trump Administration had still not put forward a nominee for the position. This letter urged the President to swiftly nominate a qualified Director of the Office of Violence Against Women so that the Senate may begin its consideration of such a nominee.

02/27/2018 **Requesting Debate on the Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF)**

**Addressed To:** Speaker of the House Paul D. Ryan

**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Tom Cole (R-OK)

Congress passed an AUMF days after 9/11 authorizing the use of military force for the “war on terror.” The 2001 AUMF has been cited as statutory authority for unclassified military or related actions at least 41 times in 18 countries due to its open-ended structure. After Secretary of State Tillerson voiced his intention to commit U.S. troops to an indefinite military presence in Syria, this letter called for an open debate and vote on a new AUMF that defines the purpose, geography, and tactical scope of the fight against the Islamic State in Syria (IS).

2/27/2018 **Support for Historically Black Colleges and Universities Entrepreneurs**

**Addressed to:** U.S. Comptroller General Gene Dodaro, Government Accountability Office

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Alma Adams (D-NC)

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has a number of programs that focus on providing tools to individuals who wish to start or have recently started new businesses, are members of groups that are socially and economically disadvantaged, and operate businesses in economically distressed areas. HBCUs provide education and training to a large share of our nation’s African-American population. This letter requested that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) examine whether Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), their students, and their graduates are receiving adequate support from the Small Business Administration (SBA) to help develop successful entrepreneurs. On March 28, 2018, the GAO granted this request to begin investigating whether HBCUs are receiving adequate support from the SBA to help develop successful entrepreneurs.

- 02/28/2018 **Funding for Federal Courthouses in the FY2018 Appropriations Bill**  
**Addressed To:** House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Nita M. Lowey, and Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government Chairman Tom Graves and Ranking Member Mike Quigley  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Ted Deutch (D-FL) and Scott Perry (R-PA)

The Judicial Conference identified four Federal Courthouse projects, including the location in downtown Fort Lauderdale, as in need of new construction. The Federal Courthouse in our region suffers from security problems that pose significant safety concerns for judges, staff, and the public, in addition to lacking sufficient space. This letter urged the House Appropriations Committee to fully fund these four projects in accordance with the Trump Administration's 2018 Discretionary Adds requests.

- 03/01/2018 **Legal Justification for the Use of Military Force in Syria**  
**Addressed To:** President Donald Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Peter A. DeFazio (D-OR), Walter B. Jones (R-NC), Barbara Lee (D-CA), and Ro Khanna (D-CA)

Following reports that indicated the Trump Administration had a memo detailing the legal basis for the use of military force in Syria, which was created to provide a legal basis for the airstrikes against the Shayrat military airbase in Syria on April 6, 2017. This justification was never shared with Congress nor made public. As the 1973 War Powers Resolution requires the President to inform Congress within 48 hours of introducing U.S. Armed Forces into hostilities if there has not been a formal declaration of war, this letter requested a copy of this document to ensure that Congress can properly exercise its oversight authority.

- 3/5/2018 **Failure of Federal Entities to Comply with Federal Law and Report Information to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS)**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative David Cicilline (D-RI)

This letter urged the Comptroller General to conduct an investigation that would review which federal entities are required to make referrals to NICS, what records possessed by a federal entity are relevant for inclusion in the NICS database, the number of records submitted to NICS each year by federal entities, and obstacles to improving reporting by federal entities to NICS.

- 3/6/2018 **Hurricane Irma Relief - Crop Losses**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture  
**Primary Sending Office:** Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Bill Nelson (D-FL)

In this letter, Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation noted that Hurricane Irma destroyed some of Florida's most productive agricultural lands, causing over \$2 billion in crop losses and \$2.5 billion in total damage and losses across all segments of Florida agriculture. This letter expressed support for the requests made by Commissioner Putnam.

- 03/07/2018 **Funding for the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) Program**  
**Addressed To:** House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Chairman Tom Cole and Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Bill Foster (D-IL)

The CCAMPIS Program helps to meet the urgent needs of student parents enrolled in higher education, working to attain a college degree, or workforce training to provide economic security for themselves and their children. The current levels of funding for the program are only able to meet a tiny fraction of student demand for affordable and high-quality childcare. The agreement to raise overall spending caps gave a commitment to invest an additional \$2 billion in each of the next two fiscal years on "student-centered programs that aid college completion and affordability." This letter urged the Appropriations to follow through on this commitment to prioritize additional funding for CCAMPIS.

- 3/8/2018 **Environmental Protection Agency - New Chemical Program**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Scott Pruitt, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Matthew Cartwright (D-PA)

This letter asked Administrator Pruitt to disclose the identities of all chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing and oil and gas drilling that the EPA has identified as potentially harmful to human health under its New Chemical program pursuant to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) from the start of the program's implementation to the present.

- 3/13/2018 **Supporting the Reauthorization of the Perkins Loan Program**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-WI), Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Representatives Virginia Foxx (R-NC), Bobby Scott (D-VA), Tom Cole (R-OK), Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives John Duncan (R-TN) and Louise Slaughter (D-NY)

Perkins Loans are an invaluable component of an institution's and a student's financial aid resources and there is no loan better supporting college completion and affordability. This program was set to expire in September 2017, which would leave hundreds of thousands of students and their families wondering how they will make up the gap next year. This letter urged House leadership to take action and extend the Perkins Loan Program for two years through the anticipated Fiscal Year 2018 omnibus appropriations spending bill.

- 3/16/2018 **Opposing Cuts and Programmatic Changes to SNAP**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture and Hon. Mick Mulvaney, Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Jimmy Panetta (D-CA), James P. McGovern (D-MA) and Ted Deutch (D-FL)

Federal nutrition programs, most notably the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), have ensured that individuals and families can meet their basic nutrition requirements in a way that respects their rights as consumers to make their own decisions. The President's FY19 budget called for a 30 percent reduction to the entire program over a ten-year period. The letter called for a strengthening of SNAP and opposed any cuts which would weaken the ability of the federal government to provide adequate nutrition assistance to working families, children, veterans, senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and other vulnerable adults across this country.

- 3/26/2018 **Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) Post-Authorization Change Report (PACR)**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Ricky Dale "RD" James, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
**Primary Sending Office:** Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Bill Nelson (D-FL)

This letter expressed strong support for the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) Post Authorization Change Report (PACR) submitted by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). The letter urged the Army Corps to coordinate an expedited review of the proposal to ensure a timely decision that, if positive, would allow Congress to be able to consider authorizing this ecologically-significant modification of the CEPP in the current Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA) cycle.

- 3/26/2018 **Opposing the Department of Agriculture's Proposal to Outsource Federal Oversight of Facilities Regulated Under the Animal Welfare Act**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture  
**Primary Sending Office:** Christopher H. Smith (R-NJ)

USDA-APHIS proposed to recognize private, third party inspections and certifications when determining the frequency of federal inspections for facilities regulated under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). Coupled with the agency's decision in 2017 to purge inspection reports from its website, relying on third party inspections would result in a lack of transparency and consistency, both regarding the welfare of animals at licensed facilities and the rigorousness of the enforcement of the AWA. This letter urged the agency to abandon its proposal to utilize inspections and certifications by regulated industries as a guide to determine whether and when to inspect a facility under the Animal Welfare Act.

- 3/27/2018 **Proposed Rule: Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegation of Authority**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Julia Brownley (D-CA), Barbara Lee (D-CA), and Diana DeGette (D-CO)

This letter expressed strong objections to the Department of Health and Human Services' ("HHS" or the "Department") proposed rule "Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority," which attempts to dramatically expand existing harmful refusal laws in ways that are intended to encourage health care providers and institutions to discriminate against patients.

- 3/28/2018 **U.S. Normalization of Relations with Sudan**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. John Sullivan, Deputy Secretary of State  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jim McGovern (D-MA)

This letter noted the Government of Sudan's long and well-documented history of violence and repression against its population and expressed concern over the United States' further normalization of relations with the Government of Sudan.

- 3/30/2018 **Florida Inland Navigation District - FY2018 Funding**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Ricky Dale "RD" James, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Lois Frankel (D-FL) and Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)

This letter was written on behalf of the Florida Inland Navigation District, the local sponsor of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW), the Intracoastal Waterway (IWW) and the Okeechobee Waterway (OWW) in Florida, to respectfully request additional fiscal year (FY) 2018 funding in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Work Plan for important maintenance dredging projects. The Corps proposed FY18 budget includes \$2.23M for the AIWW and \$3.56M for the IWW. This letter showed appreciation for the Corps budgeting this funding for these necessary projects, but respectfully request an additional \$11.7 million for six required maintenance projects along the waterway.

- 4/11/2018 **Opposition to the Nomination of the Honorable Mike Pompeo to be Secretary of State**  
**Addressed To:** Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker and Ranking Member Bob Menendez  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative David Cicilline (D-RI)

This letter urged the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to not confirm Mike Pompeo to the position of Secretary of State on the basis that his confirmation would be contrary to the American values of respect for the rule of law and human rights, especially respect for the safety of the individual and the fundamental right to security in one's person.

- 4/13/2018 **Congressional Authorization for Additional Use of U.S. Military Force in Syria**  
**Addressed To:** President Donald Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)

This letter urged President Trump to consult with and receive authorization from Congress before committing more troops to the ongoing war in Syria.

- 4/19/2018 **Fort Lauderdale Federal Courthouse**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Emily Murphy, Administrator of the General Services Agency (GSA)  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Lois Frankel (D-FL) and Ted Deutch (D-FL)

Members of Congress representing South Florida sent this letter encouraged the General Services Administration to quickly submit to Congress the prospectus for a new Federal Courthouse for the Southern District of Florida located in Fort Lauderdale.

- 4/19/2018 **Opposing the Department of Justice Decision to Terminate the Legal Orientation Program (LOP) and the Immigration Help Desk Program (ICH)**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Jefferson B. Sessions III, Attorney General  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Mike Quigley (D-IL)

This letter urged the Attorney General to reverse the Department of Justice decision to terminate LOP and ICH as the termination ran counter to the clear direction of Congress.

- 4/19/2018 **Upholding the Migratory Bird Treaty Act**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Alan Lowenthal (D-CA)

Recent guidance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife would undermine the ability of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to address incidental take of birds from industrial hazards. This letter urged Secretary Zinke to oppose this new, harmful, interpretation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and urged him to withdraw the opinion before it damages the wildlife our country has worked so hard to protect.

- 04/20/2018 **Central and South Florida Flood Control Project (C&SF) Funding**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. R.D. James, Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, and Lieutenant General Todd T. Semonite, Commanding General and Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Ted Deutch

This letter urged ACOE to include funding in the supplemental work plan for a study of the Central and South Florida Flood Control Project (C&SF) as part of the South Atlantic Coastal Study. Incorporating the C&SF Project in the South Atlantic Coastal Study will provide critical assistance to Southeast Florida to prevent future disasters from storms.

4/20/2018 **Letter Concerning the Trump Administration’s Policy of Separating Children From Their Parents at U.S. Border Locations**

**Addressed To:** Hon. Kirstjen Nielsen, Secretary of Homeland Security  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Cedric Richmond (D-LA) in his capacity as Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus

This letter requested responses to the following questions: (1) what policies, rules, and procedures govern the separation of minor children from immigrant parents who are asylum seekers? (2) What meetings have been held to discuss such measures and what was the result of these meetings? (3) To the extent that there is no policy, rule, or procedure, why are these cruel separations occurring in a systematic manner? (4) What review process, if any, is in place to ensure these actions do not continue? (5) What disciplinary action(s) are in place to punish agency officials who separate minors from their asylum-seeking parents?

4/23/2018 **Opposing Increased Swine Slaughter Line Speeds**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Mark Pocan (D-WI)

On February 1, 2018, the United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) proposed new regulations to create the New Swine Inspection System (NSIS) which would allow for an unlimited increase in hog slaughter line speeds. NSIS would put public health, worker safety and animal welfare at risk. This letter opposed any line speed increases and urged the USDA to withdraw this dangerous Modernization of Swine Slaughter Inspection rule.

4/27/2018 **Requesting Information Pertaining to the Removal of the House Chaplain**

**Addressed To:** Speaker of the House Paul Ryan  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Gerald Connolly (D-VA)

This letter requested additional information concerning how Speaker Ryan reached the conclusion to request Reverend Patrick J. Conroy for his resignation.

5/3/2018 **Opposition to the Inclusion of Riders Related to Firearms in Appropriations Legislation**

**Addressed To:** Speaker of the House Paul Ryan and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Mike Thompson (D-CA)

This letter opposed the inclusion of riders related to firearms in annual appropriations legislation. The letter urged Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi to ensure that changes to gun policy be seriously and properly considered by Congress through regular order.

5/10/2018 **Oppose Florida’s 1115 Medicaid Waiver Amendment to Eliminate Retroactive Eligibility Due to Potential Extreme Harm to Older and Disabled Floridians**

**Addressed to:** Administrator Seema Verma, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

**Primary Sending Office:** Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Representative Kathy Castor (D-FL)

Retroactive Medicaid eligibility is designed to protect Medicaid beneficiaries—including seniors, pregnant women, individuals with disabilities, and parents—and their families from the steep costs of medical services and long-term care. In March, the State of Florida proposed an amendment to the current 1115 Medicaid MMA Waiver to eliminate retroactive eligibility for seniors and individuals with disabilities. This letter urged Administrator Verma to reject the State of Florida’s proposal to eliminate retroactive eligibility and protect vulnerable Floridians from this potential barrier to health care coverage.

5/16/2018 **Concerning the Protect Interstate Commerce Act**

**Addressed To:** Speaker of the House Paul Ryan and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Vern Buchanan (R-FL)

This letter urged Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi to ensure that the *Protect Interstate Commerce Act* (also known as the King Amendment), be removed from the final version of the Farm Bill.

5/17/2018 **Draft Rule From the Department of Homeland Security that Would Allow Immigration Officers to Weigh the Use of Public Benefits by Immigrants When Making Green Card and Visa Determinations**

**Addressed To:** Hon. Kirstjen Nielsen, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, and Hon. Mick Mulvaney, Director of the Office of Management and Budget

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Adriano Espaillat (D-IL)

This letter urged Secretary Nielsen and Director Mulvaney to abandon the draft rule allowing immigration officers to weigh the use of public benefits by immigrants when making green card and visa determinations, as it would only serve to force immigrant families to choose between accessing benefits they needed or being reunited with their family members.

- 5/17/2018 **Act to Protect Floridians from Higher Health Insurance Premiums Dirven by Republicans Sabotage to Affordable Health Care**  
**Addressed to:** Florida Governor Rick Scott  
**Primary Sending Office:** Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Representative Kathy Castor (D-FL)

The Congressional Budget Office projected that the repeal of the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate due to the Republican tax scam law could result in 13 million people losing coverage and 10 percent higher premiums each year. In order to mitigate this devastation to Floridians at risk of losing coverage, the letter requested: limiting the sale of sub-par junk insurance plans; boosting coverage by increasing outreach, enrollment and marketing; strengthening state oversight of the individual market to improve plan participation and lower costs; and using existing ACA authority to craft a reinsurance program to reduce health insurance premiums.

- 5/23/2018 **Proposed Rule: Nondiscrimination in Health Programs or Activities**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Mick Mulvaney, Director of the Office of Management and Budget  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) and Julia Brownley (D-CA)

On Friday, April 17th, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) indicated that it was reviewing the proposed rule, "Nondiscrimination in Health Programs or Activities." Given the Trump-Pence Administration's record on women's health and rights, and in light of recent actions specifically related to the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) Health Care Rights Law or Section 1557 of the ACA, OMB's review of this proposal signaled that the Trump-Pence Administration intended to roll back the first broad prohibition of sex discrimination in federal law. This letter urged Director Mulvaney to reject a proposed rule that undermines these important protections.

- 5/29/2018 **STOP School Violence Act**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Jeff Sessions, Attorney General, Department of Justice  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives John Rutherford (R-FL) and Don Bacon (R-NE)

This letter thanked Attorney General Sessions for prioritizing school safety, and asked him to continue to support the expeditious implementation of the *STOP School Violence Act* and other school security grant programs authorized and funded in the recently enacted *Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018*.

- 5/31/2018 **Urging the Trump Administration to Stop Rising Healthcare Costs**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump  
**Sending Office:** Representative Donald S. Beyer, Jr. (D-VA)

On December 22, 2018, President Trump signed the GOP's H.R. 1, a tax bill that functionally eliminated a provision in the *Affordable Care Act* (ACA) requiring Americans to purchase health insurance. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, this provision is the primary cause of a projected 15 percent increase in healthcare premiums in 2019 and will lead to 5 million more uninsured Americans. Further, the discontinuation of federal funds for Cost-Sharing Reductions, the effective repeal of the individual mandate, and proposed rules to change short term and association health plans have been cited by insurers as the reason for health insurance rate increases. This letter asked President Trump to stop sabotaging the ACA and work with Congress to increase access and affordability for quality health insurance.

- 6/5/2018 **Transgender Military Ban**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Jim Mattis, Secretary of Defense  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Joe Kennedy III (D-MA) and Joe Crowley (D-NY)

This letter rejected the policy recommendations to the President made by Secretary Mattis banning transgender service members "except under limited circumstances" and expressed deep opposition to the flawed scientific and medical assertions upon which it was based.

- 6/5/2018 **Rejecting Secretary Mattis' Recommendation that Transgender Service Members be Banned from Serving in the Armed Services**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Jim Mattis, Secretary of Defense  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Joseph Kennedy (D-MA)

This letter rejected Secretary Mattis' policy recommendation that transgender service members be banned from serving in the armed services and urged the Secretary to reverse his recommendation and to publicly disclose the Panel of Experts and the principal advisors with whom he consulted.

- 6/07/2018 **Rejecting the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s “Making Affordable Housing Work Act” Proposal**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Ben Carson, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Charlie Crist (D-FL) and Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation

The HUD “Making Affordable Housing Work Act” proposal would triple low-income rents across the country. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, this increase alone would result in the eviction of 1.7 million Americans, including nearly one million children. As this proposal reflects a lack of understanding of affordable housing in Florida or the country, this letter urged Secretary Carson to reconsider.

- 6/8/2018 **Honoring the Renowned 65th Infantry Regiment, the “Borinqueneers”**  
**Addressed to:** Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee, United States Postal Service  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Bill Posey (R-FL), Darren Soto (D-FL), Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon (R-PR) and Nydia M. Velazquez (D-NY)

Despite executive orders issued by President Truman in 1948 ensuring equal treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed forces regardless of race or color, the 65th Infantry Regiment served for most of the Korean War (1950-1953) as a segregated unit composed mainly of soldiers from Puerto Rico. The Borinqueneers participated in some of the fiercest battles during World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. This letter expressed support for the issuance of a postage stamp honoring the renowned 65th Infantry Regiment, a famed U.S. Army unit known as the “Borinqueneers.”

- 6/13/2018 **Health Coverage for Floridians with Pre-Existing Conditions**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Rick Scott, Governor of Florida  
**Sending Office:** Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Representative Kathy Castor (D-FL)

In February 2018, attorneys general in 20 states - including Florida - filed a lawsuit in *Texas v. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)* to strike down the nation’s health care law and all of its critical protections with no plan in place to replace it. In June 2018, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) filed a brief in that case urging the court to overturn critical pieces of the nation’s health care law. By joining this lawsuit, the State of Florida was actively working to hurt Americans with pre-existing conditions. This letter urged Governor Scott to withdraw from this dangerous suit and instead adopt additional consumer protections that will protect those with pre-existing conditions.

- 6/14/2018 **Opposing Poison Pill Policy Riders in FY19 Appropriations**  
**Addressed To:** Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen, and Ranking Member Nita M. Lowey  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) and Ruben Gallego (D-AZ)

Every year, the annual appropriations process is bogged down by efforts to attach controversial policy riders on legislation required for funding the U.S. Government, increasing the likelihood of a political impasse and government shutdown. Cuts to vital programs and threats of a shutdown risk the security and wellbeing of our country and every American family. This letter urged House leadership to bring forward appropriations bills without poison pill riders to ensure that we adequately fund the government for the coming fiscal year.

- 6/15/2018 **Oil & Gas Leases - Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Jared Huffman (D-CO) and Raul Grijalva (D-AZ)

This letter expressed serious concerns in response to the Notice of Intent issued April 20, 2018 to initiate a planning process for oil and gas leasing on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This letter expressed strong opposition to fossil fuel development on these internationally significant public wildlands. The letter urged Secretary Zinke to halt this rushed approach his department took to this environmental review in favor of a measured, science-driven effort that provides for robust public input and full involvement of the American people, including the Alaska Natives who will be significantly and negatively impacted by development.

- 6/15/2018 **The Removal of Voluntary Questions about Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity from Federal Surveys**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Mick Mulvaney, Director of the Office of Management and Budget  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Raul Grijalva (D-AZ)

This letter noted the need for reliable data about the LGBT population so that the federal government would be better able to achieve equality and prosperity for LGBT and non-LGBT people alike.

- 6/18/2018 **Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’s (APHIS’s) Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (AQI) Treatment Monitoring Fee**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture  
**Primary Sending Office:** Senators Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Marco Rubio (R-FL)

Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation sent a letter to Secretary Perdue urging him to review the current method of applying AQI treatment monitoring fees and identify a more equitable approach. Currently, these fees disproportionately affect ports in our state because they are assessed on a per-treatment basis regardless of the volume of goods treated.

- 6/22/2018 **Review of the Trump Administration’s “Zero Tolerance” Immigration Policy**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. John Kelly, Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security, and Hon. Daniel Levinson, Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative J. Luis Correa (D-CA)

This letter urged the Inspectors General to begin a timely and complete review of their respective Departments’ record-keeping of immigrant families being detained and separated at the U.S.-Mexico border.

- 6/27/2018 **Expressing Concern over the Trump Administration’s “Zero Tolerance” immigration policy**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Alex M. Azar II, Secretary Department of Health & Human Services, Hon. Jefferson B. Session III, United States Attorney General, Hon. Kirstjen Nielsen, Secretary Department of Homeland Security, Mr. Kevin McAleenan, Commissioner Customs and Border Patrol, Mr. Scott Lloyd, Director Office of Refugee Resettlement, Mr. Thomas Homan, Acting Director Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jared Polis (D-CO)

This letter requested a Member-level briefing regarding the family separation crisis covering how the agencies noted above planned to reunify families in accordance with Judge Sabraw’s court order.

- 6/27/2018 **Alleged Mistreatment of Children in the Custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Alex M. Azar, Secretary of Health and Human Services and Scott Lloyd, Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Donald S. Beyer Jr. (D-VA)

This letter urged Secretary Azar and Director Lloyd to work with the American Academy of Pediatrics, Save the Children, and UNICEF to ensure that all children in ORR's charge are treated appropriately.

- 6/28/2018 **Well Control Rule**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Charlie Crist (D-FL) and Vern Buchanan (R-FL)

This letter expressed strong opposition to proposed revisions to the Well Control Rule (FR 2018-109305), published in the Federal Register on May 11, 2018. This critical safety regulation was put into place at the recommendation of the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill to improve the safety of offshore drilling operations and prevent another tragedy from occurring. The Well Control Rule was a culmination of years of information gathering and engagement with the public, stakeholders, and industry.

- 6/29/2018 **OPKO 4K Score Letter to Novitas Solutions**  
**Addressed To:** Drs. Debra L. Patterson and Barry Whites  
**Primary Sending Office:** Rep. Frederica S. Wilson (D-FL)

This letter expressed concerns to Novitas Solutions (a federal contractor for the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)) regarding their decision-making process for local determination for diagnostic tests that detect aggressive prostate cancer. The letter requested that Novitas provide answers to questions regarding the 4K score test and Novitas' decision making criteria and process for reimbursement determination.

- 6/29/2018 **Disaster Housing Assistance Program**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Brock Long, Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Kathy Castor (D-FL) and Stephanie Murphy (D-FL)

This letter urged FEMA to immediately enter into an interagency agreement with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to establish the Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP) to help the evacuees of Hurricane Maria. Since September 20th, 2017, many Puerto Rican families displaced by the storm have been forced to utilize individual Transitional Shelter Assistance (TSA) vouchers to rebuild their lives after the deadliest storm in the 2017 hurricane season.

- 6/29/2018 **Addressing the Backlog of Naturalization Cases Before the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. L. Francis Cissna, Director U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)

This letter urged Director Cissna to take steps to address the unprecedented backlog of naturalization applications.

- 7/10/2018 **Well Control Rule**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Nanette Diaz Barragan (D-CA), Alan Lowenthal (D-CA), David Price (D-NC), and Charlie Crist (D-FL)

This letter expressed strong opposition to the proposed rule changes to the Well Control Rule (FR 2018- 09305) published on May 11, 2018. In the aftermath of the *Deepwater Horizon* explosion in 2010, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) adopted several recommendations from multiple investigation teams and incorporated certain industry technical standards to improve the safety of offshore operations. It was critical that these standards, enhanced blowout preventer (BOP) well design and modified well-control requirements, remain fully intact.

7/13/2018 **Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Fair Housing Tester Program**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Anna Maria Farias, Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, HUD

**Sending Office:** Representative Gwen Moore (D-WI)

In 2016, HUD made Tester Coordinator Training funding available to provide training, technical assistance and resources to test coordinators at fair housing organizations throughout the country. Fair Housing Tester Training has supported greater consistency in the quality of fair housing testing investigations, enhanced the capacity of participating organizations to conduct testing and enforcement activities, and assisted HUD in enforcing federal fair housing law. Fair housing testing has become the most effective tool to investigate violations of fair housing law. Funding for the 18-month grant was set to end in November 2018. This letter requested that adequate Tester Coordinator Training funding be made available by HUD before funding expired.

7/13/2018 **United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Tuberculosis**

**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump

**Sending Office:** Representative Eliot L. Engel (D-NY)

Tuberculosis (TB) is a curable airborne infection that kills more people worldwide than any other infectious disease. Meaningful results at the September 26, 2018 United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) High-Level Meeting on TB were essential to America's health security. This letter urged the President to leverage the opportunity of this meeting for accelerated progress in the fight to defeat TB.

7/16/2018 **Refugee Admissions**

**Addressed To:** Hon. Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State, and Hon. Kirstjen Nielsen, Secretary of Homeland Security

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative David N. Cicilline (D-RI)

More than halfway through FY2018, the U.S. Refugee and Admission Program (USRAP) had only admitted 14,887 refugees, making it extremely unlikely it would meet the already-record low goal of 45,000 refugee admissions for the year. This letter urged the Administration to set the Presidential Determination for Refugee Admissions for the coming Fiscal Year to 110,000 and to ensure the U.S. refugee resettlement program reflects the United States highest values and aspirations to compassion, generosity, and leadership.

- 7/16/2018 **Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) Program**  
**Addressed To:** Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain and Ranking Member Jack Reed, and House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mac Thornberry and Ranking Member Adam Smith  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Steve Stivers (R-OH)

The Afghan SIV program was first enacted through the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 to provide a life-saving path for Afghan nationals who worked alongside U.S. troops, diplomats, and contractors in the wake of the American invasion of Afghanistan. This letter urged the House and Senate Armed Services Committee to authorize 4,000 new visas for this program.

- 7/17/2018 **National Flood Insurance Program**  
**Addressed To:** Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA)

This letter urged party leaders to provide American families with certainty that the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) would be available to them when the inevitable floods arrive. More than 5 million families rely on the NFIP for affordable flood insurance coverage. However, since its multi-year authorization expired on September 30, 2017, Congress has passed six short-term extensions and even allowed the program to briefly lapse twice during government shutdowns. The NFIP was set to expire, yet again, on July 31, 2018 and this letter urged to party leaders to demand that the NFIP's doors remain open.

- 7/17/2018 **National Flood Insurance Program**  
**Addressed To:** Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY)  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA)

This letter urged Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi to consider legislation that will provide for a clean increase of the borrowing authority of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) as soon as possible, which is critical to ensuring recovery efforts from Hurricanes Harvey, Inna, and Maria progress.

- 7/19/2018 **Issues concerning Ms. Ivanka Trump’s background check related to her security clearance**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Andrew McCabe, Acting Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Don Beyer (D-VA)

This letter requested that the FBI conduct a review of Ms. Trump’s security clearance questionnaire to ascertain whether she lacked candor in her answers related to her or her family members’ contacts with foreign governments or their representatives.

- 7/20/2018 **Political Developments in Macedonia**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Rex Tillerson, Secretary of State  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative David Trott (R-MI)

This letter urged the Secretary of State to further strengthen the relationship between the United States and Macedonia as Macedonia continues its work in becoming fully accepted into Euro-Atlantic institutions.

- 7/23/2018 **NAFTA Renegotiation**  
**Addressed To:** Ambassador Robert Lighthizer (U.S. Trade Representative)  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Bill Pascrell (D-NJ)

The letter urged the Ambassador Lighthizer to refrain from renegotiating NAFTA while Mexico continued to suppress wages and not honor labor rights both of which have resulted in the outsourcing of manufacturing jobs to Mexico.

- 7/23/2018 **Clarification of what is meant by ‘bump fire’ stocks as ‘machineguns’ under the *National Firearms Act of 1934 and Gun Control Act of 1968***  
**Addressed To:** President Donald Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Ed Perlmutter (D-CO)

This letter encouraged President Trump to continue addressing issues of gun control through the rulemaking process but also urged him to work with Congress to pass comprehensive gun reform legislation.

- 7/25/2018 **Office of Management & Budget's (OMB's) Proposal To Consolidate and Move Nutrition Programs**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Mick Mulvaney, Director of the Office of Management and Budget  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Elizabeth Esty (D-CT) and Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)

This letter expressed concerns regarding the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) proposal to transfer the non-commodity nutrition programs including the; Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and the Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This letter expressed a belief that the consolidation of these nutrition programs under the Department of Health and Public Welfare (DHPW), HHS, is misguided. This proposal is an attack on low-income individuals and families, fails to contemplate the needs of program participants, is an inefficient way to administer the programs, and will ultimately hurt America's farmers and the U.S. agricultural economy. This letter expressed strong opposition to the reorganization of these programs and urge OMB to reconsider the proposal.

- 7/26/2018 ***Defense Distributed et al v. U.S. Department of State***  
**Addressed To:** House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte and House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Edward Royce  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Ted Deutch (D-FL)

This letter demanded that the Chairmen schedule a joint hearing to examine the settlement between Defense Distributed and the State Department which would allow Defense Distributed to publish instructions on how to manufacture guns via 3-D printers.

- 7/26/2018 **Prioritizing Computer Science Funding for Girls and Students of Color**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Betsy DeVos, Secretary of Education  
**Sending Office:** Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA)

Language focused on girls and students of color was included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Omnibus bill, creating a \$50 million computer science competition. This funding aligned with the President's "Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of Education," issued on September 25, 2017, which asked for "at least \$200 million in grant funds per year" be devoted to the "promotion of high-quality STEM education, including Computer Science in particular." This letter asked the DOE to prioritize computer science funding for girls and students of color and in any upcoming Education Innovation and Research (EIR) funding announcement.

7/26/2018 **Opposing Closure of Health Care Guideline Site**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Gopal Khanna, Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, HHS  
**Sending Office:** Representative Bill Foster (D-IL)

Over the past 20 years, the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality maintained the National Guideline Clearinghouse (NGC), a database containing up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines on how best to diagnose, treat, and prevent over 1,000 medical conditions or diseases. In July 2018, the HHS announced plans to shut down the NGC. The NGC and its website, Guideline.gov, filled a unique role in fulfilling its mission to provide health care professionals with objective guidelines on everything from preventing stroke to screening for cancer to caring for patients with HIV. This letter expressed concerns that the recent decision to shut down NGC and Guideline.gov would hinder patient care and negatively affect patient outcomes.

7/26/2018 **Prioritizing Equitable Technology Access for All Students**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Betsy DeVos, Secretary of Education  
**Sending Office:** Representative Brenda L. Lawrence (D-MI)

Students without internet access at home or school risk falling behind their peers, creating a “digital divide” that disproportionately affects minorities, low-income families, and rural communities. In April 2018, the National Center for Education Statistics identified affordability as the most common barrier to access for families. This letter asked Secretary DeVos to prioritize closing the “digital divide” and increase equitable technology access for disadvantaged populations. Furthermore, this letter requested information on how the Department of Education is working to ensure students across the country have equitable access to affordable, broadband internet in school and at home.

7/27/2018 **Temporary Protected Status for Guatemalan and Nicaraguan Nationals**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. L. Francis Cissna, Director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Nydia Velazquez, (D-NY)

This letter argued that Temporary Protected Status (TPS) was appropriate for Guatemala and Nicaragua. The former due to natural disasters and the latter due to ongoing political unrest.

- 7/27/2018 **Concerning the death of Mr. Markeis McGlockton**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Jefferson B. Sessions III, Attorney General and the Hon. John M. Gore, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division  
**Primary Sending Office:** Senator Bill Nelson

This letter urged both the Attorney General and the Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division to open an investigation in the Department's Civil Rights Division Criminal Section into the shooting death of Mr. Markeis McGlockton.

- 7/27/2018 **Concerning Amazon.com, Inc.'s facial recognition technology, "Amazon Rekognition"**  
**Addressed To:** Jeff Bezos, Chairman, President and CEO, Amazon.com, Inc.  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jimmy Gomez (D-CA)

This letter urged Mr. Bezos to ensure that the his developers included diverse stakeholders, including those from civil rights and civil liberties organizations, when testing and developing technologies like "Amazon Rekognition.

- 7/31/2018 **Proposed Rule for Compliance With Statutory Program Integrity Requirements**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary of Health and Human Services, Hon. Diane Foley; Deputy Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services; and Hon. Valerie Huber, Assistant Secretary of Health of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA)

This letter submitted comments in response to the Department of Health and Human Services' (the Department's) proposed rule entitled Compliance with Statutory Program Integrity Requirements.

- 8/2/2018 **Temporary Protected Status for more than 400,000 Salvadorans and Haitians**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State  
**Primary Sending Office:** Senator Menendez (D-NJ)

This letter urged Secretary Pompeo to reverse former Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly's decision to end TPS for Salvadorans and Haitians.

8/7/2018 **Boosting Health Coverage for Florida Families by Investing in Community-Driven Outreach and Marketing**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Rick Scott, Governor of Florida  
**Sending Office:** Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Representative Kathy Castor (D-FL)

The Trump Administration announced on July 10, 2018 that it would drastically cut funding for *Affordable Care Act* (ACA) Navigators nationwide, from \$36 million to just \$10 million. ACA Navigators provide independent, professional guidance to consumers as they decide which quality, affordable health insurance option offered through HealthCare.gov is best for them. This letter followed up on multiple requests for Governor Rick Scott to act to protect Floridians from the higher rates and premiums that inevitably result from these repeated acts of sabotage led by Republicans in Washington, D.C. Furthermore, this letter urged Governor Rick Scott to work with us to help families in Florida enroll in affordable health care by supporting funding for outreach, enrollment, and marketing efforts.

8/20/2018 **Medicaid Program Proposed Rule: Reassignment of Medicaid Provider Claims**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Seema Verma, Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ), Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), and Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed rule regarding the reassignment of Medicaid Provider Claims (MPCs) would limit home care workers' ability to authorize direct deductions from their paycheck for benefits such as healthcare, workers' compensation, union dues, or professional development. Home care workers are an important part of our country's workforce and the healthcare system, and this proposal would have a disparate impact on people of color and women in the field. Making it more difficult for home care workers to join unions to improve their jobs is not in the best interest of our country.

- 8/27/2018 **Farm Bill - Conservation Programs**  
**Addressed To:** Farm Bill Conference Committee Leaders Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS), Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Representative Michael Conaway (R-TX), and Representative Collin Peterson (D-MN)  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives A. Donald McEachin (D-VA), Earl Blumenauer (D-CO), and Jared Polis (D-CO)

This letter expressed opposition to any Farm Bill conference report that undermines investments in critical conservation programs or our nation's bedrock environmental laws.

- 8/29/2018 **Expressing Concern over the Trump Administration's "Zero Tolerance" immigration policy**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Kirstjen Nielsen, Secretary of Homeland Security  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jackie Speier (D-CA)

This letter urged Secretary Nielsen to provide humanitarian parole to deported parents for the purpose of family reunification in the United States; ensure that parents who waived their rights to reunification under coercion or duress are not deported; and assume a presumption of reunification for families with parents considered "ineligible" for reunification.

- 9/12/2018 **Fiscal Year 2019 Appropriations Riders that Undermine the Endangered Species Act**  
**Addressed To:** Speaker of the House Paul Ryan and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Alan Lowenthal (D-CA), Donald Beyer, Jr. (D-VA), and Debbie Dingell (D-MI)

This letter expressed great concern over a number of harmful provisions in the FY 2019 Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (H.R. 6147) that would undermine endangered species conservation and threaten one of our country's most important wildlife conservation laws: the Environmental Species Act. This letter urged party leaders to ensure that these controversial and far-reaching provisions are not included in final spending legislation for FY 2019.

- 9/13/2018 **Supporting Two Reuters Journalists Sentenced to Prison in Burma for Reporting on the Rohingya Genocide**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Steve Chabot (R-OH), and Eliot Engel (D-NY)

Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo were recently sentenced to seven years in prison by a Burmese Court on September 3, 2018 following their arrest last September for reporting on the genocide in Rakhine State against the Rohingya. This letter urged Secretary Pompeo to publicly call on the Burmese Government to immediately and unconditionally release these journalists and other prisoners of conscience.

- 9/13/2018 **Concerning reports that Google planned to re-enter the Chinese market with an app-based search engine that complies with the Chinese government's draconian censorship laws**  
**Addressed To:** Sundar Pichai, Chief Executive Officer of Google  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative David Cicilline (D-RI)

The letter requested answers to the following questions: (1) Is Google in the process of developing a search engine for the Chinese market? (2) What changes has China made since 2010 that have led Google to reconsider its decision to not comply with Chinese censorship laws? (3) What terms will Google limit on their search engine created for the Chinese market? (4) What steps is Google taking to ensure that individual Chinese citizens and Americans living in China are not being monitored through the app by the Chinese government? (5) What steps will Google take to notify users in China about the restrictions it is complying with in order to operate in that environment?

- 9/14/2018 **AUMF in Syria**  
**Addressed To:** President Donald Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Walter B. Jones (R-NC)

President Trump indicated that his Administration was preparing to strike Syria again in the event of another chemical weapons attack. This letter urged the President to consult with and obtain authorization from Congress before ordering any additional U.S. military action in Syria.

- 9/17/2018 **Endangered Species Act Regulations**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior, and Hon. Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Commerce  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Donald Breyer (D-VA) and Raul Grijalva (D-AZ)

This letter expressed opposition to the proposed rules (FWS-HQ-ES-2018-0006, FWS-HQ ES-2018-0007, and FWS-HQ-ES-2018-0009) to amend the regulations for implementing sections 4 and 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The proposals, which in many instances are not consistent with the spirit of the law as Congress intended, rescind longstanding conservation regulations that have proven both effective and popular. This letter expressed alarm that the very agencies tasked with the conservation of our wildlife are seeking to drastically impair the protections for threatened and endangered species, the safeguards of critical habitat, and the consultation process between federal agencies.

- 9/18/2018 **Risk Management Agency (RMA) Valuation System**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Martha McSally (R-AZ)

This letter urged Secretary Purdue to reconsider the drastic and sudden reductions in county based values used by the RMA to calculate policy protection amounts in the Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage crop insurance program.

- 9/19/2018 **Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC)**  
**Addressed To:** President Donald Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (D-FL)

This letter urged President Trump to examine how the OFAC was able to decide to allow Cuba export to renew its expired trademark registration, given that such a decision was contrary to U.S. policy norms that protect intellectual property rights holders against the effects of foreign confiscations.

- 9/19/2018 **Review Choice Demonstration for Home Health Services**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Seema Verma, Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)  
**Sending Office:** Senators Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Marco Rubio (R-FL), and Representatives Kathy Castor (D-FL) and Gus Bilirakis (R-FL)

Home health patients are among the most vulnerable: they are typically older, of lower socioeconomic status, and more likely to be disabled, a minority, or female than all other Medicare populations. This letter expressed concerns about the potential negative impact the Review Choice Demonstration (RCD) for Home Health Services - proposed by CMS - could have on seniors and disabled Floridians. The letter requested that CMS work with Congress, patients, providers and other stakeholders to address remaining questions and concerns before moving forward with the RCD. CMS' efforts to respond to Medicare fraud and abuse within the home health industry and guarantee timely patient access to services should not come at the detriment to home health patients.

- 9/20/2018 **Urging the Adoption of Advanced Medical Devices for the Treatment of Type 1 Diabetes for Medicare Recipients**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Seema Verma, Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Tom Reed (R-NY) and Diana DeGette (D-CO)

Technologies that vastly improve quality of life for patients with Type 1 Diabetes, such as artificial pancreases controlled by advanced artificial intelligence algorithms, are quickly becoming adopted throughout the country, but are unavailable to Medicare recipients. This letter asked CMS to offer these devices to their recipients.

- 9/26/2018 **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Reauthorization**  
**Addressed To:** Speaker of the House Paul Ryan and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Carlos Curbelo (R-FL)

Florida's outdoor experience is the very cornerstone of the economy and quality of life for 20 million residents, supporting a \$58 billion outdoor recreational industry and 485,000 direct jobs. This letter requested party leaders bring up legislation to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund before it expires on September 30, 2018.

- 9/26/2018 **Judge Brett Kavanaugh Nomination - Trauma Informed Hearing**  
**Addressed To:** Senate Judiciary Chairman Senator Chuck Grassley and Ranking Member Senator Dianne Feinstein  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Ann McLane Kuster (D-NH) and Lois Frankel (D-FL)

This letter urged the Senate Judiciary Committee to conduct the investigation of Judge Kavanaugh's alleged sexual misconduct in a process with sensitivity, dignity, and a focus on ascertaining the truth. The public, through their elected representatives, has a right to evaluate the credentials and the character of a Supreme Court nominee. The letter urged the Committee to consult with experts and employ a trauma-informed approach when questioning Dr. Christine Blasey Ford - or any other survivor or witness for that matter - about her allegations against Judge Kavanaugh.

- 9/28/2018 **Farm Bill - Algal Blooms**  
**Addressed To:** Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS), Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Representative Michael Conaway (R-TX), and Representative Collin Peterson (D-MN)  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Kathy Castor (D-FL)

The State of Florida experienced one of the worst outbreaks of harmful algal blooms in our state's history. Three separate strains of harmful algae are killing thousands of fish and other marine animals, shuttering beaches across the state, wreaking havoc on small businesses and local economies and threatening public health. Florida is a diverse agricultural state and we recognize the important downstream benefits that conservation programs can play in addressing the water quality challenges our state faces. This letter expressed strong support for a robust conservation title in the Farm Bill that tackled the epidemic of harmful algal blooms that plague America's waterways and vital sources of clean drinking water.

- 9/28/2018 **American Citizens Jailed in Turkey**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State, and Hon. Steven Mnuchin, Secretary of the Treasury  
**Primary Sending Office:** Leadership and Members of United States Helsinki Commission

The United States imposed sanctions on two Turkish officials for their roles in Pastor Andrew Brunson's unjust detention and imprisonment by Turkish authorities. This letter, sent by the U.S. Helsinki Commission senior leadership, expressed concern that these sanctions did not establish expectations for the treatment of other Americans and Turkish employees of the U.S. Government in Turkish custody who should also be immediately released.

- 9/28/2018 **Letter Expressing Concerns about Disturbing Reports from Department of Education Office for Civil Rights Regional Offices**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Betsy DeVos, Secretary of Education  
**Sending Office:** Representatives Jackie Speier (D-CA) and Barbara Lee (D-CA)

This letter addressed concerns that the unilateral policies Secretary DeVos planned to impose on October 1, 2018 would prevent employees from conducting their important work to investigate and prevent discrimination in education, including sex discrimination and sexual violence. Additionally, the threat of these policies led to the departure of talented employees. The letter urged Secretary DeVos to prioritize the hiring and retention of OCR employees, and also encouraged her to return to the bargaining table with the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Council 252 to negotiate a new lawful agreement.

- 9/30/2018 **Research Centers in Minority Institutions**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative John Lewis (D-GA)

This letter concerned a new NIH policy regarding the Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI) program, which is a key the funding pipeline for researchers at minority doctors, researchers, and institutions. This letter sought to prevent an increase in disparities between wealthy and minority serving institutions, and to stem covert efforts to deter critical health research for minority communities across the country.

- 9/30/2018 **Coordinating Opioid and Ryan White Providers**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative John Lewis (D-GA)

This letter requested the designation of Ryan White clinics as eligible entities for behavioral health and opioid-related funding opportunities. This common-sense change would help communities of color who are combating HIV/ AIDS and hepatitis C (HCV) by coordinating services to provide holistic care and preventing a tragic worsening of existing crises.

- 10/1/2018 **New EPA Rules on Methane Leak Inspect and Venting**  
**Addressed To:** President Donald Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ)

This letter expressed concern over President Trump's weakening of methane leak inspection and repair requirements for oil and gas operations, as well as a rule gutting measures designed to reduce methane venting, flaring, and leaks from oil and gas operations on public lands. Both measures pose significant harm to public health, the environment, and waste our nation's natural resources.

- 10/1/2018 **The State Department's Annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State  
**Primary Sending Office:** The Pro-Choice Caucus

This letter expressed strong opposition to the sudden omission of reproductive rights from the most recent Human Rights Reports produced by the Department of State. This letter urged Secretary Pompeo to include the reproductive rights subsection in all future reports and to release data from 2017 to fill the gap left by this year's incomplete and biased report.

- 10/2/2018 **Nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court**  
**Addressed To:** Member of the United States Senate  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Barbara Lee (D-CA)

This letter expressed strong opposition to the confirmation of Judge Brett Kavanaugh as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

- 10/3/2018 **School Safety**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Betsy Devos, Secretary of Education  
**Primary Sending Office:** Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)

The letter urged Secretary Devos to create a central clearing house for regulatory ideas related to school safety, especially those related to ending school shootings.

- 10/09/2018 **Support for Governor Rick Scott’s Pre-Landfall Emergency Declaration for Hurricane Michael**  
**Addressed To:** President Donald Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)

This letter expressed support for Governor Rick Scott’s request to President Trump for a pre-landfall emergency declaration for Hurricane Michael.

- 10/9/2018 **Concerning the Disappearance of Mr. Jamal Khashoggi**  
**Addressed To:** President Donald Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Gerald Connolly (D-VA)

This letter urged President Trump to personally raise Mr. Khashoggi’s disappearance with the governments of Saudi Arabia and Turkey and, that the President offer U.S. assistance with any independent investigation into Mr. Khashoggi’s disappearance.

- 10/11/2018 **Urging Governor Scott to Utilize all Federal Food Assistance Available After Hurricane Michael**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Rick Scott, Governor of Florida  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Al Lawson (D-FL)

This letter urged Governor Scott to utilize all federal disaster relief available to the state of Florida to recover from the devastating effects of Hurricane Michael, including permitting the use of SNAP benefits for the purchase of hot and ready-to-eat meals, allowing evacuees from surrounding states emergency SNAP benefits, and the activation of “Disaster-SNAP,” which offers replacement and supplemental benefits for regular SNAP recipients who lost food during the storm.

- 10/12/2018 **Relocation of the Miami Yacht Show**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Rick Scott, Governor of Florida  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Frederica Wilson (FL-24)

This letter supported the permit application for the relocation of the annual Miami Yacht Show from Miami Beach to Biscayne Bay. The new location is in close proximity to the International Boat Show on Virginia Key and the show on Watson Island, which will run concurrently, facilitating an interconnected system of events. The Miami Yacht Show generates an estimated \$486 million in economic output every year, as well as \$31.8 million in sales taxes and \$187 million in labor income.

- 10/15/2018 **Urging Reversal of the Clean Power Plan Replacement**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Andrew Wheeler, Acting Administrator, EPA  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative David Price (D-NC) and leaders of the Congressional Tri-Caucus and Congressional Progressive Caucus

The Clean Power Plan (CPP) was a landmark achievement in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, combating global climate change, and protecting the health and safety of the American people. Gutting the rule would have significant ramifications for vulnerable populations, including children, low-income individuals, and communities of color. This letter opposed the EPA's Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule, which would replace the CPP with weaker standards.

- 10/18/2018 **Opposing the dissolution of the Office of the Science Advisor at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Andrew Wheeler, Acting Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Representative Donald S. Breyer, Jr. (D-VA)

This letter expressed concern regarding Administrator Wheeler's intent to dissolve the Office of the Science Advisor at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and expressed strong opposition to the move.

- 10/26/2018 **Protect U.S. Postal Service Workers from Unsafe Working Conditions**  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Megan J. Brennan, Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer, United States Postal Service  
**Sending Office:** Representative Donald S. Beyer (D-CA)

Temperatures around the country can reach above 110 degrees during the most severe months, making it dangerous for postal workers to remain inside their non-air-conditioned vehicles for continuous periods of time. On July 6, 2018, a letter carrier in Woodlands Hills, CA died tragically from overheating inside her mail truck. No public service employee should have to bear these conditions. This letter urged the USPS to strongly consider implementing climate control units in U.S. Postal Service mail trucks for the safety of all mail carriers.

- 11/5/2018 **Farm Bill - Specialty Crops**  
**Addressed To:** Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS), Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Representative Michael Conaway (R-TX), and Representative Collin Peterson (D-MN)  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jim Costa (D-CA) and Representative Fred Upton (R-MI)

This letter expressed support for specialty crop-related programs in the Farm Bill.

- 11/30/2018 **Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Grant Program**  
**Addressed To:** House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Chairman John Culberson and Ranking Member Jose E. Serrano  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI) and Representative Pramila Jayapal (D-WA)

As our country struggles with the Opioid epidemic, there is a need for innovative, evidence-based solutions that connect individuals struggling with addiction to vial treatment and recovery service. LEAD is an essential program that operates in this manner. This letter urged House appropriators to include robust funding for this program in the final FY19 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill.

11/29/2018 **Urging Sec. DeVos to Rescind Title IX Proposed Rules**

**Addressed to:** Secretary Betsy DeVos, Department of Education

**Primary Sending Office:** Democratic Women's Working Group Leadership including Representatives Jackie Speier (D-CA), Lois Frankel (D-FL), Brenda L. Lawrence (D-MI), Ann McLane Kuster (D-NH)

On November 16, 2018, Secretary DeVos and the Department of Education released a dangerous new proposed rule for Title IX of the Education Amendments Act that would result in fewer survivors of sexual violence in K-12 schools as well as college campuses coming forward, make it harder for those who do to seek justice, and ultimately make schools across the country less safe. This letter urged Secretary DeVos to withdraw these dangerous proposed policy changes and arrange meetings with a broad range of survivors and survivor advocacy organizations to develop meaningful guidance on Title IX that protects all students.

12/04/2018 **TPS Regulator Irregularities**

**Addressed To:** Hon. John Kelly, Acting Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jimmy Gomez

This letter urged an immediate investigation into the Trump Administration's regulatory irregularities and possible unlawful decisions that led to the termination of Temporary Protected Status for those from Haiti and many other nations.

12/06/2018 **Opposing Seismic Geological and Geophysical Surveys Along the Atlantic Coast**

**Addressed To:** Hon. Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Commerce, and Hon. Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior

**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives John Rutherford (R-FL), Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), Donald S. Beyer., Jr. (D-VA), and Frank Lobiondo (R-NJ)

This letter expressed opposition to the Trump Administration's decision to issue five Incidental Harassment Authorization permits for companies planning to conduct seismic geological and geophysical surveys along the Atlantic Coast, a major step towards offshore oil and gas drilling.

12/10/2018 **Upholding Child Labor Protections**

**Addressed To:** Hon. R Alexander Acosta, Secretary of Labor

**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA), Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), and Mark Takano (D-CA)

This letter served as comment in response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking by the Department of Labor seeking to remove the operation of power-driven patient lifts from the list of prohibited activities for 16 and 17-year-old workers under Hazardous Occupations Order 7 (“HO 7”). This proposal will put both workers and patients at serious risk of injury.

12/14/2018 **Urging OMB to Allocate Funding to Combat Toxic Algal Blooms**

**Addressed To:** Hon. Mick Mulvaney, Director of the Office of Management and Budget

**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives Marcy Kaptur (D-FL), David Joyce (R-OH), Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), and Brian Mast (R-FL)

Toxic algae affect marine, coastal, estuarine, and freshwater systems in all 50 states and all U.S. territories, threatening human health and causing several billion dollars in economic losses each year. Alarming, coordinated studies released in 2017 from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) revealed that from a single sampling of all lakes nationwide, 39 percent contained toxic algae and toxins were present at some point during the year in 78 percent of the lakes. This letter requested OMB allocate robust funding in the President’s Fiscal Year 2020 budget to combat Algal Blooms.

12/14/2018 **Congratulating Mexico's New President and Supporting Continued Cooperation on Human Rights and the Rule of Law**

**Addressed To:** Hon. Andrés Manuel López Obrador, President of Mexico

**Primary Sending Office:** Representatives James P. McGovern (D-MA) and Randy Hultgren (R-IL)

This letter congratulated President López Obrador on his election. The letter expressed support for the U.S.-Mexico relationship and highlighted the need to address corruption, strengthen the rule of law, and support the ongoing implementation of justice reforms in Mexico.

## **FY 2018 Appropriations Requests**

Every year, my office submits requests in support of discretionary programs across the Federal Budget. During the appropriations process for FY18, I led 42 requests and submitted a total of 442 requests for programmatic support.

Since a number of these requests were repeated in 2018, they are listed below and detailed in the FY2019 section (see page 138).

### **Requests Supporting *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in America***

1. Reauthorize the United Interagency Council on Homelessness
2. Education for Homeless Children and Youth
3. Runaway and Homeless Youth Act
4. Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals
5. Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness
6. Health Care for the Homeless
7. Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program
8. Services in Supportive Housing
9. Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program
10. Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem
11. The Justice Outreach, Homelessness Prevention: Healthcare for Reentry Veterans (HCRV, prison outreach) and Veteran's Justice Outreach (VJO, law enforcement, jail and court outreach)
12. Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans Program
13. Supportive Services for Veteran Families
14. Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)
15. The Continuum of Care Program (CCP) and the Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG) (also known as McKinney-Vento homelessness assistance grants)
16. Vouchers Targeted to Homeless Families with Children
17. Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for the Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, or Stalking
18. Compensated Work Therapy Program
19. HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program
20. Pay for Success Permanent Supportive Housing

### **Homelessness Language Requests**

21. Prioritizing Service Needs of Local Communities
22. Improving Access to Housing Services with Trauma Informed Care

### **Everglades and the Environment**

23. Full Funding for Everglades Restoration
24. Funding for the Herbert Hoover Dike, FL (Seepage Control)
25. Language regarding the Invasive Lionfish
26. Language regarding Invasive Plant Species

Agriculture

27. Support for the Agricultural Research Service and the Canal Point Sugarcane Field Station Facility

Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research

28. Peer-Reviewed Breast Cancer Research
29. Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program – FSGS Research
30. Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis and Nephrotic Syndrome Research

Veterans Affairs

31. VA Medical and Prosthetic Research

Financial

32. Community Development Financial Institutions Fund
33. Prohibition of Funds for the Program Commonly Referred to as Operation Choke Point

State Department and Foreign Operations

34. Programming for Ethiopian-Israelis
35. Support for Religious and Ethnic Minorities Persecuted by the Islamic State
36. Support for Tunisia

Support for Refugees

37. Refugee and Entrant Assistance
38. The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)
39. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance (ERMA)
40. International Disaster Assistance (IDA)
41. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

Transportation Safety

42. Rail Infrastructure - Complex Electronic Systems

**FY 2018 Appropriations Requests (All Submitted Requests, Alphabetically)**

**Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies**

Animal Welfare for Farm Animals Used in Agricultural Research	Citrus Health Response Program
Commodity Supplemental Food Program	Citrus Health Response Program (CHRP)
Huanglongbing Emergency Response	Disaster Planning for Animals
Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (HMSA) Enforcement	Electric Loan Program
Veterinary Medical Services Act	Emergency Food Assistance Program
516 Farm Labor Housing Program Grants	Grassroots Source Water Protection Program
Agricultural Research Service (ARS)	Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities Endowment Fund
Animal & Plant Health Regulatory Enforcement	Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities Institutional Capacity-Building Grant Program
Animal Welfare Act Enforcement	Horse Protection Act Enforcement
Circuit Rider Program	Horse Slaughter Funding Limitation
Citrus Disease Research Program	Huanglongbing Multi-Agency Coordination (HLB-MAC) Group
Citrus Greening Disease Research	Huanglongbing Multi-Agency Coordination Group

Letters of Priority Entitlement	Section 514 Farm Labor Housing Program Loans
Multifamily Preservation & Revitalization Demonstration	Section 515 Rural Rental Housing Loans
Multi-family Preservation and Revitalization	Section 521 Multi-Family Rental Housing Rental Assistance
Office of Inspector General	Section 523 Mutual and Self Help Housing Grants
Online Access to HPA and AWA Records	Section 533 Housing Preservation Grants
Rural Community Development Initiative	Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
Rural Development Voucher Program	Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Demonstration Project
Rural Housing Service Voucher Program	The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
Rural Housing Voucher Program	The Emergency Food Assistance Program Administration Funds at USDA
Section 502 Direct Home Loan Program	The Healthy Food Financing Initiative
Section 504 Home Repair Loans	Title VII Hispanic-Serving Institutions Grants Program
Section 514 Farm Labor Housing Loans	Water and Sewer Loans and Grant program

**Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies**

Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program	ESA Salmon
Child Abuse Training for Judicial Personnel	Explore the Effects of a Weakened Voting Rights Act
Civil Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV)	Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessment
Coastal Management Grants: Regional Coastal Resilience Grants	Grants To Support Families in the Justice System
Community Oriented Policing Services	Habitat Conservation & Restoration
Community-Based Violence Prevention Initiatives	HBCU Excellence in Research
Competitive Grants for Girls in the Juvenile Justice System	Hispanic-Serving Institutions Undergraduate Program
Computer & Information Science & Engineering Directorate (CISE)	Integrated Ocean Acidification Program
Cooperative Science and Education Program	JJDPA Title II State (Part B) Formula Grants Program
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program	JJDPA Title V Delinquency Prevention Program
Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Program	John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program
Department of Justice s Sexual Assault Kit Initiative	Justice Reinvestment Initiative
DOJ/COPS/COPS	Legal Services Corporation
Education Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions	LSAMP, HBCU-UP, CREST, and AGEP

Marine Sanctuaries Construction	Rural Program
Minority Institutions Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity	Salmon Management Activities
Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program	Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas
NASA Minority University Research & Education Program	Second Chance Act
National Instant Criminal Background Checks System	Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors (STOP) Formula Grant Program
National Marine Fisheries Service Protected Species	Sexual Assault Services Program
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction (PAC)	Smart Pretrial Initiative
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Operations, Research, and Facilities (ORF)	Space Launch System, Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle, and the Exploration Ground System
National Science Foundation	Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring Program
National Sea Grant College Program	The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Reauthorization Act
Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for the Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, or Stalking Program
Pay for Success Permanent Supportive Housing Demonstration	VAWA Consolidated Youth and Prevention Programs
Preventing Trafficking of Girls and Involvement in the Juvenile Justice System	VAWA programs
Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions	Veterans Treatment Courts
Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS)	Victims of Trafficking Grant Program
Youth Mentoring	

**Subcommittee on Defense**

Air Force DE Programs	Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program, Parkinson's Research Program
ALS Research Program (ALSRP)	Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program, Eating Disorders
Army DE Programs	Cyberspace Operations Forces and Force Support
BCDMRP Bladder Cancer Research	Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center
Bone Marrow Failure Research Program	Defense Digital Service (DDS)
Brain Cancer Research	Defense Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Information Innovation Office
CDMRP - Autism Research	Department of Defense STARBASE Program
CDMRP Tick-Borne Diseases Research	Expanded canine therapy research
Civil Air Patrol Corporation (Aircraft Procurement)	F-35 R&D (USMC): 0604800M, Line 140
Civil Air Patrol Corporation (Operation and Maintenance)	F-35 R&D (USN): 0604800N, Line 141
Civil Air Patrol Corporation (Vehicle Procurement)	F-35A Advanced Procurement (USAF): 3010F, Line 2
Columbia Class SSBN Program	F-35A Procurement (USAF): 3010F, Line 1
Columbia Class SSBN Program	F-35B Adv. Proc. (USMC): 1506N, Line 6
F-35B Procurement (USMC): 1506N, Line 5	National Intrepid Center of Excellence

F-35C Advanced Procurement (USN): 1506N, Line 4	Navy and Marine Corps DE Programs
F-35C Procurement (USN): 1506N, Line 3	Peer Review Alzheimer's Program
Fisher House Foundation	Peer Reviewed Breast Cancer Research Program
Funding Limitation on DoD Joint Travel Regulations	Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program
Gulf War Illness Research Program	Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program: Include Stomach Cancer as Eligible
Honor the American Flag in DoD Appropriations	Peer Reviewed hearing restoration research
Inclusion of GBS in the Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program	Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program FSGS Research
Joint U.S.-Israel Anti-tunnel Defense Program	Peer Reviewed Neurofibromatosis Research
JSF Squadrons (USAF R&D): 0207142F, Line 138	Peer Reviewed Orthopedic Research Program (PRORP)
Kidney Cancer in Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program	Peer Reviewed Ovarian Cancer Research Program
Lupus Medical Research Program	Peer Reviewed Prostate Cancer Research Program (PCRP).
MDA DE Programs	Peer Reviewed Psychological Health/Traumatic Brain Injury Research Program
Military Burn Trauma Research Program	RDTE,AF Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force
Military Tuition Assistance Program	Support Efforts to Strengthen the Diversity of America s Armed Forces
Multiple Sclerosis Research (MSRP)	National Intrepid Center of Excellence

National Guard Counter-drug Program	Navy and Marine Corps Directed Energy Programs
Support for the Industrial Base Analysis and Sustainment Program	Support for the ManTech Program Office of Secretary
Support for the ManTech program Air Force	Support Service Dogs for Service members and Veterans in need
Support for the ManTech Program Army	Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Research Program
Support for the ManTech Program Defense Logistics Agency	UXO Cleanup on Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS)
Support for the ManTech Program Navy	Virginia Class Submarine

Virginia Class Submarine: Payload Module

**Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies**

Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy	Maintenance, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Army Corps Construction, Environmental Infrastructure	Operation and Maintenance, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Coastal Data Information Program (CDIP)/Coastal Ocean Data System (CODS)	Regional Clean Energy Innovation Partnerships
Construction for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Shoreline Protection Projects
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy	Small, Remote, or Subsistence Navigation
Energy Frontier Research Centers (EFRCs)	Solid State Energy Conversion Alliance (SECA) Solid Oxide Fuel Cell program
Energy Innovation Hubs	State Energy Program
Everglades Restoration	U.S.-Israel Energy Efficiency Cooperation Programs
Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund	Water Operations Technical Support
Herbert Hoover Dike (Seepage Control)	Water Power Technologies Office
Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies	Weatherization Assistance Program
Inland Waterways	Wind Energy Program
National Ignition Facility under the National Nuclear Security Administration's Inertial Confinement Fusion and High Yield Campaign	

**Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government**

GSA Courthouse Construction / Federal  
Buildings Fund

Human Trafficking and Slavery

Community Development Financial  
Institutions Fund

Operations for the Internal Revenue  
Service

Defender Services

Preservation of the Six-Day Mail Delivery

Drug Free Communities Program

The Healthy Food Financing Initiative

Entrepreneurial Development Programs

Virginia Graeme Baker (VGB) Pool and  
Spa Safety Act Grant Program

Harry S. Truman Scholarship Fund

Virginia Graeme Baker (VGB) Pool and  
Spa Safety Act “Pool Safely” Campaign

**Subcommittee on Homeland Security**

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program	Port Security Grant Program
Directorate for Science and Technology	Pre-Disaster Mitigation
Emergency Food and Shelter Program	Prohibiting Funds for Family Separation for Deterrence Purposes
Homeland Security Centers of Excellence	Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program
Human Trafficking Investigations	Transit Security Grant Program
Immigrant Detention Bed Mandate	Urban Area Security Initiative Nonprofit Security Grant Program
Law Enforcement Officer Reimbursement Program	U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Limitation on use of funds to deport DACA beneficiaries	Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response Team Program

**Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies**

American Battlefield Protection Program	Fish and Wildlife Service State and Tribal Wildlife Grants
Beaches Protection	HBCU Historic Preservation
Bureau of Land Management Land Acquisition	Heritage Partnership Programs
Centennial Challenge	Historic Preservation Fund
Clean Water & Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs	International Affairs (IA) Program at the Department of the Interior
Construction Account, National Parks Service	Invasive Exotic Plant Species Control
Diesel Emissions Reduction Act	Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant
Ecological Services Program	Multinational Species Conservation Fund (MSCF)
EPA Brownfields Assessment/Cleanup Grant Program	National Endowment for the Arts
EPA Brownfields Categorical Grants	National Endowment for the Humanities
EPA Brownfields OSWER Environmental Programs & Management Account	National Estuary Program (NEP)
Everglades Restoration	National Gallery of Art
Fish and Wildlife Service Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund	National Landscape Conservation System
Fish and Wildlife Service Land Acquisition	National Museum of African American History and Culture

National Park Service Land Acquisition and  
State Assistance

Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers  
program

North American Wetlands Conservation Act

Public Water Systems Supervision (PWSS)  
program

Office of the Secretary Management Services  
Office of Valuation Services

US Forest Service Forest Legacy Program

Operation of the National Park System

US Forest Service Land Acquisition

**Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies**

Adoption Opportunities Program	Domestic Volunteer Service Act Programs
Alzheimer's Research	Education for Homeless Children and Youth
American Technical Training Fund	Family Planning, Title X
Apprenticeship Grants	Family Violence Prevention and Services Act
Autoimmune Neuropathies	Federal Pell Grants
Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act	Firearm-Related Violence
Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)	Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis (FSGS)
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention program	Funding made available in Section 1003 of the 21st Century Cures Act (Opioid Epidemic Funding)
Community Services Block Grant Program	Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals
Computer Science for All Development Grants	Head Start Program
Corporation for Public Broadcasting	Health Care for the Homeless
Division of Adolescent and School Health	High School Equivalency Program (HEP) and College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)
DOL Wage and Hour Division (WHD)	HIV/AIDS research at the National Institutes of Health
Holocaust Survivor Assistance Program	National Family Caregiver Support Program

Home and Community-Based Supportive Services	National Institutes of Health
Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program	Nutrition Services
Howard University	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
IDEA Part B §619 (Preschool Grants) and Part C (Grants to Infants and Families)	Office of Museum Services
Implementation of Trafficking Victims Protection Act	Peripheral Neuropathies
Innovative Approaches to Literacy	Preschool Development Grants
International Education and Foreign Language Studies	Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant Sex Offense Set Aside
Job Corps	Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness
Lifespan Respite Care Act Program Funding	Rape Prevention and Education
Literacy for All, Results for the Nation (LEARN) Program	Rapid Response to Stop the Next Pandemic Fund
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program	Ready To Learn
Minority AIDS Initiative	Refugee and Entrant Assistance
National and Community Service Act Programs (Operating Expenses)	Runaway and Homeless Youth Act
National Domestic Violence Hotline	Ryan White CARE Act
Senior Corps	Title I

Services in Supportive Housing

Title VIII Nursing Workforce  
Development

STD Prevention at CDC

Women in Apprenticeship and  
Nontraditional Occupations

Strengthening Historically Black Colleges  
and Universities and PBIs

Workforce Data Quality Initiative Grants

Strengthening Predominantly Black  
Institutions

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act  
Title I-B

Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment  
Block Grant

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act  
Title II

Syringe Exchange

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act  
Title III

Teen Pregnancy Prevention

YouthBuild

The National Museum of African American  
History and Culture

Zika-Related Conditions

**Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch**

Funding for the Office of Technology  
Assessment

Support for the Wounded Warrior Program

**Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies**

Compensated Work Therapy Program	Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem
Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans Program	HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program (HUD-VASH)
Funding for Suicide Prevention/Outreach in FY17	Supportive Services for Veteran Families
Funding for Veterans Crisis Line	The Justice Outreach, Homelessness Prevention: Healthcare for Reentry Veterans (HCRV, prison outreach) and Veteran's Justice Outreach (VJO, law enforcement, jail and court outreach)
Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program	VA Medical and Prosthetic Research

**Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs**

Anti-Poaching & Wildlife Trafficking Programs	Green Climate Fund (GCF)
Caribbean Basin Security Initiative – ESF Funding	Historically Black Colleges and University International Educational Exchange
Caribbean Basin Security Initiative – FMF Funding	International Basic Education Funding
Caribbean Basin Security Initiative – INCLE Funding	International Disaster Assistance
Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities	International Family Planning and Reproductive Health Programs
Democracy Programs	International Family Planning and Reproductive Health Programs
Donald M. Payne International Development Graduate Fellowship (USAID)	Maternal and Child Health
Educational and Cultural Exchanges	Middle East Regional Cooperation
Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance	Migration and Refugee Assistance
Ethiopian-Israeli Support Programming	National Endowment for Democracy
Extension of the Lautenberg Amendment	Peace Corps Funding
General Support for the Program for the Millennium Challenge Corporation	People to People Reconciliation Between Israelis and Palestinians
Global Nutrition	PEPFAR and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria
Global Tuberculosis Control	Polio Eradication

Programs Combatting Trafficking in Persons

The U.S. Institute of Peace

Report Language for HIV/AIDS Vaccine  
Research

Tunisia

Support for Religious and Ethnic Minorities  
Persecuted by the Islamic State

United Nations Population Fund

Support LGBT Rights Efforts at State and  
USAID

USAID Biodiversity Programs

The Global Environment Facility

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

The Race, Ethnicity, and Social Inclusion  
Unit (RESIU)

Workforce Diversification

Workforce Diversification, Addressing Global Prejudice and Discrimination, and the  
International Decade for People of African Descent

**Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies**

Funding for the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness	Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA)
Amtrak National Network	Improving Access to Housing Services
Amtrak Northeast Corridor	Indian Housing Block Grant
Capital Investment Grants – New Starts and Small Starts	Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program	Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen)
Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program	Office of Commercial Space Transportation
FAA Contract Tower Program	Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes
Fair Housing Assistance Program	Program-Based Rental Assistance (Section 8)
Fair Housing Initiatives Program	Public Housing Capital Fund
Federal Transit Administration	Public Housing Operating Fund
Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair	Restoration and Enhancement Grants Program
FRA Risk Reduction Programs	Section 184 Indian Home Loan Guarantee Program
HBCU Grant Program	Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly
Housing Counseling Assistance Program	Section 8 Tenant Based Rental Assistance

Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons  
with Disabilities

TIGER Grant Program

Service Needs of Local Communities

University Community Fund

The Continuum of Care Program (CCP) and  
the Emergency Solutions Grant Program  
(ESG)

Vouchers Targeted to Homeless Families  
with Children

## **FY 2019 Appropriations Requests**

I supported a total of 466 appropriations requests during the FY19 Appropriations process. In total, my office advocated for nearly twice as many programs during the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress than in previous years. I proudly led requests for 52 separate programs, the highest number ever requested by my office.

As in years past, I led an initiative to fully fund programs under the *Opening Doors* Strategic Plan – currently in its last year. I submitted requests to fund research in breast cancer, Everglades restoration, critical rail safety infrastructure, environmental protections for pollinators, preservation of coral reefs, and diversification efforts in the Department of State.

### *Opening Doors: The Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness in America*

*Opening Doors* is the nation's first comprehensive federal strategy to prevent and end homelessness. This year, it will be replaced by *Home, Together*. These interagency initiatives serve as an umbrella, bringing together dozens of federal agencies to coordinate the nation's response to homelessness. I led requests, with Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson as a co-lead, to fully fund at the President's request the below programs.

#### **Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women**

1. Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for the Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, or Stalking Program

#### **Federal Emergency Management Agency**

2. Emergency Food and Shelter Program

#### **Department of Health and Human Services**

3. Education for Homeless Children and Youth
4. Health Care for the Homeless
5. Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)
6. Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals
7. Services in Supportive Housing
8. Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

#### **Department of Labor**

9. Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program

#### **Department of Veterans Affairs**

10. Supportive Services for Veteran Families
11. Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem

12. Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans Program
13. Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program
14. The Justice Outreach, Homelessness Prevention: Healthcare for Reentry Veterans (HCRV, prison outreach) and Veteran's Justice Outreach (VJO, law enforcement, jail and court outreach)
15. Compensated Work Therapy Program
16. Case Management for HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program

**Department of Housing and Urban Development**

17. The Continuum of Care Program (CCP) and the Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG)
18. Vouchers Targeted to Homeless Families with Children
19. United States Interagency Council on Homelessness
20. HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program

*Homelessness Language Requests under the Department of Housing and Urban Development*

In addition, my office worked closely with the First Focus Campaign for Children, the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY), and the National Alliance to End Homelessness to craft two requests to enable local communities to better respond to their own needs as they respond to homelessness. Local communities know which homeless populations are most in need, but lack flexibility to respond to those needs. I led two requests for language to grant this flexibility:

1. *Service Needs of Local Communities: The Committee recognizes that local communities are best able to determine the housing and service needs of different local homeless populations, including youth, families, veterans, persons with disabilities, and others, and may wish to do more to address the needs of these populations. Therefore, the Committee strongly encourages HUD to consider communities pressing local priorities and assessments of need, balanced with the importance of moving forward on the nationwide plan to end homelessness anticipated in the HEARTH Act.*
2. *Improving Access to Housing Services: The Committee recognizes the value of trauma-informed care and housing services and supports expanding the availability of these services to families, families with children, and individuals that are currently or on the verge of being homeless. Therefore, the Committee directs the Interagency Council on Homelessness to report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 180 days of enactment on what steps can be taken to improve access to services across all federal, state, and local homeless services, outreach, and prevention programs. This language was included in the FY2017 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Bill.*

*Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis (FSGS)*

I co-led two requests supporting research on FSGS, a cause of nephrotic syndrome in children and adolescents, and a leading cause of kidney failure in adults.

*Pollinator Funding*

I co-led a request in support of the National Honey Bee Disease Survey Report, a national survey of honey bee pests and diseases has been funded annually by the APHIS along with other federal and non-federal partners, to document which bee diseases, parasites, or pests of honey bees are present and/or likely absent in the United States. This request also included support for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), programs supporting research and conservation efforts for pollinators. I serve as Co-Chair of the Congressional Pollinator Protection Caucus with Rep. Jeff Denham (R-CA), who led this letter.

*Refugee Programming*

In years past, I led a request to fully fund Refugee and Entrant Assistance programs in the United States, which work to ensure that refugees can integrate into American society. This year, I again joined with the office of Congressman Juan Vargas to submit an expanded request inclusive of funding for all refugee-related accounts. They include:

1. Refugee and Entrant Assistance
2. The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)
3. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance (ERMA)
4. International Disaster Assistance (IDA)
5. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

*Programming for Ethiopian-Israelis*

I again advocated for increased support for the Ethiopian population in Israel, requesting \$10 million to support the mission of advancing the integration of Ethiopian-Israelis into Israeli society.

*Tunisia*

Along with Rep. David Schweikert (R-AZ), who co-chairs the Congressional Tunisia Caucus with me, I submitted a request to fully fund foreign aid to Tunisia at \$205 million. Like many other countries receiving foreign aid, President Donald Trump requested steep cuts for Tunisia, the only democracy to emerge from the Arab Spring.

*Everglades Restoration*

As in past years, I led two requests to fully fund Everglades restoration efforts.

*Support for Psychosocial Support Programming under DOS and USAID*

I have strongly advocated for passage of my legislation, H.R.379, the *Justice for Yazidis Act*, which establishes psychosocial support programs in consultation between the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development to benefit religious and ethnic minorities affected by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, prioritizing trauma therapy and care for children and survivors of sexual slavery. Given President Trump's proposed cuts to the Department of State, I submitted a request in support of fully funding existing psychosocial support programming under the Department of State (Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor) and the U.S. International Agency for Development (Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance).

*Peer-Reviewed Breast Cancer Research*

This year, 182 Members signed onto my request to fund Peer-Reviewed Breast Cancer Research through the Department of Defense. Appropriated funding through this program goes directly to competitive, peer-reviewed research grants awarded to the best science.

*VA Medical and Prosthetic Research*

I proudly led a request with Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty (D-CT) requesting full funding for the Medical and Prosthetic Research through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

*Rail Infrastructure - Complex Electronic Systems*

This request urged the Department of Transportation to adopt universal system safety and risk reduction programs for complex electronic systems.

*Rail Infrastructure – Positive Train Control Technology*

PTC technologies are capable of automatically stopping trains travelling at unsafe speeds. Congress mandated PTC in 2008, yet just 456 miles of track have fully implemented PTC system in place. My letter asked for \$2.6 billion for PTC technology under the Federal Rail Administration.

*Lionfish Invasion Response – Language*

Working with Representatives Carlos Curbelo (R-FL), Darren Soto (D-FL), and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), I submitted this request urging the Fish and Wildlife Service to accelerate the rulemaking process to prohibit the importation of live lionfish. The Indo-Pacific lionfish has caused a significant reduction of native fish populations and has had a negative impact on the balance of coral reef ecosystems. They are an ecological and economic threat in the waters of more than 31 Congressional Districts.

*Invasive Exotic Plant Species Control*

In consultation with the Friends of Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, I submitted a request to address a shortage in funding to combat invasive exotic species at the Refuge, such as melaleuca trees and Old World climbing fern. This request was submitted with support from the Palm Beach County Congressional delegation.

*Canal Point Sugarcane Field Station Facility*

I submitted a request in support of the public-private partnership between the sugar industry and the Agricultural Research Service for continued operation of the Canal Point Sugarcane Field Station Facility.

*Coral Reef Conservation*

This request was for \$4 million for the Competitive External Research budget line of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Ocean Service, Coastal Science and Assessment account in support of coral reef research. I submitted this request with South Florida Representatives Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), and Carlos Curbelo (R-FL).

*State Department Diversification*

Together with Representatives John Lewis (D-GA) and Gregory Meeks (D-NY), I submitted multiple requests supporting workforce diversity programs at the Department of State. These programs included:

1. The Race, Ethnicity, and Social Inclusion Unit (RESIU)
2. Workforce diversification; addressing global prejudice and discrimination, and the International Decade for People of African Descent, and
3. Historically Black Colleges and University International Educational Exchanges

**FY 2019 Appropriations Requests (All Submitted Requests, Alphabetical)**

**Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies**

1890 Institutions Extension Programs and 1890 Facilities, National Institute of Food and Agriculture	Commodity Supplemental Food Program
516 Farm Labor Housing Program Grants	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)	Disaster Planning for Animals
Agricultural Research Service (ARS)	Duration of Use Restrictions, Antimicrobial animal drugs
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	Electric Loan Program
Agriculture Research Service (ARS)	Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
Animal & Plant Health Regulatory Enforcement	Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
Animal Welfare Act Enforcement	Evans-Allen Research Program and 1890 Capacity Building Grants
Animal Welfare for Farm Animals Used in Agricultural Research	FDA Antibiotic Resistance Research and Surveillance Efforts
Circuit Rider Program	General Provisions: Prohibition on Horse Slaughter
Citrus Disease Research Program	Grassroots Source Water Protection Program
Citrus Greening Disease Research	Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities Endowment Fund.

Huanglongbing Emergency Response	Rural Water and Waste Disposal
Humane Methods of Slaughter Act Enforcement	Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program
McGovern-Dole Program	School Breakfast Expansion Grants
Multi-family Preservation and Revitalization	Section 502 Direct Home Loan Program
National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS)	Section 504 Home Repair Grants
National Honey Bee Disease Survey Report	Section 514 Farm Labor Housing Program Loans
National Veterinary Medical Services Act	Section 515 Rural Rental Housing Loans
Office of Inspector General	Section 521 Multi-Family Rental Housing Rental Assistance
On-Farm Data Collection	Section 523 Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants
Online Access to HPA and AWA Records	Section 533 Housing Preservation Grants
Prevent Harmful Changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children's Peer Counselor Program; Management Information Systems; Infrastructure funding; and Program Initiatives and Evaluations Account
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)	Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
Rural Community Development Initiative	Specialty Crop Research Initiative
Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Demonstration Project	The Healthy Food Financing Initiative

The Emergency Food Assistance Program

USDA Antibiotic Resistance Research and  
Surveillance Efforts

The Emergency Food Assistance Program  
Administration Funds at USDA

WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program

**Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies**

Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate	Court Appointed Special Advocates program
Atlantic Salmon Conservation	Economic Development Administration
Bureau of Prisons Augmentation	Education Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions
Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program	Ending Female Genital Mutilation
Child Abuse Training for Judicial Personnel	Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessment
Civil Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV)	Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments
Coastal Management Grants: Regional Coastal Resilience Grants	Grants To Support Families in the Justice System
Community Oriented Policing Services	Habitat Conservation and Restoration
Community-Based Violence Prevention Initiatives	Historic Black Colleges and Universities: Excellence in Research
Competitive External Research	Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program
Competitive Grants for Girls in the Juvenile Justice System	Integrated Ocean Acidification Program
Computer Science for All - Education and Human Resources Directorate (EHR)	Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants
Computer Science for All - Research and Related Activities (R&RA)	JJDPA Title II Demonstration (Part E) Grants Program
Cooperative Science and Education Program (NOAA)	JJDPA Title II State (Part B) Formula Grants Program

JJDPV Title V Delinquency Prevention Program	NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Justice Reinvestment Initiative	NOAA's Office Mission Support: Bay-Watershed Education and Training (B-WET)
Legal Services Corporation	NOAA's Office Mission Support: Competitive Education Grants Program (ELP)
LSAMP, HBCU-UP, CREST, and AGEV	National Science Foundation Inclusion across the Nation of Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science
Marine Mammal Commission	Preventing Trafficking of Girls and Involvement in the Juvenile Justice System
Minority Institutions Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity	Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions
Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program	Regional Information Sharing Activities
NASA Minority University Research & Education Program	Robust Funding for the EEOC
National Instant Criminal Background Checks System	Office on Violence Against Women: Rural Program
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction (PAC)	Salmon Management Activities
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Operations, Research, and Facilities (ORF)	Second Chance Act
National Science Foundation	Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors (STOP) Formula Grant Program
National Sea Grant College Program	Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI)
NMFS Prescott Grant Program	Sexual Assault Services Program

Space Launch System, Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle, and the Exploration Ground System

Violence Against Women Act Consolidated Youth and Prevention Programs

Supporting the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program

Violence Against Women Act programs

The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act

Veterans Treatment Courts

Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for the Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, or Stalking Program

Victim Services Programs for Victims of Trafficking

Tribal access to the Crime Victims Fund under VOCA

Victims of Trafficking Grant Program

US Census Bureau

Violence Against Women Act grants

Youth Mentoring

**Subcommittee on Defense**

ALS Research Program (ALSRP)	HBCU/Minority Institution Program
Brain Cancer and Pediatric Tumor Research	Hearing Restoration Research Program
Civil Air Patrol Corporation (Aircraft Procurement)	Hepatitis B Research in the Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program
Civil Air Patrol Corporation (Operation and Maintenance)	Honor the American Flag
Columbia Class Submarine	Liver Cancer in the Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program
Columbia Class Submarine, Advance Procurement	Long Range Strike Bomber
Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program - Autism Research	Military Burn Trauma Research
Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program Tick-Borne Diseases Research	Minority Outreach and Officer Accessions
Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program, Parkinson's Research Program	Multi-mission Medium Range Railgun Weapon System
STARBASE	Multiple Sclerosis Research Program (MSRP)
Electromagnetic Railgun Research	National Guard Counter-Drug Program
Expanded Canine Therapy Research	National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program
Fisher House Foundation	National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program – Additional Pilot Program
Gulf War Illness Research Program	National Security Technology Accelerator

Pancreatic Cancer in the Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program	Peer Reviewed Reconstructive Transplant Research Program
Peer Review Orthopedic Research Program	Solid State Laser - Technology Maturation onboard LPD 27
Peer Reviewed Alzheimer s Program	Submarine Construction Account
Peer Reviewed Breast Cancer Research Program	Support for DOD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response
Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program	Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Research Program
Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program: Include Stomach Cancer as Eligible	U.S.-Israel Anti-Tunnel Cooperation
Peer Reviewed Neurofibromatosis Research	UH-60M Black Hawk for Army National Guard
Peer Reviewed Ovarian Cancer Research Program	UXO Cleanup on Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS)
Peer Reviewed Prostate Cancer Research Program	Virginia Class Submarine, Advance Procurement
Peer Reviewed Psychological Health/Traumatic Brain Injury Research Program	Virginia Class Submarine, Procurement
Support Service Dogs for Service Members and Veterans in Need	

**Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies**

Advanced Funds for Discrete Segment	Inland Waterways
Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy	National Levee Safety Initiative
Army Corps Construction, Environmental Infrastructure	Navigation Maintenance
Coastal Data Information Program (CDIP)/ Coastal Ocean Data System (CODS)	Shore Protection Projects
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy	Small, Remote, or Subsistence Navigation
Energy Frontier Research Centers	Solid State Energy Conversion Alliance (SECA) Solid Oxide Fuel Cell program
Energy Innovation Hubs	State Energy Program
Everglades Restoration	U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperation Programs
Fusion Energy Research Programs	Water Operations Technical Support
Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund	Water Power Technologies Office
Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies	Weatherization Assistance Program
Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF) program	Wind Energy Program

**Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government**

Community Development Financial  
Institutions Fund

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas  
(HIDTA)

Defender Services

Human Trafficking and Slavery

Drug Free Communities Program

Internal Revenue Service

Election Assistance Commission

Maintaining Six Day Mail Delivery

Election Security Grants

Service standards for First Class mail and  
periodicals

Federal Buildings Fund

The Healthy Food Financing Initiative

Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation

Virginia Graeme Baker (VGB) Pool and  
Spa Safety Act "Pool Safely" Campaign

Virginia Graeme Baker (VGB) Pool and Spa Safety Act Grant Program

**Subcommittee on Homeland Security**

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services	National Flood Insurance Program
Support Additional Customs and Border Protection Officers	Pre-Disaster Mitigation
Immigrant Detention Bed Mandate	Law Enforcement Officer Reimbursement Program
Human Trafficking Investigations	Port Security Grant Program
Emergency Food and Shelter Program	Homeland Security Centers of Excellence
Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP)	The INTERDICT Act
Urban Area Security Initiative - Nonprofit Security Grant Program	Increasing resources for U Visa Adjudication
Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program	Homeland Security Minority Serving Institutions (MSI)
Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program	Limitation on use of funds to deport persons with TPS or DED
Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response Team Program	

**Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies**

American Battlefield Protection Program	Historic Preservation Fund
BEACH Act Grants	International Affairs (IA) Program
Centennial Challenge	Invasive Exotic Plant Species Control
Clean Water & Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs	Japanese American Confinement Site Grants
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund	Multinational Species Conservation Fund (MSCF)
Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant Program	National Endowment for the Arts
Environmental Protection: National Priorities	National Endowment for the Humanities
EPA Brownfields Assessment/Cleanup Grant Program	National Environmental Education Act
EPA Brownfields Categorical Grants	National Estuary Program
EPA Brownfields OSWER Environmental Programs & Management Account	National Gallery of Art
Everglades Restoration	National Museum of African American History and Culture
HBCU Historic Preservation	National Parks Construction
HBCU Historic Preservation Match Waiver	North American Wetlands Conservation Act
Heritage Partnership Programs	Office of Civil Rights Affirmative Employment Program Division

Operation of the National Park System

Public water systems supervision

Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers

State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program

**Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies**

21st Century Community Learning Centers	Education for Homeless Children and Youth
Adoption Opportunities	Employee Benefit Security Administration (EBSA)
Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Program	Family Planning
Alzheimer's Research	Family Violence Prevention and Services Act
Antibiotic Resistance Solutions Initiative	Federal Pell Grants
Apprenticeship Grants	Federal TBI State Grant Program
Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act	Funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to research firearm related violence
Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS)	Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals
Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)	HBCU Capital Financing
Community Health Centers	Head Start
Computer Science for All Development Grants	Health Care for the Homeless
Corporation for Public Broadcasting	Holocaust Survivor Assistance Program
Division of Adolescent Health (DASH)	Home and Community-Based Supportive Services
Domestic Volunteer Service Act Programs & National and Community Service Act Programs	Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program

Howard University	National Family Caregiver Support Program
Impact Aid	National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease (NIDDK) at NIH
Implementation of Syringe Services Programs	National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) at NIH
Implementation of Trafficking Victims Protection Act	National Institutes of Health
Increase Funding for OSHA to Improve Worker Safety	Neurofibromatosis
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B	Nutrition Services
Innovative Approaches to Literacy	Office of Museum Services
International Education and Foreign Language Studies	Opportunities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities
Job Corps	Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)
LEARN program	Rape Prevention and Education
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program	Ready To Learn
Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP)	Refugee and Entrance Assistance
Minority AIDS Initiative	Runaway and Homeless Youth Act
Minority Fellowship Program	Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program
National Domestic Violence Hotline	School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs)

Senior Corps	Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program
Services in Supportive Housing	The National Museum of African American History and Culture
Social Security Administration Budget	Title I
Statewide Family Engagement Centers	Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development
Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities and PBIs	Training and Employment Services
Strengthening Predominantly Black Institutions Program	Wage and Hour Division (WHD)
Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant	Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Title II
Support Effective Education Programs for Migrant and Seasonal Worker Students	Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Title III
	YouthBuild

**Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch**

House Wounded Warrior Program

Office of Technology Assessment

**Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies**

Brat-Titus PUPPERS Amendment

Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program

Case Management for HUD-VA Supportive  
Housing Program

Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem

Compensated Work Therapy Program

Supportive Services for Veteran Families

Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans  
Program

The Justice Outreach, Homelessness  
Prevention: Healthcare for Reentry  
Veterans (HCRV, prison outreach) and  
Veteran s Justice Outreach (VJO, law  
enforcement, jail and court outreach)

Ensure the Veteran Crisis Line Provides an  
Immediate Response

VA Medical and Prosthetic Research

Veterans Suicide Prevention and Outreach

**Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs**

Anti-Poaching & Wildlife Trafficking Programs	Global Environment Facility
Caribbean Basin Security Initiative ESF Funding	Global Nutrition
Caribbean Basin Security Initiative FMF Funding	Global Tuberculosis Control
Caribbean Basin Security Initiative INCLE Funding	Green Climate Fund
Child Marriage	Historically Black Colleges and University International Educational Exchange
Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities	International Disaster Assistance
Democracy Programs	International Family Planning and Reproductive Health Programs
Department of State Educational & Cultural Exchanges	Maternal and Child Health, including Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance
Discrimination against LGBTI Persons	Middle East Regional Cooperation
DOS/USAID Psychosocial Support Programs	Migration and Refugee Assistance
Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance	National Endowment for Democracy
Ethiopian-Israeli Support Programming	Peace Corps Funding
Female genital mutilation/cutting	Peacekeeping Operations
Gender Equality	People to People Reconciliation Between Israelis and Palestinians

PEPFAR and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria	United Nations Population Fund
Re-authorization of the Lautenberg Amendment	United States Strategy for Engagement in Central America
Report Language for HIV/AIDS Vaccine Research	USAID Biodiversity Programs
Retain FY 18 Gender-Based Violence language	USAID, Title III, Development Assistance
Support Funding for the Millennium Challenge Corporation in FY 2018	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
Support LGBTI rights efforts at State and USAID	Women, Peace, and Security
Support programs that combat HIV/AIDS	Workforce diversification, addressing global prejudice and discrimination, and the International Decade for People of African Descent
Support the Donald M. Payne International Development Graduate Fellowship (USAID)	Workforce Diversification
Support the Human Rights Division, including the LGBTI portfolio	The Asia Foundation
The Race, Ethnicity, and Social Inclusion Unit (RESIU)	East-West Center
The U.S. Institute of Peace	Humanitarian Assistance for the victims of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict
Trafficking in Persons	UN Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund
Tunisia	Caribbean Basin Security Initiative Disaster Resilience
State and USAID Anti-Trafficking Programs	

**Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies**

Funding for the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness	Housing Counseling Assistance Program
Amtrak National Network	Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA)
Amtrak Northeast Corridor	HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program
Capital Investment Grant Program	Improving Access to Housing Services
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program	Indian Housing Block Grant
Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program (CRISI)	National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling Program
FAA Contract Tower Program	National Priority Safety Program
Fair Housing Assistance Program	National Security Multi-Mission Vessel program
Fair Housing Initiatives Program	Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant
Federal Transit Administration	Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation
Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair	Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes
HBCU Grant Program	Performance Standards for Critical Electronics Systems
HOME Investment Partnerships Program	Positive Train Control (PTC) Compliance for Commuter Rail
Housing Capital Fund, Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, and Section 8 Vouchers	Project Based Rental Assistance (Section 8)

Public Housing Capital Fund

Service Needs of Local Communities

Public Housing Operating Fund

Tenant Based Rental Assistance  
(Section 8)

Restoration and Enhancement Grants  
Program

The Continuum of Care Program (CCP)  
and the Emergency Solutions Grant  
Program (ESG)

Section 184 Indian Home Loan Guarantee  
Program

TIGER Grant Funding

Section 202 Supportive Housing for the  
Elderly

Transit Oriented Development

Section 8 Tenant Based Rental Assistance  
(TBRA) / HCV Program

University Community Fund

Section 811 Housing for Persons with  
Disabilities

Vouchers Targeted to Homeless Families  
with Children

## Rules Managed

The Rules Committee is charged with facilitating the deliberation and amending of legislation on the floor of the House of Representatives. Privileged resolutions, also known as Rules, take the form of simple resolutions and must be passed by the House of Representatives prior to general consideration of significant pieces of legislation. As Senior Member of the House Rules Committee, I frequently manage Rules on the House floor for the Democrats.

<b>Rule</b>	<b>Providing for the consideration of...</b>
H.Res.70	H.J.Res.38, <i>Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of the Interior known as the Stream Protection Rule.</i>
H.Res.99	H.J.Res.42, <i>Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to drug testing of unemployment compensation applicants</i>  H.R.428, the <i>Red River Gradient Boundary Survey Act</i>
H.Res.150	H.R.998, the <i>SCRUB Act</i>  H.J.Res.83 - <i>Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "Clarification of Employer's Continuing Obligation to Make and Maintain an Accurate Record of Each Recordable Injury and Illness"</i>
H.Res.175	H.R.725, the <i>Innocent Party Protection Act</i>
H.Res.198	H.R.1367, <i>To improve the authority of the Secretary of the VA to hire and retain physicians and other employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs</i>  H.R.1259, the <i>VA Accountability First Act of 2017</i>  H.R.118, the <i>Veterans 2nd Amendment Act</i>
H.Res.241	H.R.1304, the <i>Self-Insurance Protection Act</i>

H.Res.305	Senate amendment to H.R.244, the <i>HIRE Vets Act [the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017]</i>
H.Res.323:	H.R.115, the <i>Thin Blue Line Act</i>
H.Res.374	H.R.2213, the <i>Anti-Border Corruption Reauthorization Act of 2017</i>
H.Res.378	H.R.2581, the <i>Verify First Act</i>  S.1094, the <i>Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017</i>
H.Res.396	H.R.2842, the <i>Accelerating Individuals into the Workforce Act</i>
H.Res.481	H.R.3180, the <i>Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018</i>
H.Res.513	H.R.3697, the <i>Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act</i>
H.Res.533	H.R.2824, <i>Increasing Opportunity and Success for Children and Parents through Evidence-Based Home Visiting Act</i>  H.R.2792 - <i>Control Unlawful Fugitive Felons Act of 2017</i>
H.Res.577	H.R.469, the <i>Sunshine for Regulations and Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2017</i>  H.R.732, the <i>Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act of 2017</i>
H.Res.595	H.R.2936, <i>Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017</i>
H.Res.619	H.R.1, the <i>Tax Cuts and Jobs Act</i>
H.Res.645	H.R.38, the <i>Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017</i>

H.Res.658	H.R.1638, the <i>Iranian Leadership Asset Transparency Act</i>  H.R.4324, the <i>Strengthening Oversight of Iran's Access to Finance Act</i>
H.Res.682	S.139, the <i>Rapid DNA Act of 2017 [FISA Amendments Reauthorization Act of 2017]</i>
H.Res.725	H.R.772, the <i>Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act of 2017</i>  H.R.1153, the <i>Mortgage Choice Act of 2017</i>  H.R.4771, the <i>Small Bank Holding Company Relief Act of 2018</i>
H.Res.762	H.R.1119, the <i>Satisfying Energy Needs and Saving the Environment Act</i>  H.R.1917, the <i>Blocking Regulatory Interference from Closing Kilns Act of 2017</i>
H.Res.780	H.R.4061, the <i>Financial Stability Oversight Council Improvement Act of 2017</i>  H.R.4293, the <i>Stress Test Improvement Act of 2017</i>
H.Res.787	H.R.4566, the <i>Alleviating Stress Test Burdens to Help Investors Act</i>  H.R.5247, the <i>Trickett Wendler, Frank Mongiello, Jordan McLinn, and Matthew Bellina Right to Try Act of 2018</i>
H.Res.830	H.R.5192, the <i>Protecting Children from Identity Theft Act</i>
H.Res.879	H.R.3053, the <i>Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2018</i>

H.Res.905	H.R.5515, the <i>National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019</i>  S.204, the <i>Trickett Wendler, Frank Mongiello, Jordan McLinn, and Matthew Bellina Right to Try Act of 2017</i>  S.2155, the <i>Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act</i>
H.Res.961	H.R.6157, the <i>Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2019</i>  H.R.2083, the <i>Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act</i>
H.Res.989	H.R.6237, the <i>Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019</i>
H.Res.1011	H.R.184, the <i>Protect Medical Innovation Act of 2017</i>  H.R.6311, the <i>Increasing Access to Lower Premium Plans and Expanding Health Savings Accounts Act of 2018</i>
H.Res.1051	H.R.6691, the <i>Community Safety and Security Act of 2018</i>
H.Res.1059	H.R.3798, the <i>Save American Workers Act of 2017</i>  Conference Report to accompany H.R.5895, the <i>Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2019</i>

### Briefings Hosted

Throughout the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, my office organized a number of briefings on the pressing issues before Congress. Hosted by my personal office, caucuses that I lead or co-chair, and the Florida Congressional Delegation, these briefings and organized events are valuable tools for discussing legislation and other important matters.

#### **Water Issues Facing Coastal Communities and the Lake Okeechobee Watershed**

*Florida Delegation Meeting*  
February 14, 2017

The Florida Delegation held a meeting on water issues facing coastal communities and the Lake Okeechobee Watershed. The meeting focused on beach re-nourishment, water quality issues, and Army Corps of Engineers' projects.

**Panelists:**

- **Lieutenant Colonel Jennifer A. Reynolds**  
Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, Deputy District Commander for South Florida
- **Dr. Richard Stumpf**  
National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- **Mayor Willie Charles Shaw**  
Sarasota, FL
- **Alex Davis Shaw**  
City Engineer, Sarasota, FL

### 16 County Coalition –Regional Needs

*Everglades Caucus Briefing*  
March 1, 2017

The Everglades Caucus held a briefing with the 16 counties that comprise the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to discuss legislative issues important to these counties. The meeting focused on the Herbert Hoover Dike, Kissimmee River restoration, Indian River Lagoon-South, and Caloosahatchee River West Basin Storage Reservoir.

**Panelists:**

- **Commissioner Karen Turner**  
Chair, County Coalition, Hendry County
- **Commissioner Doug Smith**  
Treasurer, County Coalition, Martin County
- **Commissioner Melissa McKinlay**  
Secretary, County Coalition, Palm Beach County

### National Flood Insurance Program

*Florida Delegation Member Meeting*  
March 21, 2017

The Florida Delegation held a Member level meeting on legislation reauthorizing the National Flood Insurance Program. This meeting with the leadership of the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing & Insurance gave members of the delegation the opportunity to discuss their priorities from a Florida perspective.

**Panelists:**

- **Congressman Sean Duffy (R-WI)**  
Chairman, House Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing & Insurance
- **Congressman Emmanuel Cleaver (D-MO)**  
Ranking Member, House Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing & Insurance

### South Florida Infrastructure and Everglades Restoration

*Everglades Caucus Meeting*  
April 4, 2017

The Everglades Caucus held a meeting on the Herbert Hoover Dike, Everglades restoration projects, navigation, and coastal storm risk management.

**Panelists:**

- **Colonel Jason A. Kirk**  
Commander and District Engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville, Florida

### Conservation Efforts During National Pollinator Week

*Pollinator Protection Caucus Briefing*  
June 20, 2017

The Congressional Pollinator Protection Caucus hosted a briefing on the status of pollinator health and pollinator conservation actions to mark National Pollinator Week. I am proud to Co-Chair this caucus with Rep. Jeff Denham (R-CA).

**Panelists:**

- **Gene Brandi**  
President, American Beekeeping Federation
- **Rob Mies**  
Executive Director, Organization for Bat Conservation
- **Anne Kinsinger**  
Associate Director for Ecosystems, U.S. Geological Survey
- **Deirdre M. Remley**  
Environmental Protection Specialist/Research Coordinator, Federal Highway Administration Office of Project Development & Environmental Review

### Human Trafficking in the State of Florida

*Florida Delegation Meeting*  
June 28, 2017

The Florida Delegation held a briefing on human trafficking in the State of Florida.

**Panelists:**

- **Elizabeth Fisher**  
President & CEO, Selah Freedom
- **Dr. Suzanne Harrison**  
Director of Clinical Programs, Professor and Education Director for Family Medicine,  
Florida State University College of Medicine
- **Bethany Gilot**  
Statewide Human Trafficking Director, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
- **Special Agent Jose Ramirez**, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Orlando  
Regional Operations Center Counterterrorism Squad
- **Michelle Guelbart**  
Director for Private Sector Engagement, ECPATUSA

### Florida Delegation Meeting on Hurricane Relief

*Florida Delegation Member Discussion*  
November 30, 2017

The Florida Delegation held a Member meeting to discuss hurricane related issues and supplemental appropriations following Hurricanes Irma and Harvey. Initial supplemental relief packages were inadequate to the needs of the impacted communities, including the citrus industry, which was not included at all.

### Needs for Combatting and Preventing Homelessness in the Coming Year

*Congressional Homelessness Caucus*  
April 23, 2018

The Congressional Homelessness Caucus held a staff-level briefing with the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council (HCH) to discuss priorities for preventing and combating homelessness in the coming year. This was a closed door meeting to Hill staff and Members of Congress.

**Panelists:**

- **Noëlle Porter**  
Congressional Relations Specialist, NAEH
- **Regina Reed**  
National Health Policy Organizer, HCH

### Offshore Drilling

*Florida Delegation Meeting*  
May 17, 2018

The Florida Delegation held a meeting on offshore drilling off the coasts of Florida in response to President Trump's executive order opening up the possibility of offshore drilling along the Florida coast.

**Panelists:**

- **Ken Lawson**  
President & CEO, VISIT FLORIDA
- **Mark Alderson**  
Executive Director, Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program
- **Brig. Gen. Evan C. Dertien**  
Commander, 96th Test Wing, Air Force Materiel Command, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida
- **Erik Milito**  
Director of Upstream and Industry Operations, American Petroleum Institute

**Conservation Efforts in the 2018 Farm Bill**

*Pollinator Protection Caucus Briefing*  
June 20, 2018

To mark National Pollinator Week, the Congressional Pollinator Protection Caucus Co-Chair Rep. Jeff Denham (R-CA) hosted a briefing on pollinators and the 2018 Farm Bill.

**Panelists:**

- **Val Dolcini**  
President & CEO, Pollinator Partnership
- **Tim May**  
President, American Beekeeping Federation
- **Joan Gunter**  
Vice President, American Beekeeping Federation
- **Misty Ann Giles**  
Senior Advisor to Secretary Sonny Perdue, USDA Congressional Relations
- **Katie Naessens**  
Professional Staff, Minority Staff, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
- **Jeremy Witte**  
Professional Staff, Majority Staff, House Committee on Agriculture
- **John Weber**  
Professional Staff, Majority Staff, House Committee on Agriculture

**Black and Jewish Members of Congress Breakfast**

*Office of Congressman Alcee L. Hastings*  
June 25, 2018

For over a decade, I have hosted this annual briefing with Black and Jewish Members of Congress, along with other stakeholders, to refocus our efforts on eliminating hatred from our nation. African Americans and Jews have for decades been united by common histories of prejudice and discrimination, and we must work closely together to fight against anti-Semitism and racism.

**Host Members:**

- Senator Cory Booker
- Congressman Eliot Engel
- Congressman John Lewis
- Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey
- Congressman Cedric Richmond
- Congressman Lee Zeldin

**Guests:**

- **Jonathan Greenblatt**  
CEO and National Director, Anti-Defamation League (ADL)
- **Derrick Johnson**  
President and CEO, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- **Hilary O. Shelton**  
Senior Vice President for Advocacy and Policy, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- **Garrett O'Brien and Yoni Mesfein**  
Operation Understanding D.C.

### 2018 Hurricane Season Federal Assistance

*Florida Delegation Meeting*  
July 12, 2018

The Florida Delegation held a meeting on the 2017 hurricane season. The meeting provided Members with a brief overview of issues related to the oversight of federal assistance during the 2017 hurricane season and an outlook for the 2018 hurricane season.

**Panelists:**

- **Dr. Neil Jacobs**  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Environmental Observation and Prediction, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- **Bill Johnson, RN**  
Director, Palm Beach County Emergency Management
- **Captain Melissa DeLeon**  
Florida National Guard Liaison to the Florida Division of Emergency Management

### The Federal Strategic Plan for Ending Homelessness, 2018-2022

*Congressional Homelessness Caucus*  
September 27, 2018

The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) released *Home, Together*, the nation's second Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, in July 2019. The Homelessness Caucus invited representatives from USICH to present the plan to Hill staff and Members of Congress, to discuss the priorities for the federal government in the year ahead.

**Panelists:**

- **Matthew Doherty**  
Executive Director, USICH
- **Saralyn Adish**  
Chief of Staff, USICH
- **Britt Manzo**  
Policy Advisor, USICH

**Statements Made in the Congressional Record**

<b>Statement</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Page</b>
Celebrating Wynnebrook Elementary School's 50th Anniversary	January 3, 2017	183
Introducing the Justice for Yazidis Act	January 9, 2017	184
Honoring the Head Coach of the Keiser University Basketball Team Mr. Rollie Massimino	January 11, 2017	185
Honoring Ambassador Kairat Umarov for His Service and Friendship to the United States	January 23, 2017	187
Congratulating the Hon. Mp Vian Dakhil on Receiving the 2016 Lantos Human Rights Prize	February 9, 2017	188
Recognizing Ms. Camille Bentley-Mcgoldrick of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program	February 27, 2017	189
Introducing the Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act of 2017	March 7, 2017	190
Honoring National Football League Great Jason Paul Taylor	March 10, 2017	191

Commemorating the 24th Anniversary of the Bangladesh Association of Florida's Asian Food Fair & Cultural Show	March 15, 2017	192
Introducing the African Descent Affairs Act	March 16, 2017	193
Honoring Mr. Brenden Shipley with the 2017 Congressional Award	March 27, 2017	194
Celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the Arab Peace Initiative	March 27, 2017	196
Honoring National Pet Day	April 3, 2017	197
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Dr. Abraham Fischler	April 4, 2017	198
Congratulating the 2017 Enlistees from Florida's 20th Congressional District	April 25, 2017	199
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Coach Donald Thompson	May 3, 2017	200
Introducing the Taxpayers Require Urgent Mandatory Protection from Egregious Debt (TRUMPED) Act of 2017	May 23, 2017	201

Celebrating the Broward County Mental Health Court's 20th Anniversary	June 13, 2017	202
Honoring Mr. Willie Span	June 15, 2017	204
Introducing a Resolution Expressing support for addressing the Arab-Israeli conflict in a concurrent track with the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and commending Arab and Muslim-majority states that have improved bilateral relations with Israel	June 20, 2017	205
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Mr. John A. Shanley	June 20, 2017	206
Honoring the Life and Legacy Mr. Leo Shey	June 20, 2017	207
Statement of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings Introducing a Resolution Urging China, South Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, The Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, India, And All Nations To Outlaw The Dog And Cat Meat Trade And To Enforce Existing Laws Against The Trade	June 22, 2017	208
Congratulating the Republic Of Kazakhstan for Hosting Expo 2017 and On the 20th Anniversary of Kazakhstan's Capital City, Astana	June 26, 2017	209
Welcoming President Moon Jae-In Of the Republic Of Korea On The Occasion Of His First Official Visit to the United States	June 26, 2017	210

Introducing a House Resolution Disapproving Of UNESCO World Heritage Committee Inscription of Hebron as a Palestinian World Heritage Site in Danger	July 11, 2017	211
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Mrs. Lori Ann Glasser	July 19, 2017	212
Honoring Mr. Sam Otis Smith On The Occasion Of His 85th Birthday	July 24, 2017	213
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Mr. Donald Richard Wilson	August 25, 2017	214
Honoring Mrs. Emma L. Kern Black On The Occasion Of Her 80th Birthday	August 25, 2017	215
Recognizing Dr. Anthony Lockhart, Florida's 2017 Principal of the Year	September 21, 2017	216
Celebrating the 95th Anniversary of the Founding Of Riviera Beach, Florida	September 25, 2017	217
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Diane Glasser	October 10, 2017	218
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Mother Geneva Green Russell	October 12, 2017	219

Celebrating Keiser University's 40th Anniversary	November 6, 2017	221
Wishing Coach Herman ``Big Man" Pittman A Happy 90th Birthday	November 10, 2017	222
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Mrs. Nezzie Marion	December 6, 2017	223
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Mrs. Annie Jackson	December 6, 2017	224
Honoring Keiser University on Its 40th Anniversary	January 8, 2018	226
Introducing the Build America Act of 2018	January 8, 2018	227
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Mr. Raleigh R. Rawls	January 25, 2018	229
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Ms. Carolyn Morrow Cheney	February 13, 2018	230
Recognizing Ms. Holly Adams for Her Internship with the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme	February 14, 2018	231

Recognition of Ms. Francesca Alfano	February 27, 2018	232
Condemning the Seventh Anniversary of the Syrian Civil War	March 7, 2018	233
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Captain George Frank Myles, Jr.	March 8, 2018	234
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Lottie Albert	April 17, 2018	236
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Mr. Cyrus ``Russ" M. Jollivette	May 7, 2018	237
In Recognition Of the Outstanding Service of Coach Robert A. Green	May 16, 2018	238
Commending Mr. Roger Dehart Of Broward County For Raising Awareness About Human Trafficking By Walking Over 1000 Miles	May 21, 2018	239
100th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic	May 22, 2018	240
In Memory Of the Life of Reverend Joe C. Johnson	June 1, 2018	241

Introducing a Resolution Recognizing People of African Descent and Black Europeans	June 6, 2018	242
Honoring the City Commission of the City Of Lauderdale Lakes	June 14, 2018	243
Honoring the Dillard Center for the Arts Jazz Band in Winning the 2018 Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Competition	June 22, 2018	244
In Recognition Of the Outstanding Service of Dr. Lenora Peters	June 26, 2018	245
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Mr. Nathaniel Reed	July 17, 2018	246
In Celebration of Ms. Carrie Patterson Thomas on the Occasion of her 100th Birthday	July 25, 2018	247
On the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act of 2018	September 13, 2018	249
On the United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018	September 13, 2018	250
Recognizing Ms. Evangelina Mendiola	September 25, 2018	251

**January 3, 2017**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Celebrating Wynnebrook Elementary School's 50th Anniversary**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Wynnebrook Elementary School, a public elementary school located in West Palm Beach, Florida, on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary. Principal Mrs. Suzanne Berry and Assistant Principal Mr. Steve Collins, continue in the path of the outstanding educators that came before them over Wynnebrook Elementary's half century of existence. Impressively, Wynnebrook Elementary has had only five Principals since its start.

Currently, 876 students attend Wynnebrook. The student body is diverse with forty-six percent Hispanic, forty-three percent African American and nine percent White. Ninety-four percent of Wynnebrook students are on free or reduced price lunches and the school has received an ``A" grade for 14 years in a row. It is ranked 19th among 124 elementary schools in the Palm Beach School District, with a 2016 calculated average standard test score of 86.92.

Wynnebrook has been the recipient of many awards. In 2011 and 2016, the school won the Exceeding Expectations Project Award from the East Coast Technical Assistance Center (ECTAC). Last year, Mr. Jeffrey Pegg, immediate past principal, won the 2016 Principal Leadership Award given by Florida TaxWatch.

Mr. Speaker, I am so very proud that Wynnebrook Elementary is located in my Congressional district. I am honored to recognize them on the House floor and congratulate all those who have made Wynnebrook Elementary such a wonderful school over the last 50 years. All principals, teachers, students and volunteers should not only be proud of the impressive work they are doing today, but also exceedingly proud of their storied history. I wish them many more years of continued success.

January 9, 2017

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Introducing the Justice for Yazidis Act**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Justice for Yazidis Act, legislation that will expand mental health, physical therapy, and other health services to religious minority groups that have suffered the greatest persecution under the Islamic State (IS). These programs, though modest, are greatly needed and will help victims of genocide begin the long process of healing. In addition, this legislation establishes a P2 Processing system for Iraqi and Syrian religious minority groups, allowing these groups and individuals to apply directly to the United States for refugee status without compromising the rigorous vetting standards already in place.

The crimes committed by IS are horrifying and brutal. Countless articles have been published detailing the unimaginable abuse that groups like the Yazidis have endured. Apart from the mass killings, the beheadings and torture, IS created a system of organized kidnapping, rape, forced marriage, and sexual slavery primarily targeted against girls from religious and ethnic minority groups. It's not hidden: they sell captives in the open, like cattle at market, where militants come and go as they please to select slaves as young as nine years old. Once sold, girls and women are traded among fighters for months at a time. Fighters believe they are entitled--and obligated--to enslave, rape, and forcibly convert these girls. They even published a pamphlet in December 2014 on how to treat female slaves.

Thousands of women remain enslaved. For those who have escaped or been rescued, the road to recovery in war-torn Syria and Iraq is daunting. The United States, through the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has provided services and goods for these groups, but the need continues to grow on a daily basis.

Human Rights Watch recently documented the severity of the need for trained trauma specialists, explaining that "doctors need to be better trained in examining women who have been victims of sexual assault .... otherwise, the exams could be harmful and humiliating for women and girls, and make them feel like they have no control over their bodies--which is what they felt when they were abducted by ISIS." By dedicating specific resources dedicated to providing access to trauma-informed counseling, the United States can play a significant role in rehabilitating these traumatized and often suicidal survivors of IS.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this body will expeditiously pass this measure. Doing so will reaffirm America's commitment to those around the world suffering from great injustice.

January 11, 2017

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Honoring the Head Coach of the Keiser University Basketball Team Mr. Rollie Massimino**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Rollie Massimino, who is currently the head coach of the Keiser University Basketball Team in West Palm Beach, Florida. Serious fans of the sport of basketball know the history of this great sportsman. Mr. Massimino began his head coaching career at SUNY Stony Brook in 1969, and after nearly 50 years, recently compiled his 800th victory.

His other head coaching positions have included stints at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and Cleveland State University. Mr. Massimino came to national attention as head coach of the Villanova Wildcats from 1980-1992. He is most famous for leading the Wildcats to their unforgettable upset of the top-seeded Georgetown Hoyas in the 1985 NCAA title game.

All who have known Mr. Massimino have been impressed by the sincerity and determination that he imparts to all the young men who have looked up to him throughout the years. Not a person who seeks the limelight, he is a truly great sportsman who has always been known for concentrating on winning and playing the game clean.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Massimino's current Keiser team is 15 and 2 and riding a 12 game winning streak. His continual success is not surprising to American basketball fans, who admire him for his expertise and talent. I am very pleased that Mr. Rollie Massimino is presently guiding a team in my Congressional district to such distinction. He is a hero to many and a fine citizen, worthy of acclaim from us all.

January 23, 2017

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Honoring Ambassador Kairat Umarov for His Service and Friendship to the United States**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my heartfelt thanks to Ambassador Kairat Umarov for his service and friendship to our country, while serving as Kazakhstan's Ambassador to the United States.

For the past 25 years, Kazakhstan and the United States have developed an enduring relationship built on nuclear nonproliferation and security. This association has evolved to include a strong relationship on trade, economic integration, and the support of democracy. Since its independence, Kazakhstan has been a strategic partner to the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The diplomatic cooperation between our two countries has contributed to the reconstruction of Afghanistan and strengthened security in the Central Asia region--accomplishments that were greatly served by Ambassador Umarov's dedicated work.

Mr. Umarov has served as Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the United States since 2013, and his steady leadership over the past four years has enhanced ties between our two countries. Ambassador Umarov's focus on commercial and technological cooperation has solidified Kazakhstan's path as a future trade hub for the entire New Silk Road region. His significant contributions to the upcoming EXPO 2017 event will prove to be essential to its success. Ambassador Umarov's time in Washington has shown him to be a gracious and gifted diplomat, and although I am sad to see him leave, I am confident that he will remain a true champion for the people of Kazakhstan as he assumes his new duties on behalf of his country at the United Nations.

Mr. Speaker, I once again want to thank Ambassador Umarov for his hard work and friendship as Kazakhstan's Ambassador to the United States, and I wish him the best of luck on all his future endeavors.

February 9, 2017

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Congratulating the Hon. Mp Vian Dakhil on Receiving the 2016 Lantos Human Rights  
Prize**

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Honorable MP Vian Dakhil on receiving the 2016 Lantos Human Rights Prize. I was very appreciative of the Lantos Foundation for inviting me to participate in today's ceremony conferring the award. For decades, Congressman Tom Lantos championed human rights in the U.S. House of Representatives, and I was very privileged to have served alongside him. Today, the Commission and the Foundation that bear his name continue his vital work, fighting for human dignity for all people.

MP Dakhil first captured the world's attention in August 2014 as she pleaded with the Iraqi parliament to help her people, the Yazidi, besieged on Mount Sinjar. Since then, she has spent the last two and a half years rescuing girls and young women enslaved by the Islamic State, coordinating rescue missions into ISIS territory to bring girls and women out of bondage. Even as she continues to represent her people in the Iraqi parliament, she works tirelessly to support survivors and children orphaned by the genocide. In taking a stand for the Yazidi people, MP Dakhil has embodied the very definition of heroism. Her bravery and moral clarity make her as fitting a recipient of the 2016 Lantos Human Rights Prize as any I can think of.

The Yazidi people have suffered a grave injustice at the hands of the Islamic State. ISIS has kidnapped and indoctrinated young boys into child soldiers. Thousands of men and women have been killed. Among the most savage of their crimes, the Islamic State has kidnapped thousands of Yazidi girls and women to sell on the market, creating a structured system of organized kidnapping, rape, and sexual slavery. The horrific nature of these crimes is beyond condemnation. Today, between 3,000 and 4,000 Yazidi women and girls are still held captive by ISIS, the "bleeding wound of Iraq," as MP Dakhil describes.

As we gather here, we must recognize that the international community, the United States included, has in large part failed to act. We continue to fail to exercise our moral leadership to bring aid to those in need, even as crimes against humanity occur on a daily basis.

Just two weeks ago, the world observed International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Many of us have heard the affirmation of "never again" in relation to the Holocaust. When I think of the Yazidi people, and the Shabak, the Turkmen, Shias, Sunnis, Christians, the Rohingya, and the Darfuri, I ask myself if the true meaning of this proclamation is, in fact, losing its meaning. Each of us has a responsibility to fight against injustice no matter where we find it in the world.

In Congress, I have introduced H.R. 379, the Justice for Yazidis Act, a proposal that would establish and fund vital programming for the Yazidi people and other religious minorities. My bill establishes a healthcare and psychosocial support program that places an emphasis on providing trauma therapy for children and survivors of sexual slavery, as well as a psychologist, physical therapist, and social worker training program to provide training to psychologists and social workers who speak Kurmanji or the Shengali dialect of Kurmanji. MP Dakhil already

works tirelessly to support these types of programs. The United States can, and should, do more to assist in these noble and just efforts.

Congressman Lantos used to say that; ``the veneer of civilization is paper thin. We are its guardians. We can never rest." I am proud to honor MP Dakhil as one of the world's guardians

February 27, 2017

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Recognizing Ms. Camille Bentley-McGoldrick of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship  
Program**

Mr. Speaker, the United States and Australia share a special union culturally, economically, and as security partners. The friendship our two countries share is strengthened by programs like the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. For the past 18 years, the Uni-Capitol Program has paired students from Australia with offices on Capitol Hill. Since the program's inception, more than 180 students from 10 partner Australian universities have participated. The students in this program are the best and the brightest that Australia has to offer. They bring a unique perspective to the House and Senate offices that they serve, strengthening the special alliance between our two nations and fostering greater understanding and mutual respect between us.

This year, it has been my pleasure to host Ms. Camille Bentley-McGoldrick in my Washington office. Camille, a first year law student at the University of Melbourne, is a great example of the high-caliber students this program provides Congressional offices. She proved herself to be very intelligent, motivated, and hard working. Camille is also an absolute pleasure to work with. No matter the assignment, she is always eager to help and approaches every new task with a smile. Furthermore, Camille excelled in drafting correspondence to my constituents, researching a wide-range of legislative issues for staffers, and attending briefings on a multitude of topics, all while demonstrating a desire to learn about, and engage in, the important and unique policy issues facing our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that Camille will go on to do great things. She has a very bright and exciting future ahead of her. I wish her all the very best.

March 7, 2017

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Introducing the Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act of 2017**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Dog and Cat Meat Prohibition Act of 2017, legislation that will prohibit the slaughter and trade of dogs and cats for human consumption in the United States. It might surprise you to learn that consumption of dogs and cats is still legal in 44 states in our nation, where there are no laws prohibiting the purchasing, shipping, transporting, selling, or donating of dogs or cats to be slaughtered for human consumption. This bill will prohibit these actions and impose penalties to ensure that individuals involved in the dog or cat meat trade are held accountable.

The United States' position on this cruel and brutal practice should be unequivocal: dogs and cats should not be killed in this country for the consumption of their meat. It is with utmost importance that the United States unifies animal cruelty laws in all 50 states and explicitly bans the killing of dogs and cats for human consumption.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this body will expeditiously pass this measure. Doing so will reaffirm America's commitment to the humane treatment of our most beloved companions.

**March 10, 2017**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Honoring National Football League Great Jason Paul Taylor**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jason Paul Taylor, a former Defensive End and Linebacker in the National Football League (NFL). Mr. Taylor played 15 years in the NFL, most of it with the mighty Miami Dolphins. He owns NFL records for fumble recoveries returned for touchdowns, interceptions returned for touchdowns by a defensive lineman and defensive touchdowns scored, and tied for the record in fumble recoveries.

Mr. Taylor was a four-year letterman and three-year starter for the Akron Zips of the University of Akron before being drafted in the third round in the 1997 NFL Draft by Miami. A six-time Pro Bowl selection and four time first or second team All-Pro, he was named the NFL Defensive Player of the Year in 2006. Generous in all ways, he started the Jason Taylor Foundation in 2004, dedicated to children in South Florida resulting in his receiving the Walter Payton Man of the Year Award in 2007, the only league honor that recognizes those achievements made on and off the field. He was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2017, one of only four Dolphins players to be elected in their first year of eligibility. Following his retirement from the NFL at the end of the 2011 season, Mr. Taylor joined the ESPN television network as an analyst. He is also a board member of the NFL Players Association.

At Akron, Jason Taylor was a two-time first-team All-Mid-American Conference selection as a junior and senior, as well as an All-American pick as a junior. In 1996, he earned National Defensive Player of the Week honors for his performance against Virginia Tech, when he posted 12 tackles, two sacks, two fumble recoveries, three stops for loss and tackled a punt returner in the end zone for a safety. Taylor also started for the Akron Zips men's basketball team. In 2004, he became the third person ever inducted into Akron's Ring of Honor.

Mr. Speaker, not content to rest on his laurels, Jason's recent appearance at the YMCA of South Palm Beach County's Inspiration Breakfast generated \$40,000 for the financial assistance program that lets families in need use YMCA programs. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Jason Taylor is a fine athlete and great humanitarian. I want to thank him for all that he is doing for our South Florida community. I am so truly pleased to honor him today.

**March 15, 2017**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Commemorating the 24th Anniversary of the Bangladesh Association of Florida's Asian  
Food Fair & Cultural Show**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bangladesh Association of Florida. For 24 years, this fine organization has presented the Asian Food Fair & Cultural Show in Palm Beach County. This annual program is eagerly awaited by citizens around South Florida for its exciting and diverse performances of singing, dancing, acrobatics and food from many Asian nations.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have been involved with the people of the Bangladesh Association of Florida since the inception of this wonderful program. It is one of the cultural highlights of every year. It is widely appreciated and greatly enjoyed by everyone who experiences its variety of entertainment. We are fortunate to have it on our schedule of great events, and I thank the Bangladesh Association for bringing it to us.

**March 16, 2017**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Introducing the African Descent Affairs Act**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note my introduction of the African Descent Affairs Act, as we continue to highlight the International Decade for People of African Descent.

We have seen a sharp increase in racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of discrimination across the world over the last year. Human rights violations emanating from racial prejudice and discrimination have negatively impacted people of African descent around the world, resulting in racial bias and disparities in education, employment, health, housing, justice, and other sectors. We must act now to reverse these disturbing trends. The International Decade for People of African Descent provides an opportunity to not only draw attention to these inequities, but to also join efforts with countries around the globe to develop and implement national strategies honoring the vast contributions of people of African descent and to combat continuing issues of prejudice and discrimination such as those currently gripping our nation.

To aid these efforts, I have introduced the African Descent Affairs Act. The Act seeks to improve the situation of people of African descent around the world by establishing within our State Department a Global Office of African Descent Affairs to establish global foreign policy and assistance strategies for people of African descent; creating a "Fund" to support antidiscrimination and empowerment efforts by African descent led civil society organizations; and requiring Annual State Department Human Rights Reports to include a section on discrimination faced by people of African descent. I believe that U.S. foreign policy strategies such as these have improved the situation of vulnerable groups internationally and would greatly assist in responding to increasing levels of prejudice and discrimination faced by people of African descent around the globe.

The State Department has already launched many successful initiatives that have aided vulnerable populations, such as the Office of Global Women's Issues, the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, the Special Advisor for International Disability Rights, the Special Representative to Muslim Communities, and the LGBT Global Equality Fund. Implementing a Global Office of African Descent Affairs will continue this tradition and facilitate the full and equal participation of people of African descent in society, promote knowledge of and respect for the diverse heritage, culture and contributions of people of African descent, and strengthen and implement legal frameworks that combat racial discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will embrace the challenge of combating prejudice and discrimination across the world. I encourage them to join me in recognizing the collective history and achievements made by people of African descent by supporting the African Descent Affairs Act.

March 27, 2017

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Honoring Mr. Brenden Shipley with the 2017 Congressional Award**

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to honor Mr. Brenden Shipley of West Palm Beach with the Congressional Award of Bronze and Silver Medals. Since 1979, the Congressional Award has inspired our nation's youth to set and achieve personally challenging goals that build character and foster community service. Recipients are committed to bettering themselves and to giving back to the communities in which they reside. It is the fulfilling of that commitment, which makes these young people so extraordinary.

Mr. Shipley took on the challenge of earning two medals: Bronze and Silver. Earning these awards requires a minimum of 400 hours of community service. He served his community by volunteering at the Kids Cancer Foundation, tutoring kids in math, cleaning the football field at school, and helping one of his friends move into his new home. In addition, he learned how to build a house and commercial buildings, and improved his physical fitness for his senior year football season by weightlifting and boxing. Furthermore, Mr. Shipley planned a seventeen day trip to France, England, Ireland, and Wales to immerse himself in an unfamiliar culture and to develop a spirit of adventure.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said that: "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character--that is the goal of true education." I believe that Mr. Brenden Shipley is a remarkable young man who exemplifies that true character. I am honored to present him with the 2017 Congressional Award for Bronze and Silver Medals, and to recognize him for all of his hard work in the West Palm Beach community. I wish him much success in all of his future endeavors.

March 27, 2017

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the Arab Peace Initiative**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution celebrating the Importance of the 15th Anniversary of the Arab Peace Initiative as a Meaningful Effort by Arab Countries to the Commitment of Peace in the Middle East.

I recently travelled to Israel for the 18th time as a Member of Congress. While in Israel and Jordan, I attended a number of bilateral and multilateral meetings focused on security and the outlook for the region in the coming year. I always welcome these opportunities to meet with senior leaders on such a wide range of issues, and our conversations touched on political developments, regional security in the Middle East, the peace process, and strengthening the bilateral relationships between the United States and these nations.

Although the Israeli-Palestinian conflict continues to be a major challenge, I believe we must stay actively involved in peace negotiations. I am happy to say that recently, Israel and some Muslim-majority Arab nations in the Middle East have made progress in regional cooperation. I believe that, using the Arab Peace Initiative as a baseline, these recent developments present a renewed opportunity for progress--one that we cannot afford to miss.

Mr. Speaker, my resolution highlights the importance of the Arab Peace Initiative and urges the nations to continue the hard work of fostering stronger relationship. Under the right circumstances, the Arab Peace Initiative allows for gradual progress towards the normalization of bilateral relations between Israel and its neighbors. We all know that the relationship between America and Israel is paramount, and I have faith that, in time, the relationships between Israel and other nations will also strengthen. I commend the regional countries that have taken steps to facilitate the end of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, while simultaneously strengthening regional security through discussions with the State of Israel. I urge all parties to continue these important dialogues.

I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's ascension to the Presidency of the Arab League. The United States established relations with Jordan in 1949 and our countries have a long history of cooperation. Jordan has taken on an important role in pursuing progress for the region. I congratulate my friend King Abdullah II and wish Jordan the very best as it assumes this new leadership role for the foreseeable future.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce this resolution today, and recommend its expeditious consideration and passage.

April 3, 2017

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Honoring National Pet Day**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Pet Day, which takes place every year on April 11th. While loving our pets is something we do every day, National Pet Day encourages us to give special care to pets that may not get that extra attention. This day was founded in 2006 by Pet and Family Lifestyle Expert and Animal Welfare Advocate Colleen Paige, to help raise public awareness about the plight of many different kinds of animals. This is a common sentiment among animal rights activists, and I want to give recognition to all the organizations we have worked with personally in the mission to protect our beloved pets. The Animal Hope and Wellness Foundation, the Humane Society of the United States, and Social Compassion in Legislation have worked extensively to better the lives of our four-legged friends. Together, we introduced H.R. 1406, the Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act of 2017, which prohibits the slaughter and trade of dogs and cats for human consumption in the United States.

On January 6, 2017, I reintroduced H. Res. 30--Condemning the Dog Meat Festival in Yulin, China, and urging China to end the dog meat trade. This horrific festival dates back to 2009 through 2010, when it was launched by dog meat traders as a commercial enterprise to boost flagging sales of dog meat. More than 10,000 dogs are reported to be captured, transported and slaughtered every year for this Dog Meat festival, with more than 10 million dogs killed annually in China for the dog meat trade. Animal welfare groups have found that a number of these dogs are stolen pets taken from their homes, still wearing their collars when they reach the slaughterhouse. Many dogs die during transport to the slaughterhouses after days or weeks without food or water, and others suffer illness and injury during transport, such as broken bones. These dogs suffer mentally from watching other dogs being disemboweled and blow-torched in front of them.

Yulin's dog slaughter takes place in residential areas and public marketplaces, imposing scenes of extreme animal cruelty on local residents, including young children who may, as a result, suffer psychological trauma and desensitization. The capture, transport, and butchering of dogs and the consumption of dog meat poses a risk to human health by exposing people to a multitude of diseases, including rabies and cholera. This practice, in my opinion, is completely unacceptable, and can be stopped by the diligent efforts of members of the Chinese government. Although the Yulin city government withdrew as a sponsor of the Dog Meat Festival, it has taken no meaningful action to enforce China's existing laws and regulations on animal disease control, food safety, trans-provincial dog transport, or youth protection, all of which are breached by the dog meat trade.

Activists from across the globe have continued the fight against this barbaric practice. I have been honored to work with Humane Society International, the Animal Hope and Wellness Foundation, the Vanderpump Dog Foundation, Duo Duo, the Animal Welfare Institute, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), Citizens Lobbyists for H. Res. 30, as well as countless other organizations to bring awareness and hopefully change to this inhumane practice and torture of dogs.

Next month, I will be introducing a resolution denouncing the global dog meat trade, by urging all countries that allow this cruel and barbaric practice to end it once and for all. Furthermore, in the lead up to the Yulin Dog Meat Festival and after the introduction of my global dog meat trade resolution, I do plan on holding another Congressional Briefing on Capitol Hill to provide an opportunity for animal rights activists to speak on behalf of the voiceless.

I also want to recognize and thank the animal welfare organizations in Palm Beach and Broward Counties, whose tireless efforts each and every single day are to be commended. In Palm Beach, the Animal Rescue Force South Florida; Peggy Adams; Palm Beach County Animal Care & Control; Justin Bartlett; Second Chance; Big Dog Ranch Rescue; Gaisha, Tundra & Spirit's Place Husky Rescue; Adopt a Cat Foundation; Tri-County Animal Rescue; South Florida Rabbit Rescue, and the Everglades Golden Retriever Rescue. In Broward County, the Florida Humane Society, Humane Society of Broward County; Broward County Animal Care and Adoption Center, Animal Aid, Inc.; and Abandoned Pet Rescue.

The work that all of these organizations do for animals is truly heartwarming and the lengths that they go to ensure their welfare is inspiring. National Pet Day reminds us to do all that we can to make certain animals are taken care of everywhere. Whether it is taking supplies to animal shelters, volunteering, helping a friend with his or her pets who is recovering from an illness, or adopting a pet.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of National Pet Day, I once again want to reiterate my heartfelt gratitude to those who have dedicated their lives to help, protect, and save animals not only here in the United States, but also across the globe.

**April 4, 2017**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Dr. Abraham Fischler**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of my good friend and a most dedicated public servant, Dr. Abraham ``Abe" Fischler, who, sadly, passed away on April 3, 2017. He was 89 years old.

For 22 years, Abe Fischler was President of Nova Southeastern University (NSU). There were only 17 students enrolled when Abe joined NSU. He became President in 1970 and oversaw NSU's growth into the large and well-respected institution that it is today.

Abe was born in Brooklyn on January 21, 1928. He was a member of the ``Greatest Generation," serving in the United States Navy during the Second World War. He married his beloved wife of 68 years, Shirley, in 1949 and in 1951, graduated with a degree in Biochemistry from the City College of New York, eventually earning a Doctorate in Education in 1959 from Columbia University.

Among the many innovations Dr. Fischler brought to NSU was the development of a long-distance learning program. Abe thought there should be a way for professionals who wanted to pursue advanced degrees to do so without having to leave their jobs. We didn't have the prevalence of internet technologies we do now at the time, so Abe would actually have the university fly adjunct instructors to various spots around the country to teach small groups of students outside of regular business hours. At the time, this was very unusual, but today, long distance education is both common and expected at most institutions of higher learning. Abe Fischler was one of the first to do it.

In 1992, Abe retired from NSU, but he did not spend his retirement idly watching the world go by. By 1994, he was back in the thick of it, and got elected to the Broward County School Board, where he would serve for four years. He continued to be involved in educational issues, as well as his involvement with Nova Southeastern as President Emeritus until his passing.

Dr. and Shirley Fischler have four children, four grandchildren and one great-grandson. My own son holds a Doctorate from, and is part of, the Nova Southeastern Family I am honored to have worked with Abe Fischler and to have represented him in Congress. He was a wonderful friend and will be dearly missed.

**April 25, 2017**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Congratulating the 2017 Enlistees from Florida's 20th Congressional District**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 41 high school seniors from Florida's 20th Congressional district, who have chosen to enlist in the United States Armed Forces.

Of these 41 fine young people, 14 have joined the United States Army, to include: William Bethel, Cameron Clayton, Javier Hernandez, Cassidy Anderson, Mack Cromer II, Derly Dormeus, Benjamin Gacel, Clayton Gibson, Ryan Golubovic, Tyler Grove, Ryan Julien, Corey Pritchett, Sean Riley and Julio Alvarez.

Seventeen have joined the United States Marine Corps, to include: Jason Marquez, Cristal Verdugo, Patrick Rhoden, Maikel Suarez, Kathy Sylvestre, Henry Rivera, Albert Londono, Lindel Coffie, Maya Colson, Weston Boyd, Nicolas Franco, Errohl Cruz, John Osegueda, Jonathan Thompson, Caitlin Silva, Melissa Edwards and Pierre Chery.

Five have joined the United States Navy, to include: Jade Apolo-Hecker, Miguel Scott, Brittany Stewart, Shinequah Stone and Ofelia Velasquez.

Four have joined the United States Army National Guard, to include: Cobe Pate, Adamary Hernandez, Melissa Gutierrez and Moises Fernandez.

Thanks to the dedication of patriots such as these, we are able to meet here today, in the United States House of Representatives, and openly debate the best solutions to the diverse issues that confront our nation.

On behalf of myself and all my constituents in Florida's 20th Congressional district, I thank them for their service. I wish them the very best of luck now and in their future.

May 3, 2017

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Coach Donald Thompson**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Coach Donald Thompson, the legendary coach of the Pahokee High School Football Team, who sadly passed away on April 10, 2017 at the age of 76. Coach Thompson was born in Harrisburg, Arkansas on Valentine's Day in 1941. He spent his formative years in Pahokee, Florida, where he made friends in classrooms and on the football field, many of whom remained close throughout his life.

Coach Thompson went to college and played nose tackle for the Citadel Bulldogs in Charleston, South Carolina. In his junior year, his team won the Tangerine Bowl. He was then transferred to the University of Arkansas at Monticello, where he played football for the Boll Weevils and graduated with a degree in education.

After college, Coach Thompson began his career, first in coaching and teaching, then as a regional sales manager for weightlifting companies, before he was offered the head coaching position at Pahokee High School. He coached the Blue Devils from 1984 to 1992, co-founded the famous Muck Bowl, an annual game that draws fans from throughout the Glades area and beyond. Coach Thompson guided his team to the first of many state championships in 1989. For these and many other exemplary accomplishments, on and off the gridiron, he was inducted into the Palm Beach County Sports Hall of Fame in 2008.

Even after he retired from coaching, and despite deteriorating health, he continued to volunteer with the team, cleaning uniforms, fixing helmets and praying with players during practices and games. He loved being a part of the Pahokee High School Football Team and athletic program.

Although he was highly regarded as a football coach, his true passions were his faith, family and friends. His true calling was to be an example to his family and everyone he encountered, especially his fellow congregants at the First United Church of Pahokee, his football players and the children of Pahokee. In ``Coach T," many found a man who would happily be the father figure they wanted and needed. His calming voice, caring demeanor and strength of character endeared him to everyone.

Coach Thompson also loved sailing, spending countless hours on the waters of South Florida sailing his beloved Lake Okeechobee with his loving wife of 52 years, Alice, and his family. Coach Donald Thompson was truly one of a kind--a fine sportsman, a real gentleman and a credit to mankind. I was fortunate to know him and call him my friend. He will be dearly missed.

May 23, 2017

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Introducing the Taxpayers Require Urgent Mandatory Protection from Egregious Debt  
Act of 2017**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Taxpayers Require Urgent Mandatory Protection from Egregious Debt Act of 2017, also known as the TRUMPED Act.

Those of us representing south Florida have received numerous calls and letters since the election of Mr. Trump noting the burden on the budgets of local governments and small business owners as he has used his Mar-a-lago property as an almost weekly retreat--I am sure my friends from New York have fielded similar complaints.

Mr. Speaker, our primary law enforcement agencies are proud to provide protection for any number of dignitaries who visit our great state. However, their budgets have not, and cannot, sustain the weight of Mr. Trump's weekly in season trips to Mar-a-lago--nor should they have to as Mr. Trump is provided very nice accommodations here in Washington, D.C. and Camp David in Maryland, at the taxpayer's considerable expense.

Over just one holiday alone, the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office was forced to absorb \$250,000 in unforeseen expenses--this is an untenable budgetary posture for our local Sheriff's Office as that number represents a \$60,000 per day bill. They must cover overtime for their officers and deploy multiple units including their Motor Unit, Strategic Intelligence Unit, Marine Unit, Aviation Unit, as well as numerous other teams that provide the fabric for a secure trip to South Florida for Mr. Trump.

Mr. Speaker, the TRUMPED Act is based on a simple premise--if Mr. Trump wants to make continual use of his properties then he may do so, but he may not do so at the taxpayer's expense. And let us be clear about something else: Mr. Trump, while burning through taxpayer dollars during these trips, actually makes financial gains when he visits his properties as the U.S. Government must rent space from him during such visits.

Mr. Speaker, it is offensive that Mr. Trump insists on a budget that unequivocally, and without mercy, attacks hardworking Americans, and then has the audacity to turn around and insist that our local police officers, first responders and small businesses suffer under his insistence that he be allowed to enjoy a lavish lifestyle at taxpayer expense. I look forward to the support of my colleagues on this important bill.

**June 13, 2017**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Celebrating the Broward County Mental Health Court's 20th Anniversary**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Broward County Mental Health Court on celebrating its 20th Anniversary on June 23, 2017.

This year's Anniversary will honor the Broward County Public Defender, Mr. Howard Finkelstein; the Honorable Dale Ross; the Broward Sheriff's Office; the Broward Behavioral Health Coalition; the United Way of Broward County; Henderson Behavioral Health; the Broward County Crime Commission; the Mental Health Association of Southeast Florida; and the National Alliance on Mental Illness Broward County. All of these outstanding individuals and organizations deserve this honor as they have devoted countless hours and years to helping those with mental illness navigate an often unforgiving criminal justice system.

As we celebrate this august occasion, I would be remiss if I did not single out the efforts of Judge Ginger Lerner-Wren. Judge Lerner-Wren was tasked with presiding over and administering our country's first Mental Health Court in 1997, shortly after taking the bench. Since that time, she has been a leader in the field of Therapeutic Jurisprudence and the justice that emanates therefrom. Judge Lerner-Wren, and all those who work for the Mental Health Court, as well as those dedicated to the cause of Therapeutic Jurisprudence really have one simple goal in mind--ensuring dignity for those suffering from mental illness, who find themselves navigating our criminal justice system.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud all those associated with Broward County's Mental Health Court over the past 20 years. Their work has made an important difference in the lives of those dealing with mental health issues, to their families, and our community. I wish the Court many more years of continued success, and look forward to championing their important work in Congress.

**June 15, 2017**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Honoring Mr. Willie Span**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Willie Span of Tamarac, Florida. Willie was a constituent of mine, who tragically passed away on October 2, 2014, after being struck by a vehicle while on his way to the William ``Bill" Kling VA Clinic in Sunrise, Florida.

Since this heartbreaking accident, Willie became a symbol for pedestrian safety and for veterans in our community. Veterans had advocated long and hard for a crosswalk and traffic light to the Bill Kling Clinic, yet they were told that there were not enough pedestrians crossing the street to warrant the changes. In the time since the accident, Willie's wife, Doris Span, has continued to push for a safer way for veterans to cross the street from the bus stop to get to the clinic.

The bus stop has been temporarily removed and replaced with paratransit service for veterans, and we are all anticipating a lasting solution to avoid future tragedies. We must do everything we can to create safe places for pedestrians through the placements of crosswalks and lights. Too often, this does not happen until a terrible accident occurs.

Mr. Speaker, Willie Span was a veteran of the war in Vietnam, having served as a private in the United States Army, 8th Infantry Division. He and his wife had been married for eight years before purchasing their first home together, something that had always been his dream.

On Monday, June 19, 2017, Willie's family, friends, and representatives of the U.S. Army, the Miami VA Healthcare System, the William ``Bill" Kling Veterans Clinic, the Broward County Veterans Coalition, and Broward County Transit will gather at the location of the accident to honor his memory and place a memorial plaque. He is remembered as a soft-spoken and honorable man, beloved by his family and friends. I am very pleased to honor his life and legacy.

June 20, 2017

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Introducing a Resolution Expressing support for addressing the Arab-Israeli conflict in a  
concurrent track with the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and commending Arab and  
Muslim-majority states that have improved bilateral relations with Israel**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bipartisan resolution supporting the concurrent-track approach to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. I want to acknowledge and thank Representative Eliot Engel, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and my friend and colleague across the aisle, Representative David Schweikert, for introducing this resolution with me.

There is no reason to parse words: the Israeli-Palestinian conflict presents an immensely difficult challenge. There are no easy answers. Successive United States Presidential administrations have pursued peace agreements between the parties for over 30 years, from the 1982 Reagan Plan for Middle East Peace to the 1993 Oslo Accords, Camp David Summit, Clinton Parameters, Annapolis Conference, and efforts to restart the peace process under the Obama Administration. Today, it seems as if progress has ground to a halt.

The relationship between America and Israel is paramount. We stand with our ally and continue to support efforts to move the peace process forward, whenever and in any way possible. Despite lack of progress, Israel and some of her Arab neighbors have worked quietly and behind the scenes to improve bilateral relations in recent years. Common threats posed by Iran and the Islamic State have allowed for new limited dialogues to emerge. However limited they may be, these interactions present a new approach for improving the outlook of the Middle East.

The concurrent-track approach, sometimes referred to as the "outside-in" approach, encourages Arab and Muslim-majority states to improve bilateral relations with Israel, as Israel and the Palestinian Authority concurrently work to advance the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. Although there are rarely, if ever, easy solutions to challenges as complex as bringing lasting peace to the Middle East, Congress should encourage and support those states willing to engage in that endeavor.

The resolution expresses support for the concurrent track approach, and commends Arab and Muslim-majority states that have already taken steps to improve their bilateral relations with Israel. I, like nearly all of my colleagues in Congress, continue to support a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, negotiated between the State of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, and resulting in two states for two peoples, living side-by-side in peace, security, and mutual recognition. I believe this is the only way to ensure that both the Israeli people and the Palestinian people can have a sovereign homeland. The inability to achieve a two-state solution threatens the State of Israel's security and identity as the democratic homeland of the Jewish people, just as it impedes the well-being and self-determination of the Palestinian people.

Earlier this month, we marked the 50th Anniversary of Israel's Six-Day War and the anniversary of the re-unification of Jerusalem. For the 19 years Jerusalem was divided, Jews were forced

from the Jewish Quarter and the Old City, barred from Holy sites, and Jewish cemeteries and synagogues were vandalized. In the days leading up to the six-day war, the armies of Egypt, Jordan, and Syria massed on Israel's borders, threatening the Jewish people with annihilation for the second time in just two decades. The Israeli people fought for their survival and achieved a miraculous victory. In reuniting the city, Jerusalem once again became a place where people of all faiths can worship.

Despite this victory, the final status of Jerusalem and the safety of the State of Israel and its people, regardless of ethnicity or religion, will not be secured until peace is achieved.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce this bipartisan resolution today, and urge its speedy consideration and passage by this body.

**June 20, 2017**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Mr. John A. Shanley**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. John Aloysius Shanley. John was a loving husband and father. He passed away peacefully on June 5, 2017, in the comfort of his home, surrounded by his family, after a hard fought battle against ALS.

John was known for his sense of humor, his youthful heart, and his successful business, P.G. Tire Inc. Known to his family as "PopPop," John is survived by his wife Marlene Shanley and four loving children Genevieve and Charles Hawk, Nicholle and Kenneth Simpson, Joseph and Natalie Shanley, and Marilyn Shanley, as well as his sister, Sharon Shanley of Las Vegas, NV. He has 7 grandchildren, Andrew Simpson, Ryleigh Simpson, Elizabeth Hawk, Colin Hawk, Maggie Shanley, Jack Shanley and Blaise Ingoglia.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. John Aloysius Shanley will be remembered as a humorous and humble man, beloved by his family and friends. I am very pleased to honor his life and legacy here on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this most difficult time.

**June 20, 2017**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Honoring the Life and Legacy Mr. Leo Shey**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Leo Shey of Pembroke Pines, Florida. Leo was a dear friend of mine who sadly passed away on June 13, 2017.

Leo was born in the Bronx, New York. He served honorably in the United States Navy, and after marrying his wife Bunny in 1950, they moved to Dade County in South Florida in 1958. As a mortgage banker, Leo dedicated many years of his career specializing in low-income housing in Dade and Broward counties, and also served on the board of directors of the Park Place Association for 40 years. Through his contributions, Leo made a profound impact in South Florida.

Leo went on to establish himself in Atlanta, Georgia where he emerged as an ally of the African American business community. At the forefront of civil rights activism, Leo became an esteemed member of the 100 percent Wrong Club.

Distinguishing himself through extraordinary involvement in the community, Leo touched countless lives. He is survived by his wife Bunny, and adored by father of Nina Voges (Dan), Michael (Barbara), like-a-son Seth Brown, and predeceased by Douglas. Beloved and wise grandfather of Tim (Rachel), Caitlin (Todd), Sherri and Terri (Cesar), and blended family Danielle (Jorge del Valle, Arya and Jayley) and Sean Voges (Alice). Adoring Pop-pop of Wilhelmina, Sebastian and Violette Leo.

Mr. Speaker, words cannot express how deeply saddened I am for the passing of such a kind soul. I was devastated to learn of the death of one of the nicest people I have ever known. Leo was not a large man, but he was most among men. It is with a heavy heart that I honor his life and accomplishments, but most of all, to honor our friendship. My thoughts are with his loved ones, during this most difficult time.

June 22, 2017

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Introducing a Resolution Urging China, South Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, The Philippines,  
Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, India, And All Nations To Outlaw The Dog And Cat Meat  
Trade And To Enforce Existing Laws Against The Trade**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bipartisan resolution urging China, South Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, India, and all nations to outlaw the dog and cat meat trade and to enforce existing laws against the trade. It might surprise you to learn that an estimated 30,000,000 dogs and a great number of cats die annually across Asia for the dog and cat meat trade.

This resolution would urge nations that have a dog and cat meat trade to adopt and enforce anti-cruelty laws, urge those nations to increase efforts to prevent leather and fur by-products from entering international markets, and encourage those nations to enforce their food safety laws to crack down on the sale of dog and cat meat.

It is my sincere hope that this resolution will send a strong message to countries where the dog and cat meat trade still exist, and continue the animal protection movement that is already rapidly growing across Asia.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this body will expeditiously pass this measure. Doing so will reaffirm America's commitment to the humane treatment of our most beloved companions.

**June 26, 2017**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Welcoming President Moon Jae-In Of the Republic Of Korea On The Occasion Of His  
First Official Visit to the United States**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Republic of Kazakhstan on hosting the much anticipated EXPO 2017, and to congratulate them on the 20th anniversary of the founding of the capital city Astana, where the Expo is being held.

The theme for EXPO 2017 is "Future Energy," which is particularly fitting for Kazakhstan as the country has become a leader in renewable energy in Central Asia. Kazakhstan's efforts with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in the 1990's, as well as their ratification of the more recent Kyoto Protocol extension, clearly exhibit their commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and slowing global warming. Domestically, Kazakhstan continues to construct hydropower plants, providing jobs to local communities while meeting the increasing demands for energy in Eurasia. Additionally, the Kyzylorda and Aral regions have been proposed for the installation of solar power plants and solar stills in rivers to better provide clean drinking water to those areas in need of this life sustaining resource. Finally, Kazakhstan has provided robust funding for research dedicated to the advancement of wind energy efficiency.

I would like to also note the great work of our Kazakh friends in building Astana into one of the most industrialized cities in Central Asia over the past 20 years. This diligent work has resulted in Astana exhibiting remarkable growth in investment, industrial output, and small business development since its designation as capital in 1997. In addition, Astana's education and healthcare systems serve as a model for the programs of fellow recovering post-Soviet nations.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to continuing to pursue a strong U.S.-Kazakh relationship as we work together to bring peace and security to Central Asia, and as we work together to decrease greenhouse gas emissions and invest in renewable energy.

June 26, 2017

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Congratulating the Republic Of Kazakhstan for Hosting Expo 2017 and On the 20th  
Anniversary of Kazakhstan's Capital City, Astana**

Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Korea Caucus, I am honored to rise today to welcome President Moon Jae-In of the Republic of Korea on his first official visit to the United States.

The Republic of Korea and the United States have been not only allies, but close friends, for nearly 70 years. This alliance and friendship was solidified in our 1953 Mutual Defense Treaty with the Republic of Korea, and it is this commitment which binds us together today as we confront the threat posed by a nuclear and ever bellicose North Korea.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to continuing my work with my Korean friends as we work to make the peninsula, and broader region, safe and prosperous for all people dedicated to the rule of law and a democratic way of life. I wish President Moon a safe and productive visit to the United States.

July 11, 2017

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Introducing a House Resolution Disapproving Of UNESCO World Heritage Committee  
Inscription of Hebron as a Palestinian World Heritage Site in Danger**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a House Resolution disapproving of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO's) World Heritage Committee Inscription of the ancient city of Hebron as a Palestinian World Heritage Site in Danger. A UNESCO resolution inscribing Hebron was approved at the end of last week, and is the latest in a regrettable trend at the United Nations (UN). Truly, it seems as if every time I turn around the UN or one of its agencies is pursuing a radical anti-Israel agenda.

In recognizing Hebron as a Palestinian World Heritage Site, UNESCO has once again attempted to rewrite Jewish history out of world history. In the past year, the UN has adopted resolutions that have omitted Jewish identity from the Temple Mount, named for the location of the Jewish Temple two thousand years ago, and also chastised Israel for planting 'fake Jewish graves' in the vicinity. This is ridiculous and bordering on anti-Semitism.

The resolution on Hebron is no different. At the center of Ancient Hebron lays the Cave of the Patriarchs, a shrine that is holy to Jews, Christians, and Muslims, and recognized as the burial place of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs of the Jewish people, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob, and Leah. It is the second most holy site in Judaism, behind only the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount, where the ancient Jewish Temple stood more than two thousand years ago.

The Cave of the Patriarchs sits within a compound constructed by Herod, an ancient King of Judea during the Second Temple Period, when it served as a place for Jewish prayers at the grave sites of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs of Judaism. When the city of Hebron was conquered 700 years ago by the Mamluks, the compound was converted into a mosque and Jews were prohibited from entering. Thus was the case for nearly 700 years, until the city of Hebron was liberated by Israeli forces during the Six-Day War in 1967 and re-established as a place where all religions could worship.

This history is important, Mr. Speaker, because UNESCO's World Heritage Committee does not appear to care about it. But I do. We do. All of us in this body understand the importance of world heritage. The UN does itself a great disservice when it allows these revisionist measures to move forward.

Even as wars and humanitarian disasters rage across the globe, the UN remains relentless in its anti-Israel agenda. I therefore felt it necessary to introduce this resolution today disapproving of UNESCO's inscription of Hebron and its Cave of the Patriarchs as a Palestinian World Heritage Site in Danger, and calling on this body to reject any anti-Israel measure that may follow. I ask that it be given immediate consideration.

July 19, 2017

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Mrs. Lori Ann Glasser**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Lori Ann Glasser, whom we sadly lost on July 18, 2017. Lori was a constituent and friend of mine, and I will miss her dearly. My thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends in this undoubtedly difficult time.

Lori contributed greatly to the growth of Democratic politics in Florida, specifically in Broward County. She was the president of the Sunrise Regular Democratic Club, and the past president of the Council of Democratic Club Presidents for Broward County. She held that position for 5 years, becoming the longest serving president in that organization's history. She was also the past president of the Gold Coast Women's Democratic Club of Broward County, and the Broward Democratic Party Area Leader for Sunrise, Plantation, North Lauderdale, and Tamarac.

She was an elected Florida Delegate representing the 20th and 23rd Congressional Districts at every Democratic National Convention from 1992 to 2008, and proudly served on numerous boards and committees both political and civil.

Lori's contributions to our community will be remembered for years to come. She is survived by her husband, Craig Glasser of Sunrise, Florida, and her son. May their faith bring comfort to them in their time of grief, and know that Lori's spirit and loving memory will always live on.

July 24, 2017

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Honoring Mr. Sam Otis Smith On The Occasion Of His 85th Birthday**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Sam Otis Smith, on the occasion of his 85th birthday, which will be celebrated on July 25, 2017. Sam is an outstanding individual and I am truly blessed to be able to count him among one of my dearest friends.

Sam was born July 25, 1932 in Charles City County, Virginia. He graduated in 1955 with a B.A. in Agriculture from Virginia State College and was Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. During the course of his career he was awarded three Army Commendation Medals; two Bronze Star Medals; and the Legion of Merit Medal. After 20 years of service to his country, he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1975. That year, Sam began his tenure as the Director of the Physical Plant at Virginia State University, until his retirement in 1989. Sam spent the latter years of his career as a Realtor.

The tenth of eleven children born to Elizabeth Bassett Smith and Charles Smith, Sam has always been devoted to his family and friends. He remains an active member of numerous professional, charitable, and sport organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the great privilege of knowing Sam for many years, and it gives me great pride to honor him on the occasion of his 85th birthday. I wish him many more years of happiness and success.

August 25, 2017

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Mr. Donald Richard Wilson**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Donald Richard Wilson, who sadly died on July 25, 2017 at the age of 77. Mr. Wilson, as he was affectionately known by so many, was born on April 22, 1940 to William (Gus) and Annie Mae Wilson. He remained a lifelong resident of Palm Beach County. During his youth, he, along with his two brothers was raised with strict Christian discipline by their mother, Annie Mae Wilson. She worked tirelessly to insure that the boys would receive the best possible education and upbringing she could provide.

A product of the Palm Beach County Public School System, Donald graduated in 1958 from Roosevelt High School, going on to Bethune Cookman, and Florida A&M Universities. After college, he returned home with a degree in elementary education and Gloria, his wife, who was the love of his life for fifty-three years.

Baptized at an early age in St. Paul AME Church, Donald remained a member in good standing throughout his life. He sang in the choir and chaired the Cultural and Artistic Committee and the Steward Board. Donald retired from the Palm Beach County School District in 1996, having served for 35 years as a teacher and administrator. For 22 years, he officiated in children's football and basketball games. A man who truly loved his city, he served on Riviera Beach's City Council for six years.

Donald Wilson was significantly involved in getting the first black firefighters hired in Riviera Beach. He helped produce many Afro Arts festivals and fathered the Riviera Beach Jazz & Blues Festival. Donald was principally involved in awarding over 2,500 athletic scholarships, 2,000 academic scholarships and 750 personal need scholarships to black students, during his 51-year tenure as Vice President of the Youth Recreation Association of Riviera Beach.

Mr. Speaker, Donald Wilson was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and friend to so many. He was a highly respected member of his community. Donald left behind a great legacy to which everyone who knew him will always point as a life well lived. I was proud to call him my friend, and will dearly miss him.

August 25, 2017

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Honoring Mrs. Emma L. Kern Black On The Occasion Of Her 80th Birthday**

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mrs. Emma L. Kern Black on the occasion of her 80th birthday, which was celebrated on January 8, 2017.

Emma was born in Kosciusko, Mississippi to Mr. Jimmy and Manella Kern in 1937. Graduating as valedictorian of her high school in 1955, Emma went on to receive her Bachelor of Science degree from Jackson State College and receive her Master of Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1965. During her time in college, Emma became a member of organizations such as Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, the Sunday School Organization and the Who's Who in Colleges and Universities.

With a love for education, Emma began her career as a third grade teacher at Oak Park Elementary School in Laurel, Mississippi in 1959 until 1964. Emma went on to serve in the Broward County Public School System as a primary early childhood education specialist until her retirement in 1995. During her career, Emma collaborated and led multiple educational projects and served on student and teacher evaluation teams representing the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges. Emma additionally was an adjunct professor at Nova University of Broward County.

As an active member of First Baptist Church Piney Grove in Fort Lauderdale, Emma served as organizer, musician and director of the Junior Choir for 26 years and Sunday School teacher and musician for over 40 years. This dedication and devotion resulted in her being recognized with the "Women in Religion" award by the Broward County Chapter of Charmettes, Inc. in 2002. Emma's community activities involve: The Lakeside Homeowners Association; the Board of Adjustment for the City of Oakland; Rock Island Elementary School Improvement Team; the Broward County School Readiness Coalition; the Cradle Nursey Boards of Director; the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); the Urban League of Broward County; as well as being a Golden Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Alumni Chapter of Fort Lauderdale; a member of the Jackson State University Alumni Association; and Broward County Retired Teachers Association.

After more than 40 years of public service, Emma enjoys traveling domestically and internationally with her husband Dr. Malcolm Black, whom she met the first night of college at a freshmen gathering on campus.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the great privilege of knowing Mrs. Emma Kern Black for many years. I am so happy to be able to honor her on the occasion of her 80th birthday, and wish her many more years of happiness and success.

September 21, 2017

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Recognizing Dr. Anthony Lockhart, Florida's 2017 Principal of the Year**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Anthony Lockhart, Principal at Lake Shore Middle School and Florida's 2017 Principal of the Year. Mr. Lockhart has shown outstanding merit and dedication to his profession. He has been a source of inspiration and courage for hundreds of students for more than 20 years with the Palm Beach County School District. He has gained well-earned accolades for his ability to connect with his students and has gone above and beyond his call of duty to improve the performance of a struggling school. Dr. Lockhart was named the Legacy Magazine 2015 Top High School Educators of the Year and was also named one of the top 50 most influential black professionals.

After graduating from Jackson State University, Dr. Lockhart worked as a counselor to young people--it is this critically important work that would eventually lead him to become a school guidance counselor and work his way up to principal. Dr. Lockhart believes that education is the great equalizer--that no matter what socioeconomic or racial background an individual comes from, they can accomplish anything if they obtain an education.

Lake Shore Middle School faced many challenges when Dr. Lockhart became Principal. Not shy about rolling up his sleeves and getting to work, he started interviewing teachers and community members to ascertain what needed to be done to make the school as successful as he knew it could be. Dr. Lockhart, armed with this information, then worked with teachers and community members alike to change the school culture. This diligent work resulted in the school going from being graded at a F- to a C rated school and being recognized by Florida Governor Rick Scott for being in the top ten percent of middle schools in five categories. Dr. Lockhart has no doubt that this achievement could not have been possible without the efforts from a supportive community, a focused group of educators, and a dedicated administrative staff. Instead of seeing students that embraced a failing attitude, he saw children that had not been given an opportunity to succeed; he saw teachers that needed encouragement, training and support; and a community that could be convinced that success was possible.

Mr. Speaker, as we recognize and honor Dr. Anthony Lockhart today for his accomplishments and his dedication, may we also recognize the hope and light educators like Dr. Lockhart bring to the future of this country.

**September 25, 2017**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Celebrating the 95th Anniversary of the Founding Of Riviera Beach, Florida**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Riviera Beach, Florida. Riviera Beach is celebrating its 95th anniversary with a major event, "Happy Birthday, Riviera Beach."

Riviera Beach is known as the "little city by the sea." Descendants of Bahamian settlers were among those who decided on September 29, 1922 to create the Town of Riviera. At the time of its incorporation, Riviera was one of the largest shipping points for fish on Florida's east coast. That fishing capacity drew more Bahamians to the area, including many black Bahamians.

Mr. Speaker, in 2012, that strong tie would become the basis for the formation of a sister city relationship between the cities of Riviera Beach and Freeport on Grand Bahama. Riviera Beach, with its diverse population, has become known as a great place to live, work and play. I am very proud of this fine city, its residents and its elected officials, and I am glad that it has always been part of my Congressional district. Happy Birthday, Riviera Beach.

**October 10, 2017**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Diane Glasser**

Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous sadness that I rise today to honor the life and contributions of Diane Glasser. Diane was a former Vice Mayor of the City of Tamarac, a dear personal friend, a constituent, and an activist who contributed greatly to the growth of Democratic politics in Broward County and Florida. She passed away on October 10, 2017 at the age of 89, and is survived by her son Craig Glasser of Sunrise, Florida.

Originally from Mill Basin in Brooklyn, New York, Diane and her husband moved to the City of Tamarac in 1973. She worked in the construction industry for twelve years. In 2004, Diane was appointed First Vice Chairwoman of the Florida Democratic Party.

She was then elected to the Tamarac City Commission in 2008, where she served until her retirement in 2016. She also served on various Boards in Broward County, including the Broward School Board Senior Advisory Task Force and the Broward Human Rights Board.

Diane was an Elected Florida Delegate in the last six Democratic National Conventions, and cast her vote in the Electoral College for the State of Florida in 1996 for Former President Bill Clinton and in 2000 for Former Vice President Al Gore.

Mr. Speaker, Diane was a very special woman who profoundly impacted our community. Her spirit and loving memory will always live on. She will be dearly missed.

October 12, 2017

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Mother Geneva Green Russell**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Geneva Green Russell of Boynton Beach, Florida, who passed away at the age of 100 on May 6, 2017. Georgia-born and Florida educated, Mother Russell received her primary education in Delray Beach public schools.

Mother Russell spiritual life began at the young age of twelve. She was one of the charter members of the then, newly established Church of God in Boynton Beach and served over the years in numerous capacities, including church secretary, musician, and the Women's Ministries President. On June 21, 1936, Mother Russell married Bishop Milton Russell of Abacoa, Bahamas, and alongside him ministered to the needs of her church, family, and community.

She was also a passionate philanthropist, serving as past president of the Parent Teacher Association and distinct member of the Senior Citizens Community Help Club. During this time, she provided medical transportation for sick and elderly citizens and amongst her friends and neighbors, became the "Designated Driver" for her group known as the "Golden Girls."

Mother Russell led her family by example as a strong Christian loving mother, and endlessly server of her community. Fond memories of her will forever remain with her seven children: Milton Jr., Jean, Joyce, Marjorie, Bernard, Evelyn and Stanley; fifteen grandchildren, twenty-one great-grandchildren, and twelve great-great-grandchildren, along with many relatives and friends.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Geneva Green Russell will be remembered by the many people she touched in her 100 years of life. She was truly a shining star of the Boynton Beach community. I am so pleased to honor her life and legacy. She will be dearly missed.

November 6, 2017

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Celebrating Keiser University's 40th Anniversary**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Keiser University on the commemoration of their 40th anniversary, which they will celebrate on November 10, 2017.

Keiser University was founded in 1977 by Dr. Arthur Keiser and his mother Mrs. Evelyn Keiser, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. By establishing Keiser University, Dr. Keiser and Evelyn sought to provide individuals the necessary educational tools for successfully navigating their chosen careers.

Over the past 40 years, Keiser University has been a shining example of what one can achieve through hard work and dedication. It has grown to become the third largest not-for-profit university in Florida, bolstering 66,000 alumni, over 100 degree granting programs, and 18 campuses across the state. Keiser University has even stretched beyond U.S. borders, establishing campuses abroad in Nicaragua, Moldova, and China.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have watched Keiser University grow and expand its reach. Today, it has an annual economic impact of approximately \$3 billion in Florida, while benefiting our residents with over 30,000 direct and indirect jobs each year.

Keiser University's philosophy of putting students first and treating them as individuals is to be commended. Their diverse student body includes veterans, first-generation students, parents, caregivers, and students who have already joined the workforce. Keiser University provides the skills necessary for students to be successful within our global economy, while maintaining flexibility through an impressive online curriculum, which allows non-traditional students the ability to access the quality education they rightly deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Keiser University's co-founders and family, Dr. Arthur Keiser, his mother Mrs. Evelyn Keiser, and Ms. Belinda Keiser, and the independent Keiser University Board of Trustees, for their enduring commitment to providing students with a superior education. Over the past 40 years, Keiser University has proven itself to be a home for quality higher education, and a source of great pride to the people of Florida. I am truly honored to represent Keiser University in my Congressional district, and wish them many years of continued success.

November 10, 2017

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Wishing Coach Herman ``Big Man'' Pittman A Happy 90th Birthday**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest birthday wishes to Coach Herman ``Big Man'' Pittman, who will be celebrating his 90th on Sunday, November 19, 2017.

As a young man, Herman was a gifted athlete. He displayed great ability to play the game of basketball, and throughout his high school career at Tampa Middleton High School, he played as the team's point guard. Because of his success, he would go on to earn an athletic scholarship to attend Florida Agriculture & Mechanical University (FAMU), where he lettered on the football team, as well as played starting guard on the FAMU Rattler Basketball Team.

During his time at FAMU, Herman led his team to two Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) Championships. He would go on to make First Team All-SIAC Conference and All-SIAC Tournament Team for two years. After graduating from FAMU with his Bachelor of Science in Physical Education, Herman joined the U.S. Army, where he was co-captain of the Fort Meade Generals in Maryland. Herman would go on to earn a Master's of Science in Health and Physical Education from Indiana University.

Herman began his career as a teacher and coach for the Dillard High School Panthers in 1955. He taught physical education and driver's education, and also coached basketball, football, and track during his tenure of 37 years. He also coached at Deerfield Beach High School, making a total of 18 years of coaching. His career as a basketball coach, record of conference participation shows seven Conference Championships, as well as being voted Outstanding Coach of the Conference five times. His teams won six District Championships and were runners-up two times. His teams also qualified for the state tournament seven times, having won four state titles, they qualified for participation in the National High School Tournament held at Tennessee State University in 1959, 1963, 1965, and 1967. His coaching records and contributions earned him the title of ``One of the Winningest and Most Outstanding Coaches in the Nation."

For Herman's outstanding contributions and commitment to youth and other service involvements in Broward County, he has been awarded numerous honors. The Community and School Board have likewise renamed the Dillard High School Gymnasium as the ``Herman Pittman Gymnasium."

As an educator, Herman once stated, ``I feel I'm out here trying to educate a child for life. I try to teach them to be able to make adjustments in a changing society. I do the same thing in the classroom that I do on the basketball court--you have to teach young people how to live." This is something that Herman has been committed to his entire life.

Outside of teaching and coaching, Herman has continued to dedicate his time to serving in a wide array of organizations that include: Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc. Fraternity, First Baptist Piney Grove Church, ``Meals on Wheels," The Kiwanis Club of Central Broward, FAMU Alumni Association, F Club, and the Dillard Task Force.

On Friday, November 3rd, Herman was honored at the 23rd Annual Mount Olive Development Corporation (MODCO) Community Service Awards Gala, entitled "A Celebration of Savvy Senior Citizens & Committed Military Servants." Among the things that he said was "the world is always evolving," in his 90 years he has evolved with the world. And, he has stood the test of time.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to wish a very happy 90th birthday to my very good friend, Coach Herman "Big Man" Pittman, whose service and dedication to the State of Florida and our nation is truly admirable. Herman will celebrate his birthday with his lovely wife Nielza, their three daughters Linda, Lisa, and Lavette, and their four grandchildren Chelsey, Colin, Mika, and Cody, as well as so many in our community, who love and respect all that he has contributed. I wish him many more years of happiness and success.

**December 6, 2017**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Mrs. Nezzie Marion**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy Mrs. Nezzie O. Marion of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, who passed away at the age of 102 on October 14, 2017. Born on May 15, 1915 to Mr. & Mrs. Allanza and Katie Oglesby, Mrs. Marion was Georgia-born and raised.

Married to the late Mr. Willie Preston Marion in 1937, the young couple moved to Fort Lauderdale in 1940. Mrs. Marion's spiritual life began at a young age. She was a faithful member of the New Mount Olive Baptist Church for 77 years, where she served on the Usher Board and the Pulpit Aide Ministry.

Mrs. Marion led her family by example as a strong Christian loving mother, embodying what it means to be a true servant to her community. Fond memories of her will forever remain with her four children: Willie Marion, Polly Harden, Lonzie Marion, and Beverly Hardemon; two sisters: Mary Caldwell and Annie Wallace; eleven grandchildren, nineteen great grandchildren, and eight great-great grandchildren, along with a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and other loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Nezzie O. Marion will be remembered by the many people she touched in her 102 years of life. She was truly a blessing to the Fort Lauderdale community. I am so pleased to honor her life and legacy. She will be dearly missed.

**December 6, 2017**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Mrs. Annie Jackson**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Annie Jackson of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, who passed away at the age of 99 on October 27, 2017. Mrs. Jackson was born in Waynesboro, Georgia and received her education in the Georgia State School system. She held a variety of jobs in her lifetime and retired from the Broward County School System, where she worked for over 29 years.

At the age of fourteen, Mrs. Jackson's spiritual life began at the Third Chapel Church in Midville, Georgia. She later joined and continued to serve at New Hope Baptist Church, until her health began to fail. Married to the late Mr. Jackson, Mrs. Jackson spent her time ministering to the needs of her church, family, and community.

Mrs. Jackson led her family by example as a strong Christian loving mother, and endless server of her community. Fond memories of her will forever remain with her son Rayford Smith; her sisters Florence Smith and Mae Julian Smith; four grand-children; three great grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; a great-great grandniece; her caretaker and host of other relatives and friends.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Annie Jackson will be remembered by the many people she touched in her 99 years of life. She was truly a shining star of the Fort Lauderdale community. I am so grateful to honor her life and legacy. She will be missed tremendously.

January 8, 2018

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Honoring Keiser University on Its 40th Anniversary**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Keiser University on celebrating its 40th anniversary. In doing so, I am pleased to be joined by colleagues of mine in the Florida Congressional delegation on introducing a resolution to mark this important milestone.

Keiser University was the vision of Dr. Arthur Keiser and his mother, Ms. Evelyn Keiser. In 1977, they set out to create a university designed to better serve adult learners seeking a career-focused education. Today, Keiser University proudly offers over 100 degree granting programs, and was recently ranked as the second best Florida College by the prestigious U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges 2017, rankings in the South region.

Over the past 40 years, Keiser University has been a shining example of what one can achieve through hard work and dedication. It has grown to become the third largest not-for-profit university in Florida, and boasts more than 66,000 alumni. The University has even stretched beyond the borders of the United States, establishing campuses abroad in Nicaragua, Moldova, and China.

Since coming to the U.S. Congress, I have watched Keiser University grow and expand its reach. Today, it has an annual economic impact of approximately \$3 billion in Florida, and benefits our residents with over 30,000 direct and indirect jobs each year.

Keiser University's philosophy of putting students first is to be commended. They have proven themselves to be a home for quality higher education, and a source of great pride to the people of Florida. I am truly honored to represent Keiser University in my Congressional district.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Keiser University on its 40th anniversary with colleagues of mine in the Florida delegation. I wish Dr. Arthur Keiser, his mother Ms. Evelyn Keiser, Ms. Belinda Keiser, and the Board of Trustees many more years of continued success.

January 8, 2018

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Introducing the Build America Act of 2018**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Build America Act of 2018, legislation that will significantly increase the size and scope of two very successful merit-based infrastructure grant programs without adding a penny to the national debt. Specifically, this legislation would remove the Capital Investment Grant Program (CIG), also known as New Starts/Small Starts, and the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Grant Program (TIGER Grants) from the annual appropriations process, establishing them as mandatory programs with permanent and expanded funding. My bill proposes to increase TIGER funding to \$3 billion annually, and to increase CIG funding to \$9 billion.

These grants have helped local communities prioritize their own projects; however they have been chronically underfunded in the past. For instance, since 2009, Congress has dedicated nearly \$5.1 billion for eight rounds of TIGER funding, yet the program received \$10.1 billion in applications in FY2015 alone. The process is competitive, and allows the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to reward applicants that exceed eligibility criteria and demonstrate significant non-Federal funding commitments.

By increasing these funding levels and removing the programs from the annual appropriations process, we will take the guesswork and uncertainty out of the programs. This in turn will allow communities around the country to submit funding requests for merit-based awards for projects of national, regional, or metropolitan-area significance. The projects include construction and repair of roads, bridges, and tunnels, the installation of high speed internet, revitalization of drinking water, and the construction and expansion of fixed-guideway public transportation systems, including subways, light rail, commuter rail, and bus rapid transit (BRT).

Mr Speaker, we have talked about prioritizing a large-scale infrastructure package for years. Congressional Democrats recently unveiled a trillion-dollar plan to make these investments and create tens of thousands of jobs. However, like so many other proposals, it was rejected out of hand by the Majority. Despite controlling the House, the Senate, and the White House, the Majority has not yet offered any plan of their own. All the while, the situation continues to grow worse.

Every four years, the American Society of Civil Engineers' issues a "Report Card" for America's Infrastructure. The report depicts the condition and performance of American infrastructure, assigning letter grades based on the physical condition and needed investments for improvement across 16 major infrastructure categories. The most recent report card was issued last year. Among the national rankings, transit systems were rated a D- and roads were rated a D.

Dams: D.

Drinking water: D.

Inland waterways: D.

Levees: D.

We need to move this process forward. I am therefore proud to offer my own legislation today--not for a massive, all-encompassing infrastructure package--but rather, for a common sense expansion of successful programs based on need and merit. I urge my colleagues to consider it without delay, so that our country can begin making the investments it desperately needs.

January 25, 2018

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Mr. Raleigh R. Rawls**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Raleigh R. Rawls. Raleigh was a gentleman and scholar, and dear friend of mine. He was a very strong family man, and a staple of our community for all of his professional life.

After completing his first semester of his senior year at Dillard High School in Fort Lauderdale, Raleigh was drafted into the United States Navy where he was honorably discharged in 1946. After completing his service, he applied and was accepted into Howard University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English. After graduating from Howard University, Raleigh worked for the Veterans Administration for three years as an insurance processor for veterans.

In 1953, Raleigh returned to his alma mater to attend law school, where he graduated in 1956. It was at Howard University Law School that Raleigh had the chance to engage with notables such as Dr. James Nabrit and Dr. George E.C. Hayes. Raleigh also witnessed history being made when he observed Attorney Thurgood Marshall practice arguing the case of Brown v. the Board of Education.

While many of his classmates remained in Washington, D.C. upon graduating, Raleigh made a conscious decision to return to the segregated south, so that he could influence young Black students. After passing the bar exam in 1957, Raleigh became the first lawyer to graduate from Dillard High School and the second Black lawyer to practice in Broward County.

Raleigh served the South Florida community in many capacities that included: a founding member of the TJ Reddick Bar Association, a founding member of the Broward County Urban League, a founding member of the Sistrunk Festival, a board member of the Boys and Girls Club of Broward County, a member of the Robert Bethel Post 220 of the American Legion, a member of the Community Service Council, a board member of the LA Lee Branch YMCA, a board member of the Old Dillard Museum, and a member of Dillard High School's Taskforce for Quality Education. Raleigh was also a lifetime member of the National Bar Association, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., which he joined while attending Howard University.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Raleigh R. Rawls will be remembered by the many people he touched in his 92 years of life. Fond memories of him will forever remain with his wife of over 50 years, Annie Ruth Robinson, and his four children: Regina, Rene, Renard (married to Michelle), and Rodney (married to Demetria), as well as his six grandchildren: Cameron, Reagan, Samara, Morgan, Nathan, and Keon. He was truly a blessing to the Fort Lauderdale community. I am so pleased to honor his life and legacy. He will be dearly missed.

**February 13, 2018**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Ms. Carolyn Morrow Cheney**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ms. Carolyn Morrow Cheney. Carolyn was a loving mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She passed away peacefully on February 8, 2018, surrounded by her family and friends, after a hard fought battle with cancer.

I was so grateful to be able to speak with Carolyn before her passing. In the final moments of her life, she was both generous and kind, and I am extremely thankful for her many years of friendship.

Carolyn started her career in Washington in 1972 as a staffer for Congressman James R. Jones (D-OK), and quickly moved through the ranks, while also juggling the responsibility of being a single mom. From 1976 until 1983, she served on the Commission on Administrative Review, as Chief of Staff to Congressman Fred Richmond (D-NY), and as Staff Director of the Agriculture Subcommittee on Domestic Marketing and Nutrition. Throughout her time on Capitol Hill, Carolyn made positive contributions to House ethics, food stamp programs, and the 1981 Farm Bill. She was known for her ability to gracefully work ``across the aisle."

After her stint on the Hill, Carolyn was charged with opening Staley Continental's first Washington office, where she was promoted to VP for Government Affairs, the first female executive in Staley's 75-year history. Starting in 1991, Carolyn represented the Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida and the Domino and C & H refineries. While tirelessly advocating on behalf of the sugar industry and Florida producers, she helped pass five Farms Bills, as well as assisted U.S. officials while they negotiated trade deals.

Carolyn was a founding member of the American Sugar Alliance, where she served as its valued Chair five times. Throughout her tenure representing the sugar industry, she generously gave her time and advice, leaving a lasting impact on numerous careers. Her professional accomplishments led the Sand Springs (OK) Education Foundation to induct her in the Hall of Fame in 2010.

Throughout her lifetime, Carolyn served on the board of the Center for National Policy, the American Sugar Alliance, the Friends of the National Arboretum, and the Board of the Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery. Beginning in the 1990s, Carolyn started worshipping at the Christ Church, where she served on the Vestry from 1992 to 2002 as Senior Warden. She also served on and chaired the Finance Committee, volunteered to arrange flowers for the alter, read lessons, and lead prayers of the people.

Carolyn will be remembered for her deep personal friendships, generosity, humor, love of politics, current events, books, fine dining, the Nationals, theater, gardening, music, and her church. Fond memories of her will forever remain with her son, Lance Stephen Cheney, sisters, Mary Morrows Manes, Marty Morrow Morris, and Vicki Morrow Sisney, as well as her grandsons Dale Hay Baker, Tre Conterez and great grandchildren Gunnar and Gabriel Baker.

Mr. Speaker, I was so honored to have known Carolyn and to call her my friend. My thoughts and prayers are with her family, friends, and colleagues during this most difficult time. She will be dearly missed.

February 14, 2018

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Recognizing Ms. Holly Adams for Her Internship with the Uni-Capitol Washington  
Internship Programme**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Holly Adams. Holly has been an intern in my Washington, D.C. Congressional office since the beginning of January, through the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme (UCWIP).

For the past 19 years, the program has paired students from nearly a dozen partner universities in Australia with offices on Capitol Hill, giving hundreds of students the opportunity to work in the halls of Congress. I have been honored to host a number of extremely talented interns through the UCWIP. Holly is, of course, no exception.

Holly is currently enrolled at Deakin University in Geelong, Victoria, where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Laws Degree and a Bachelor of International Studies Degree: As a student of International studies, she has already travelled extensively, participating in international politics study tours in Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, New York, as well as Tokyo.

Holly has proven herself to be a very hardworking and dedicated individual. Throughout her internship, she has interacted extensively with my constituents, by drafting correspondence, helping to address questions, comments, and concerns for those contacting or visiting my office. She has also attended a number of hearings and briefings on a wide range of topics facing our nation and world. '

Indeed, Holly proved herself to be so capable, she prepared a FY2019 Programmatic Request letter for circulation throughout the U.S. House of Representatives on rail safety. It is no wonder that she was chosen by her classmates to give the "valedictory" speech at her program's closing reception.

Last year, Holly was accepted to study international human rights at Kings College, London. I have no doubt that she will do great as she continues her studies. I am proud to congratulate Holly on all of her achievements, and to thank her for everything that she has done for my office, my district, state, and our country. She has a very bright and exciting future ahead of her, and I wish her the very best.

**February 27, 2018**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Recognition of Ms. Francesca Alfano**

Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to rise today to honor Ms. Francesca Alfano, for her outstanding community service work in her hometown of West Palm Beach, Florida.

Ms. Alfano was one of five students selected by Florida's Hometown U.S.A. Program, Inc. this year. She is a high school junior at Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts, a public high school located in West Palm Beach, Florida. She is the daughter of Monique McCall and Gianpaolo Alfano.

Throughout this year, Ms. Alfano will proudly represent West Palm Beach as she travels to visit nursing homes, children's hospitals, Veteran's hospitals, charity events, and other activities throughout the State of Florida.

She certainly reflects the values of Florida's Hometown U.S.A. Program, Inc., which encourages and supports students who have a desire to volunteer. There is truly no limit to the difference students like Ms. Alfano can make in the lives of their neighbors with the support of organizations like Florida's Hometown U.S.A., Inc.

Florida's Hometown U.S.A. Program, Inc. is a non-profit educational youth organization, which has received Disney's Helping Kids Shine Award, Disney's VoluntEAR of the Year, the Governor's Points of Light Award from former Governor Jeb Bush, and the national President's Daily Points of Light Award from former President George W. Bush.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that Ms. Francesca Alfano represents my district. She is a student and community member whom we can all admire and respect. I commend her for her deep commitment to volunteer work, and wish her the best as she pursues her high school diploma and beyond.

March 7, 2018

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Condemning the Seventh Anniversary of the Syrian Civil War**

Mr. Speaker, as the Ranking Democratic Member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission), I rise today to denounce the human rights abuses taking place across the globe. In particular, I call attention to the ongoing Syrian Civil War.

Since 2011, it is estimated that almost 500,000 Syrians have been killed with millions more displaced, creating a refugee crisis across Europe and the Middle East. On March 15th, we will sadly mark the seventh anniversary of the Syrian Civil War, which is one of the bloodiest wars of the last 70 years.

I traveled to Syria in January 2010 and personally met with President Bashar al-Assad. As I pressed him on the importance of honoring the right of his people to exercise their civil liberties and fundamental freedoms, I knew immediately that he would not give in. Many others, like me, recognized this long before civil war erupted. And yet, years have passed without the necessary effort by the international community to stop the violence.

On May 28, 2013, I sent a letter to former President Barack Obama and Ambassador Susan Rice, urging them to support imposing a no-fly zone over Syria, particularly in light of the continued indiscriminate shelling of innocent civilians and the use of chemical weapons by the Assad regime. I renewed my calls for a no-fly zone to President Obama again on September 25, 2015.

Mr. Speaker, what we have witnessed since the start of this civil war is indiscriminate, brutal attacks against civilians. The international community must no longer sit idly by and let more families be torn apart and more civilians become refugees.

According to the United Nations (UN), nearly 3 million Syrian children have lived their entire lives gripped by civil war. This is absolutely outrageous, and something needs to happen, and it needs to happen now.

Mr. Speaker, it has been seven years, let me repeat myself, seven years, since this civil war began. This crisis, in which millions of innocent Syrians find themselves today, demands our full attention and fervent commitment to creating a strategy that will bring an end to the deplorable conditions facing the Syrian people. The need for immediate and strong action remains. With each passing day, the violence has grown more sectarian, militarized, and radicalized at the cost of innocent Syrian lives.

**March 8, 2018**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Captain George Frank Myles, Jr.**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend, Captain George Frank Myles, Jr. George passed away peacefully on March 4, 2018 at the age of 69 in Boca Raton, Florida. He was a husband, father, grandfather, brother, nephew, uncle, friend, and dedicated public servant. George is survived by his wife of 46 years, Jacqueline Williams Myles; their three daughters: Tequisha, Kendyll, and Kersti Myles; one grandchild Savannah; sister, Fossteen Reese (Ellenwood, GA); brother, Michael Myles (Augusta, GA); aunt, Juanita Phillips (Decatur, GA); and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and godchildren.

A native of Augusta, Georgia, George was a star football and basketball player at T.W. Josey High School. Through football, he attended Morris Brown College in Atlanta, GA. In 1970, George graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and a Minor in Psychology. That same year, "Brick" Myles, as he was known on the football field, was drafted by the Miami Dolphins. As his professional football career was beginning, his draft number was called to serve his country. As the first African American to graduate from the Georgia Military Institute's Officers Candidates School in Milledgeville, Georgia, George subsequently joined the Florida National Guard.

In 1971, George went to work for Sears, Roebuck & Co., and became a manager there in 1983. He served as General Manager at the Westside Mall in Miami, and at Searstown in downtown Fort Lauderdale. George always made it a priority to diversify the workforce by employing local minority residents. In 1991, he retired from Sears to start his own business.

George entered politics in 1993, where he was a Commissioner for the City of Lauderhill. During the course of his career, George served on the boards of numerous community organizations such as the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, Urban League of Broward County, the United Negro College Fund, National Conference of Christians and Jews, Broward County Girl Scouts of America, as well as countless other organizations.

Mr. Speaker, George's civic engagement in our community will never be forgotten. He was a true gentleman, who served this nation and our great state with distinction. George's positive contributions to the community were a true reflection to his generosity, humor, love of public service, and family.

I was so truly honored to have known George, and to call him my friend. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this most difficult time. He will be dearly missed.

**April 17, 2018**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Lottie Albert**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of my dear friend Lottie Albert. Lottie was born on December 25, 1915 to Eva and Louis Wernick in New York City. Twenty-one years later, Lottie married Sol Albert and the two enjoyed 55 years of marriage, and have two lovely daughters, Harriet and Doreen. Lottie was the loving grandmother to Eric, Glenn, and Lowell, as well as a great-grandmother to Kyle, Samantha, Heather, and Seth.

Lottie was a resident and community leader of Broward County for over 40 years. It has been my honor to see Lottie's commitment and passion for serving her community. She was an amazing individual, who dedicated herself to helping so many throughout South Florida.

In 1988, she was inducted into the Area Agency on Aging's Dr. Nan S. Hutchinson Broward Senior Hall of Fame. Additionally, Broward County honored Lottie in 2005 by declaring November 12th as "Lottie Albert Appreciation Day."

In 2012, Lottie was inducted into the Broward County Women's Hall of Fame for her work with the Ann Storck Children's Center, the Elderly Interest Fund's MEDIVAN Program, and the Alzheimer's Family Center.

Mr. Speaker, Lottie was an extraordinary friend. She helped me at every stage of my career, never wavering, never faltering. On good days and bad days, I knew Lottie would be there for me as she was for so many of us. Her advice, wisdom, humor, and vast knowledge of life will be sorely missed.

May 7, 2018

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Mr. Cyrus ``Russ'' M. Jollivette**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my very dear friend, Mr. Cyrus ``Russ'' M. Jollivette. I was fortunate to have known Russ for many years. His untimely passing is a true loss for the State of Florida.

Russ was born on August 5, 1946 in Miami, Florida to Frances Reeves Jollivette Chambers and Cyrus M. Jollivette, Sr. He is the brother of two sisters, Regina Jollivette Frazier and Cleo Leontine Jollivette.

He held a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from C.W. Post College, a Masters of Business Administration in Management from Long Island University, and a Juris Doctor from the University of Miami's (UM) School of Law.

Russ dedicated himself to the advancement of higher education, health access and services, and public service. While well-known for his 24 years of service at UM, and his 12 years of service at Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) of Florida, there are many other organizations, educational institutions, nonprofits, and community groups that Russ started, chaired, or directed.

Russ committed himself to creating and supporting educational opportunities for students in Florida and beyond, at colleges and universities from the University of Miami to St. Thomas University, Florida A&M University, Florida International University, University of Florida, University of North Florida, Barry University, Jacksonville University, Eckerd College, and community colleges throughout the state.

He also played a major role in the world of health, seeking support for several hospitals and medical schools, and especially children's hospitals and schools of nursing throughout Florida. He had served as the Chairman of the Dade Public Health Trust, and always sought support for the Children's Hospital at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Medical Center, the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, part of the University of Miami Health System, as well as cancer centers throughout Florida.

Additionally, Russ played a role in the world of philanthropy. He directed relations for the UM Foundation for decades and directed the BCBS Florida Blue Foundation. He was responsible for hundreds of millions of dollars reaching education, health, community, and nonprofit initiatives.

Russ was a special leader in the world of higher education and public service, and a leader in the African American community. Everywhere he went, he made a positive impact on those around him.

Fond memories of Russ will forever remain with his daughter Lynn Jollivette Johns, and his two beautiful grandchildren, Richard Franklin II and Lauren Marie.

Mr. Speaker, I was truly honored to have known Russ and to call him my friend. He was kind and generous person, who was always giving back. I know that Russ' spirit and loving memory will always live on. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this extremely difficult time. He will be dearly missed.

May 16, 2018

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
In Recognition Of the Outstanding Service of Coach Robert A. Green**

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today and recognize the achievements of Coach Robert A. Green, also known as "Pompey." Coach Green, a world-class runner, Army veteran, and Athletic Director at Dillard High School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, touched countless lives over the course of his distinguished career and represented the best of men, known by all for his generosity, kindness, and caring of his athletes.

Coach Green was born in Fort Myers, Florida and attended Dunbar High School. He was considered the fastest football player in his graduating class of 1949. He attended Allen College in Columbia, South Carolina, on a full football scholarship, where he obtained four Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championships in the 100-yard dash and became the first runner from Allen to run in the world famous Penn Relays in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After school, Coach Green joined the United States Army, receiving numerous awards, medals and commendations for achievements. While serving in the military, he tied the world record for the 100-yard dash at 9.3 seconds.

Coach Green began working at Dillard High School in Fort Lauderdale in 1957. He served as the Track Coach, Department Chair and Athletic Director over a 35-year career. He was the first African American Coach to attend the Broward County Coaches Clinic for Track Coaches, allowing Dillard High School to participate in the County's Integrated Track Meet in 1967.

He is also the founder of the Panther 100 Club. This innovative and vast booster club has donated over \$100,000 to the academic and athletic clubs of Dillard High School. These funds have afforded numerous unique opportunities for the children of Dillard High School, including trips to Alaska, New Orleans, and Washington, D.C. Coach Green is a member of the National Negro, Allen University, Florida High School and Dillard High School Halls of Fame. The tracks of Dillard High School and Dunbar High School are named in his honor and his football jersey, No. 4, is retired from use at Dunbar High School.

Mr. Speaker, Coach Robert A. Green is more than deserving of recognition in the annals of American History for his service to our country, and his dedication to the education, mentoring, and the personal development of the youth of Dillard High School. I thank him once again for his years of service.

May 21, 2018

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Commending Mr. Roger Dehart Of Broward County For Raising Awareness About  
Human Trafficking By Walking Over 1000 Miles**

Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to rise today to commend Mr. Roger DeHart, a devoted public servant who walked more than 1,000 miles from Fort Lauderdale, Florida to Washington, D.C., in order to raise awareness about human trafficking.

Roger is a Deputy Officer in the Broward County Courthouse. He began training for this walk six months ago, and after pooling his vacation time, he set-off from the steps of the Broward County Courthouse to the steps of the U.S. Capitol.

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery and the United States is one of the top destinations in the world for trafficked victims. Centers of tourism, including Florida, are major destinations for human trafficking victims--many of whom come from our own communities and schools. Florida now has the third highest rate of trafficking in the country, and Broward and Palm Beach Counties rank first and fourth respectively for in-state incidences of trafficking.

We are seeing a disturbing trend of victims being targeted at schools, where traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to control victims and subject them to compelled labor or commercial sex acts. One year ago, I led members of the South Florida Congressional Delegation in urging the Palm Beach County and Broward County Public Schools systems to incorporate human trafficking education into their curriculums in order to push back against this horrific crime.

Mr. Speaker, I am awe inspired by Roger's activism and dedication to raising awareness about an issue that is taking place in our community and in every state across our nation. Roger deserves a debt of gratitude for all that he is doing to bring about real change, and working to end human trafficking once and for all. It only takes one person to make a difference. I thank Roger for being an unsung hero to so many, for his service to our community and to our nation.

May 22, 2018

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
100th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Republic of Azerbaijan on the 100th Anniversary of its independence, which occurred on May 28, 1918. On the adoption of its Declaration of Independence, what was then known as the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, became the first secular parliamentary democracy in the Muslim world.

Since that time, Azerbaijan suffered an invasion by the Bolsheviks which led to the establishment of a Soviet government and ended with the forced incorporation of Azerbaijan into the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). As the Soviet Union collapsed, the people of Azerbaijan readied themselves for yet another independence movement culminating in the restoration of their independence on August 30, 1991--the United States once again recognized Azerbaijan's independence on December 25, 1991. Since that Christmas Day over twenty-five years ago, the United States has supported the Republic of Azerbaijan's political independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity within internationally recognized borders.

Mr. Speaker, Azerbaijan has not only been a friend to the United States in our times of need, most notably after September 11, 2001, when Azerbaijan gave us their unconditional assistance in bringing to justice those who carried out that cowardly attack, but also to our dear friend Israel. Azerbaijan and Israel recently celebrated twenty-five years of strong diplomatic relations. A relationship that has seen great growth in trade between the two nations and an ever increasing dedication to strengthening energy security in the region.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincerest congratulations to the people of Azerbaijan as they celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.

June 1, 2018

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
In Memory Of the Life of Reverend Joe C. Johnson**

Mr. Speaker, 2 Timothy 4:7-8 says, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing." Reverend Joe C. Johnson, senior pastor of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church in Hallandale Beach, Florida, finished the race with his passing on May 25, 2018. He will certainly be missed by his loved ones and those of us honored enough to call him a friend.

I had the pleasure of witnessing the profound impact that Reverend Johnson had throughout his four decades as pastor to one of the oldest churches in Broward County. His ministry was a cornerstone of a rich and vibrant faith community. Reverend Johnson bridged the gap between Hallandale Beach and Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church by hosting community events at the church. These events were so meaningful for his flock, and the larger community, that they were recognized for special commemoration on the occasion of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church's 101st Anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Johnson was a pillar of the community he loved, and his ultimate goal was helping people in all areas of their lives. He not only served as a leader to the members of his church, but as a counselor to local politicians, judges, and anyone who had the honor of knowing him. He also served as a chaplain for the Hallandale Beach Fire Department. Along with his extensive community engagement, Reverend Johnson sat on the board for the Hallandale Ministerial Association; the Florida East Coast Baptist Association; and Vision to Victory Human Services Corporation.

Though no words can ease our sorrow, I offer my deepest sympathy to Reverend Johnson's wife, Emma Inez, his three children, four grandchildren, and countless friends who were impacted by the magnitude of his ministry. The legacy of Reverend Johnson will continue to live on throughout the countless individuals who were impacted by his calling to serve.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Joe C. Johnson is deserving of honor for his service to Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, and his dedication to the mentoring, and personal development of leaders within the greater Hallandale Beach area and Broward County. His service and commitment exemplify the positive contribution an individual can make to their profession and community. Reverend Johnson was a very dear friend. Words cannot express how much he will be missed.

June 6, 2018

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Introducing a Resolution Recognizing People of African Descent and Black Europeans**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a resolution that I have introduced with my good friends, Congressman Gregory Meeks of New York and Congresswoman Gwen Moore of Wisconsin. Our resolution recognizes the history and current situation of People of African Descent living in Europe and Black Europeans, and encourages the Secretary of State to take a number of steps to ensure their situation is improved following recommendations from the People of African Descent Week (PADWEEK) held by our colleagues in the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium from May 13-17, 2018.

As European Parliamentarian Cecile Kyenge has noted, "The People of African Descent Week reaffirms European values by developing strategic and coherent responses to make our society more inclusive in the face of rising racial prejudice and violence across Europe." Recommendations from the week included a European Black History Month and Remembrance Day for Victims of Colonialism and Enslavement, a fund for Black European led initiatives to address continuing disparities and discrimination and support empowerment initiatives, European-wide strategies for the inclusion of People of African Descent, and support for transatlantic exchanges on common issues of racial prejudice and discrimination.

The need for recognition of Black populations in Europe became clear ten years ago when I chaired a U.S. Helsinki Commission hearing entitled, "The State of (In)visible Black Europe: Race, Rights, and Politics," where we learned that the situation in Europe is very similar to the one in the United States. While the presence of Blacks in Europe can be traced to enslavement, colonization, military deployments, voluntary or forced migration, the movement of refugees and asylum seekers, or educational and other professional exchanges, the story of Europeans of African Descent and Black Europeans still remains largely untold, rendering many of their past and present contributions to the very fabric of Europe unseen or forgotten, which is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, on May 14, 2018, Congressman Meeks, Congresswoman Moore, and I had the pleasure of being U.S. Honorary Hosts during PADWEEK. I include in the Record, the statement we made to our friends in the European Parliament. It is my hope that when we gather in the years to come to review the efforts of the United Nations designated International Decade for People of African Descent, we will not only speak of how our efforts resulted in our respective nations publicly recognizing the injustices and long-term impact of slavery and colonialism, but also of how our societies reconciled these issues in a manner that ensured equal opportunity, access, and justice for all People of African Descent.

**June 14, 2018**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Honoring the City Commission of the City Of Lauderdale Lakes**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the City Commission of the City of Lauderdale Lakes located in Broward County, Florida.

This area has long been a retirement location for people from New York and in particular those of the Jewish faith. Those with Caribbean and African American ancestry began to settle there in the late 20th century, making the City a true American success story of diversity, which is now home to over 35,000 people.

In 2014, the City voted to alter the structure of its governing body by establishing a city commission that would be composed of five individuals. In November 2016, the City's residents elected five women of color, making them the only city in Florida to have a commission entirely comprised of women.

Mr. Speaker, to the residents of Lauderdale Lakes, and especially to its Mayor Hazelle Rogers, Vice Mayor Beverly Williams, and City Commissioners Sandra Davey, Gloria Lewis, and Veronica Edwards Phillips, I offer my sincere congratulations on this historic achievement and wish the City many years of continued success.

**June 22, 2018**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Honoring the Dillard Center for the Arts Jazz Band in Winning the 2018 Essentially  
Ellington High School Jazz Band Competition**

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today and recognize the Dillard Center for the Arts Jazz Band on their May 12, 2018 first place win at the 2018 Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Competition in New York City.

Dillard High School, located in Fort Lauderdale, Florida has a long history of excellence in the arts. In 1948, Dillard's well-known jazz program attracted one of the greatest musicians in history, Julian Edwin ``Cannonball" Adderley.

Under the leadership of Director Christopher Dorsey, Dillard's Jazz Band performed on stage at Lincoln Center for the Essentially Ellington Competition. They were judged by an esteemed panel of jazz musicians, led by composer and trumpeter Mr. Wynton Marsalis, and deemed to be worthy of the first place prize out of fifteen band finalists. Additionally, Ms. Summer Camargo, a member of the band, won the Composition/Arranger Contest.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud of the Dillard Center for the Arts Jazz band. I wish Director Dorsey and the entire jazz band ensemble a hearty congratulations.

June 26, 2018

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
In Recognition Of the Outstanding Service of Dr. Lenora Peters**

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today and recognize the achievements of Dr. Lenora Peters Gant, current Senior Executive Academic National Security Fellow at Howard University School of Business through the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI). Revered for her U.S. security and intelligence expertise, Dr. Gant's profound leadership speaks to her devotion to public service and the impact she has made throughout the intelligence community.

Dr. Gant holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Education and Management from Florida A&M University, a Master of Education from the George Peabody College at Vanderbilt University, and a Ph.D. in Education/Technology Learning & Human Resources Management from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. In addition, Dr. Gant furthered her academic pursuits by obtaining certificates in Executive Development and Leadership Development from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and a certificate in 21st Century Leadership from the Wharton Business School at the University of Pennsylvania. Her tenacious desire to pursue her education is truly inspiring.

Dr. Gant's phenomenal leadership expands numerous roles that include the U.S. Department of Defense, where she managed a multi-million dollar budget for human resources management, education, and technology-based diversity training initiatives. From 2004 to 2012, Dr. Gant served as Director of the ODNI Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence, which is comprised of over 30 colleges and universities across the United States. Under her leadership, IC-CAE became a standard bearer for government partnerships with academia. In 2014, she was appointed as the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) Senior Executive for Academic Outreach and STEM where she directed, planned, and executed approaches to originate, develop, and formalize NGA corporate academic outreach for Geospatial Sciences and Scientific and Technology. In 2016, Dr. Gant led the ODNI Office of Policy and Strategy's Career Mobility Program Initiative, where she oversaw and directed over fifty senior leaders and managers across five ODNI Directorates.

In addition to Dr. Gant's professional pursuits, she has received numerous awards in honor of her achievements and contribution to her line of work. In April 2010, Dr. Gant was awarded Harvard University Donald M. Stewart Alumni Achievement Award for leadership and public service. In May 2016, she was awarded the Vanderbilt University's Peabody College Distinguished Alumna Award. Furthermore, the former Director of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) George Tenet appointed Dr. Gant as the international community's representative to the President's White House One America Initiative.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Lenora Peters Gant is more than deserving of recognition for her service to our country. I am pleased to take this moment to celebrate her dedication and unwavering contribution to the intelligence community. I want to congratulate her once again for her many years of distinguished service to our nation. I wish her well as she embarks upon her retirement.

July 17, 2018

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Mr. Nathaniel Reed**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Nathaniel Reed. Nathaniel was a stellar supporter of national parks, a staunch environmental advocate and co-author of the Endangered Species Act. Nathaniel was a powerhouse of Florida politics, but more than that, he was a dear friend and a mentor to me, as well as to countless others.

In a long career spent both in and out of government service, Nathaniel played a role in stopping construction of the world's largest airport in Big Cypress Swamp, helped establish a national park in Biscayne Bay, and assisted in preserving more than 100 million acres of parks and wildlife refuges in Alaska.

During his six decades of activism, he was a tireless crusader for the environment and the Everglades. Nathaniel inspired generations of conservationists, and what he did for America's River of Grass is immeasurable.

Mr. Reed is survived by his wife of 54 years, Alita, three children, Adrian, Nathaniel Jr. and Lia, and five grandchildren. I offer my thoughts and prayers to Alita, his family, and all who called Nathaniel a friend during this great time of sadness. I am so pleased to honor his life and legacy. He will be dearly missed.

July 25, 2018

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
In Celebration of Ms. Carrie Patterson Thomas On The Occasion Of Her 100th Birthday**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ms. Carrie Patterson Thomas on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Carrie was born on August 5, 1918 in the town of Ninety-Six, South Carolina to Wince and Ida Dean Patterson. In 1923 at the inquisitive age of five, she moved with her parents and six siblings to Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She worked various jobs from picking vegetables and later worked as a domestic until she retired. Carrie met and married her late husband Mr. Harvey Thomas and have two lovely children, Earl Thomas and Betty DeVaughn.

Carrie has been a resident and community leader of Broward County for over 90 years. I am truly grateful for her selflessness and tireless service. She is a beloved life-long member of the New Mount Olive Baptist Church, where she served on the mission society and often volunteered to help feed the homeless. She has worked hard under harsh conditions and unfair practices. She lived to witness many epic eras and events in history. And yet, through it all she has remained steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, and we know her labor is not in vain.

Mr. Speaker, on this momentous occasion, please join me in wishing Ms. Carrie Patterson Thomas a happy and wonderful 100th birthday.

September 13, 2018

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
On the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act of 2018**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1911, the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act of 2018. This important legislation would elevate the position of Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism to the rank of Ambassador, reporting directly to the Secretary of State; as the primary advisor and coordinator for U.S. government efforts to monitor and combat Anti-Semitism and Anti-Semitic incitement in foreign countries. Many notable groups support this initiative, including the American Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League, and The Jewish Federations of North America, and I am proud to stand with them to ensure that the United States continues to play a leading role in combatting Anti-Semitism across the globe.

Those of us who have served on the U.S. Helsinki Commission have taken efforts to combat anti-Semitism at the international level. As Ranking Democratic Member of the United States Helsinki Commission, I have long worked with representatives of governments throughout Europe to highlight the resurgence of Anti-Semitism and elevate efforts to push back against this despicable resurgence through education, outreach, and improved security. Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Hoyer*, Senator *Cardin* and I have all chaired the Helsinki Commission, and together, we have worked with several other Members of both the House and Senate, as well as with parliamentarians particularly from Germany and Canada, to have the Parliamentary Assembly of the 57-country OSCE condemn the escalation of anti-Semitic violence in Europe.

We first did this at the Assembly's 2002 annual session in Berlin, Germany, and have kept it on the agenda there ever since, suggesting measures to counter anti-Semitic statements and acts of violence alike. I pushed it strongly while serving as President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly from 2004 to 2006, and then as chairman of the Commission from 2007 to 2008. We succeeded in getting OSCE institutions, officials and diplomatic representatives to incorporate efforts to combat anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance into their ongoing work. I know Mr. *Smith* continues to raise the issue in the Assembly as the current co-chair of the Helsinki Commission, and Senator *Cardin* serves as the Assembly's Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance.

Ensuring that our country continues to lead in the fight against Anti-Semitism is a priority that we should all embrace. I fully support this measure and urge my colleagues to do the same.

September 13, 2018

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
On the United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 2497, the Ileana Ros-Lehtinen United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018, introduced by two of my fellow Floridians, the Chair and Co-Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, Reps. *Ileana Ros-Lehtinen* (R-FL) and *Ted Deutch* (D-FL).

This legislation takes a number of steps to reaffirm American commitment to Israel, one of our nation's closest allies and partners in security. Two years ago, the House of Representatives passed H. Res. 729, affirming Israel's status as a major strategic partner of the United States, reaffirming our policy of ensuring Israel Qualitative Military Edge (QME), and calling for the expeditious finalization of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between our governments. A new MOU was signed soon after, providing Israel with \$3.3 billion in Foreign Military Financing (FMF) grant assistance every year for the next decade. While I personally hoped that this figure would reach \$4 billion annually, the new MOU nevertheless reflected our commitment to Israel's security and our numerous cooperative programs in missile defense, cyber-defense, and aerospace.

The legislation we are debating today codifies this MOU into law, ensuring that it is the policy of the United States to provide assistance to the Government of Israel in order to support funding for cooperative programs to develop, produce, and procure missile and other defense capabilities to help Israel meet its security needs, and to help develop and enhance the defense capabilities of the United States. This legislation expands Israel's access to precision guided munitions for self-defense in the event of a sustained armed confrontation with armed groups such as Hezbollah or the terrorist organization Hamas. S. 2497 extends stockpile authority for war reserves in Israel, extends American loan guarantees, modifies the procedures for rapid acquisition and deployment of defense supplies, and takes important steps to improve upon Israel's QME, including new assessments of Israel's ability to effectively defend itself against military threats from regional non-state actors, risks posed by the unauthorized transfer or proliferation of equipment for use against Israel, and risks posed by unmanned vehicles and systems through air, land or water, and cyber and other asymmetric entities.

This bill goes even further, enhancing cooperation between our countries by establishing new partnerships for cybersecurity research and development and commercialization of cybersecurity technology and ensuring the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) continues to work with the Israel Space Agency to identify and cooperatively pursue peaceful space exploration and science initiatives in areas of mutual interest. Finally, this bill grants the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) authority to enter into a MOU with Israel in order to advance common goals on energy, agriculture and food security, democracy, human rights and governance, economic growth and trade, education, environment, global health and water sanitation, with a focus on strengthening mutual ties and cooperation with nations throughout the world.

For more than half a century, the United States and Israel have shared the common bond of democracy. This bond remains as strong today as it was when President Harry Truman first recognized the creation of a Jewish State in 1948, and we must continue to strengthen it whenever possible, including engaging the region and commit to finding a fair solution that enables both Israel and her neighbors to live in security and prosperity. I urge support for this legislation.

September 25, 2018

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives  
Recognizing Ms. Evangelina Mendiola**

Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to rise today to honor Ms. Evangelina Mendiola, for her extraordinary contributions as an adoptive and foster parent in Broward County, Florida.

Ms. Mendiola was recognized as a 2018 Angel in Adoption by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI). Currently in the process of adopting her fifth child, she also regularly opens her home and heart as a caring foster parent. Indeed, she is admired in her community for her steadfast commitment to the welfare of children. Ms. Mendiola's longstanding dedication truly exemplifies the values of the Angels in Adoption program.

Founded in 2001, CCAI is a nonprofit organization with the vision that every child should know the love and support of a caring family. Every year, CCAI selects a small group of outstanding individuals, families, or organizations across the nation to be recognized as Angels in Adoption. These honorees have gone above and beyond to demonstrate commitment to improving the lives of children in need of permanent, loving homes.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Evangelina Mendiola is a member of our community, whom we can all admire and respect. I commend her for her inspiring commitment to the welfare of children, and wish her the very best as she continues to make the dream of a family a reality for the children she has given a warm and loving home

**Constituent Correspondence**

**Total Letters Received**

**57,000**

**Top Issues**

<b>Tax Reform</b>	<b>Land, Water, and Wildlife Conservation</b>
<b>Healthcare</b>	<b>The President's Budget Request</b>
<b>Gun Control</b>	<b>Net Neutrality</b>
<b>Israel</b>	<b>The Farm Bill</b>
<b>Foreign Interference in American Elections</b>	<b>Immigration</b>
<b>Social Security and Medicare</b>	<b>The National Flood Insurance Program</b>