

# Legislative Accomplishments of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress



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

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December 2020

Dear Friend:

I am pleased to provide this summary of my office's accomplishments during the 116th Congress. We worked tirelessly throughout the past two years to advance the priorities of South Florida, our state, and 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 116th Congress, I introduced 37 bills and resolutions, co-sponsored more than 1,100 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, as well as working with my colleagues to pass legislation that will restore America's aging infrastructure.

As Co-Chair and Dean of the Florida Delegation, I convened meetings over the past two years to discuss our state's needs and advocate for issues of the greatest significance to South Florida. As Vice Chairman of the House Committee on Rules, I managed rules on the House Floor that concerned high-profile legislation from protecting Florida's coastline, enhancing healthcare for all Americans, protecting our elections, admitting Washington, D.C. as a state, and police reform through the *George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2020*.

I was pleased to author and co-sign hundreds of letters to Florida officials and leaders across the globe, assist cities in our region in securing valuable grant funding, and submit over 1,000 requests for Congressional appropriations 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 the benefits they sought. From the Glades to Miramar to Riviera Beach, I am proud to represent the 20th district and will continue to advocate for my constituents' needs.

The 116th Congress was highly productive for the House of Representatives. We passed hundreds of bills, many of them bipartisan, on issues ranging from affordable prescription drug pricing, protecting the voting rights of all Americans, universal background checks, and much more. While the House worked to implement its *For the People* agenda, Mitch McConnell and Senate Republicans blocked nearly every piece of legislation we sent them, including bills to reauthorize the *Violence Against Women Act* and the *HEROES Act*, which would have brought medical and economic relief to all Americans as we battle the worst health crisis this country has seen in over a century.

We were also required to exercise the powers given to Congress under Article I of the U.S. Constitution, to impeach a president for High Crimes and Misdemeanors. We exercised this awesome power after extensive investigations revealed that President Donald J. Trump had conditioned the release of foreign aid, already granted by Congress, on the recipient foreign government assisting in President Trump's bid for re-election.

As the Second Session of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress began, so did a global pandemic. The rapidly evolving and deadly, novel coronavirus, now referred to as COVID-19, reached the United States on January 20, 2020. The Federal Government, States, and local governments took varying steps to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, ranging from the temporary cessation of all international air travel, state-wide shelter in place orders, to measures such as “social distancing.” We in Congress were quick to respond with legislation providing funding to fight this deadly virus. On March 6, 2020 the President signed, the *Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020*, into law, providing more than \$8 billion in new funding to support state and local health agencies, vaccine and treatment development, and loans for small businesses. Two weeks later, H.R.6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act* was signed into law, building on the successes of the previous legislation with provisions guaranteeing free coronavirus testing, establishing paid leave for those affected by the virus, enhancing Unemployment Insurance, expanding food security initiatives, and increasing federal Medicaid funding. Then, on March 27, 2020, H.R.748, the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* was enacted into law. The largest disaster relief and economic stimulus bill in American history, this legislation provides more than \$2 trillion in economic assistance to bolster the economy and support American families.

There are many important challenges still facing our country, including the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic fallout it has created. Over 200,000 Americans have died from COVID-19, millions of Americans are out of work and facing eviction, and many small businesses are shutting down for good. While 2020 has proven to be a challenging year, America, and the 20th district are incredibly resilient, and I know we will recover. 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 Americans. 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 117th Congress. With warm and personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely,



Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

## Legislation Introduced

I proudly introduced 37 bills and resolutions in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress. Below, please find descriptions of the legislation I introduced.

1/03/2019    **H.R.180, the *Build America Act of 2019***

**Description:** 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:** 12

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials.

1/10/2019    **H.R.462, the *Everglades for the Next Generation Act***

**Description:** Authorizes 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:** 7

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

1/17/2019 **H.Con.Res.5, *Expressing support for temporary protected status for Haitian nationals currently residing in the United States, and for other purposes.***

**Description:** 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:** 10

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

1/17/2019 **H.R.666, *the Haitian Educational Empowerment Act of 2019***

**Description:** 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:** 13

**Latest Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1/23/2019 **H.R.727, *the Ending Corporal Punishment in Schools Act of 2019***

**Description:** 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:** 15

**Latest Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.

1/29/2019 **H.R.849, the *Civics Learning Act of 2019***

**Description:** Amends the Education and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to increase funding for innovative and evidence-based civics learning and teaching programs. This bill aims to empower local schools to develop a curriculum tailored to their individual needs that will increase civic knowledge among the electorate, boost civic participation, and thus strengthen our democracy.

Recognizing that most civics programs focus on high school teachers and students, this bill would ensure funding for elementary, middle, and high school programs in order to create a lasting foundation for civic knowledge. In addition, this bill would prioritize funding for high-need schools, underserved populations, and low-access areas such as rural or inner-city communities.

**Cosponsors:** 78

**Latest Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.

2/19/2019 **H.Res.138, *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.***

**Description:** 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:** 37

**Latest Action:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Unanimous Consent.

2/25/2019 **H.R.1345, the *Restoring the Partnership for County Health Care Costs Act of 2019***

**Description:** Amends 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:** 27

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

3/06/2019 **H.R.1564, the *Outpatient Mental Health Modernization Act of 2019***

**Description:** Amends title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act to cover nutritional planning, meals, and transportation as partial-hospitalization services under Medicare.

**Cosponsors:** 4

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

3/12/2019 **H.R.1691, the *Teacher Victims' Family Assistance Act of 2019***

**Description:** Directs the Secretary of Education to provide assistance to the immediate family members of K-12 teachers or other school employees who are killed during their performance of duties at a public or private school.

In so doing, the bill provides victims' families with: (1) funeral assistance; (2) a death benefit payment to the surviving spouse, dependent child, or other next of kin; (3) monthly living assistance for the surviving spouse until death or remarriage and for each dependent child until age 18; and (4) undergraduate education assistance for each dependent child.

**Cosponsors:** 9

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor.

3/14/2019 **H.R.1787, the *Corey Jones Act***

**Description:** 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:** 23

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

3/26/2019 **H.R.1877, the *African Descent Affairs Act of 2019***

**Description:** 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:** 7

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

3/26/2019 **H.Res.256, *Recognizing people of African descent and Black Europeans.***

**Description:** 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:** 3

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy and the Environment.

4/02/2019 **H.R.2032, the *Donate for Disaster Relief Act of 2019***

**Description:** 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:** (2)

**Committees:** Transportation and Infrastructure; Ways and Means

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4/04/2019 **H.Res.292, *Celebrating the heritage of Romani Americans.***

**Description:** Expresses remembrance for the genocide of Roma by Nazi Germany and its Axis partners and commemorates the 75th anniversary of the destruction of the commemorates the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum for its role in promoting the remembrance of the Holocaust and education about the genocide of Roma; and expresses support for International Roma Day as an opportunity to honor the culture, history, and heritage of the Romani people in the United States.

**Cosponsors:** 2

**Latest Action:** Re-referred to the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States.

4/04/2019 **H.R.2099, the *Wildlife VET Act***

**Description:** 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:** 15

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture.

4/09/2019 **H.Res.297, *Supporting the goals and ideals of Jubilee Day.***

**Description:** 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:** 9

**Latest Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.

5/07/2019 **H.R.2550, the *Prevent BLEEDing Act of 2019***

**Description:** Amends the *Homeland Security Act of 2002* to expand access to Bleeding Control Kits (BCKs) in public gathering places across the country and authorizes the use of Homeland Security Grant Program funding for states to purchase and distribute anti-blood loss supplies to schools, places of worship, shopping malls, and other public gathering places, and to support training on the proper use of such supplies.

**Cosponsors:** 28

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery.

6/10/2019 **H.R.3166, *To direct the Secretary of Defense to modernize certain forms and surveys of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.***

**Description:** Requires the Secretary of the Department of Defense (DoD) to review and update in-use documents containing terms or classifications deemed to be racially or ethnically insensitive.

**Cosponsors:** 56

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. Senate companion legislation introduced as S.1761 on June 10, 2019. Adopted as an Amendment to H.R.2500, the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020*. Modified provisions included in the Conference Agreement to S.1760, the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020* (P.L.116-92).

6/13/2019 **H.R.3272, the *Services for Ending Long-Term Homelessness Act***

**Description:** 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:** 15

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

7/30/2019 **H.R.4112, *To designate Haiti under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Haiti to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section during and after the pendency of certain litigation, and for other purposes.***

**Description:** Designates Haiti as a temporary protected status (TPS) country from this bill's enactment date to at least 18 months after the conclusion of two lawsuits challenging the President's decision to terminate Haiti's TPS designation. (Nationals of a TPS-designated country shall have work authorization and may not be removed from the United States while the designation is in effect.)

**Cosponsors:** 11

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

9/09/2019 **H.Res.548, *Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 205) to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to permanently extend the moratorium on leasing in certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1146) to amend Public Law 115-97 (commonly known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act) to repeal the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge oil and gas program, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1941) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior including in any leasing program certain planning areas, and for other purposes.***

**Description:** Rule providing for consideration of the listed bills.

**Cosponsors:** 0

**Latest Action:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

9/13/2019 **H.R.4330, the *TRAP Act of 2019***

**Description:** Establishes requirements related to U.S. cooperation with International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) communications and requires reports on countries that abuse INTERPOL communications for political motives and other unlawful purposes.

**Cosponsors:** 9

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

9/18/2019 **H.R.4388, the *Human Trafficking and Exploitation Prevention Training Act of 2019***

**Description:** Amends the Public Health Service Act to provide for the implementation of curricula for training students, teachers, and school personnel to understand, recognize, prevent, and respond to signs of human trafficking and exploitation in children and youth.

**Cosponsors:** 24

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

9/26/2019 **H.Con.Res.66, *Urging all nations to outlaw the dog and cat meat trade and to enforce existing laws against such trade.***

**Description:** 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:** 1

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture.

10/22/2019 **H.Res.650, *Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4617) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to clarify the obligation to report acts of foreign election influence and require implementation of compliance and reporting systems by Federal campaigns to detect and report such acts, and for other purposes.***

**Description:** Rule providing for consideration of the underlying legislation.

**Cosponsors:** 0

**Latest Action:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

10/31/2019 **H.Con.Res.71, *Urging all nations to outlaw the dog and cat meat trade and to enforce existing laws against such trade.***

**Description:** 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:** 47

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture.

12/13/2019 **H.R.5431, *The FAA Family and Medical Leave Act***

**Description:** Ensures that employees of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) are extended the same paid parental leave benefits afforded to other government employees under the conference report for the *National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2020*.

**Cosponsors:** 9

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Aviation.

3/12/2020 **H.R.6240, *The Federal Jobs Act***

**Description:** Establishes a Government-wide initiative to promote diversity and inclusion in the Federal workforce.

**Cosponsors:** 5

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, and the Judiciary.

3/12/2020 **H.R.6239, *The LITE Act***

**Description:** Establishes the Leadership Institute for Transatlantic Engagement to develop a diverse community of transatlantic leaders at all levels of government, including emerging leaders, committed to democratic institutions.

**Cosponsors:** 5

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

6/11/2020 **H.R.7169, the *National Defense Net Zero Review Act of 2020***

**Description:** Refocuses the Department of Defense (DoD) on pursuing initiatives to achieve net zero, typically focused on efforts to produce more energy from renewable sources on military installations, limit consumption of water in order to not deplete local watersheds, and to reduce, reuse, and recover waste to prevent unnecessary additions to landfills. This legislation commissions two studies from the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), expands the DoD's requirements for reporting on emissions, and requires the Secretary of the DoD to publish a master plan for an integrated net zero strategy.

**Cosponsors:** 0

**Latest Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services. Major provisions adopted by Amendment to H.R.6395, the *William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021*.

6/18/2020 **H.R.7250, the *Farm-to-Market Road Repair Act of 2020***

**Description:** Expands eligibility for the Surface Transportation Block Grant program to include rural roads that serve to transport agriculture products from farms or ranches to the marketplace.

**Cosponsors:** 0

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit. Major provisions adopted by amendment in modified form to H.R.2, the *Moving Forward Act*.

6/24/2020 **H.Res.1017**, *Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 51) to provide for the admission of the State of Washington, D.C. into the Union; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1425) to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide for a Improve Health Insurance Affordability Fund to provide for certain reinsurance payments to lower premiums in the individual health insurance market; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5332) to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to ensure that consumer reporting agencies are providing fair and accurate information reporting in consumer reports, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7120) to hold law enforcement accountable for misconduct in court, improve transparency through data collection, and reform police training and policies; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7301) to prevent evictions, foreclosures, and unsafe housing conditions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 90) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency relating to "Community Reinvestment Act Regulations"; and for other purposes.*

**Description:** Rule providing for consideration of the listed bills.

**Cosponsors:** 0

**Latest Action:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

10/09/2020 **H.R.8558**, *the Comprehensive Breast Reconstruction Act of 2020*

**Description:** Amends the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide for health coverage of nipple-areolar complex tattooing in connection with reconstructive surgery following mastectomy and to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the *Social Security Act* to extend coverage of certain breast reconstructive services following mastectomy under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

**Cosponsors:** 11

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and Labor.

10/13/2020 **H.R.8587, the *Congress Commission Act***

**Description:** Establishes a commission to make recommendations on the appropriate size of membership of the House of Representatives and the method by which Members are elected.

**Cosponsors:** 4

**Latest Action:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

10/20/2020 **H.R.8633, the *Humane Research and Testing Act of 2020***

**Description:** Establishes the National Center for Alternatives to Animals in Research and Testing (Center) under the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The Center will be dedicated to increasing transparency and understanding regarding the use of animals in medical research and testing to ultimately reduce the number of animals utilized in such practices. The bill would allow the NIH to develop, fund, and execute a plan to record an accurate account of animals used in testing and research and to incentivize the use of non-animal methods by educating and training scientists to utilize alternative “human relevant” methods.

**Cosponsors:** 3

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

10/27/2020 **H.R.8690, the *Armed Forces Deferred Tax Relief Act***

**Description:** Directs the Secretary of Defense to compensate members of the Armed Forces for certain taxes deferred pursuant to Internal Revenue Service Notice 2020-65.

**Cosponsors:** 1

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means.

### Amendments Offered

I sponsored and cosponsored a total of 42 amendments during the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress. Below, please find descriptions of these amendments:

1/15/2019 *An amendment stating that none of the funds in this bill for the Army Corps of Engineers or Department of Homeland Security may be used to plan, develop, or construct the border wall.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 268, the *Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2019*

**Offered by:** Rep. McGovern (D-MA)

**Cosponsors:** Rep. Hastings and 6 others.

**Last Action:** Agreed to by recorded vote: 230-197.

3/05/2019 *An amendment requiring states to submit a report to Congress not later than 120 days after the end of a Federal election cycle regarding the number of ballots invalidated by signature mismatch, the attempts to contact voters to provide notice, and the cure process and results.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 1, the *For the People Act of 2019*

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

**Last Action:** Agreed to by voice vote.

6/10/2019 *An amendment stating that none of the funds made available by this Act may be used to issue a permit under section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act for the discharge of dredged or fill material from a project within Water Conservation Areas in the Everglades.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 2740, the *Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Defense, State, Foreign Operations, and Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2020*

**Offered by:** Rep. Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)

**Cosponsors:** Rep. Hastings and 5 others.

**Last Action:** Agreed to by recorded vote: 233-200.

6/18/2019 *An amendment stating that none of the funds made available by this Act may be used to relocate the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Southeast Fisheries Science Center from Virginia Key, Florida.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 3055, the *Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020, and Further Health Extenders Act of 2019*

**Offered by:** Rep. Shalala (D-FL)

**Cosponsors:** Rep. Hastings and 8 others.

**Last Action:** Not made in order.

6/18/2019 *An amendment preventing funds from being used to conduct oil and gas lease sales, preleasing activities or seismic air gun testing off the coasts of Florida.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 3055, the *Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020, and Further Health Extenders Act of 2019*

**Offered by:** Rep. Buchanan (R-FL)

**Cosponsors:** Rep. Hastings and 11 others.

**Last Action:** Not made in order.

6/18/2019 *An amendment prohibiting any funds from being expended by the Department of the Interior to conduct oil and gas pre-leasing, leasing, and related activities in outer continental shelf planning areas around Florida.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 3055, the *Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020, and Further Health Extenders Act of 2019*

**Offered By:** Rep. Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)

**Cosponsored:** Rep. Hastings and 21 others.

**Last Action:** Agreed to by recorded vote: 252-178.

7/09/2019 *An amendment that provides 12 weeks of paid family leave to federal employees for qualified purposes listed under the Family Medical Leave Act.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 2500, the *National Defense Authorization Act, FY2020*

**Offered By:** Rep. Maloney, C. (D-NY)

**Cosponsored:** Rep. Hastings and 46 others.

**Last Action:** Not made in order.

7/12/2019 *An amendment requiring contractors to submit total Independent Research and Development spending to the Defense Technical Information Center, who will provide access to the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, the Director of the Defense Contract Audit Agency, and Director of the Defense Contract Management Agency. Further, it requires the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering to report to Congress on the cost expended and trends related to Independent Research and Development spending.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 2500, the *National Defense Authorization Act, FY2020*

**Last Action:** Agreed to by voice vote.

- 7/12/2019 *An amendment requiring contractors to submit total Bid and Proposal spending to the Director of the Defense Contract Audit Agency, who will provide access to the Principal Director for Defense Pricing and Contracting to fulfill DoD reporting requirements.*
- Amendment to:** H.R. 2500, the *National Defense Authorization Act, FY2020*  
**Last Action:** Agree to by voice vote.
- 7/12/2019 *An amendment repealing the Defense Cost Accounting Standards Board as duplicative of the Cost Accounting Standards Board under the Office of Procurement Policy.*
- Amendment to:** H.R. 2500, the *National Defense Authorization Act, FY2020*  
**Last Action:** Agreed to by voice vote.
- 7/12/2019 *An amendment expressing the sense of Congress that the United States has strong and enduring interests in the security and prosperity of Oceania and the Western Pacific region and should expeditiously begin negotiations on the renewal of the Compacts of Free Association (COFA).*
- Amendment to:** H.R. 2500, the *National Defense Authorization Act, FY2020*  
**Cosponsors:** Rep. Case (D-HI), Rep. Sablan (D-MP), Rep. San Nicolas (D-GU), Rep. Radewagen (R-AS), and Rep. Gabbard (D-HI)  
**Last Action:** Agreed to by voice vote.
- 7/12/2019 *An amendment establishing a joint Military Transition Outreach Pilot Program for contacting service-members 30, 60, and 90 days post-separation and/or retirement from active duty, to improve communication between the veteran and DoD related to benefits and other general concerns.*
- Amendment to:** H.R. 2500, the *National Defense Authorization Act, FY2020*  
**Last Action:** Agreed to by voice vote.
- 9/09/2019 *An amendment codifies the Well Control Rule and the Production Safety Systems Rule in their original forms.*
- Amendment to:** H.R. 205, the *Protecting and Securing Florida's Coastline Act of 2019*  
**Offered by:** Rep. Crist (D-FL)  
**Cosponsors:** Rep. Hastings and 8 others.  
**Last Action:** Agreed to by voice vote.

11/19/2019 *An amendment including procedures to provide information about available trauma and related counseling for employees in reporting, incident response, and post-incident investigation procedures.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 1309, the *Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act*

**Offered by:** Rep. DeSaulnier (D-CA)

**Cosponsor:** Rep. Hastings

**Last Action:** Agreed to by voice vote.

11/22/2019 *An amendment requiring covered employers to email their organization's workplace violence prevention plan to the organization's staff, following completion of annual training.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 1309, the *Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act*

**Cosponsors:** Rep. DeSaulnier (D-CA)

**Last Action:** Agreed to by voice vote.

12/09/2019 *An amendment clarifying that Section 323, the Climate Change Adaptation Preparedness and Response Program, includes projects to address harmful algal blooms.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 729, the *Coastal and Great Lakes Communities Enhancement Act*

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

**Cosponsors:** Rep. Hastings and 3 others.

**Last Action:** Agreed to by recorded vote: 297-121.

12/11/2019 *An amendment expanding the list of eligible activities under the Climate Change Adaptation Preparedness and Response Program to include those that address hypoxia and toxic algae blooms.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 729, the *Coastal and Great Lakes Communities Enhancement Act*

**Last Action:** Withdrawn.

12/11/2019 *An amendment including coral reefs as eligible under the National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships program.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 729, the *Coastal and Great Lakes Communities Enhancement Act*

**Last Action:** Agreed to by recorded vote: 249-166.

12/11/2019 *An amendment expanding the list of eligible activities for the award of Coastal Climate Change Adaptation Project Implementation Grants to include projects to address the immediate and long-term degradation or loss of coral and coral reefs.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 729, the *Coastal and Great Lakes Communities Enhancement Act*

**Last Action:** Agreed to by recorded vote: 249-166.

12/11/2019 *An amendment extending Paid Parental Leave provisions to employees of the FAA not covered under Title 5*

**Amendment to:** Conference Report to Accompany S. 1790, the *National Defense Authorization Act, FY2020*

**Last Action:** Withdrawn.

2/05/2020 *An amendment increasing funding to conduct a study on the impacts on educational attainment, long-term economic opportunities and well-being of students from Puerto Rico who have had to disrupt or change their educational path due to a natural disaster.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 5687, the *Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief and Puerto Rico Disaster Tax Relief Act, 2020*

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

**Cosponsors:** Rep. Hastings and 3 others.

**Last Action:** Agreed to by recorded vote: 297-121.

2/26/2020 *An amendment removing menthol from the prohibition on flavoring for tobacco products that are not electronic nicotine delivery systems.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 2339, the *Protecting American Lungs and Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2020*

**Offered by:** Rep. Butterfield (D-NC)

**Cosponsors:** Rep. Hastings and 8 others.

**Last Action:** Not made in order.

6/29/2020 *An amendment requiring the Treasury Department to provide states with records relating to the purchase, ownership of the bond, bond serial numbers as well as any records sufficient to allow States to redeem the bond for full value, even if the bond is lost, destroyed, or not in the possession of the State.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 2, the *INVEST in America Act [Moving Forward Act]*

**Offered by:** Rep. Estes (R-KS)

**Cosponsors:** Rep. Hastings and 7 others.

**Last Action:** Withdrawn.

- 7/01/2020 *An amendment expanding eligibility for the Surface Transportation Block Grant program to include rural roads that serve to transport agriculture products from farms or ranches to the marketplace.*
- Amendment to:** H.R. 2, the *INVEST in America Act [Moving Forward Act]*  
**Cosponsors:** Rep. Mast (R-FL)  
**Last Action:** Agreed to by voice vote.
- 7/01/2020 *An amendment requiring the Comptroller General of the United States to study high-speed internet connectivity in Federally assisted housing and requires the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to submit a master plan to Congress for retrofitting these buildings and units as necessary to support broadband service.*
- Amendment to:** H.R. 2, the *INVEST in America Act [Moving Forward Act]*  
**Cosponsors:** Rep. Clarke (D-NY)  
**Last Action:** Agreed to by voice vote.
- 7/01/2020 *An amendment clarifying that airports that have received records of decision under the FAA's Airport Investment Partnership Program are eligible for existing loan guarantee authority under the CARES Act.*
- Amendment to:** H.R. 2, the *INVEST in America Act [Moving Forward Act]*  
**Last Action:** Withdrawn.
- 7/17/2020 *An amendment adding language from the previously passed HR 205 (last September) and would permanently extend the prohibition against oil/gas leasing, drilling, and exploration in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, which is presently covered by GOMESA, but is currently slated to end June 30, 2022.*
- Amendment to:** H.R. 6395, the *National Defense Authorization Act, FY 2021*  
**Offered by:** Rep. Gaetz (R-FL)  
**Cosponsors:** Rep Hastings and 17 others.  
**Last Action:** Withdrawn.
- 7/17/2020 *An amendment requiring the Treasury Department to provide states with records relating to the purchase, ownership of the bond, bond serial numbers as well as any records sufficient to allow States to redeem the bond for full value, even if the bond is lost, destroyed, or not in the possession of the State.*
- Amendment to:** H.R. 6395, the *National Defense Authorization Act, FY 2021*  
**Offered By:** Rep. Estes (R-KS)  
**Cosponsors:** Rep. Hastings and 6 others.  
**Last Action:** Not made in order.

7/17/2020 *An amendment adding the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act, which codifies US government hostage recovery and response policy, increases US government support to families of hostages, and authorizes sanctions against those who engage in hostage-taking.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 6395, the *National Defense Authorization Act, FY 2021*  
**Offered By:** Rep. Deutch  
**Cosponsors:** Rep. Hastings and 3 others.  
**Last Action:** Agreed to by recorded vote: 336-71.

7/17/2020 *An amendment providing coverage of the treatment of eating disorders for Active Duty and dependents under the TRICARE program. The services include both inpatient and outpatient care and shall be furnished without regard to age of a military dependent or whether there is a primary diagnosis of the disorder. The amendment strengthens existing guidance on the treatment of eating disorders as a health condition requiring a \$1M offset.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 6395, the *National Defense Authorization Act, FY 2021*  
**Offered by:** Rep. Moulton (D-MA)  
**Cosponsors:** Rep. Hastings and 18 others.  
**Last Action:** Not made in order.

7/17/2020 *An amendment to the DOD 1033 program to prohibit certain weapons of war from being transferred from the military to local police departments.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 6395, the *National Defense Authorization Act, FY 2021*  
**Offered by:** Rep. Johnson (D-GA)  
**Cosponsors:** Rep. Hastings and 23 others.  
**Last Action:** Not made in order.

7/21/2020 *An amendment expressing the sense of Congress that the decision to withdraw from the Treaty on Open Skies did not comply with Section 1234(a) of the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act and that confidence and security building measures remain vital to the strategic interests of our NATO allies and partners*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 6395, the *National Defense Authorization Act, FY 2021*  
**Cosponsors:** Rep. Panetta (D-CA) and Rep. Kennedy (D-MA)  
**Last Action:** Agreed to by voice vote.

7/21/2020 *An amendment establishing a Center of Excellence for Countering Political Warfare.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 6395, the *National Defense Authorization Act, FY 2021*  
**Last Action:** Withdrawn.

7/21/2020 *An amendment establishing the Leadership Institute for Transatlantic Engagement with the purpose of developing a diverse community of transatlantic leaders, including emerging leaders, at all levels of government, committed to democratic institutions.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 6395, the *National Defense Authorization Act, FY 2021*  
**Last Action:** Not made in order.

7/21/2020 *An amendment expressing the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense should develop an integrated master plan for pursuing Net Zero initiatives and reductions in fossil fuels.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 6395, the *National Defense Authorization Act, FY 2021*  
**Last Action:** Agreed to by voice vote.

7/21/2020 *An amendment permanently extends the prohibition against oil/gas leasing, drilling, and exploration in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, which is presently covered by GOMESA, but is currently slated to end June 30, 2022.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 6395, the *National Defense Authorization Act, FY 2021*  
**Cosponsors:** Rep. Gaetz (R-FL), Rep. Castor (D-FL), Rep. Rooney (R-FL), Rep. Shalala (D-FL), Rep. Buchanan (R-FL), Rep. Soto (D-FL), Rep. Bilirakis (R-FL), Rep. Mucarsel-Powell (D-FL), Rep. Mast (R-FL), Rep. Crist (D-FL), Rep. Posey (R-FL), Rep. Frankel (D-FL), Rep. Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), Rep. Deutch (D-FL), Rep. Murphy (D-FL), Rep. Wilson (D-FL), Rep. Lawson (D-FL), and Rep. Rutherford (R-FL)  
**Last Action:** Withdrawn.

7/24/2020 *An amendment increases and decreases \$10 million in Economic Support Fund funding for programs benefiting the Ethiopian-Israeli community.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 7608, the *State, Foreign Operations, Agriculture, Rural Development, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2021*  
**Cosponsors:** Rep. McGovern (D-MA), Rep. Raskin (D-MD), and Rep. Deutch (D-FL)  
**Last Action:** Agreed to by voice vote.

7/28/2020 *An amendment preventing funds made available by this Act from being used to implement, enforce, or otherwise give effect to the rule entitled “Religious Exemptions and Accommodations for Coverage of Certain Preventive Services Under the Affordable Care Act” (83 Fed. Reg. 57536), or the rule entitled “Moral Exemptions and Accommodations for Coverage of Certain Preventive Services Under the Affordable Care Act” (83 Fed.9 Reg. 57592).*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 7617, the *Defense, Commerce, Justice, Science, Energy and Water Development, Financial Services and General Government, Homeland Security, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2021*

**Offered by:** Rep. Frankel (D-FL)

**Cosponsored:** Rep. Hastings and 88 others.

**Last Action:** Withdrawn.

7/28/2020 *An amendment that increases and decreases School Improvement Programs funding by \$1 million to emphasize the need for additional funding for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act’s Education for Homeless Children and Youth program (EHCY).*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 7617, the *Defense, Commerce, Justice, Science, Energy and Water Development, Financial Services and General Government, Homeland Security, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2021*

**Offered by:** Rep. Panetta (D-CA)

**Cosponsors:** Rep. Hastings and 3 others.

**Last Action:** Agreed to by voice vote.

7/30/2020 *An amendment preventing funds from being used by the Department of Labor to implement a new interpretation regarding H-2A applications for agricultural guest workers until the Department of Labor and Department of Agriculture conduct a study assessing the economic and workforce impact of the new interpretation involving employers operating as farm labor contractors seeking to employ H-2A truck drivers to transport agricultural products from the fields to other locations for packing, storage, and processing. The Department of Labor must freeze new interpretation until report is provided to the Committee.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 7617, the *Defense, Commerce, Justice, Science, Energy and Water Development, Financial Services and General Government, Homeland Security, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2021*

**Cosponsors:** Rep. Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Rep. Higgins (R-LA), Rep. Rutherford (R-FL), Rep. Abraham (R-LA)

**Last Action:** Withdrawn.

7/30/2020 *An amendment providing an additional \$500,000 for civics education, split equally between American History and Civics Academies, and American History and Civics National Activities.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 7617, the *Defense, Commerce, Justice, Science, Energy and Water Development, Financial Services and General Government, Homeland Security, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2021*  
**Last Action:** Agreed to by voice vote.

9/21/2020 *An amendment establishing a \$1 billion dollar a year Climate Smart Ports program at EPA to provide grants for ports and port users to invest in zero emissions technology for cargo handling equipment, drayage trucks, and harbor craft. The program also supports the development of shore power and clean energy microgrids at ports.*

**Amendment to:** H.R. 4447, the *Expanding Access to Sustainable Energy Act of 2019 [Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act]*  
**Offered by:** Rep. Barragán (D-CA)  
**Cosponsored:** Rep. Hastings and 9 others.  
**Last Action:** Agreed to by voice vote.

**Committee Memberships**

**House Committee on Rules**  
Vice Chairman

**House Committee on Rules**  
**Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process**  
Chairman

**U.S. Helsinki Commission**  
Chairman

**Caucus Memberships**

Congressional Caucus  
on Homelessness  
**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  
**Dean & Co-Chairman**

Friends of Jordan  
Caucus  
**Vice Chairman**

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 Caucus to End the Youth Vaping Epidemic	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 Medicare for All 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 Wine 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	LGBTQ 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 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic and Description</b>
1/04/2019	<p><b>Re-certification of the Everglades Caucus</b> <b>Addressed to:</b> Committee on House Administration Chairperson Zoe Lofgren and Ranking Member Rodney Davis</p> <p>This letter requested re-certification for the Everglades Caucus in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.</p>
1/04/2019	<p><b>Re-certification of the Sugar Caucus</b> <b>Addressed to:</b> Committee on House Administration Chairperson Zoe Lofgren and Ranking Member Rodney Davis</p> <p>This letter requested re-certification for the Sugar Caucus in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.</p>
1/04/2019	<p><b>Re-certification of the Homelessness Caucus</b> <b>Addressed to:</b> Committee on House Administration Chairperson Zoe Lofgren and Ranking Member Rodney Davis</p> <p>This letter requested re-certification for the Homelessness Caucus in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.</p>
1/10/2019	<p><b>Re-certification of the Tunisia Caucus</b> <b>Addressed to:</b> Committee on House Administration Chairperson Zoe Lofgren and Ranking Member Rodney Davis</p> <p>This letter requested re-certification for the Tunisia Caucus in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.</p>
1/29/2019	<p><b>Commendation for Mayor Wilson</b> <b>Addressed to:</b> Hon. Jermaine Wilson, Mayor, City of Leavenworth, Kansas</p> <p>This letter commended Mayor Wilson for all he has achieved and everything he has done to turn his life around. He was able to embrace his past and move beyond it, inspiring children to be what they want to be.</p>

2/04/2019 **Consideration of the *Build America Act***  
**Addressed to:** House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio

This letter commended Chairman DeFazio for prioritizing infrastructure investments nationwide and urged him to include the *Build America Act* in any comprehensive package reported out of committee.

2/11/2019 **Banning the Dog Meat Trade**  
**Addressed to:** Prime Minister Theresa May, United Kingdom

This letter requested Prime Minister May to support the proposed amendment to the UK's Agriculture bill banning the dog meat trade.

2/19/2019 **Mr. Tony Matthews**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Gina Haspel, Director, Central Intelligence Agency

This letter noted Mr. Matthews' work in my office as a Brookings Fellow and the great quality of his work.

2/19/2019 **Mr. Clyde Wright**  
**Addressed to:** General Paul Nakasone, Director, National Security Agency

This letter noted Mr. Wright's work in my office as a Brookings Fellow and the great quality of his work.

2/21/2019 **US Aid to Venezuela**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Mark Green, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development

This letter requested that Administrator Green provide answers to the following questions: (1) Does USAID have a contingency plan(s) for distributing aid at the Columbia-Venezuela border should President Trumps' February 23, 2019 deadline pass; (2) What steps are currently being taken to ensure that U.S. aid now waiting at the Columbia-Venezuela border is protected from bad actors?; (3) What ability, if any, does the USAID currently have to monitor humanitarian developments inside Venezuela should Mr. Maduro refuse to allow the United States' critical aid reach the Venezuelan people?; (4) What steps is USAID taking to counter the Maduro regime's disinformation campaign concerning the quality of U.S. aid?

4/01/2019 **Pollinator Crop Insurance**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Richard Fordyce, Administrator, Farm Service Agency,  
Department of Agriculture

This letter requested an exemption for the Rainfall Index Apiculture Pilot Insurance (RI-API) Program from the multiple benefit exclusion (MBE) detailed in Part 3, Section 2 of the Farm Service Agency's (FSA's) Handbook on Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program for 2015 and Subsequent Years. Under the current regulatory framework, the Rainfall Index Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (RI-PRF) Insurance Program—a program also based on rainfall—is exempt from the MBE, whereas the RI-API is not. These risk management tools are not mutually exclusive, but rather complement each other.

4/10/2019 **Congratulatory Letter**  
**Addressed to:** American Muslim Alliance of Florida

This letter extended my warmest congratulations to American Muslim Alliance of Florida Scholarship recipients.

4/22/2019 **Banning the Dog Meat Trade**  
**Addressed to:** Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Japan

This letter urges Prime Minister Abe to support the ban of the importation and trade of dog meat in Japan.

4/24/2019 **Access to Responsible Credit Program**  
**Addressed to:** Minority Leader Audrey Gibson, Florida Senate and Minority Leader Kionne McGhee, Florida House of Representative

This letter supported SB 874 (Rouson) and HB 469 (Fernandez-Barquin) which will expand access to capital for underserved Floridians. With the “Access to Responsible Credit Pilot Program,” tens of thousands of Floridians who have been shut out of mainstream banking options will have access to affordable loans and a path toward a stronger financial future.

4/29/2019 **Small-Dollar, Short-Term Credit Rule**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Kathy Kraninger, Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)

This letter supported the CFPB's efforts to improve the small-dollar, short-term credit rule to ensure the appropriate balance between the need to protect consumers with the need of consumers to have access to these vital forms of credit.

5/02/2019 **Peruvian Agrarian Reform Bonds/Florida Pension**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State

The government of Peru began issuing Agrarian Reform Bonds in 1969 as a means of compensating landowners for expropriated lands. Following decades of currency changes and hyperinflation, the government ceased making payments on these bonds in 1992. The value and process for repayment of these bonds remains in question. More than 50,000 Florida workers are invested in Peruvian agrarian reform bonds through their pension funds, including municipal workers, police officers, firefighters, trade unions, and port workers across the state. Entities within several Florida cities, including Fort Lauderdale, Orlando, North Miami Beach, and Hialeah are among those whose pension plans continue to be affected. This letter urges Secretary Pompeo to continue engaging Peru to find a solution to this issue.

5/05/2019 **Congratulatory letter**  
**Addressed to:** Daniela Castelblanco

This letter congratulates Daniela Coastelablanca for being selected to receive the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship.

5/28/2019 **Dillard Class of 1969 50<sup>th</sup> Year Reunion**  
**Addressed to:** Robert L. Ingram

This letter congratulates the Dillard High School Class of 1969 on their 50<sup>th</sup> year class reunion.

6/12/2019 **Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) Funding**  
**Addressed to:** House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey

This letter asked House Appropriators to ensure that a \$250,000 increase in CSCE funding is included in the final FY2020 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations package. This funding was not included during the committee process but could still be added in during a future conference process.

6/19/2019 **Calling for an End to the Dog and Cat Meat Trade**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State

This letter urged Secretary Pompeo to use diplomatic pressure to raise the issue of the troubling trade and consumption of dog and cat meat and the need to condemn this harsh trade throughout the world, and specifically, in China, South Korea, Vietnam, and other Asian countries. This letter was sent ahead of this year's Dog Meat Festival in Yulin, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China, which is scheduled to begin on Friday, June 21st.

7/08/2019 **Wimbledon Run**  
**Addressed to:** Ms. Cori “Coco” Gauff

This letter congratulated Cori on her success and accomplishments as a professional tennis player.

7/11/2019 **Rise of Rest Initiative**  
**Addressed to:** Mr. Steve Case

This letter commended the Rise of the Rest initiative and Mr. Case’s work with emerging startups.

7/11/2019 **Pollinator Caucus – Honeybee Colonies Report**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary, Department of Agriculture

This letter urged the USDA to abandon its plan to suspend data collection of its Honeybee Colonies Report and return to collecting data on honeybee health.

8/08/2019 **Banning the Dog Meat Trade**  
**Addressed to:** President Joko Widodo, Indonesia

This letter expressed support of the Indonesian Government’s recent agreement to move towards the goal of ending the dog and cat meat trade.

8/21/2019 **Floor Consideration of H.Res. 138**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer

This letter urged Speaker Pelosi to bring H.Res.138, *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* to the floor for a vote, following its favorable markup.

9/05/2019 **Hurricane Dorian – Public Assistance**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump

This letter supported Governor DeSantis’ request for financial assistance for eligible Category B expenses under FEMA’s Public Assistance program.

9/05/2019 **Hurricane Dorian – Bahamas – Visa Waivers/TPS**

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

This letter urged President Trump to waive or suspend certain visa requirements to facilitate the reunification of Bahamians with U.S. relatives. Additionally, if requested, by the Bahamian government, the letter supported the designation of Bahamas for TPS.

9/23/2019 **Sec. 569 – TAP Pilot Program**

**Addressed to:** Leaders of the FY2020 NDAA Conference Committee – Chairman Jim Inhofe, Ranking Member Jack Reed, Chairman Adam Smith and Ranking Member Mac Thornberry

This letter urged the NDAA Conference Committee to retain Section 569 of the House-passed bill, establishing a transition outreach pilot program through the Transition to Veterans Program Office to facilitate contact between veterans and the Department of Defense (DoD).

9/23/2019 **Sec. 913 – DoD Form Modernization**

**Addressed to:** Leaders of the FY2020 NDAA Conference Committee – Chairman Jim Inhofe, Ranking Member Jack Reed, Chairman Adam Smith and Ranking Member Mac Thornberry

This letter urged the NDAA Conference Committee to retain Section 913 of the House-passed bill requiring the Secretary of the Department of Defense (DoD) to review and update in-use documents containing terms or classifications deemed to be racially or ethnically insensitive.

9/23/2019 **Sec. 1250E – COFA**

**Addressed to:** Leaders of the FY2020 NDAA Conference Committee – Chairman Jim Inhofe, Ranking Member Jack Reed, Chairman Adam Smith and Ranking Member Mac Thornberry

This letter urged the NDAA Conference Committee to retain Section 1250E of the House-passed bill expressing the sense of Congress on our enduring commitment to states with which we share Compacts of Free Association (COFA). As the current compacts approach expiration in 2023 and 2024, it is imperative that the United States expeditiously begin negotiations on the renewal and expansion of the agreements with the Pacific island nations of Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

9/30/2019 **The Passing of President Jacques Chirac**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Philippe Etienne, French Ambassador to the United States

This letter expresses condolences to the people of France on the passing of President Chirac.

10/02/2019 **City of Tamarac Grant**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Peter Gaynor, Acting Administrator, FEMA

This letter expressed concern over a grant awarded to the City of Tamarac for its Water Treatment Plant Saferoom Hardening Project. FEMA is seeking to de-obligate the grant.

1/14/2020 **Florida Consent to Refugee Resettlement**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor, Florida

This letter expressed support for the Governor to provide written consent to allow refugee agencies to resettle refugees in Florida, per Executive Order 13888.

3/11/2020 **Prioritize Florida for COVID-19 Emergency Supplies**

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

This letter expressed concern about the evolving conditions in Florida due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and requested Florida's prioritization to receive immediate, emergency resources to aggressively mitigate and contain the spread of the virus in the state.

3/20/2020 **Governor DeSantis' and FEMA Director Moskowitz's request for the Immediate Delivery of Additional Resources to Combat COVID-19**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Peter Gaynor, Administrator, FEMA and Vice President Mike Pence

This letter expressed support for the request made by Governor DeSantis and Director Moskowitz for delivery of intensive care units, N95 masks, ventilators, hospital beds, hand sanitizer, and other personal protective equipment.

3/23/2020 **Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)**

**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy

This letter urged leadership to support the Emergency Food and Shelter Program with \$200 million in emergency funding to help those dealing with homelessness.

- 3/24/2020 **Protections for Americans Receiving Healthcare Subsidies**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Minority Leader Charles Schumer
- This letter urged Congressional leadership to preclude any direct payments included in the final Coronavirus relief package from calculations of incomes when determining eligibility for healthcare subsidies or VA disability pension benefits. The letter warned that without adequate protections, individuals near the cutoff for receiving these types of financial assistance may inadvertently lose access to these benefits.
- 4/06/2020 **Florida Delegation Letter Regarding the Emergency Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Program**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Jovita Carranza, Administrator, Small Business Administration
- This letter urged SBA Administrator Carranza to make sure that farmers can access the EIDL program.
- 4/07/2020 **Florida Delegation Letter – Recommendations to Improve Florida’s Unemployment System**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor, Florida
- This letter requested Governor DeSantis do the following: 1) Extend the length of Florida’s unemployment benefits from 12 weeks to 26 weeks; 2) increase the maximum benefit from \$275 per week to be comparable to states with similar costs of living; 3) Utilize funding under the *CARES Act* to provide thirteen additional weeks of state benefits; 4) Make benefits payments retroactive to when an individual became unemployed; and 5) Take all necessary action to make the claims process quick and efficient.
- 4/10/2020 **Support Homeless Programs in 4<sup>th</sup> COVID-19 Stimulus**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy
- This letter urged leadership to prioritize individuals experiencing homelessness by supporting Emergency Solutions Grants, Housing Choice Vouchers, and emergency rental assistance funded through contributions to Housing Choice Vouchers, Emergency Solutions Grants, Section 521 Rural Rental Assistance, and the Disaster Housing Assistance Program.

4/10/2020 **Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (PHSSEF) COVID-19 Funding Allocation**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, and Hon. Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

This letter urged the Secretaries to prioritize PHSSEF funding for Florida and other states most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4/18/2020 **Wet Markets**

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

This letter urged President Trump to discuss wet markets with President Xi and encourage him to ban the unsanitary and inhumane practice of purchasing live animals and butchering them in contaminated conditions on-site in these markets, to avoid future deadly viral outbreaks.

4/29/2020 **Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Agencies (NRSROs)**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Jerome Powell, Chairman, Federal Reserve Board of Governors

This letter requested that the Federal Reserve clarify that emergency lending facilities are available to all businesses with investment-grade ratings.

4/30/2020 **Request for Accelerated Everglades Restoration in WRDA 2020**

**Addressed to:** House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Peter DeFazio, Ranking Member Sam Graves, Subcommittee Chairwoman Grace Napolitano, and Subcommittee Ranking Member Bruce Westerman

This letter requested the inclusion of language in the upcoming *Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA)* bill that would treat all Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) sub-projects as on-going activities under the larger restoration project already congressionally authorized in WRDA 2000 to prevent any further delay to CERP completion.

4/30/2020 **Request for Inclusion of WRDA 2000 Savings Clause**

**Addressed to:** House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Peter DeFazio, Ranking Member Sam Graves, Subcommittee Chairwoman Grace Napolitano, and Subcommittee Ranking Member Bruce Westerman

This letter requested the inclusion of language that would direct USACE to utilize the Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule that was established by Congress in WRDA 2000 as the base condition for the analysis required by the WRDA 2000 Savings Clause.

- 5/22/2020 **Include Bees and Bee Products in CFAP Program**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary, Department of Agriculture
- This letter describes threats to bees and hardships experienced by beekeepers due to COVID-19 and urges the USDA consider them for direct financial aid.
- 6/08/2020 **Follow-Up Regarding Live Animal Markets, Yulin, and COVID-19**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump
- This letter urged President Trump consider seeking the complete, permanent ban in China of both the live wildlife markets and the more traditional livestock markets including dogs and cats there, in order to truly address the risk of future pandemics stemming from these markets and to encourage President Xi to lead on this issue throughout Asia.
- 6/09/2020 **Ban Dog and Cat Meat Trade to Prevent Another Zoonotic Disease Pandemic**  
**Addressed to:** President Xi Jinping, China
- This letter expressed a hope that President Xi will lead the effort in China, and indeed, across the globe, to eliminate the Yulin Festival and the dog and cat meat trade at-large as swiftly as possible, in order to protect the public health and welfare of communities and animals around the world.
- 6/09/2020 **Ban Dog and Cat Meat Trade to Prevent Another Zoonotic Disease Pandemic**  
**Addressed to:** Mr. Li Zhanshu, Chairman, Standing Committee, National People's Congress, China
- This letter urged Chairman Li to use his leadership in the National People's Congress in concert with President Xi Jinping to guide cities across China to institute and enforce the necessary laws to end the dog and cat meat trade.
- 7/01/2020 **A Bold Green Stimulus Package to Address Health, Economic, and Climate Crises**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy
- This letter advocated for a bold and meaningful green stimulus investment package that would deliver a transformational economic recovery and establish a resilient, clean-energy economy and good-paying jobs. The letter highlighted existing plans and strategies ready for legislative action and laid out the principals that should guide the next economic package.

7/24/2020 **Taiwanese Customs**

**Addressed to:** Representative Stanley Kao, Taipei Economic Cultural Representative Office (TECRO)

This letter to TECRO Representative Kao requests full consideration of a constituent company's request to expedite the release of mask-making machinery through Taiwanese customs with all due deference to all applicable rules, laws, and regulations.

7/28/2020 **Relief Funding for Beekeepers and Honey Producers**

**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer; House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson, Ranking Member K. Michael Conaway, Subcommittee Chairman Sanford Bishop Jr., and Subcommittee Ranking Member Jeff Fortenberry

This letter requested at least \$10 million for beekeepers and honey producers so they can compete with foreign honey dumping as well as help them through the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, it requests they encourage the USDA to include honey in their federal nutrition assistance programs.

10/06/2020 **Safety Net Program Waivers**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor, Florida

This letter requested that the Governor extend job requirement and recertification flexibilities for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Medicaid benefits until the state reaches specific markers of stable, consistent recovery from the dual crises of the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn.

11/02/2020 **FL DEP *Clean Water Act* Section 404 Authority**

**Addressed to:** Hon. David Ross, Assistant Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency

This letter requests the FL Dept. of Environmental Protection be granted authority in administering the *Clean Water Act* Section 404 program for Everglades projects instead of the Army Corp of Engineers. Essentially, USACE currently processes these requests but they cannot approve permits efficiently, slowing down progress on Everglades restoration.

## Grant Letters and Letters of Support

My office can 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 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic and Description</b>
4/03/2019	<p><b>Grant Title: New Access Point Grant</b> <b>Applicant:</b> Broward Community &amp; Family Health Center <b>Addressed To:</b> Ms. Allison Arnone, Public Health Analyst, Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Primary Health Care</p> <p>As the oldest federally qualified health center in Broward County, the Broward Community &amp; Family Health Center (BCFHC) has provided high quality, affordable primary health care services to the underserved and uninsured residents of Broward County for over twenty-one years. This grant will allow BCFHC to increase access to affordable medical services for the residents of the City of Deerfield Beach and its surrounding communities. The New Access Point will dismantle barriers to access for the predominantly underserved Hispanic and African American communities by preparing culturally competent health care providers, trained to serve these populations.</p>
4/08/2019	<p><b>Grant Title: New Access Point Grant</b> <b>Applicant:</b> FoundCare, Inc. <b>Addressed To:</b> Ms. Yolette Bonnet, CEO, FoundCare, Inc.</p> <p>FoundCare provides services to more than 15,000 individuals, many of whom are uninsured and have limited access to primary care services. This grant will allow FoundCare to establish a New Access Point in Central County at Okeechobee and the Turnpike. It will be an important part of the healthcare safety net for this area of Palm Beach County.</p>
5/21/2019	<p><b>Grant Title: Low-No Emission Vehicle Program</b> <b>Applicant:</b> Broward County Transit <b>Addressed To:</b> Ms. K. Jane Williams, Acting Administrator, Federal Transit Administration</p> <p>Funding from the Low or No Emission Vehicle program will enable Broward County Transit (BCT) to purchase three Hydrogen Fuel Cell buses and the necessary infrastructure for generating hydrogen at its Copans Road Operations and Maintenance Facility in Pompano Beach, allowing the buses to be fueled at a significantly lower cost. Deployment of these advanced technologies will benefit the county and the community; reducing emissions while offering quieter ridership experiences to BCT customers.</p>

5/29/2019 **Grant Title: Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, General Program Support Grant**

**Applicant:** West Palm Beach Zoo and Conservation Society

**Addressed To:** Florida Division of Cultural Affairs

For over 50 years the Palm Beach Zoo has been an important center for our community, drawing over 360,000 visitors each year. The funding provided by this grant will aid the Palm Beach Zoo in its mission to provide education programs and messaging to visitors that will inspire them to act on behalf of the animal work, be proactive in sustainable practices, and value conservation efforts.

6/12/2019 **Grant Title: Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Program Grant**

**Applicant:** Opportunities Industrialization Center of South Florida

**Addressed To:** Acting Director of the Office of Legislative Affairs and Budget, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services

This letter supported the Opportunities Industrialization Center of South Florida's grant application under the Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Program.

7/15/2019 **Grant Title: BUILD Planning Grant**

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

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

The Fort Lauderdale downtown area is a critical hub that links residents and tourists to the area's many amenities and serves as an essential link in the movement of goods throughout the state. The Downtown Mobility Study will identify practical strategies that support the safe, efficient, and effective flow and distribution of people and goods in the downtown area. The Broward MPO believes that these strategies will improve commerce and safety and reduce conflicts between different modes of transportation, including vehicular traffic, bicycles, and pedestrians.

9/12/2019 **Grant Title: Port Infrastructure Development Grant**

**Applicant:** Port Everglades

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

One-fifth of Florida's energy requirements comes from petroleum stored and distributed from Port Everglades. The expansion of Slip one will allow the Port to accommodate today's larger petroleum tankers and ocean-going barges, adding additional capacity, improving safety and efficiency, greatly benefiting the people of South Florida. Port Everglades is simultaneously working with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to assess and remediate historical petroleum impacts adjacent to Pier 1.

1/21/2020 **Grant Title: “End the Epidemic” Initiative**  
**Applicant:** Broward County, Florida  
**Addressed To:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services

Over 21,000 people in and around Broward County are living with HIV, of which approximately 8,500 are served by the Ryan White Part A Program. The state of Florida is third in the nation for new infections and Broward County is second in the nation for new HIV infections. This grant will allow Broward County to receive much needed additional funding and resources in the effort to treat HIV and end the epidemic by expanding capacity and by providing programs and services that are not allowable via current Part A funding.

2/20/2020 **Grant Title: STOP School Violence Grant Program**  
**Applicant:** School Board of Broward County  
**Addressed To:** Ms. Tracey Trautman, Acting Director, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice

This letter, led by Rep. Ted Deutch (FL-22), expresses support of the School Board of Broward County’s STOP School Violence Grant Program application.

2/27/2020 **Grant Title: Zero Emission Bus Grant Application**  
**Applicant:** Broward County Transit  
**Addressed To:** Ms. K. Jane Williams, Acting Administrator, Federal Transit Administration

This letter, led by Rep. Ted Deutch (FL-22), expresses support of the Broward County Transit Zero Emission Bus, on-route and solar canopy charging infrastructure project grant proposal.

3/09/2020 **Grant Title: Certified Community Behavioral Health Expansion Grant**  
**Applicant:** Banyan Health System  
**Addressed To:** Dr. Elinore F. McCance-Katz, M.D., Ph. D., Assistant Secretary, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Sciences Administration, Department of Health and Human Services

As a Federally Qualified Health Center, Banyan Health System plans on opening a new Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic in Broward County to provide 24/7, comprehensive access to community-based Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder services; treatment of co-occurring disorders; and physical healthcare in one location. This clinic will improve the health of West Broward County’s underserved communities and vulnerable populations by increasing access to comprehensive collections of services for those that are suffering from severe and complicated mental and substance use disorders.

4/27/2020 **Grant Title: Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program Grant**

**Applicant:** City of Lauderdale Lakes, Florida

**Addressed To:** Mr. Phil E. Keith, Director, Community Oriented Policing Services, Department of Justice

The City of Lauderdale Lakes has seen an increase in crime over the past several years and saw its budget slashed by approximately 40% since 2011. This grant will allow for the hiring of full-time police officers to provide proactive enforcement activities to improve overall public safety in crime hotspots along the US Route 441 and Oakland Park Boulevard corridor.

6/10/2020 **Grant Title: Port Infrastructure Development Grant**

**Applicant:** Port Everglades

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

This letter, led by Rep. Ted Deutch (FL-22), notes support for Broward County's grant application for the Port Everglades Slip 1 Expansion Project.

6/10/2020 **Grant Title: Center of Excellence for "Adversarial Learning and Operation of Connected Multi-agent Artificial Intelligence."**

**Applicant:** Florida Atlantic University

**Addressed To:** Mr. Michael D. Griffin, Under Secretary of Defense, Research and Engineering, Department of Defense

This letter, led by Rep Ted Deutch (FL-22), expresses support for Florida Atlantic University's proposal to develop a United States Department of Defense University Center of Excellence for "Adversarial Learning and Operation of Connected Multi-agent Artificial Intelligence."

6/11/2020 **Grant Title: Federally Qualified Health Center Look Alike Program**

**Applicants:** Florida Atlantic University (FAU) College of Nursing and the Northwest Community Health Alliance, Inc. (NCHA)

**Addressed To:** Mr. Thomas J. Engels, Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services

The jointly overseen FAU/NCHA Community Health Center in the Westgate neighborhood has served the community in West Palm Beach, Florida since 2014, and the co-applicants have recently opened a new location in the UB Kinsey Educational and Community Center in the historic Northwest neighborhood. The area population is disproportionately Hispanic and African American compared with the rest of Palm Beach County, and the FAU>NCHA Community Health Center reports that almost half of the service-area population lives below 200 percent of the poverty level.

6/14/2020 **Grant Title: Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs**  
**Applicant:** Nova Southeastern University (NSU)  
**Addressed To:** Mr. Dana Gartzke, Performing the Delegated Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce

This letter expresses support for NSU's application for the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration's Public Works and Economic Adjustments Assistance Programs for the Broward Innovation Center.

6/16/2020 **Grant Title: Treatment, Recovery, and Workforce Support Grant**  
**Applicant:** Banyan Community Health Center (BCHC)  
**Addressed To:** Ms. Deepa Avula, Chief of Staff and Director of the Office of Financial Resources, Substance Abuse and Mental, Health Services Administration

BCHC, in partnership with OIC of South Florida, Inc. and CORE Services Group, Inc., proposes to use the funding to implement evidence-based and best practices to support individuals in substance use disorder treatment and recovery and enable them to live independently and fully participate in the workforce. The proposed project, *Banyan Works*, will serve 480 adults with substance use disorder in Florida's most populated counties, Broward and Miami-Dade, over the five-year project period.

6/22/2020 **Grant Title: Domestic Victims of Human Trafficking Services and Outreach Program**  
**Applicant:**  
**Addressed To:** Ms. Katherine Chon, Director, Office on Trafficking Persons, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services

Kristi House's and Arc of Freedom Alliance's "Project TEAM" provides a necessary and impactful initiative in building local capacity for comprehensive case management, outreach, and training to reduce human trafficking of youth and young adults in South Florida. This funding will allow Project Team to expand their reach in South Florida.

9/14/2020 **Grant Title: Urban Agriculture Innovative Production (UAIP) Competitive Grant Program**

**Applicant:** City of Miramar

**Addressed To:** Mr. Louis Aspey, Deputy Chief for Management and Strategy, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture

The City of Miramar operates the Miramar Community Garden (MCG), a 7,400 square foot garden that offers not only the production of fresh produce and plants, but also serves as an award-winning “micro-urban farm” where all community members are welcomed to learn about growing fresh food and nutrition. With UAIP funding, the MCG will be able to focus on three distinct areas in partnership with University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences for extension: entrepreneurial, neighborhood, and youth urban gardening.

6/29/2020 **Grant Title: Florida Department of Library and Information Services CARES Act Grant**

**Applicant:** City of Riviera Beach

**Addressed To:** Ms. Amy L. Johnson, State Librarian and Director, Division of Library and Information Services (DLIS), Florida Department of State

The obstacles to accessing technology and the internet across the community have increased dramatically due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding will help ensure access to public digital library resources while the community recovers from economic and health crises.

## Letters Signed

Below, please find a comprehensive list of all the letters I signed onto during the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic and Description</b>
1/03/2019	<p><b>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Disaster Funds</b> <b>Addressed to:</b> Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy; House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey and Ranking Member Kay Granger <b>Primary Sending Office:</b> Representative David Price (D-NC) and Representative David Rouzer (R-NC)</p> <p>This letter urged the Appropriations Committee to include additional funding for the Army Corps of Engineers studies and projects so that our states may fully recover from natural disasters.</p>
1/08/2019	<p><b>Proposed Reproductive Health Rule</b> <b>Addressed to:</b> Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services <b>Primary Sending Office:</b> Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Representative Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Representative Barbra Lee (D-CA)</p> <p>This letter expressed strong opposition to the Trump Administration's reproductive health proposed rule as it would impose unnecessary and onerous burdens on insurers and consumers with the goal of eliminating abortion coverage in the <i>Affordable Care Act</i> marketplace and denying women comprehensive health insurance.</p>
1/09/2019	<p><b>Supporting Affordable Healthcare for Floridians</b> <b>Addressed to:</b> Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor, Florida <b>Primary Sending Office:</b> Representative Kathy Castor (D-FL)</p> <p>This letter encouraged Governor DeSantis to shift the State of Florida's focus to constructive improvements in care and coverage and build on the success of the <i>Affordable Care Act</i>, Medicare, and Medicaid.</p>

- 1/09/2019 **Urging Action to Continue Efforts to Address the Opioid Epidemic**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), Representative Annie Kuster (D-NH), and Representative Donald Norcross (D-NJ)

A November 2018 report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found a dramatic increase in deaths nationally due to synthetic opioids such as fentanyl and increases in overdose deaths in many of the hardest hit states. This letter called upon Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer to prioritize policies that will help tackle the opioid epidemic.

- 1/15/2019 **Demanding Secretary DeVos Support Student Loan Borrowers During Trump Shutdown**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Betsy DeVos, Secretary, Department of Education  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)

This letter urged the Department of Education to do all it can to direct student loan servicers to proactively reach out to federal employees to provide information about how to manage their student loan debt during the Trump government shutdown.

- 1/17/2019 **Shutdown Housing Crisis**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump and Hon. Ben Carson, Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Marc Veasy (D-TX) and Senator Mark Warner (D-VA)

This letter expressed deep concern regarding the harmful impacts the partial government shutdown that began on December 22, 2018 had on the ability of Americans to afford their homes and on the housing stability of more than four million households across the country. For the sake of the families at stake, this letter urged President Trump to end the shutdown, re-open the Department of Housing and Urban Development and protect the American people.

- 1/22/2019 **Continue Support for Everglades Renewal and Restoration Projects**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Francis Rooney (R-FL)

This letter drew specific attention to the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir as a key component of the restoration of the Everglades ecosystem.

1/23/2019 **Global Fund**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Mike Pompeo, Secretary, Department of State

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Representative Chris Smith (R-NJ)

This letter supported a three-year pledge to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria (Global Fund) for its 6th Replenishment. The U.S. pledged up to \$4.3 billion over three years for the Fund's 5th Replenishment, and Congress has appropriated amounts consistent with that pledge. The 6th Replenishment would cover 2020-2022.

1/23/2019 **Nomination of Former New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson for a Nobel Peace Prize**

**Addressed to:** Nobel Prize Selection Committee

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM)

This letter urged the Nobel Prize Selection Committee to consider former New Mexico Bill Richardson and the Richardson Center for Global Engagement for a Nobel Peace Prize for their work to free political prisoners around the world.

1/23/2019 **The President's Continued Efforts to Undermined Puerto Rico's Recovery**

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

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jose Serrano (D-NY)

This letter was sent after it became public that President Trump was considering diverting U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funding appropriated by Congress for disaster recovery efforts in Puerto Rico in order to build the wall along the Southern border.

1/24/2019 **New Federal Courthouse – Southern District of Florida**

**Addressed to:** Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman John Barrasso and Ranking Member Thomas Carper

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Lois Frankel (D-FL)

This letter urged the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee to approve the prospectus for a new Federal Courthouse for the Southern District of Florida.

- 1/25/2019 **Oracle's Pay Discrimination Towards Female, Black, and Asian Employees**  
**Addressed to:** Larry Ellison, Executive Chairman and Chief Technology Officer, Oracle Corporation  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Robin Kelly (D-IL)

This letter, from the House Tech Accountability Caucus, requested information about the company's pay structure and methodology, career track placement, and mobility within the company based on the Department of Labor's announcement about the company's pay discrimination toward female, black, and Asian employees.

- 1/31/2019 **Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF-South)**  
**Addressed to:** Admiral Craig Faller, Commander, SOUTHCOM  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Michael Waltz (R-FL)

This letter urged Admiral Faller to keep JIATF-South in Florida. The Task Force is a hub for coordinating drug interdiction efforts between several law enforcement agencies and regional partners, covering an area of operations of more than 42 million square miles.

- 2/01/2019 **Mexico Antidumping Agreement**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Wilbur Ross, Secretary, Department of Commerce  
**Primary Sending Office:** Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)

This letter urged the Secretary of Commerce to immediately terminate the agreement suspending the outstanding antidumping investigation on fresh tomatoes from Mexico.

- 2/04/2019 **Calling for the Pentagon to Not Implement Ban on Transgender Military Service**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Patrick Shanahan, Acting Secretary, Department of Defense  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Mary Gay Scanlon (D-PA), Representative Joseph P. Kennedy, III (D-MA), and Representative Jackie Speier (D-CA)

This letter urged Acting Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan to not implement the ban on transgender patriots serving in the military. On July 26, 2017, President Donald Trump announced on Twitter he was banning transgender people from serving in the armed forces. Transgender people have served openly in uniform since June 30, 2016, without any proven harm to readiness or unit cohesion.

- 2/06/2019 **Supporting the Medicare Advantage Program**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Tony Cárdenas (D-CA), Representative Brett Guthrie (R-KY), Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), and Representative Mike Kelly (R-PA)

This letter expressed strong bipartisan support for the Medicare Advantage program, which 39.2 percent of eligible Medicare beneficiaries, more than 22 million people, choose to enroll in. This letter urged the Administration to further strengthen the Medicare Advantage program and ensure millions of seniors have access to comprehensive, affordable health coverage choices.

- 2/12/2019 **2015 Clean Water Rule**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Andrew Wheeler, Acting Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, and Hon. Rickey “R.D.” James, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Representative Grace Napolitano (D-CA) and Representative Donald Beyer (D-VA)

This letter requested an extension of the proposed comment period associated with the Environmental Protection Agency's and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' proposed rule to replace the 2015 Clean Water Rule.

- 2/12/2019 **Census Letter Regarding Data on Minority Ownership of Franchising**  
**Addressed to:** Dr. Ron Jarmin, Acting Director, Economic and Statistics Administration, Census Bureau  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Alma Adams (D-NC)

This letter encouraged the U.S. Census Bureau to collect data on minority and women franchise ownership more frequently.

- 2/13/2019 **Renewable Energy**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor, Florida  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Kathy Castor (D-FL)

This letter encouraged Governor DeSantis to be bold in establishing Florida's clean energy future and moving the Sunshine State away from polluting fossil fuels and their exorbitant costs.

- 2/13/2019 **Offshore Oil Drilling**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. David Bernhardt, Acting Secretary, Department of the Interior  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Kathy Castor (D-FL) and Representative Francis Rooney (R-FL)
- This letter urged Acting Secretary of Interior Bernhardt to take formal action to exempt drilling off Florida's coasts from the Administration's five-year plan.
- 2/21/2019 **Request to Favorably Report the Inspector General Access Act**  
**Addressed to:** Senate Committee of the Judiciary Chairman Lindsey Graham, and Ranking Member Dianne Feinstein  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)
- This letter requested that Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Feinstein favorably report the Inspector General Access Act, a bipartisan bill that would foster greater transparency within our judicial system.
- 2/21/2019 **Centers for Medicaid Services' Proposed Medicare Part D Rule**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA)
- This letter opposed the Centers for Medicaid Services' (CMS) proposed Medicare Part D rule for six categories of drugs (known as "protected classes") that would push life-saving drugs out of reach for patients in need, including for people living with HIV.
- 3/08/2019 **Dredging**  
**Addressed to:** Army Corps of Engineers  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Lois Frankel (D-FL) and Representative Brian Mast (R-FL)
- This letter expressed concerns that the Florida Inland Navigation District had with supplemental dredging funds for the intracoastal waterways across the state.
- 3/11/2019 **Clean Energy Tax Priorities**  
**Addressed to:** House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Haley Stevens (D-MI)
- This letter outlined a series of tax incentives for clean energy technologies and urges the Ways and Means Committee to consider them as part of a broader tax or infrastructure package.

- 3/12/2019 **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary, Department of Agriculture  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)

This letter expressed concerns about the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) proposed rule, published on February 1, 2019, titled Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Requirements for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (Docket No. FNS-2018-0004). The proposed rule would introduce political interference into state-level administration of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). We strongly oppose this policy and urge you to withdraw the proposed rule.

- 3/12/2019 **OSHA**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alexander Acosta, Secretary, Department of Labor  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Susan Wild (D-PA)

This letter urged Secretary Acosta to immediately reinstate the original Improve Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses rule published in 2016, which required companies with more than 250 employees or more to submit OSHA forms 300 and 301 each year, logging work-related injuries and illnesses.

- 3/13/2019 **Mexican Labor Reforms in the United States, Mexico, Canada (USMCA) Trade Agreement**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Robert Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ)

This letter shared the signatories' concerns regarding Mexico's labor practices and the need for significant reform before any Congressional vote on the renegotiated North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

- 3/14/2019 **Civil Unrest in Haiti**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Mike Pompeo, Secretary, Department of State  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Andy Levin (D-MI)

This letter urged the State Department to support accountability efforts around the Petrocaribe; requests a briefing regarding reports of violence against those exercising their democratic rights in Haiti; requests that the State Department communicate to our partners in Haitian law enforcement, and the UN mission, the importance of rigorous investigations into allegations of abuses and justice for victims of state violence; and requests that the State Department work with partners in the country to impress upon the Haitian government the importance of inviting the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to visit the country and investigate acts of political violence, including the mass killing in La Saline.

- 3/15/2019 **U.S. Census**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Wilbur Ross, Secretary, Department of Commerce, and Hon. Kirstjen Nielsen, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL)

This letter urged the Secretaries to cease plans to implement an information sharing agreement between the Census Bureau and Department of Homeland Security.

- 3/19/2019 **Stand Up for Our Women Veterans**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Robert Wilkie, Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ)

This letter requested that the VA Secretary implement specific measures to track and prioritize both the cultural and physical transformation within Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities to equitably serve women veterans. The VA has failed to keep faith with women veterans, who are the fastest growing population within the veteran community.

- 3/22/2019 **Chinese Drywall**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Wilbur Ross, Secretary, Department of Commerce  
**Primary Sending Office:** Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)

This letter requested that the Secretary work to resolve all defective drywall claims against recalcitrant Chinese companies, and that action be taken to prevent them from doing business in the U.S. until they resolve the injustice impacting thousands of American citizens.

- 3/25/2019 **Climate Change**  
**Addressed to:** House Budget Committee Chairman John Yarmuth and House Appropriations Chairwoman Nita Lowey  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Don Beyer (D-VA)

This letter urged Chair Yarmuth and Chair Lowey to adjust spending levels to respond to the latest science and to repeated calls from the scientific community to invest in efforts to meaningfully address climate change.

- 3/27/2019 **Tunisia National Day**  
**Addressed to:** Ambassador Faycal Gouia, Tunisia’s Ambassador to the United States  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative David Schweikert (R-AZ)

This letter congratulated the Ambassador on Tunisia's 63rd year of independence.

- 3/25/2019 **Protect the ACA and Pre-Existing Conditions**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Ted Lieu (D-CA)

This letter called on President Trump to reverse course and defend the Affordable Care Act in court. This letter underscores how the Trump Administration’s actions to undermine the Affordable Care Act stand in direct conflict with the President’s own stated goals from his 2019 State of the Union Address to “lower the cost of healthcare and prescription drugs — and to protect patients with pre-existing conditions.”

- 4/04/2019 **USMCA – Specialty Crops Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Duties**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Robert Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative  
**Primary Sending Office:** Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL), Representative Vern Buchanan (R-FL), Representative Stephanie Murphy (D-FL), Representative Al Lawson (D-FL)

This letter raised concerns regarding the lack of progress in the USMCA with respect to improved mechanisms to initiate and sustain legitimate anti-dumping and countervailing duties proceedings for trade in seasonal and perishable produce.

- 4/05/2019 **Tax-Exempt Municipal Bonds**  
**Addressed to:** House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal and Ranking Member Kevin Brady  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Steve Stiver (R-OH) and Representative C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD)

This letter expressed support for tax-exempt municipal bonds. Nearly two-thirds of core infrastructure investments in the United States are financed with municipal bonds. In 2018 alone, more than \$325 billion in municipal bonds were issued to finance the projects that touch the daily lives of every American citizen and business.

- 4/08/2019 **Measles Outbreak**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Robert R. Redfield, MD, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Andy Levin (MI-09)
- This letter urged the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help states and localities address ongoing measles outbreaks and mitigate the risk of future outbreaks.
- 4/08/2019 **EPA WOTUS Rule**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Andrew Wheeler, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, and Hon. Rickey “R.D.” James, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative A. Donald McEachin (D-VA), Representative Pramila Jayapal (D-WA), Representative Nanette Diaz Barragán (D-CA)
- This letter urged the EPA and Army Corps to desist from their efforts to replace the 2015 Clean Water Rule with a much less protective rule.
- 4/08/2019 **David Bernhardt’s Nomination to Serve as the U.S. Secretary of Interior**  
**Addressed to:** Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative A. Donald McEachin (D-VA)
- This letter urged Senate leadership to oppose the nomination of David Bernhardt to serve as the U.S. Secretary of the Interior.
- 4/10/2019 **Autism CARES**  
**Addressed to:** House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Frank Pallone Jr., Ranking Member Greg Walden, Subcommittee on Health Chairwoman Anna Eshoo, and Ranking Member Michael Burgess  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Christopher H. Smith (R-NJ)
- This letter requested that the Energy & Commerce Committee consider H.R. 1058, the *Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education, and Support (CARES) Act of 2019* as soon as possible in honor of Autism Awareness Month.
- 4/11/2019 **Mexico’s Labor Practices**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Robert Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Bill Pascrell Jr. (D-NJ)
- This letter urged the Trade Representative to consider Mexico's poor labor law in moving forward with the USMCA.

- 4/17/2019 **Japan's Domestic Ivory Market**  
**Addressed to:** His Excellency Shinsuke J. Sugiyama, The Ambassador  
Extraordinary Plenipotentiary of Japan  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Madeleine Dean (D-PA)
- This letter urged the government of Japan to close its domestic ivory market and join the growing effort to combat the ivory trade worldwide.
- 4/18/2019 **UF Designation by National Cancer Institute**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Norman E. Sharpless, MD, Director, National Cancer  
Institute  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Ted S. Yoho (R-FL)
- This letter supported to the University of Florida as part of the UF Health Cancer Center's (UFHCC) application to become a National Cancer Institute (NCI) designated center.
- 4/18/2019 **Disaster Relief**  
**Addressed to:** Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senator Richard  
Shelby, and Senator Rick Scott  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Darren Soto (D-FL)
- This letter urged senators to pass the disaster relief package passed in the House.
- 4/22/2019 **Ronald Mortensen**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Mike Pompeo, Secretary, Department of State  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Lois Frankel (D-FL)
- This letter expressed strong opposition to the nomination of Ronald Mortensen for Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees and Migration.
- 4/25/2019 **Stop Trump's Efforts to Target Workers**  
**Addressed to:** U.S. Social Security Administration  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jesús G. García (D-IL)
- This letter aimed to stop Trump from targeting minority and immigrant workers by sending 'no-match' letters to rectify administrative errors. This practice has been proven to discriminate against immigrant workers and was banned by the Obama Administration.

4/26/2019 **Wild Horses**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary, USDA and Ms. Vicki Christiansen, Chief, U.S. Forest Service

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Ted Lieu (D-CA)

This letter expressed concern with the U.S. Forest Service's plan to sell wild horses from the Devils' Garden Plateau Wild Horse Territory in Northern California without restrictions on slaughter.

5/01/2019 **SAA Anti-Labor Policies**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Nancy Berryhill, Acting Administrator, Social Security Administration

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Janice D. Schakowsky (D-IL)

This letter addressed the fact that SSA management cancelled agreed-upon bargaining sessions and insisted the contract with AFGE be sent to the Federal Service Impasses Panel. The contract SSA management proposes includes provisions similar to President Trump's 2018 executive orders that were invalidated in federal court, including severe limits to employees' ability to provide representation to our members in matters of whistleblowing, adverse actions and EEO violations.

5/01/2019 **Net Neutrality**

**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, and Majority Whip James Clyburn

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Scott Peters (D-CA)

This letter called for the establishment of a bipartisan working group, like the Wicker-Sinema effort in the Senate. The House must begin a process of forging bipartisan consensus. Various models for legislation could achieve our goals of providing strong, enforceable net neutrality protections for consumers.

5/01/2019 **Indigenous Rights in Brazil**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Mike Pompeo, Secretary, Department of State

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative James McGovern (D-MA)

This letter expressed the signatories' profound concern regarding ongoing violations of the basic human rights of indigenous and Afro-Brazilian communities, as well as other sectors of civil society in Brazil.

- 5/06/2019 **Temporary Protected Status for Venezuelans**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Kevin McAleenan, Acting Secretary, Department of Homeland Security  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (D-FL)

This letter urged the Acting Secretary to grant TPS to Venezuelans residing in the United States.

- 5/07/2019 **The M-S Decision**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. William Barr, Attorney General, Department of Justice  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Darren Soto (D-FL)

This letter opposes Attorney General Barr's latest decision on April 16, 2019 in the matter of M-S. This decision would make asylum-seekers who are apprehended between ports of entry and have shown a credible fear of persecution ineligible to seek release on bond from an immigration judge. This decision deprives asylum seekers of their right to make their case before an immigration judge, will place thousands of asylees in indefinite detention, and will also unnecessarily cost American taxpayers billions of dollars.

- 5/08/2019 **Protections for Transgender Students**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Betsy DeVos, Secretary, Department of Education  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)

This letter expressed deep concern about Secretary DeVos' answers regarding guidance protecting transgender students during the Education and Labor Committee's hearing on April 10th, 2019 and calls on her to reinstate protections for transgender students. When questioned about her decision to rescind this guidance protecting transgender students, Secretary DeVos admitted that she was aware of the potential harm to transgender students.

- 5/08/2019 **Military Medical Personal Billets**  
**Addressed to:** Vice Admiral Raquel C. Bono, MC, USN, Director, Defense Health Agency, and Thomas McCaffery, Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Tusi Gabbard (D-HI)

This letter expressed concern about the proposed elimination of over 17,000 military medical personnel and the impact of this dramatic reduction on servicemembers and their families.

- 5/08/2019 **EPA's Efforts to Weaken Mercury and Air Toxics Standards**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Andrew Wheeler, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Kathy Castor (D-FL), Representative Janice Schakowsky (D-IL), Representative Kim Schrier (D-WA)

This letter opposed efforts to undermine or weaken the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) and urging him to withdraw the EPA's recent finding that it is not "appropriate and necessary" to regulate mercury and hazardous air pollutant emissions from coal and oil fired power plants because of the costs of doing so.

- 5/09/2019 ***Endangered Species Act* Protections for Grey Wolves**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. David Bernhardt, Secretary, Department of the Interior  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Donald Beyer (D-VA) and Representative Peter DeFazio (D-OR)

This letter expressed concerns with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's proposal to end federal protections for gray wolves under the *Endangered Species Act*.

- 5/09/2019 **Hungary's Prime Minister Orban**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Eliot Engle (D-NY)

This letter expressed concern that the President's invitation to Prime Minister Orban to come to the White House was, at least, an implicit endorsement of the Prime Minister's anti-democratic behavior.

- 5/16/2019 **Bombardment of Civilians in Idlib, Syria**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Brendan Boyle (D-PA)

This letter urged the President to work to preserve the cease-fire established last year for the northwestern part of Syria.

- 5/20/2019 **Ensure Afghan Women are Included in Peace Negotiations**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Mike Pompeo, Secretary, Department of State  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Lois Frankel (D-FL)

This letter urged the Secretary Pompeo work to prioritize the voices of women and girls in ongoing peace talks so that the gains they have made in Afghan society over the last decade-plus are not lost to history.

5/20/2019 **Requests information on Boy Scouts of America's (BSA) Child Safety Policies**

**Addressed to:** Michael Surbaugh, Chief Scout Executive, Boy Scouts of America, Ellie Morrison, National Commissioner, Boy Scouts of America, and Jim Turly, National Chair, Boy Scouts of America

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jackie Speier (D-CA)

This letter requested detailed information on BSA's reporting procedures, vetting practices, and educational initiatives, as well as a thorough accounting of its lobbying efforts to impact state legislation related to child abuse.

5/21/2019 **FLSA Rule Making**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Alexander Acosta, Secretary, Department of Labor

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Mark Takano (D-CA) and Representative Alma Adams (D-NC)

This letter addressed the DOL proposal to raise the salary threshold for overtime pay to \$35,308 per year in 2020 – a number that falls drastically short of what is needed to bring overtime compensation up to date. In 2016, the Obama Administration finalized a rule that would have raised the salary threshold to about \$47,476 per year and would have included automatic increases every three years. However, the rule was overturned in 2017 by a federal district court in Texas. The threshold would have been approximately \$51,053 in 2020. Under the Trump proposal, about 8.2 million workers will be left behind compared to the 2016 final rule.

5/21/2019 **Everglades FY2020 Funding**

**Addressed to:** House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Brian Mast (R-FL), Representative Francis Rooney (R-FL), and Representative Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (D-FL)

This letter noted that on May 13 the President submitted a budget amendment to the Corps of Engineers Construction request for a total funding level of \$200 million for South Florida Ecosystem Restoration. This letter urged the committee to allocate the \$200 million requested by the President for South Florida Ecosystem Restoration during full committee markup of the *Energy and Water Appropriations Act*.

5/21/2019 **Colombian Peace Accords**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Mike Pompeo, Secretary, Department of State

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative James McGovern (D-MA)

This letter strongly urged the Secretary to insist that the Colombian government fully implement the historic peace accords reached with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and to protect the country's human rights defenders, who remain in grave danger.

5/22/2019 **Labor Rights**

**Addressed to:** Mr. Dennis Muilenburg, President and CEO of Boeing

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Mark Pocan (D-WI) and Representative Janice Schakowsky (D-IL)

This letter addressed how Boeing has continued to refuse to bargain with the IAMAW.

5/23/2019 **USSPACECOM**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Patrick Shanahan, Acting Secretary, Department of Defense

**Primary Sending Office:** Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)

This letter expressed concerns with the recently announced decision for installations under consideration to serve as HQ for U.S. Space Command (USSPACECOM). The letter asked the Secretary to answer several questions about the basing process after Florida was not considered.

5/30/2019 **Collective Bargaining Rights**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Robert Wilkie, Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Anthony Brown (D-MD) and Representative Donald Norcross (D-NJ)

This letter expressed support of collective bargaining rights. The Veteran Administration's (VA) initial contract proposal would eliminate protections for whistleblowers, end all labor-management partnership groups, and drastically restrict representational activities—severely limiting the collective bargaining rights of VA workers. The proposed contract would also negatively affect veterans who receive medical care and vital services at the VA. AFGE and the 260,000 VA workers it represents are not asking for new rights, they simply want to protect the rights they currently have and work toward agreeing on a new contract that will effectively serve veterans.

- 6/03/2019 **Drug Provisions in the USMCA**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Robert Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Susan A. Davis (D-CA)

This letter expressed concerns regarding the provisions that limit access to affordable medicines in the revised NAFTA or USMCA.

- 6/07/2019 **Funding Cuts to Child Migrant Services**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Frederica Wilson (D-FL)

This letter expressed concern about the Office of Refugee Resettlement's decision to discontinue funding to administer educational, legal, and recreational services to unaccompanied minors being held in federal detention shelters and urged the Secretary to reconsider the decision.

- 6/11/2019 **Proposed Rule that Would Restrict Benefits to Mixed-Immigrant/Non-Immigrant Households**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Benjamin S. Carson, Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Karen Bass (D-CA)

This letter expressed concern about the proposed rule targeting households of mixed-immigration status families who receive federal housing subsidies, effectively threatening to split children who are U.S. citizens from their parents who are not. Contrary to the administration's claims, the premise of the rule is deeply flawed and would do little to solve the challenges impacting our nation's affordable housing programs.

- 6/11/2019 **Access to Ventilators for ALS Patients**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Peter Welch (D-VT)

This letter urged CMS to reconsider adding ventilators to competitive bidding.

- 6/12/2019 **CMS FY2020 Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) Proposed Rule**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Brian Higgins (D-NY)

This letter addressed the Agency's proposals related to reimbursement for Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-cell therapies.

- 6/12/2019 **Posthumous Award of the Medal of Honor**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Mark Esper, Secretary, Department of Defense  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Karen Bass (D-CA)

This letter requested a formal review by an award decision authority to posthumously award the Medal of Honor to Corporal Waverly B. Woodson, Jr., one of the Forgotten Heroes of WWII. In the early hours of June 6, 1944, Cpl. Woodson, an Army medic assigned to the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion, landed on Omaha Beach. Despite having been struck by shrapnel while aboard his Landing Craft Tank and being wounded in his groin and back, Cpl. Woodson went above and beyond the call of duty by spending 30 grueling hours saving the lives of dozens of his fellow soldiers.

- 6/17/2019 **Broward County Sand Bypass Project**  
**Addressed to:** Chris Oliver, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)

This letter addressed to NMFS and expresses concern with the delays that have taken place around the sand bypass project in Broward County. The project would fix an issue caused by the north side of the jetty that protects the channel to Port Everglades. It currently prevents sand from traveling south, starving southern Broward County beaches of sand.

- 6/18/2019 ***National Nurse Act of 2019***  
**Addressed to:** House Energy and Commerce Chairman Frank Pallone, Ranking Member Greg Walden, Subcommittee Chairwoman Anna Eshoo, and Ranking Member Michael Burgess  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)

This letter requested that House Energy and Commerce Committee leadership hold a hearing and markup on the *National Nurse Act of 2019*.

- 6/19/2019 **Restudy of South Florida's Flood Control System**  
**Addressed to:** Army Corps of Engineers  
**Primary Sending Office:** Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)

This letter requested the Secretary fund a “restudy” of South Florida’s flood control system – the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) project – under the terms of the *Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019*.

- 6/20/2019 **Older Adult Malnutrition**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Danny Davis (D-IL) and Representative Rodney Davis (R-IL)
- This letter expressed support of the Older Adult Malnutrition program which helps to promote collecting data that will assist in reducing the amount of people who suffer from malnutrition and subsequent illnesses related to malnutrition.
- 6/25/2019 **Wage Index Reform**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Stephanie Murphy (D-FL) and Representative Vern Buchanan (R-FL)
- This letter supported a reform to the Medicare wage index formula proposed by CMS that would benefit many of Florida's hospitals.
- 6/29/2019 **Reimbursement for Superficial Radiation Therapy (SRT)**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Theodore Deutch (D-FL)
- This letter expressed concern about CMS's review of the current reimbursement for SRT. Without adequate reimbursement, patients will lose access to SRT and be left with more invasive and expensive treatment options like surgery and electron beam therapy
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- 7/11/2019 **Access to Medicine under the USMCA**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Robert Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Janice Schakowsky (D-IL)
- This letter expressed strong opposition to provisions in the USMCA that limit access to medicine, thereby increasing the cost of prescription drugs.

- 7/12/2019 **U-Visas**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Mark Morgan, Acting Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Joaquin Castro (D-TX)
- This letter expressed profound concerns with the current mismanagement of U-Visa cases by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The U visa is a United States nonimmigrant visa which is set aside for victims of crimes (and their immediate family members) who have suffered substantial mental or physical abuse while in the U.S. and who are willing to assist law enforcement and government officials in investigations or prosecutions.
- 7/15/2019 **Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac's Current Policy for Condominium Financing in Florida**  
**Addressed to:** Mr. Hugh Frater, Chief Executive Officer, Fannie Mae, and Mr. David Brickman, Chief Executive Officer, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Donna Shalala (D-FL)
- The letter registered concerns about Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac's current policy for condominium financing in Florida. The letter asked that the CEOs revise the loan-to-value ratio maximums for Florida condominium units in the so called "limited review" and streamline review" processes so they are in line with nationwide condominium lending standards.
- 7/18/2019 **Temporary Protected Status for Syrians**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Kevin McAleenan, Acting Secretary, Department of Homeland Security  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Steve Watkins (R-KS)
- This letter urged the extension of TPS for Syrians living in the United States.
- 7/22/2019 **GAO on Seclusion and Restraint in Schools**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Betsy DeVos, Secretary, Department of Education  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Donald S. Beyer Jr. (D-VA)
- This letter asked the Education Department to immediately adopt the U.S. Government Accountability Office's (GAO) recommendations to address under-reporting of seclusion and restraint in order for accurate data for the 2017-2018 Civil Rights Data Collection. Seclusion and restraint are two practices used by schools that lead to serious injuries of students and teachers.

- 7/23/2019 **Reports of Pervasive Sexual Harassment at McDonald's**  
**Addressed to:** Mr. Steve Easterbrook, Chief Executive Officer, McDonald's Corporation  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Katherine Clark (D-MA)

This letter urged CEO Easterbrook to engage employees in an honest and serious dialogue regarding complaints of pervasive sexual harassment.

- 7/26/2019 **Budget Deal**  
**Addressed to:** Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Karen Bass (D-CA)

This letter expressed support for a two-year budget deal that provides the Census Bureau with the \$7.5 billion exemption.

- 8/09/2019 **Climate Standards in USMCA**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Katie Hill (D-CA)

This letter requested that the President include climate standards in the new NAFTA.

- 8/14/2019 **Union Protection in FY2020 Appropriations**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita M. Lowey, and House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government Chairman Mike Quigley  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jamie Raskin (D-MD)

This letter requested that Section 749 of the *Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act* (H.R. 3351) is retained in the final bill to ensure the protection of fair collective bargaining rights for federal employees.

- 8/14/2019 **U and T Nonimmigrant Visas**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Cheryl Stanton, Administrator, Department of Labor  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Joaquin Castro (D-TX)

This letter expressed deep concern with newly issued guidance that creates unnecessary hurdles for vulnerable immigrant workers seeking protections from human trafficking and other workplace abuses.

- 8/15/2019 **GAP Insurance for Military Members**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Mark Esper, Secretary, Department of Defense  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Neal Dunn (R-FL)

This letter urged Defense Secretary Esper to change the policy, issued in December 2017, prohibiting auto dealers from offering GAP waiver to members of the Armed Forces and their families.

- 8/21/2019 **Risk Rating 2.0 – Flood Insurance**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Peter Gaynor, Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Max Rose (D-NY)

This letter expressed concern regarding, Risk Rating 2.0, FEMA’s plan to redesign the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The communities we serve rely on the NFIP to provide fair and affordable insurance to protect their homes and businesses in the event of a natural disaster. While we welcome ideas to reform the NFIP to improve the financial stability of the program, we fear that our constituents could face an affordability crisis as a result of this new risk rating system. Therefore, it is imperative that FEMA moves thoughtfully, judiciously and with care to ensure that Risk Rating 2.0 does not result in financial upheaval for millions of Americans.

- 8/21/2019 **Urging HUD to Reconsider Exclusion of Virgin Islands from Disaster Relief Funding**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Ben Carson, Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA) and Representative Stacey Plaskett (D-VI)

This letter blasted HUD's announcement that it would release Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding to the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico separately from nine other disaster-impacted areas due to alleged corruption, fiscal irregularities and financial mismanagement occurring in Puerto Rico and capacity issues in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

8/22/2019 **Split Panel Test**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Steven Dillingham, Director, U.S. Census Bureau  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Karen Bass (D-CA)

This letter urged the U.S. Census Bureau Director, Dr. Steven Dillingham to share a detailed analysis of the Census Bureau's 2019 Split Panel Test with the American Public no later than September 16, 2019. The Census Bureau added the 2019 Split Panel Test, a major national experiment, to assess the impact that a possible citizenship question would have on census self-response rates. The experiment's results are expected to provide critical insight about census response levels given the current political climate.

8/28/2019 **PFAS Reforms in the NDAA**  
**Addressed to:** NDAA Conferees  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Andy Levin (D-MI)

This letter urged the *2020 National Defense Authorization Act* (NDAA) conferees to retain provisions that ensure our military is equipped to confront the per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination challenges present at military bases and surrounding communities nationwide.

8/28/2019 **Urban Gun Violence**  
**Addressed to:** House Judiciary Chairman Jerrold Nadler  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative William Lacy Clay (D-MO)

This letter requested help bringing attention to an urgent issue impacting the health and safety of our communities and the entire nation: gun violence prevention in urban areas. We are concerned that efforts to specifically address the impact of firearm related violence in these communities is not a focus of upcoming meetings in the House Committee on the Judiciary.

8/29/2019 **NFIP Reauthorization**  
**Addressed to:** House Financial Services Committee Chairwoman Maxine Waters and Ranking Member Patrick McHenry  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Bill Pascrell Jr. (D-NJ)

This letter urged FSC Chairwoman Waters and Ranking Member McHenry to cap premiums and delay the impacts of FEMA's Risk Rating 2.0.

9/05/2019 **Teaching Health Centers Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) Program**

**Addressed to:** House Committee on Energy and Commerce Chairman Frank Pallone and Ranking Member Greg Walden  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Lori Trahan (D-MA) and Representative Doug LaMalfa (R-CA)

This letter expressed appreciation for the inclusion of a four-year extension of the THCGME program in the comprehensive bill reported out of Energy and Commerce (H.R. 2328) that includes reauthorizations of five public health programs as well as provisions related to surprise medical billing

9/05/2019 **Widow's Tax**

**Addressed to:** Leaders of the FY2020 NDAA Conference Committee – Chairman Jim Inhofe, Ranking Member Jack Reed, Chairman Adam Smith and Ranking Member Mac Thornberry  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative John Yarmuth (D-KY)

This letter urged the retention of H.R. 553 in the final conference report.

9/06/2019 **Hurricane Dorian – Bahamas – Visa Waivers**

**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Brian Mast (R-FL)

This letter urged the Administration to expedite, waive, or suspend certain visa requirements for citizens of the Bahamas affected by the storm who are seeking shelter with relatives in the U.S.

9/10/2019 **H.R. 2569, the CARE Act**

**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, House Appropriations Chairwoman Nita Lowey, and Subcommittee Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Elijah Cummings (D-MD)

This letter called for increased funding for substance use disorder treatment as well as the inclusion of provisions from the *CARE Act* in this year's appropriations package to help reduce barriers to evidence-based treatment and to provide funding to local jurisdictions.

9/11/2019 **H.R. 2091, the *Access to Contraception for Servicemembers and Dependents Act***

**Addressed to:** Leaders of the FY2020 NDAA Conference Committee – Chairman Jim Inhofe, Ranking Member Jack Reed, Chairman Adam Smith and Ranking Member Mac Thornberry

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jackie Speier (D-CA)

This letter encouraged the inclusion of provisions in H.R. 2091 in the NDAA. These provisions would provide non-active duty servicemembers and military dependents with access to copay-free birth control and other crucial family-planning services.

9/11/2019 **Support for Bahamians following Hurricane Dorian**

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

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Frederica Wilson (D-FL)

This letter urged the president to further support the recovery efforts by waving or suspending certain visa requirements and expresses support for designating the Bahamas as a Temporary Protected Status country, if requested by their government.

9/11/2019 **Increase Funding for the STARBASE Program**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Mark Esper, Secretary, Department of Defense

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Alan Lowenthal (D-CA)

This letter asked the DoD to increase its budget request for the STARBASE program to \$35 million - in line with House of Representatives appropriation support.

9/12/2019 **VA Congressional Shared Space**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Robert Wilkie, Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Darren Soto (D-FL)

This letter expressed disappointment in the decision to no longer allow Congressional offices to use office space at Veterans Health Administration (VHA) facilities.

9/19/2019 **Election Security**

**Addressed to:** Laurel Lee, Secretary, State of Florida

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Theodore Deutch (D-FL)

This letter requested information regarding the State of Florida's efforts to address any vulnerabilities in the State's election security in advance of the 2020 election cycle.

9/24/2019 **DOL Rule - Discrimination**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Patrick Pizzella, Acting Secretary, Department of Labor  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Lois Frankel (D-FL)

This letter urged DOL to withdraw a proposed rule that would embolden discrimination against women and LGBTQ individuals by allowing federal contractors to use taxpayer dollars to subsidize discrimination, as well as use their religious beliefs to engage in otherwise unlawful behavior.

9/26/2019 **Oppose Cuts to Veterans' SNAP Benefits**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary, Department of Agriculture  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Mike Levin (D-CA)

This letter expressed opposition to proposed rulemaking by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that would cut benefits for veterans nationwide. Under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, households in which each member receives Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits are categorically eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). "Benefits" include cash assistance and non-cash or in-kind benefits or services from any TANF-funded state program.

9/26/2019 **SNAP Proposed Rule**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary, Department of Agriculture  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Karen Bass (D-CA)

This letter urged the USDA to rescind its SNAP rule that would push struggling families and children further into poverty.

10/01/2019 **Women Veterans Stamp**  
**Addressed to:** Citizens' Stamp Advisory, USPS  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Julia Brownley (D-CA)

This letter requested the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to recommend a women veterans' stamp series be issued.

10/09/2019 **Medicare Bad Debt**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Lois Frankel (D-FL)

This letter opposed the Department's proposal to drastically cut Medicare payments to hospitals. The FY20 agency budget proposes reducing the reimbursement of bad debt payments to 25 percent. This reduction will affect all eligible providers, including hospitals. Reducing this reimbursement rate could result in the loss of health services and programs that are essential for Medicare beneficiaries and threatens the stability of the providers caring for the most vulnerable members of our communities.

10/15/2019 **Alzheimer's Disease**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Paul Tonka (D-NY)

This letter urged CMS to conduct an education and outreach campaign to ensure that clinicians, Medicare beneficiaries with cognitive impairment, and their families are aware of the assessment and care planning services currently available to them.

10/16/2019 **PFAS Provisions in NDAA**

**Addressed to:** Leaders of the FY2020 NDAA Conference Committee – Chairman Jim Inhofe, Ranking Member Jack Reed, Chairman Adam Smith and Ranking Member Mac Thornberry

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI)

This letter urged the NDAA conferees to include important cleanup provisions that will safeguard the public and our environment from the harms of per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) chemicals.

- 10/17/2019 **Support for the Community Health Center Fund, National Health Service Corps, and Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Ayanna Pressley (D-MA)

This letter urged passage of H.R.1943/S.962 prior to November 21st to secure additional and strong funding for the critical CHCF, NHSC, and THCGME public health programs and urge swift action to ensure continuous access to medical training and health care services for all who need it. These programs play a crucial role in delivering stable access to primary and preventive health care to America's most underserved and vulnerable communities.

- 10/18/2019 **Urge the FDA to act to Remove Harmful Contaminants from Baby Food**  
**Addressed to:** Food and Drug Administration  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Gwen Moore (D-WI)

This letter urged the FDA to use all its authorities to take steps to remove deadly chemicals from baby food. As noted in the recent CNN report, tests continue to find harmful chemicals in baby food that can have long term impacts on the health, development, and well-being of these children. The GAO has already called for the FDA to work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop a mechanism to coordinate the development of methods to detect contaminants in food, including arsenic in rice, a recommendation it reiterated in a letter earlier this year to the Department of Health and Human Services.

- 10/18/2019 **Clean Energy Tax Extenders Package**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Paul Tonka (D-NY)

This letter urged Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer to prioritize the inclusion of critical clean energy tax policies in negotiations around must-pass legislation this year.

- 10/18/2019 **Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Control Grant Program**  
**Addressed to:** Subcommittee Chairwoman Betty McCollum and Ranking Member David Joyce  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Gwen Moore (D-WI)

This letter urged appropriators to continue to support the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Control Grant program as they move to conference in order to adequately support our nation's water infrastructure crisis.

- 10/21/2019 **Homestead Temporary Shelter for Unaccompanied Children**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Frederica Wilson (D-NJ)

This letter requested that HHS close the Homestead shelter.

- 10/22/2019 **Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association (FADAA) Addiction Treatment Model**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Charlie Crist (D-FL) and Representative John Rutherford (R-FL)

This letter urged HHS to disseminate results of FADAA model for substance abuse treatment programs and to employ the model in other states.

- 11/05/2019 **PAWS Act Grant Funding, FY2020**  
**Addressed to:** House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey and Ranking Member Kay Granger  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Katie Porter (D-CA)

This letter urges the Appropriations Committee to maintain funding for the recently authorized bipartisan *Pet and Women Safety (PAWS) Act* grants in the upcoming conference for the FY20 agriculture appropriations bill.

- 11/05/2019 **United States Census Bureau**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey, Ranking Member Kay Granger, Subcommittee Chairman José Serrano and Ranking Member Robert Aderholt  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Judy Chu (D-CA)

This letter requested robust funding for the Census Bureau to ensure a fair and accurate 2020 Census.

- 11/05/2019 **Florida Delegation - Clean Water State Revolving Fund Allotment Modernization**  
**Addressed to:** House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio and Ranking Member Sam Graves  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Michael Waltz (R-FL)

This letter requested an update to the EPA's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) to better reflect infrastructure needs and population changes since its implementation in 1987. This is based off of a 2016 EPA report to Congress that demonstrates an issue with states fulfilling water quality needs.

11/13/2019 **Sickle Cell Disease**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Calder Lynch, Acting Director, Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services, Department of Health and Human Services

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Robin Kelly (D-IL)

This letter urged equitable access for minority populations living with sickle cell disease (SCD) to breakthrough healthcare treatments and notes congressional interest in supporting sickle cell treatments, as well as the importance of ensuring that once breakthrough treatments are approved by the FDA, SCD patients can access them under Medicaid, without delay.

11/14/2019 **Roadless Rule Letter**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary, Department of Agriculture

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Ruben Gallego (D-AZ)

This letter expressed opposition to an Alaska exemption from the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) and urged the Secretary to choose "No Action" alternative (Alternative #1) included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule.

11/15/2019 **EPA Federal Worker Collective Bargaining**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Andrew Wheeler, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Paul Tonko (D-NY), Representative Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ), and Representative Ann McLane Custer (D-NH)

This letter requested the EPA reinstate collective bargaining power for their federal employees.

11/15/2019 **HHS Proposed Rule – Nondiscrimination Grant**

**Addressed to:** House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey and Ranking Member Kay Granger, Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby and Ranking Member Patrick Leahy

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Mark Pocan (D-WI)

This letter requested that the House Appropriators block the implementation of the HHS rule that would remove regulations that prohibit discrimination in HHS-funded programs based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or sex.

11/18/2019 **HHS Proposed Rule – Nondiscrimination Grant**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services and Jennifer Moughalian, Acting Chief Financial Officer, Department of Health and Human Services

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Nydia Velázquez (D-NY), Representative Angie Craig (D-MN), and Representative Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY)

This letter requested that HHS withdraws the proposed rule that would remove regulations that prohibit discrimination in HHS-funded programs based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or sex.

11/19/2019 **Florida Citrus**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary, Department of Agriculture

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Darren Soto (D-FL) and Representative Ted Yoho (R-FL)

This letter requested an increase in Agriculture Marketing Service funding to \$90 million for distribution to food nutrition assistance programs in response to market over saturation of orange.

11/19/2019 **Gun Violence Prevention Legislation**

**Addressed to:** Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell

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

This letter requested that the Majority Leader bring H.R. 8, the *Bipartisan Background Check Act*, and H.R. 1112, the *Enhanced Background Checks Act* to the Senate floor for a vote.

11/20/2019 **Flavored E-Cigarettes**

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

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Nita Lowey (D-NY) and Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)

This letter urged President Trump to move forward with his proposal to pull flavored e-cigarettes off the market.

11/22/2019 **LWCF Permanent Funding**

**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Mike Thompson (D-CA) and Representative James McGovern (D-MA)

This letter requested that House Leadership fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

- 11/22/2019 **Florida Solar Investment Tax Credit Extension**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Charlie Crist (D-FL)

This letter requested that House Leadership support the inclusion of a five-year extension of the solar Investment Tax Credit (ITC) in a year-end, must-pass legislative package.

- 12/02/2019 **Gun Violence Prevention Research Dollars**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative David Price (D-NC)

This letter requested funding for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health to conduct research on gun violence.

- 12/03/2019 **Prevent Tax Increases Due to Medical Expenses**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Katie Porter (D-CA)

This letter urged leadership to prioritize reinstating the 7.5% income threshold for the medical expense tax deduction in end-of-year legislation.

- 12/05/2019 **Offshore Activity Programs**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) and Representative John Rutherford (R-FL)

This letter requested leadership include sections 438 and 442 of H.R.3055, which prohibit oil and gas leases/drilling along the FL coast and seismic testing in the Atlantic (respectively), in the final conference agreement.

- 12/10/2019 **Funding for the *STOP School Violence Act***  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, House Appropriations Chairwoman Nita Lowey, and Ranking Member Kay Granger  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Ted Deutch (D-FL)

This letter requested the prioritization of funding for the *STOP School Violence Act* at the House of Representatives passed level of \$125,000,000, a \$25,000,000 increase over Fiscal Year 2019 funding.

12/12/2019 ***Chesapeake WILD Act***

**Addressed to:** House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Raúl Grijalva  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Bobby Scott (D-VA)

This letter asked the Natural Resources committee to hold a hearing on the *Chesapeake Wild Act*. The bill would enable the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to more fully engage in habitat restoration activities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, through the establishment of a watershed-wide strategy and a competitive grant program.

12/12/2019 **Contract Negotiations – AFGE Council 252**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Betsy DeVos, Secretary, Department of Education  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)

This letter requested that the Secretary return to the bargaining table and work in good faith with AFGE Council 252 to reach an agreement on an equitable contract. Also, notes signatories' concerns with hiring practices and program administration within Federal Student Aid and the Office for Civil Rights.

12/18/2019 **HIV Self-Testing**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Robert R. Redfield, MD, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Susan Wild (D-PA)

This letter requested the CDC outline a plan that includes rapid HIV Self-Testing, such as funding opportunities and infrastructure, community collaborations, and overall strategic direction. The CDC and WHO already acknowledge the importance of self-testing as an additional method of HIV testing services. The FDA has approved a method of quick, in home testing that can be used to help in early diagnosis of HIV.

1/08/2020 **Recall of U.S. Ambassador to Zambia, Daniel Foote**

**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY)

This letter expressed concern and dismay at the recall of Ambassador Foote following his statement of opposition to Lungu government's anti-LGBTQ policies.

- 1/08/2020 **New Leasing in Western Artic**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. David Bernhardt, Secretary, Department of the Interior  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Alan Lowenthal (D-CA), Representative Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), and Representative Jared Huffman (D-CA)
- This letter expressed concerns with the Trump Administration’s move to expand oil and gas development into the Western Artic.
- 1/08/2020 **Iranian Detention at Washington Border**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Mark Morgan, Acting Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Suzan DelBene (D-WA), Representative Prima Jayapal (D-WA) and Senator Patty Murray (D-WA)
- This letter requested information regarding the circumstances that led to the detention of American Iranians at a Washington port of entry by CBP in DelBene’s district (WA-01) and the subsequent media reports that claim their detention to be due to their Iranian descent.
- 1/09/2020 **Medicaid Expansion in Florida**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor, Florida  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Kathy Castor (D-FL) and Representative Ted Deutch (D-FL)
- This letter to Florida Governor Ron DeSantis encouraged him to reject proposals to undermine Florida’s Medicaid program and instead to expand Medicaid to benefit countless Floridians and Florida’s economy.
- 1/09/2020 **Australian Brushfires**  
**Addressed to:** Joe Hockey, Australian Ambassador to the United States  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Joe Courtney (D-CT)
- This letter to Florida Governor Ron DeSantis encouraged him to reject proposals to undermine Florida’s Medicaid program and instead to expand Medicaid to benefit countless Floridians and Florida’s economy.
- 1/10/2020 **Major Disaster Declaration for Puerto Rico**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative José Serrano (D-NY)
- This letter offered support and expressed that Australia deserves any and all resources at our nation's disposal to combat the ongoing fires.

- 1/10/2020 **Puerto Rico HUD Funding**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Benjamin S. Carson, Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Nydia Velázquez (D-NY)

This letter demanded answers on why HUD is withholding funding for Puerto Rico.

- 1/10/2020 **European Wine Tariffs**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Robert Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Mike Thompson (D-CA) and Representative Dan Newhouse (R-WA)

This letter expressed concern regarding the economic detriment of expanding retaliatory tariffs on European wine.

- 1/13/2020 **FY2021 Sewer and Storm Water Grants**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Andrew Wheeler, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Lori Trahan (D-MA) and Representative Gwen Moore (D-WI)

This letter requested that the EPA's budget request for FY 2021 include at least \$500 million for the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant program.

- 1/14/2020 **Opposes NEPA Rollbacks**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Mary B. Neumayr, Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Representative Francis Rooney (R-FL)

This letter expressed strong opposition to the Trump Administration's plans to revise the regulations implementing the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) in a way that, among other things, ignores the full extent of the climate crisis.

- 1/14/2020 **Transgender Immigrants in the Custody of ICE**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Chad Wolf, Acting Secretary, Department of Homeland Security and Hon. Matthew Albence, Acting Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Mike Quigley (D-IL)

This letter highlighted that in the *FY2020 Consolidated Appropriations Act* it states, "ICE must limit the detention of transgender people to facilities subject to a contract formally modified pursuant to Attachment 1 of the June 19, 2025 ICE memo entitled Further Guidance Regarding the Care of Transgender Individuals." As of the creation of this letter, no ICE detention center contract has been modified to conform to these standards.

- 1/15/2020 **Support of the Army's Optionally Manned Fighting Vehicle (OMFV) Program**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Ryan McCarthy, Secretary, United States Army  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Mike Turner (R-OH)

This letter expressed support for the OMFV program.

- 1/15/2020 **Supporting Employees of the Department of Health and Human Services**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Anna Eshoo (D-CA)

This letter urged the Secretary to return to the bargaining table and negotiate employment contracts in good faith with unions representing employees of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). HHS is required by law to negotiate in good faith and doing so is critical for its mission to protect the health and well-being of Americans.

- 1/16/2020 **NEPA Proposed Rule Comment Period Extension**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Mary B. Neumayr, Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Representative Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) and Senator Tom Carper (D-DE)

This letter urged the chairman to extend the comment period to a duration commensurate with the scope and gravity of changes that CEQ proposes.

- 1/16/2020 **Awarding Medals to the Victims of the NAS Pensacola Shooting**  
**Addressed to:** Secretary of the Navy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Michael Waltz (R-FL) and Representative Matt Gaetz (R-FL)

This letter urged SECNAV to award valor medals and Purple Hearts to the servicemembers and DOD civilian personnel wounded during the NAS Pensacola shooting in December.

- 1/21/2020 **Cuts to Social Security Benefits**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Andrew Saul, Commissioner, Social Security Administration  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Brendan Boyle (D-PA)

This letter expressed opposition to a proposed rule, which if adopted, would unnecessarily and significantly increase the number of reviews for people already receiving benefits. These reviews are procedurally complex. Some individuals will not be able to navigate the process and, as a result, they will lose their Social Security, Medicare, or SSI benefits even though their disabilities continue to meet the eligibility criteria.

- 1/23/2020 **School Meal Nutrition**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary, Department of Agriculture  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Tim Ryan (D-OH) and Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)

This letter expressed opposition to the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) proposed rule, published on January 23, 2020, titled "Simplifying Meal Service and Monitoring Requirements in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs" (Docket No. FNS-2020-00926). The proposed rule would roll back a decade of improvements to the nutritional quality of school lunches and jeopardize the health of our nation's youth.

- 1/23/2020 **Arrests and Violence against LGBTQ Community in Uganda**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Mike Pompeo, Secretary, Department of State  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Susan Wild (D-PA)

This letter expressed concern about recent arrest and violence against the LGBTQ Community in Uganda.

- 1/27/2020 **Medicare Advantage Program**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)
- This letter expressed support for Medicare Advantage Program and urged the Administrator to ensure that the Medicare Advantage program continue to offer affordable, high-quality, patient-centered coverage options for the diverse populations the program serves, including beneficiaries with End Stage Renal Disease who for the first time will be able to choose a Medicare Advantage plan. Additionally, the letter asked the Administrator to continue their efforts to promote flexibility and innovation, incentivize quality improvements, and support value-based arrangements with health care providers.
- 1/27/2020 **Anti-Semitic Incidents During Hanukkah**  
**Addressed to:** António Guterres, Secretary General, United Nations  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Lee Zeldin (R-NY)
- This letter expressed appreciation for releasing the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief's report, Combatting Antisemitism to Eliminate Discrimination and Intolerance Based on Religion or Belief.
- 1/27/2020 **Florida Renewables**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor, Florida  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Kathy Castor (D-FL)
- This letter followed up on last year's renewable energy letter. It reiterated several points from the 2019 letter and commended DeSantis on the work he did in 2019 to address some effects of climate change. Overall, it illustrated how Florida can benefit from a bold renewable energy plan across multiple sectors.
- 1/27/2020 **Florida's Access to Responsible Credit Pilot Program**  
**Addressed to:** Florida House Minority Leader Kionne McGhee and Florida Senate Minority Leader Audrey Gibson  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Al Lawson (D-FL)
- This letter encouraged Minority Leaders in the Florida State Legislature to support legislation that would establish a pilot program for small-dollar loans in underserved communities in Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach counties.

1/29/2020 **Department of Labor's Recent Interpretation for Contract Labor and H-2A Drivers**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Eugene Scalia, Secretary, Department of Labor

**Primary Sending Office:** Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Senator Rick Scott (R-FL)

This letter requested a one-year period of relief in implementing new interpretation to allow farmers to complete harvesting season and allow for proper planning for future harvest seasons. Recent applications have been denied for H-2A agricultural truck drivers because work described did not fall under "agricultural labor or services" statutorily required for program eligibility.

1/29/2020 **Lake Okeechobee Water Levels**

**Addressed to:** Army Corps of Engineers

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Lois Frankel (D-FL)

This letter expressed concerns for the low levels of water in Lake O, which can cause drought conditions in the water available for municipal and agricultural purposes, as well as for the maintenance of the environment.

1/30/2020 **USAID Funding for the American University of Afghanistan**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Mike Pompeo, Secretary, Department of State

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Michael Waltz (R-FL) and Representative Lois Frankel (D-FL)

This letter reminded the Secretary that the AUAF requires federal funding to maintain its operation and costly security needs. AUAF's cooperative funding agreement is set to expire May 31, 2020. Despite Congressional funding for the university in H.R. 1865, the *Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020* neither the State Department nor USAID has made a commitment to the AUAF and as a result the school has begun preparations to permanently close its doors.

1/31/2020 **Port Everglades**

**Addressed to:** Army Corps of Engineers

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

This letter requested ACE allocate funding for the first phase of the Port Everglades deepening/widening project. This phase is the relocation of the Coast Guard station further inland to allow for the widening of the opening into the port to allow for larger ships to pass through. This would increase trade through that port, as it would allow for more ships to dock and unload.

- 2/01/2020 **Funding for Puerto Rico Post-Disasters**  
**Addressed to:** House Appropriations Chairwoman Nita Lowey, Ranking Member Kay Granger, Subcommittee Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro, and Ranking Member  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Gregorio Kilolo Camacho Sablan (D-MP), Representative Stephanie Murphy (D-FL), Representative Karen Bass (D-CA), Representative Theodore Deutch (D-FL)

This letter highlighted the unmet education-related recovery needs addressed in H.R. 5687, an emergency supplemental appropriations bill to provide support to Puerto Rico following earthquakes. Section 202 to Puerto Rico Earthquake Supplemental to allow Education Dept. to shift funds to address unmet needs from previous disasters.

- 2/04/2020 **Protect Older Americans' Access to Long-Term Care**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Donna Shalala (D-FL)

This letter urged the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to withdraw the proposed changes to the Medicaid Fiscal Accountability Regulation (MFAR). The MFAR proposal as written could have unintended consequences for older Americans we by significantly curtailing the longstanding flexibility states have to fund and pay for services in their Medicaid programs.

- 2/05/2020 **Requesting Additional Benefits for Agent Orange Exposed Veterans**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Mark Takano (D-CA)

This letter asked President Trump to take corrective action and bring an end to the suffering of thousands of severely ill veterans exposed to Agent Orange during their service in Vietnam. Veterans suffering from bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, parkinsonism, and hypertension because of their Agent Orange exposure are unable to access disability or health care benefits from VA, despite scientific and medical support to add these diseases to the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) presumptive list for service connection based on Agent Orange exposure.

- 2/05/2020 **Hold Legislative Hearing on H.R. 2846**  
**Addressed to:** House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Mark Takano  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Brian Mast (R-FL)
- This letter urged the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to hold a legislative hearing on H.R. 2846, the Improving Veterans Access to Congressional Services Act of 2019.
- 2/05/2020 **EEOC Proposed Rule Against Federal Workers' Rights to Representation**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Janet Dhillon, Chairman, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jamie Raskin (D-MD)
- This letter addressed the proposed rule that undermines EEOC's mission and creates potential impediments for federal workers' rights to representation.
- 2/05/2020 **Extension of In-State Tuition to those who have Relocated to Florida after the Earthquakes in Puerto Rico**  
**Addressed to:** Mr. Marshal M. Criser III, Chancellor, State University System of Florida  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Darren Soto (D-FL)
- This letter requested that the Chancellor extend in-state tuition to students displaced by the earthquakes in Puerto Rico since they do not meet the residency requirements at this time, but will be economically harmed if they are forced to pay regular rates.
- 2/06/2020 **Increased Funding for Maternal Health**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Ajit Pai, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative G. K. Butterfield (D-NC)
- This letter requested that funding for the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Connected Care Pilot Telehealth Program be allocated towards addressing the maternal health crisis in each state.
- 2/11/2020 **Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS)**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Francis Collins, MD, Director, National Institutes of Health  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Representative Darren Soto (D-FL)
- This letter to NIH asked the Agency to strengthen and accelerate its work on Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS).

- 2/12/2020 **Certify the *Equal Rights Act***  
**Addressed to:** Mr. David Ferriero, Archivist of the United States  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jackie Speier (D-CA)

This letter urged the Archivist of the United States, who is in charge of certifying amendments to the Constitution once three-fourths of the states have ratified, to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. The number of states needed to ratify has been reached with Virginia becoming the 38th state to ratify the ERA in January 2020.

- 2/12/2020 **One-Year Anniversary of the Trump Administration’s “Remain in Mexico Policy”**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Chad Wolf, Acting Secretary, Department of Homeland Security  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Joaquin Castro (D-TX)

This letter urged the Archivist of the United States, who is in charge of certifying amendments to the Constitution once three-fourths of the states have ratified, to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. The number of states needed to ratify has been reached with Virginia becoming the 38th state to ratify the ERA in January 2020.

- 2/18/2020 **Oppose the New Faith-Based Regulations that the Administration has Proposed for Nine Federal Agencies**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jared Huffman (D-CA) and Representative Lois Frankel (D-FL)

This letter to the Trump Administration is regarding nine proposed rules eliminating critical religious freedom protections recommended by the previous administration’s President’s Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood partnerships for people who use government-funded social service programs. The proposed rules seek to weaken important first amendment rights. Their enactment would greatly undermine our country’s social safety net by reducing people’s access to critical services, with the most vulnerable in our communities facing the greatest harm.

- 2/18/2020 **Denial of Press Credentials**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Theodore Deutch (D-FL)

This letter requested that the White House deny press credentials for TruNews because the news outlet was, and is, spreading hate including the following passages "the Coronavirus plague was sent by god to purge a lot of sin off this planet, such as vile, disgusting people transgendering their children." Also, "the United States has a brown invasion that has come in and is pushing white Europeans off the land."

- 2/20/2020 **The Deployment of 100 Border Patrol Tactical Units to Cities Across the United States**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Chad Wolf, Acting Secretary, Department of Homeland Security  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Pramila Jayapal (D-WA)

This letter urged the Department of Homeland Security to immediately halt the deployment of these tactical units and notes significant concern about Customs and Border Control being designated a "Security Agency," giving it a new layer of protection shielding its agents from accountability and oversight.

- 2/21/2020 **Proposed Revisions to Lead and Copper National Primary Drinking Water Regulations**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Andrew Wheeler, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Haley Stevens (D-MI)

This letter expressed deep concerns about the critically important proposed revisions to the EPA Lead and Copper Rule (LCR), 84 Fed. Reg. 61,684 (Nov. 13, 2019). It urged EPA to strengthen the proposal to ensure that the public, and particularly young children and pregnant mothers who are especially vulnerable to lead's hazards, are fully protected from the scourge of lead-contaminated drinking water and recommends all lead service lines be required to be fully and promptly removed by public water systems by a date certain.

2/26/2020 **2021 NBPP's Policy on Cost-Sharing Assistance**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative A. Donald McEachin (D-VA), Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ), Representative John Joyce (R-PA), and Representative Rodney Davis (R-FL)

This letter expressed concern that this proposed rule would reverse a patient-friendly policy about how health plans treat cost-sharing assistance and make it even harder for patients to afford their medicines. While we value your partnership and interest in addressing high drug pricing, we believe the provisions in the proposed rule would put life-saving medications out of the hands of patients who need them.

3/02/2020 **International Criminal Court**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Mike Pompeo, Secretary, Department of State  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Elaine Luria (D-VA)

This letter requested that the Secretary of State extend support to Israel for matters before the International Criminal Court.

3/05/2020 **Expand Space-A Program for Disabled Veterans**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Mark Esper, Secretary, Department of Defense  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE) and Representative Gus Bilirakis (R-FL)

This letter requested the expansion of the SPACE-A program to include all accompanying spouses and caregivers of totally disabled veterans.

3/11/2020 **United States Space Command**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump and Hon. Mark Esper, Secretary, Department of Defense  
**Primary Sending Office:** Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)

This letter urged the President to locate the headquarters of the U.S. Space Command in Florida.

3/12/2020 **COVID-19 Testing**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Katie Porter (D-CA)

This letter requested expedited assistance and regulatory guidance for new, simple COVID-19 tests that can be easily performed in a medical setting.

- 3/12/2020 **Open Special Enrollment Period to Combat COVID-19**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Lloyd Doggett (D-TX)

This letter called on Secretary Alex Azar to employ existing authority to establish a Special Enrollment Period for patients to seek ACA Marketplace coverage during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 3/16/2020 **Bahamas Offshore Drilling**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Mike Pompeo, Secretary, Department of State and Stephanie Bowers, Charge d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy in The Bahamas  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) and Representative Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (D-FL)

This letter expressed concerns regarding the recent announcement regarding Bahamas Petroleum Company's (BPC) plans to begin drilling in Bahamian waters as soon as April 2020.

- 3/17/2020 **Reauthorization of Community Health Centers During COVID-19 Outbreak**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), Representative Danny Davis (D-IL), Senator Elizabeth Warren, and Senator Bernie Sanders

This letter highlighted the fact that funding for community health centers is set to expire on May 22 and, therefore, must be extended.

- 3/17/2020 **Florida Delegation - Urging Governor DeSantis Respond Immediately to COVID-19 Outbreak**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor, Florida  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Lois Frankel (D-FL)

This letter urged Governor DeSantis to take immediate action to alleviate the financial impact of the coronavirus pandemic on small businesses and workers.

- 3/17/2020 **Mandate Federal Telework for COVID-19 Response**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Gerald Connolly (D-VA)

This letter urged the issuance of an Executive Order mandating telework for all eligible federal employees and contractors.

- 3/17/2020 **Department of Defense**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jackie Speier (D-CA)

This letter inquired as to how the President will utilize the Department of Defense in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 3/17/2020 **Moratorium on Foreclosures and Evictions from FHFA, HUD, VA, USDA Federally Assisted Housing**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Mark Calabria, Director, Federal Housing Finance Agency; Hon. Ben Carson, Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development; Hon. Robert Wilkie, Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs; Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary, Department of Agriculture  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY)

This letter requested that the following agencies institute an immediate, nationwide moratorium on all foreclosures of, and evictions from, properties owned, insured, or overseen by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Veterans Affairs, or the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Housing Service in light of the developing Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

- 3/18/2020 **Moratorium on Foreclosures and Evictions from FHFA, HUD, VA, USDA Federally Assisted Housing**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Betsy DeVos, Secretary, Department of Education  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Chris Pappas (D-NH)

This letter requested that the Secretary do all she can to ensure that the costs associated with shuttering campuses and moving to online learning do not fall on students.

- 3/18/2020 **Protect Travel and Tourism Industry Amid COVID-19 Outbreak**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi; House Appropriations Chairwoman Nita Lowey and Ranking Member Kay Granger; House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio and Ranking Member Sam Graves  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Dina Titus (D-NV) and Representative Gus Bilirakis (R-FL)

This letter urged House leadership to prioritize the protection of travel and tourism industry jobs in any long-term coronavirus recovery bill.

3/19/2020 **Corporate Accountability in COVID-19 Legislation**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Lloyd Doggett (D-TX)

This letter requested a temporary suspension of disconnections of water, sewer, electricity, and gas services in Florida for the next 60 days due to COVID-19.

3/20/2020 **Public Utilities and the Coronavirus**  
**Addressed to:** Gary Clark, Commissioner, Florida Public Services and Jared Moskowitz, Director, Florida Division of Emergency Management  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Darren Soto (D-FL)

This letter requested a temporary suspension of disconnections of water, sewer, electricity, and gas services in Florida for the next 60 days due to COVID-19.

3/20/2020 **Eliminate Immigration Restrictions on COVID-19 Testing (Public Charge)**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative TJ Cox (D-CA)

This letter requested that those seeking medical attention for COVID-19 are not determined to be a "public charge" for the purposes of immigration rulings.

3/20/2020 **First Responders**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Bill Pascrell Jr. (D-NJ)

This letter requested that the COVID-19 Phase III relief package include support for first responders.

3/20/2020 **Assistance to Americans Stranded Abroad**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Mike Pompeo, Secretary, Department of State  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Joe Neguse (D-CO)

This letter requested clarity on what the State Department is doing to ensure the safe travel of American citizens as they seek to return home in the midst of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

- 3/20/2020 **Direct Payments**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Madeleine Dean (D-PA)

This letter requested that direct cash payments to American citizens be part of the COVID-19 Phase III relief package response.

- 3/20/2020 **Support and Relieve Rural Communities**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Mike Thompson (D-CA)

This letter reminded leadership of the unique needs of rural communities when it comes to medical care during the COVID-19 outbreak. As you know, 60 million people – or one in five Americans – live in rural America. Rural counties make up nearly 85 percent of the 1,104 “older-age counties”—those with more than 20 percent of their population age 65 or older.

- 3/21/2020 **Access to Care for Individuals with Disabilities During the Pandemic**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Sylvia Garcia (D-TX) and Representative Lloyd Doggett (D-TX)

This letter urged leadership to consider requiring the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to temporarily suspend the 2-year waiting period for Medicare coverage for individuals with Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).

- 3/21/2020 **State and Local Tax**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Hakeem Jefferies (D-NY)

This letter requested that the COVID-19 Phase III relief bill include the repeal of the \$10,000 cap set on the state and local tax (SALT) deduction.

- 3/21/2020 **Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG)**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Conor Lamb (D-PA)

This letter called for significant investments to expand childcare for workers combating the coronavirus.

- 3/23/2020 **Demanding Answers for COVID-19 Test Availability**  
**Addressed to:** White House Coronavirus Task Force  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Steve Cohen (D-TN)

This letter demanded an explanation as to why there was a delay in test kit accessibility and shortages of medical equipment.

- 3/23/2020 **Protect the Migratory Bird Treaty Act**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. David Bernhardt, Secretary, Department of the Interior  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Alan Lowenthal (D-CA) and Representative Francis Rooney (R-FL)

This letter expressed concerns about the Department of the Interior's (DOI) proposed rule under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), based upon Solicitor's Opinion M-37050 and urged the Sec to withdraw this proposal. The proposed rule removes prohibitions on the incidental take of migratory birds, ends federal authority to address the incidental take of birds from industrial hazards, and puts the lives of millions of birds at risk.

- 3/23/2020 **Withdraw Support for Lawsuit Against ACA**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL)

This letter urged the President to withdraw from Texas v. California and protect the ACA.

- 3/24/2020 **COVID-19 Testing and PPE**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor, Florida  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Lois Frankel (D-FL)

This letter expressed deep concern with the lack of testing for COVID-19 and the lack of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for our medical professionals and first responders.

- 3/24/2020 **Florida Delegation – Supporting the Cruise Industry and its Workers**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Frederica Wilson (D-FL)

This letter expressed support for the cruise industry and its hundreds of thousands of American workers. The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has severely impacted the cruise industry.

3/24/2020 **Include Robust Assistance for Environmental Justice Communities in the Next COVID-19 Economic Recovery Package**

**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative A. Donald McEachin (D-VA) and Representative Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ)

This letter expressed concern for environmental justice communities, low-income communities, communities of color, and Tribal and indigenous communities because they are especially vulnerable and live in areas that lack the necessary resources to fully recover from this pandemic.

3/24/2020 **Requesting a Shelter-in-Place Order for Florida**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor, Florida

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Theodore Deutch (D-FL)

This letter urged Governor DeSantis to issue a statewide shelter-in-place order to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Florida. Without adequate testing, treatment, or a vaccine COVID-19 will continue to jeopardize the lives of Floridians and overwhelm our health system.

3/24/2020 **Requesting Assistance for Florida Ports in the Stimulus Package**

**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Frederica Wilson (D-FL) and Bill Posey (R-FL)

This letter recommended the inclusion of at least \$1 billion to mitigate the impact of the loss of cruise ship revenue. Florida ports should be expected to use a portion of these funds to compensate port employees who may be furloughed due to the disruption of cruises.

3/25/2020 **Support Funding to Hospitals**

**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)

This letter requested that the aid package include \$155 billion in funding to aid our nation's hospitals during this coronavirus pandemic.

- 3/25/2020 **Support Local Governments**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Bill Foster (D-IL)

This letter asked House Leadership to take steps to safeguard states and local communities that are on the front lines of this emergency by ensuring that the Federal Reserve has the tools that it needs to stabilize the \$3.8 trillion municipal bond market.

- 3/25/2020 **Include Robust Provisions Preventing Water Shutoffs in COVID-19 Stimulus Response Bill**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Rashida Tlaib (D-MI), Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI), and Representative Daniel Kildee (D-MI)

This letter called for the inclusion of a prohibition on water shutoffs in the aid package.

- 3/26/2020 **Help Students Gain Internet Access During COVID-19 Related Closures**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Ajit Pai, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Abigail Spanberger (D-VA)

This letter called on the FCC to take immediate steps to ensure that all students have adequate home access to the internet should their schools close in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

- 3/26/2020 **USDA Produce Purchasing Authority**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary, Department of Agriculture  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (D-FL) and Donna Shalala (D-FL)

This letter urged the Secretary to use the USDA's Section 32 mechanism to purchase Florida produce during the pandemic to support domestic farmers and provide nutritious food to federal nutrition programs.

- 3/26/2020 **Follow-up Regarding Florida's Inadequate Unemployment Benefits**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor, Florida  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Lois Frankel (D-FL)

This letter requested the Governor's immediate attention to the ongoing unemployment disaster in Florida.

- 3/26/2020 **Guaranteed Paid Sick Leave for Healthcare Workers**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Susan Wild (D-PA)

This letter called on the Speaker and Leader McCarthy to ensure that the COVID-19 Phase III relief bill includes paid sick leave to frontline healthcare facility workers as a condition on the healthcare facilities being able to access funding.

- 3/26/2020 **Social Security Payroll Tax Cut**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative John Larson (D-CT)

This letter expressed concern with the Trump Administration's idea to cut the Social Security payroll tax in light of the coronavirus pandemic, and instead requests an expansion of Social Security in order to help vulnerable Americans and stimulate the economy.

- 3/27/2020 **COVID Testing Sites**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Peter Gaynor, Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Theodore Deutch (D-FL)

This letter requested the urgent approval of the Florida Department of Emergency Management's request for a Community Based Testing Site in Palm Beach County. Palm Beach County has the third most confirmed cases of any county and is part of the tri-county area that makes up more than half of the current 2,359 confirmed cases statewide.

- 3/27/2020 **Hand Sanitizer Production**  
**Addressed to:** Food and Drug Administration  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative John Yarmuth (D-KY)

This letter urged the FDA to update their guidance on hand sanitizer production so that distilleries can use what they have on hand to make it, which is in accordance with WHO's formula.

3/30/2020 **Protect America's Homeless During the COVID-19 Pandemic**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Benjamin S. Carson, Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development; Hon. Robert R. Redfield, MD, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jerry McNerney (D-CA)

This letter asked HUD, CDC, and HHS what specific steps their agencies are taking to coordinate directly with state and local entities to ensure the proper care of America's homeless population throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

4/02/2020 **PPE for Childcare Providers**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Chad Wolf, Acting Secretary, Department of Homeland Security and Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Harley Rouda (D-CA)

This letter requested personal protective equipment for childcare providers caring for the children of first responders, health care workers, and other essential workers.

4/02/2020 **Direct Stabilization Funding for Smaller Localities**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Andy Levin (D-MI), Representative Ben Ray Luján (D-NM), and Representative Joe Neguse (D-CO)

This letter expressed concern that the relief packages have not provided direct funding to stabilize towns, counties, etc. under 500,000 people.

4/02/2020 **Support Lupus and Rheumatoid Arthritis Patients During COVID-19**  
**Addressed to:** Vice President Mike Pence  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)

This letter supported Lupus and Rheumatoid Arthritis patients during COVID-19 by insisting that Lupus and Rheumatoid Arthritis patients continue to have access to hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) and chloroquine.

4/02/2020 **Access to Safe, Clean Water**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Brenda Lawrence (D-MI)

This letter requested that Congress prioritize water infrastructure funding to local water providers and provide assistance to ensure that no American goes without water service due to an inability to pay during the pandemic.

4/02/2020 **Help Seniors Get Relief ASAP**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Steven Mnuchin, Secretary, Department of Treasury; and Hon. Andrew Saul, Commissioner, Social Security Administration  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Peter DeFazio (D-OR)

This letter urged Treasury Secretary Mnuchin and SSA Commissioner Saul to automatically send payments to vulnerable seniors and individuals who experience disabilities, without these individuals needing to file a tax return.

4/02/2020 **Support International Education**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Mark Green, Administrator, USAID  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Mike Quigley (D-IL), Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), and Representative Nita Lowey (D-NY)

This letter encouraged USAID to support distance learning opportunities for the 1.5 billion children and youth who have had their education disrupted due to COVID-19.

4/02/2020 **Florida's Broken Unemployment Website**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor, Florida  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Stephanie Murphy (D-FL), Representative Lois Frankel (D-FL)

This letter urged the governor to take advantage of recently passed legislation to enhance the state's unemployment insurance capabilities.

4/03/2020 **Expand Medicaid in Florida**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor, Florida  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Al Lawson (D-FL)

This letter urged the Governor and the state legislature to expand Medicaid during COVID-19 to allow more Floridians to have access to healthcare.

4/06/2020 **Prioritize SNAP**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative James McGovern (D-MA), Representative Marcia Fudge (D-OH), Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), and Representative Ayanna Pressley (D-MA)

This letter urged Leadership to incorporate provisions in any upcoming stimulus to (1) boost the maximum SNAP benefit by 15 percent; (2) increase the monthly minimum SNAP benefit from \$16 to \$30; and (3) place a hold on harmful rules proposed by the Executive Branch that weaken SNAP.

- 4/06/2020 **Florida Nursing Homes**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor, Florida; and Mary Mayhew, Secretary, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Frederica Wilson (D-FL)

This letter requested that the Governor and the AHCA work with nursing home administrators to ensure that all facilities are following CDC guidelines, publicly release information about reported cases at specific facilities, and share what further steps they plan to take to protect nursing home residents.

- 4/06/2020 **COVID-19 Funding for the District of Columbia**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jamie Raskin (D-MD)

This letter requested that Washington, D.C. be treated like a state for the purposes of future aid packages.

- 4/06/2020 **COVID-19 Testing**  
**Addressed to:** Vice President Mike Pence  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Joe Neguse (D-CO)

This letter requested that first responders be the priority for the administration of COVID-19 tests.

- 4/07/2020 **Essential Business Designation**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Chad Wolf, Acting Secretary, Department of Homeland Security  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)

This letter requested that gun and ammunition retailers not be considered essential businesses.

- 4/07/2020 **Haiti**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Chad Wolf, Acting Secretary, Department of Homeland Security  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Frederica Wilson (D-FL)

This letter requested that the Department of Homeland Security cease all deportations of Haitian nationals.

- 4/07/2020 **Specialty Crop Relief and Assistance through the CARES Act**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary, Department of Agriculture  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jimmy Panetta (D-CA)

This letter urged the USDA to reserve funding provided via the *CARES Act* to develop and execute a recovery and relief plan for the specialty crop industry—specifically to make fresh produce purchases (for federal nutrition programs, etc.) and direct payments to specialty crop producers, as well as provide assistance for shippers and growers to meet their obligations under the *Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act*.

- 4/08/2020 **Water Affordability Assistance**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Marcia Fudge (D-OH) and Representative John Katko (R-NY)

This letter requested that future COVID-19 aid packages include provisions that address access to clean drinking water and safe wastewater systems during the pandemic.

- 4/08/2020 **Address the Needs of Domestic and Sexual Violence Survivors**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jackie Speier (D-CA), Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Representative Gwen Moore (D-WI), Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI), and Representative Ann McLane Kuster (D-NH)

This letter requested more funding for domestic and sexual violence survivors in Phase IV COVID-19 legislation.

- 4/08/2020 **Broadband Funding**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Abigail Spanberger (D-VA)

This letter urged Leadership to include at least \$2 Billion in funding for the FCC's E-Rate Program in the fourth coronavirus package in order to expand broadband access.

- 4/08/2020 **State and Local Governments**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Charlie Crist (D-FL) and Representative Gerald Connolly (D-VA)

This letter requested robust further assistance and flexibility for state and local governments in the next coronavirus relief package.

- 4/08/2020 **Include VAWA Reauthorization in Phase IV Legislation**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Rodney Davis (R-IL), Representative Ann Kirkpatrick (D-AZ), and Representative Susan Brooks (R-IN)

This letter requested that the *Violence Against Women Act* be reauthorized in a 4th COVID-19 package along with increased flexibilities and funding for organizations that receive these funds.

- 4/08/2020 **Home Infusion for Medicare Beneficiaries During COVID-19 Pandemic**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services; and Hon. Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Eliot Engle (D-NY) and Representative Fred Upton (R-MI)

This letter encouraged continued collaboration with Congress & stakeholders to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries can access physician-administered Part B-covered infused and injectable medicines in the home setting during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

- 4/08/2020 **\$100 Billion for Emergency Rental Assistance**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jesús García (D-IL)

This letter urged Leadership to include \$100B in Emergency Rental Assistance in the next stimulus package.

- 4/08/2020 **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI), and Representative Rashida Tlaib (D-MI)

This letter requested no less than \$4,300,000,000 in supplemental funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and to include additional authority and funds to allow assistance similar to LIHEAP to be provided to benefit households economically affected by COVID-19 with drinking water and wastewater services during this national emergency.

- 4/08/2020 **Select Committee**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Cedric Richmond (D-LA)

This letter requested that a select committee be established to investigate the disproportionate health outcomes COVID-19 is having on our nation's minority communities.

- 4/09/2020 **Benefits for Immigrants**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Cedric Richmond (D-LA)

This letter requested that any future aid package include language that would ensure immigrants and families are eligible to receive any proposed direct payments and other benefits.

- 4/09/2020 **Publish Workplace Safety Guidelines**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Robert R. Redfield, MD, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Bill Foster (D-IL)

This letter urged the CDC to publish guidelines for employers regarding workplace safety conditions during the pandemic so as to flatten the curve and protect the workers who do not have the option to work from home.

- 4/09/2020 **CARES Act Hospital Disbursement**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services; and Hon. Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (D-FL)
- This letter requested the disbursement of the \$100 billion for hospitals included in the *CARES Act* as quickly as possible so as to avoid layoffs and closures.
- 4/09/2020 **Health Disparities Data**  
**Addressed to:** Scott Rivkees, M.D., Surgeon General, Florida Department of Health  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (D-FL)
- This letter urged the FL Department of Health to publish county-level demographic data on who is being infected, tested, and passes away from COVID-19 disease.
- 4/09/2020 **USDA Relief to Florida Farmers**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary, Department of Agriculture  
**Primary Sending Office:** Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)
- This letter urged USDA to immediately provide critical aid to save FL farms amid the COVID-19 crisis.
- 4/09/2020 **Support Rural Hospitals**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services; and Hon. Eric Hargan, Deputy Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative TJ Cox (D-CA), Representative Emmanuel Cleaver II (D-MO), Representative Robert Latta (R-OH), and Representative Jack Bergman (R-MI)
- This letter requested that such needs are taken into consideration when allocating the \$100B provided by the *CARES Act* to ensure they get their equitable share.
- 4/13/2020 **Release Clear Small Business Guidance**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Steven Mnuchin, Secretary, Department of Treasury; and Hon. Jovita Carranza, Administrator, Small Business Administration  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Andy Kim (D-NJ)
- This letter highlighted the concerns expressed by local businesses regarding how programs authorized under the *CARES Act* have been implemented to date.

- 4/13/2020 **SNAP Hot Foods**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary, Department of Agriculture  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Grace Meng (D-NY) and Representative Adriano Espaillat (D-NY)

This letter requested that the Secretary allow SNAP beneficiaries to purchase hot food items from those already accepting EBT.

- 4/13/2020 **PPP Affiliate**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Jovita Carranza, Administrator, Small Business Administration  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Theodore Deutch (D-FL) and Representative Gregory Stuebe (R-FL)

This letter requested assistance in clarifying affiliation rules for small businesses seeking access to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and advocated for waivers of affiliation rules if at least 70 percent of equity interests are owned by a single equity holder.

- 4/13/2020 **Protect Floridians During COVID-19**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor, Florida  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Kathy Castor (D-FL) and Representative Theodore Deutch (D-FL)

This letter highlighted the steps to be taken in order to protect FL during the pandemic, including expanding Medicaid, boosting resources to enroll Floridians in Medicaid/CHIP, and withdrawing Florida from the ACA lawsuit.

- 4/13/2020 **Frontline Transit Workers**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. K. Jane Williams, Acting Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Tom Malinowski (D-NJ) and Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)

This letter asked that FTA's recently updated guidance regarding PPE and safety protections for transit workers be made mandatory and improved upon in line with guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- 4/14/2020 **Community Development Block Grants**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative David Cicilline (D-RI)

This letter requested an increase for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program in any upcoming stimulus package. The funds will allow communities to assist businesses, help construct critical health infrastructure, create necessary jobs, and provide other essential services.

- 4/14/2020 **Emergency Funding for PAWS**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Katherine Clark (D-MA), Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Representative Katie Porter (D-CA), and Representative Vern Buchanan (R-FL)

This letter requested additional funding to support shelter and transitional housing services for survivors of domestic violence and additional funding for the Department of Justice Emergency and Transitional Pet Shelter and Housing Assistance grant program.

- 4/14/2020 **Pandemic Price Caps on Life-Saving Prescription Drugs**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Susan Wild (D-PA)

This letter requested the setting of immediate price caps, through the duration of this pandemic, for those drugs that treat the medical conditions most adversely affected by COVID-19, like medications for heart disease, insulin for diabetes, and inhalers and steroids for asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

- 4/15/2020 **Protect Our Right to Vote during COVID-19**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Elissa Slotkin (D-MI)

This letter stressed the importance of adequately adapting and funding our election infrastructure during the COVID-19 crisis.

4/15/2020 **Oppose Fossil Fuel Industry Bailout**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Steven Mnuchin, Secretary, Department of Treasury; and Hon. Jerome Powell, Chair, Federal Reserve  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Nanette Barragán (D-CA) and Senator Ed Markey (D-MA)

This letter urged that funding for the pandemic is not used to bailout big oil companies.

4/15/2020 **Eliminate Federal Cost Share**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Bill Pascrell Jr. (D-NJ) and Representative John Rutherford (R-FL)

This letter urged the President to eliminate the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) non-Federal cost share required by the disaster declaration to help state, local, tribal and territorial governments fight this global pandemic.

4/15/2020 **Support Health Facilities and Workforce**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Cheri Bustos (D-IL)

This letter requested that the phase four COVID-19 bill include funding to keep medical staff on the front lines serving COVID-19 patients. This includes funding to front-line healthcare facilities or states to temporarily hire volunteer healthcare workers and to cover out-of-pocket COVID-19 medical costs for all front-line health care workers.

4/15/2020 **Expedited Guidance and Assistance for Florida Fishing Industries**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Wilbur Ross, Secretary, Department of Commerce  
**Primary Sending Office:** Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)

This letter asked Secretary Ross to expedite guidance for the distribution of the \$300 million appropriated to Commerce by the *CARES Act*, and that he assists Florida's fishing industries through all means currently available to him.

4/15/2020 **Fair Lending and the Paycheck Protection Program**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Steven Mnuchin, Secretary, Department of Treasury; and Hon. Jovita Carranza, Administrator, Small Business Administration  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Gregory Meeks (D-NY), Representative Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH), and Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA)

This letter requested guidance that requires lenders to report on the demographics of their Paycheck Protection Program lending and reaffirms lenders' obligations to comply with fair lending laws.

4/15/2020 **Requesting a Briefing from MBDA**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Wilbur Ross, Secretary, Department of Commerce  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Bobby Rush (D-IL)

This letter requested a briefing from MBDA on how the \$10 million appropriated in the *CARES Act* will be used and the timeline for using these funds.

4/15/2020 **Safety in Union Elections**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Andy Levin (D-MI)

This letter requested that the next legislative package responding to COVID-19 include funding and a directive to the National Labor Relations Board to develop a system and procedures to conduct electronic union representation elections.

4/16/2020 **Establish Rural COVID-19 Task Force**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary, Department of Agriculture  
**Primary Sending Office:** Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Representative Antonio Delgado (D-NY), and Representative Xochitl Torres Small (D-NM)

This letter urged the USDA to establish a “Rural COVID-19 Task Force” to help identify rural needs and tailor the allocation of resources to address them.

4/16/2020 **Support Caregivers**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Joaquin Castro (D-TX) and Representative Debra Haaland (D-NM)

This letter requested that the next relief bill establish “Family Care” for essential workers and vulnerable family caregivers.

- 4/16/2020 **Relief for Dialysis Patients and Providers**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Donald Payne Jr. (D-NJ)

This letter urged the inclusion of dialysis patient and provider relief in the upcoming coronavirus relief package.

- 4/16/2020 **Equitable Disbursement of Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (PHSSEF)**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services; and Hon. Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Donna Shalala (D-FL) and Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)

This letter urged funding allocated in the second tranche that accounts for a payor mix that includes sources beyond Medicare fee-for-service (FFS), including accounting for states and jurisdictions with higher levels of Medicaid and Medicare Advantage enrollment that are quickly becoming COVID-19 hot spots.

- 4/17/2020 **Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alikes**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Matt Cartwright (D-PA)

This letter urged House Leadership to broaden the group of community health centers who are able to receive future COVID-19 funding to include Federally Qualified Health Center “Look-Alikes” as they ensure access to health care for underserved, rural, and economically vulnerable populations, regardless of their ability to pay for services.

- 4/20/2020 **Support Healthcare workers on the Front Lines**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Norma Torres (D-CA)

This letter urged the prioritization of the needs of healthcare workers in next aid package.

- 4/20/2020 **FEMA Natural Disaster Preparation Efforts**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Peter Gaynor, Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jerry McNerney (D-CA) and Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA)

This letter requested information about what specific steps the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is taking to ensure that it is adequately prepared to respond to a natural disaster during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

- 4/20/2020 **Distance Learning**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Marcia Fudge (D-OH)

This letter urged increased funding for distance learning in the next COVID-19 relief package. The additional funds would help students and teachers adapt to new learning environments, such as distance, virtual and online learning.

- 4/20/2020 **Streamline Access to Economic Impact Payments for Homeless and Foster Youth**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Steven Mnuchin, Secretary, Department of Treasury; and Hon. Charles Rettig, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, Department of Treasury  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Danny Davis (D-IL), Representative Jackie Walorski (R-IN), and Representative John Yarmuth (D-KY)

This letter urged the IRS and Treasury to establish a simple, expedited procedure and process for independent young adults who are homeless or in the foster system to claim Economic Impact Payments now.

- 4/20/2020 **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor, Florida  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Darren Soto (D-FL)

This letter requested answers to a number of questions: 1) Has the Governor requested funding from the Department of Labor?; (2) When will backlogged claims be cleared?; Will you provide daily updates on number of claims resolved and payments made? (4) When will the benefit network be fully integrated at the state level?

4/21/2020 **Essential Workers Bill of Rights**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Ro Khanna (D-CA)

This letter requested a number of protections be afforded essential workers in the next aid package including collective bargaining, universal paid sick leave, whistleblower protection, health care security, and support for childcare.

4/21/2020 **Live Events**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jim Cooper (D-TN)

This letter requested the inclusion of assistance in the next COVID-19 stimulus bill for musicians, songwriters, live events workers, and performance venues.

4/21/2020 **Racial Discrimination Against Persons of African Descent, Including African Americans, in the Guangzhou Area of China**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Mike Pompeo, Secretary, Department of State  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE)

This letter requested that the Secretary demand that China allow safe passage for American citizens seeking to leave China because of its discriminatory policies; reach out to all American citizens to let them know about these policies; contact China's Foreign Minister and demand a reversal of these discriminatory policies.

4/21/2020 **Ensure Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Provisions**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Lloyd Doggett (D-TX), Representative Kathy Castor (D-FL), Representative Lucy McBath (D-GA), Representative Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), Representative Ann Kirkpatrick (D-AZ), Representative Charlie Crist (D-FL), and Representative Steve Cohen (D-TN)

This letter expressed the urgent need to protect the maintenance of efforts requirements (MOE) attached to increased Medicaid funding. These requirements were included in the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act* and are vital to ensure Governors do not cut people from the Medicaid and CHIP rolls, restrict eligibility, or limit benefits to save money.

- 4/21/2020 **COVID-19 Waivers for WIC and Child Nutrition Programs**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary, Department of Agriculture  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Alma Adams (D-NC)

This letter requested that USDA immediately extend COVID-19 waivers for WIC and child nutrition programs and to provide additional information for states on when CR-SNAP emergency allotments and SNAP waivers will be extended.

- 4/21/2020 **Ensure Rural Electrical Cooperative PPP Eligibility**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Steven Mnuchin, Secretary, Department of Treasury; and Hon. Jovita Carranza, Administrator, Small Business Administration  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Ron Kind (D-WI) and Representative Jackie Walorski (R-IN)

This letter urged the SBA and Treasury to ensure that electric cooperatives will be considered eligible recipients under the Paycheck Protection Program.

- 4/21/2020 **Florida's Unemployment Insurance System**  
**Addressed to:** Jonathan Satter, Secretary, Florida Department of Management Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (D-FL)

This letter called Secretary Satter's attention to the problems and failures of the current unemployment system and urges him to address those issues and provide a plan of action in response.

- 4/22/2020 **Per Capita Distribution in Future Stimulus Bills**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Bill Foster (D-IL) and Representative Sean Casten (D-IL)

This letter urged House leadership to insist on a truly fair, equal per capita distribution of funds to all states, territories, and districts. Additionally, it urges that this correction be retroactive, and that the fundamental principle of equal per-capita distribution of relief be applied to all programs in this and future coronavirus response packages.

- 4/22/2020 **Protect Essential Workers**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Donna Shalala (D-FL)

This letter urged leadership to prioritize protections for property service workers through proper compensation, access to PPE, and economic relief.

4/22/2020 **Main Street Lending Program**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Steven Mnuchin, Secretary, Department of Treasury; and Hon. Jerome Powell, Chair, Federal Reserve  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Anna Eshoo (D-CA)

This letter asked the Secretary and the Chairman to let lenders use alternative metrics to ensure that new companies and those that have reinvested profits aren't excluded from the Main Street Lending Program.

4/22/2020 **Impacts of COVID-19 and Air Pollution in Low-Income and Minority Communities**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Andrew Wheeler, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Bobby Rush (D-IL)

This letter highlighted the vital nature of clean air protections and the alarming number of COVID-19 deaths within minority and low-income communities — who are more likely to live in counties with high levels of air pollution.

4/22/2020 **Provide Access to Benefits Under the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Recipients**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Joaquin Castro (D-TX)

This letter called for the repeal of 45 C.F.R. Section 152.2(8), which currently excludes DACA recipients from the definition of "lawfully present."

4/22/2020 **Support for State and Local Governments**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Steven Mnuchin, Secretary, Department of Treasury; and Hon. Jerome Powell, Chair, Federal Reserve  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD)

This letter requested the Treasury and the Federal Reserve utilize a portion of the Exchange Stabilization Fund to serve the financing needs of state and local governments.

4/22/2020 **H.R. 6 – the *American Dream and Promise Act of 2019***  
**Addressed to:** Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Joaquin Castro (D-TX)

This letter urged Majority Leader McConnell to hold a vote on H.R. 6, the *American Dream and Promise Act of 2019*.

- 4/23/2020 **Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Andy Levin (D-MI)

This letter requested the inclusion of at least \$2 billion in stabilization funding for the IMLS in any upcoming relief bill.

- 4/23/2020 **CFAP Payment Limits to Farmers and Ranchers**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jimmy Panetta (D-CA) and Representative Mike Simpson (R-ID)

This letter requested that the President remove the payment limits set by the USDA under the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) for farmers and ranchers due to the enormous impact COVID-19 has had on the agricultural community.

- 4/23/2020 **SBA PPP Eligibility for Lenders Not Making PPP Loans**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Steven Mnuchin, Secretary, Department of Treasury; and Hon. Jovita Carranza, Administrator, Small Business Administration  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Ted Budd (R-NC) and Representative Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO)

This letter urged clarity in PPP regulatory rules and guidance to ensure that lending and finance companies that are not in the business of making PPP loans have the ability to apply for and receive PPP loans.

- 4/23/2020 **Repeal Tax Break for Real Estate Developers in the CARES Act**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)

This letter urged House and Senate Leadership to repeal the *CARES Act* tax break for real estate developers in the next aid package.

- 4/24/2020 **Medicare Advance Payment Interest Rates**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services; and Hon. Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Michael Waltz (R-FL)

This letter urged the consideration of all options available to provide increased flexibility for interest rates and repayment of expanded Medicare Accelerated and Advanced Payments during the COVID pandemic.

- 4/24/2020 **Amicus Brief Opposing the Repeal of the Clean Power Plan**  
**Addressed to:** U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jared Huffman (D-CA) and Representative Paul Tonko (D-NY)

This amicus brief opposed the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) replacement of the Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan (CPP) with the Trump Administration's so-called Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) Rule. The brief asserts that EPA acted well within its broad authority under the *Clean Air Act* to issue the Clean Power Plan and rejects its repeal by the Trump Administration.

- 4/24/2020 **Hurricane Season Preparation**  
**Addressed to:** Jared Moskowitz, Director, Florida Division of Emergency Management  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Val Demings (D-FL)

This letter asked the Director to brief the delegation on the state's plan for the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season, which is expected to overlap with the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 4/24/2020 **Improve Medicaid Access for Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) Patients Impacted by COVID-19**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Danny Davis (D-IL)

This letter urged House leadership to include language in the next stimulus bill directing the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to develop a demonstration program under Medicaid (including Medicare/Medicaid dual eligible) focused on improving outpatient preventive and primary care for individuals with SCD.

- 4/24/2020 **Address Industrial Sources of PFAS in Future Water Infrastructure Bill**  
**Addressed to:** House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio and Ranking Member Sam Graves  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Chris Pappas (D-NH)

This letter urged the Chairman to prioritize addressing industrial releases of PFAS in a future water infrastructure package.

- 4/24/2020 **USDA’s Decision to Allow the Importation of Citrus from China**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary, Department of Agriculture  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Darren Soto (D-FL) and Representative Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (D-FL)

This letter expressed the opposition of FL Members to the USDA's allowance for the importation of citrus from China, as it compounds the problem of continued dumping of citrus from Mexico.

- 4/27/2020 **Release Emergency Financial Aid Grants to All Students**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Betsy DeVos, Secretary, Department of Education  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Eric Swalwell (D-CA)

This letter addressed the Department of Education’s delayed disbursement of Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* and the restrictive guidance it issued regarding the use of those funds.

- 4/27/2020 **COVID Emergency STA of 2.5 Spectrum on Tribal Lands**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Ajit Pai, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Deb Haaland (D-NM) and Representative Tom Cole (R-OK)

This letter requested emergency special temporary authority of GHz spectrum on tribal lands.

- 4/27/2020 **Charities**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Seth Moulton (D-MA)

This letter requested a distinct reserve be established for nonprofit loans and expand the eligibility for nonprofits to participate in the Paycheck Protection Program.

- 4/28/2020 **Guarantee Access to HIV Treatments During the Pandemic**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services; and Hon. Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Frederica Wilson (D-FL)

This letter requested information about steps the Department of Health and Human Services is taking to ensure that access to HIV treatment and pre-exposure prophylaxis are not disrupted during the COVID-19 pandemic, including monitoring the risk that COVID-19 poses to people living with HIV and supporting communities disproportionately impacted by HIV.

- 4/28/2020 **Support Non-Profit 501(c)(5) Labor Unions**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Judy Chu (D-CA), Representative Sylvia Garcia (D-TX), and Representative Alan Lowenthal (D-CA)

This letter supported Labor Unions (501 c5 non-profits) becoming eligible for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan program and related federal support.

- 4/28/2020 **Cover Internet Cost for SNAP Participants**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Ajit Pai, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
**Primary Sending Office:** Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Senator Richard Durban (D-IL), Representative Marcia Fudge (D-OH), and Representative Anna Eshoo (D-CA)

This letter urged the FCC to work with USDA to inform SNAP recipients of their eligibility for the FCC's Lifeline program.

- 4/28/2020 **Rural Health Providers**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative G.K. Butterfield (D-NC)

This letter expressed concern regarding the lack of transparency on how funds from the Provider Relief Fund established in the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)*, will be dispersed to rural providers.

- 4/29/2020 **Support English Learners During COVID Crisis**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy; House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey and Ranking Member Kay Granger  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative James Langevin (D-RI)

This letter requested that Leadership include an additional \$1 billion for Title III of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* in the next emergency package to address the needs of English Learner students, their teachers, and their families.

4/29/2020 **Support Blood Center Financial Relief**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jerry McNerney (D-CA), Representative Rodney Davis (R-IL), Representative Eliot Engel (D-NY), and Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)

This letter requested financial relief for blood centers as they ensure a continued safe and robust blood supply while at the same time supporting the needs of patients during COVID-19.

4/30/2020 **Support Nature-Based Infrastructure in WRDA**  
**Addressed to:** House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio and Ranking Member Sam Graves  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Nanette Barragán (D-CA)

This letter requested the inclusion of two critical environmental reforms to remove arbitrary barriers to natural infrastructure, and to make it easier for low income and underserved communities to engage in effective flood risk management planning for their communities.

4/30/2020 **Medicaid Expansion**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor, Florida  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Frederica Wilson (D-FL)

This letter urged the Governor to opt-in to the *Affordable Care Act's* expansion of Medicaid. Expanding Medicaid under the *Affordable Care Act* has played an important role in reducing the uninsured rate and enabling the most vulnerable people in our country to get access to health care.

4/30/2020 **COVID-19 TRIO Funding**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy; House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey and Ranking Member Kay Granger  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Gwen Moore (D-WI)

This letter requested significant funding to be allocated to Federal TRIO Programs (TRIO) to support vulnerable students and their families impacted by COVID-19.

- 4/30/2020 **Support Funding for Community Health Centers**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), and Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT)

This letter urged leadership to support community health centers by including a funding level of \$77.3 billion, with \$7.6 billion in emergency funds, in the next aid package.

- 5/01/2020 **Rural Health Provider Fund**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services; and Hon. Eric Hargan, Deputy Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Xochitl Torres Small (D-NM)

This letter requested that HHS allocate at least 20% of the \$75 billion appropriated to the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund by the Paycheck Protection Program and *Health Care Enhancement Act* to rural providers

- 5/01/2020 **Student Debt Cancellation and Long-term Relief in Next COVID-19 Bill**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), Representative Ilhan Omar (D-MN), and Representative Alma Adams (D-NC)

This letter requested that House leadership ensure any future relief packages include student loan debt cancellation and long-term relief for all struggling borrowers shouldering record levels of student loan debt amid this pandemic.

- 5/01/2020 **Prevent Cuts in Federal Funding for States' Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Susan Wild (D-PA)

This letter urged action to save CHIP in the next COVID-19 package/stimulus. Congress increased the CHIP's Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) by 11.5% for FY2020. This increase expires October 1, 2020, so CHIP's FMAP may decline at the same time our states are struggling against a public health emergency. The letter urges the next COVID-19 response package (CARES2) to extend the 11.5% increase to FMAP until October 2021.

- 5/01/2020 **Prioritize Mental Health of College Students**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Susan Wild (D-PA)

This letter urged leadership to include H.R. 4327, the *Enhancing Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Through Campus Planning Act*, in the next COVID package. This legislation would require the Department of Education to coordinate with the Department of Health and Human Services to encourage institutions of higher education to develop and implement comprehensive mental health and suicide prevention plans.

- 5/01/2020 **Help Funeral Homes and Workers Meet the Demands of COVID-19**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative William Lacy Clay (D-MO) and Representative Yvette Clarke (D-NY)

This letter asked for leadership to include language to protect funeral homes, their workers, and families of deceased persons. Funeral home workers must use personal protective equipment to protect themselves and others from accidental transmission of COVID-19 and other illnesses. However, funeral homes and workers are not being treated as frontline workers and many of the efforts to provide PPE to first responders, health providers, and others did not address the needs of this community that experiences direct contact with COVID-19 victims. We ask that leadership correct this issue by requiring that States receiving relief funding include funeral home and mortuaries in their efforts to extend PPE to frontline health care workers and first responders.

- 5/01/2020 **Collect Demographic Data on Prison Inmates COVID-19 Infections and Outcomes**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Larry Hogan, Governor, Maryland; and Hon. Andrew Cuomo, Governor, New York  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative David Trone (D-MD) and Representative Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY)

This letter urged the National Governors Association to encourage governors to collect and release demographic COVID-19 data for incarcerated populations so that Congress can have a better understanding of the problem of infections in these environments, which will help guide the legislative response.

5/01/2020 **EIDL for Small Farms**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Jovita Carranza, Administrator, Small Business Administration

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Antonio Delgado (D-NY), Representative Josh Harder (D-CA) and Representative Anthony Brindisi (D-NY)

While Congress had passed the CARES Act with provisions to ensure that farmers are eligible for the Emergency Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program, the SBA had stopped accepting applications for EIDL essentially maintaining farmers' ineligibility. This letter requested a detailed plan of how the SBA will address these concerns and how SBA plans to process new EIDL applications, as well as for detailed information on the current number and amount of EIDL applications pending and how much of the newly provided EIDL funding is estimated be available after the SBA has processed all existing loan applications.

5/01/2020 **Dialysis Patients**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor, Florida; and Scott Rivkees, M.D., Surgeon General, Florida Department of Health

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Frederica Wilson (D-FL)

This letter requested protection of Florida dialysis patients and maintaining the supply chain for equipment and supplies needed for dialysis. End-stage renal disease patients are among the most vulnerable at this time due to compromised immune systems and the need to regularly expose themselves to risk by leaving their home for dialysis treatment. There are also reports of COVID-19 causing kidney damage, causing shortages of dialysis machines.

5/02/2020 **Economic Impact Payments**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Steven Mnuchin, Secretary, Department of Treasury

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Peter DeFazio (D-OR)

This letter requested that the Treasury redouble efforts to ensure those without broadband internet access not be forgotten when sending out payments.

- 5/04/2020 **Require States to Prioritize COVID-19 Testing in Long-term Care Facilities**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services; and Hon. Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL)

This letter reiterated congressional concern about the devastating impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic on the residents and workers of long-term care facilities, including nursing homes and other congregate living settings. It also requested that a portion of the emergency funding appropriated by Congress as part of the Paycheck Protection Program and *Health Care Enhancement Act* be allocated to states specifically for the development, purchase, administration, or provision of COVID-19 diagnostic tests for long-term care facilities. Diagnostic testing remains one of the most essential tools we can utilize to contain COVID-19 and prevent future spikes

- 5/04/2020 **Support Mental Health for Healthcare Workers during COVID-19**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL)

This letter asked leadership to consider funding mental health resources for doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers. With so many risking their lives for our well-being – so many of whom were already suffering – it is our duty to look out for their well-being in return.

- 5/07/2020 **Funding for Rural STEM Education Infrastructure**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative TJ Cox (D-CA) and Representative Troy Balderson (R-OH)

This letter urged leadership to mitigate the educational disruptions and long-term economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis by investing in STEM school infrastructure.

- 5/08/2020 **Support Additional Homelessness Grant Funding**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), Representative Joe Neguse (D-CO), Representative Rashida Tlaib (D-MI), and Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)

This letter called for robust funding in the next relief package to support state and local efforts to protect those experiencing homelessness during the pandemic.

- 5/08/2020 **Help Close the Homework Gap During COVID-19**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Grace Meng (D-NY)

This letter urged leadership to include the \$2 billion *Emergency Educational Connections Act of 2020* in the next coronavirus relief package to assist students without internet access.

- 5/08/2020 **Include *Forest Recovery Act* in Future Stimulus**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Neal Dunn (D-FL), Representative Earl Carter (R-GA), and Representative Sanford Bishop (D-GA)

This letter requested support for the timber industry. Many of the forest landowners have already experienced immense financial loss due to hurricanes, and the Coronavirus has exacerbated this struggle. The *Forest Recovery Act* allows forest landowners to deduct the market value of timber destroyed by natural disasters as opposed to the salvage value.

5/08/2020 **Provide 340B Flexibility for Healthcare Providers on the Front Lines of the Pandemic**

**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Chris Stewart (R-UT) and Representative Doris Matsui (D-CA)

This letter urged leaders to provide hospitals with temporary flexibility related to 340B program eligibility in future COVID-19 relief legislation. Specifically, the letter asks that legislation to temporarily waive the Medicare disproportionate share (DSH) adjustment percentage requirements for eligibility and the prohibition on purchasing covered outpatient drugs through a group purchasing organization (GPO).

5/08/2020 **COVID-19 Testing in Florida**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor, Florida

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Theodore Deutch (D-FL)

This letter requested the Governor develop a comprehensive strategy for re-opening that involves robust testing to keep track of, and hopefully stymie, the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and well-being of Florida.

5/08/2020 **Support Emergency Funding for the CDC's Surveillance for Emerging Threats to Mothers and Babies Program**

**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy

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

This letter urged House leaders to fund a key CDC program that can help track the short term and long-term impact of COVID-19 on pregnant and postpartum women and their babies.

5/11/2020 **HIV/AIDS Funding**

**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA)

This letter aimed at mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on people living with or at risk for HIV, viral hepatitis, STIs and infections linked to opioid and other substance use disorders. Ryan White Program providers and community-based organizations are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the additional funding will meet the pressing needs of their patients and clients.

5/11/2020 **FY20 STOP School Violence Act**  
**Addressed to:** Katharine Sullivan, Principle Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative John Rutherford (R-FL) and Representative Theodore Deutch (D-FL)

This letter requested the Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) postpone the grant application deadline for the STOP School Violence, FY2020 Competitive Grant Solicitation (BJA-2020-17312) from June 9th to early August, as eligible entities including state governments and schools face institutional capacity issues as they manage the current COVID-19 pandemic. With federal grant applications taking a substantial amount of time and investment to plan and draft, we want to ensure all eligible entities commit to applying and have ample time to submit applications in a thoughtful and timely manner.

5/14/2020 **Support Medicare Providers in the Provider Relief Fund**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative G.K. Butterfield (D-NC)

This letter advocated for more funding from the Provider Relief Fund to be sent to healthcare providers serving high numbers of Medicaid and low-income patients.

5/15/2020 **Support for State and Local Governments**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Jerome Powell, Chair, Federal Reserve  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Mike Levin (D-CA) and Representative Sean Casten (D-IL)

This letter urged the Federal Reserve to join the Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) as an active member

5/15/2020 **Criminal History and Load Eligibility**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Jovita Carranza, Administrator, Small Business Administration  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Dina Titus (D-NV)

The SBA PPP and EIDL applications ask applicants about their criminal history, but the SBA does not disclose how it is using answers to these questions in determining eligibility. One in three Americans has a criminal record, and access to these vital small business assistance programs is necessary to help small business owners continue to provide for themselves and their families through legal business practices. This letter to the SBA Administrator asks for clarification on these issues.

- 5/15/2020 **Study of Florida's Unemployment System**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General, Government Accountability Office  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)

This letter requested the agency study Florida in its upcoming reports on UI and COVID-19.

- 5/15/2020 **Immediate Audit of PPP**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Alma Adams (D-NC)

This letter urged House and Senate Leadership to direct the newly formed Bipartisan House Select Committee on the Coronavirus Crisis, the Congressional Oversight Commission and the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee to immediately prioritize a thorough and ongoing review of the PPP.

- 5/19/2020 **HIV Self-Testing**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Susan Wild (D-PA)

This letter requested an update on how HHS, including HRSA, OMH, and SAMHSA can further incorporate self-testing strategies and further achieve the diagnosis goals of the first pillar of the Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America, initiative.

- 5/20/2020 **Amicus Brief to Halt the Operation of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL)**  
**Addressed to:** U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ)

This amicus brief argues that the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) must be stopped until the Environmental Impact Statement is complete, per NEPA, and the progression of DAPL undermines the sovereignty and treaty rights of tribal peoples.

- 5/20/2020 **LGBTQ Data Collection**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) and Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ)

This letter requested that Secretary Azar include information on sexual orientation and gender identity as part of any COVID-19 data collection efforts.

- 5/20/2020 **COVID-19 Data Transparency and FDOH Official Firing**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor, Florida; and  
Scott Rivkees, M.D., Surgeon General, Florida Department of Health  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Kathy Castor (D-FL)

This letter expressed concern regarding reports that Rebekah Jones, the geographic information system manager for Department of Health's Division of Disease Control and Health Protection, who manages the State's Coronavirus data portal, was removed from her job. She has raised serious concerns about the lack of transparency of COVID-19 data being reported by the State of Florida, and the letter urged that FL COVID-19 data be shared accurately.

- 5/20/2020 **DOD to Extend National Guard Activations for COVID-19**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Mark Esper, Secretary, Department of Defense  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Cheri Bustos (D-IL), Representative Max Rose (D-NY), and Representative Debra Haaland (D-NM)

This letter followed reporting in Politico that most Title 32 activations for the National Guard expire right before the 90-day deadline for receiving certain federal benefits. The letter calls on DOD to explain the rationale for the deadline and urges DOD to extend Title 32 status for the duration of the ongoing presidential emergencies.

- 5/20/2020 **National Guard – COVID-19**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump; Hon. Mark Esper, Secretary, Department of Defense; and Hon. Peter Gaynor, Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jason Crow (D-CO)

More than 45,000 Guardsmen have deployed in response to the coronavirus. They have provided logistical support, humanitarian relief, and medical care to hard hit communities across the country. The capability and capacity provided by the Guard has provided our communities with urgently needed relief. These Guardsmen have left their regular jobs and families to pursue their mission of helping Americans in need. This letter is requesting they urgently provide the health care, leave benefits, and status certainty they deserve as they continue their mission.

5/20/2020 **Restoration and Resilience Jobs**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI), Representative Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), Representative Jared Huffman (D-CA), Representative Alan Lowenthal (D-CA), Representative Debra Haaland (D-NM), Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE) and Representative Ruben Gallego (D-AZ)

This letter urged House leadership to include a “Restoration and Resilience Jobs” program in future economic recovery packages. As unemployment surges past 30 million American workers, millions of good paying jobs can be created restoring natural resources and bolstering community resilience. Restoration investments generate more jobs compared to other alternatives, because most of the investment goes towards labor, rather than materials. An analysis of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act showed conservation investments generated 15 to 33 jobs per million dollars and an economic return of \$2.40 for every \$1 invested.

5/20/2020 **Put Workers First, Ensure Accountability Protections in Corporate Bailouts**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Steven Mnuchin, Secretary, Department of Treasury; and Hon. Jerome Powell, Chair, Federal Reserve  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Representative Lloyd Doggett (D-TX), and Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)

This letter urged Secretary Mnuchin and Chair Powell to prevent tax dollars from being used to reward shareholders/executives or increase CEO-to-worker pay disparities; to put workers first and give them a seat at the table; to ensure corporate transparency; and to ensure companies headquartered outside of the U.S. be ineligible for federal support.

5/21/2020 **Support Community Health Centers**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Eliot Engel (D-NY), Representative Diana DeGette (D-CO), Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), and Representative Jackie Walorski (R-IN)

This letter urged the Secretary to provide an allotment of funding from the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund, appropriated by the *CARES Act* as well as the Paycheck Protection Program and *Health Care Enhancement Act*, specifically to community health centers. These safety-net organizations are on the frontlines of treating coronavirus patients and help alleviate the strain on hospitals.

5/21/2020 **Ensure Social Security Beneficiaries Receive the \$500 Dependent Cash Assistance from the CARES Act Before 2021**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Steven Mnuchin, Secretary, Department of Treasury; Hon. Andrew Saul, Commissioner, Social Security Administration; and Hon. Robert Wilkie, Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs

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

This letter urged the Administration to ensure all eligible Social Security beneficiaries, Veterans Affairs recipients, and Supplemental Security Income recipients are able to receive the \$500 per child cash assistance that was included in the *CARES Act* before 2021.

5/22/2020 **Protect Farmworkers and Their Families**

**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jimmy Panetta (D-CA)

This letter urged House leadership to provide or direct the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide funds to protect farmworkers and their children as the workers are essential and there is constant contact with people due to living and working conditions.

5/22/2020 **Assistance for Small and Volunteer Fire Departments**

**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Al Lawson (D-FL)

This letter to leadership is in support of volunteer firefighter departments funding in the next coronavirus aid package. The *Heroes Act* would appropriate \$500 million to the Assistance to Firefighter Grant, however it also eliminates statutory protections that require the Administrator of FEMA to allocate 25 percent of grant awards to voluntary fire departments. The letter expressed that waiving these protections would hinder volunteer and small departments from receiving their equitable shares of funding.

- 5/22/2020 **Coronavirus Oral Health**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Nanette Barragán (D-CA)

This letter requested that House Leadership ensure that any upcoming legislation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic includes strong measures to maintain dental coverage for Americans who have lost their employer-based benefits, and to ensure access to pediatric and adult dental coverage in the Medicaid program. The letter asks for an additional temporary FMAP increase that can support state Medicaid programs to continue full access to adult and pediatric dental services, plus the establishment of a \$75 million public oral health infrastructure fund to support state and local health departments to improve oral health care delivery, prevention, surveillance, and workforce training.

- 5/27/2020 **Support Increased K-12 Public Education Funding in Next Aid Package**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Rashida Tlaib (D-MI), Representative Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), and Representative Jahana Hayes (D-CT)

This letter urged leadership to include \$305 billion to the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund for grants to States to support public schools.

- 5/27/2020 **Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands Preparedness Ahead of Hurricane Season**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Peter Gaynor, Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Nydia Velázquez (D-NY), Representative Stacey Plaskett (D-VI), and Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY)

This letter aimed to assess FEMA's current capabilities in addressing needs in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands given multiple ongoing projects, including the coronavirus and previous natural disaster recovery efforts.

- 5/28/2020 **Mental Health Services for Students**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Grace Napolitano (D-CA) and Representative John Katko (R-NY)

This letter urged leadership to include HR 1109, the *Mental Health Services for Students Act* in the next coronavirus package. HR 1109 has 126 bipartisan co-sponsors and has the support of 60+ mental health organizations, universities, local governments and teacher unions. It is now time to act on this bill, which has had broad support for years. While schools work to navigate this pandemic, it is important that we provide them with the resources to create a mental health plan to reach their students during this stressful time.

- 5/28/2020 **Eviction Moratorium**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor, Florida  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Charlie Crist (D-FL)

This letter requested the extension of the eviction moratorium Governor DeSantis initiated in Florida, which is set to expire on June 2, 2020.

- 5/28/2020 **Planned Parenthood Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Eligibility**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Steven Mnuchin, Secretary, Department of Treasury; and Hon. Jovita Carranza, Administrator, Small Business Administration  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Nydia Velázquez (D-NY), Representative Judy Chu (D-CA), Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA), Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), and Representative Diana DeGette (D-CO)

This letter urged the SBA to stop targeting Planned Parenthood healthcare centers and recommends they instead dedicate critical resources to ensuring that small businesses and not-for-profit organizations across the United States can access the financial support they critically need during the coronavirus pandemic.

- 5/28/2020 **Support Military Treatment Facilities**  
**Addressed to:** House Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith and Ranking Member Mac Thornberry  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Bill Posey (R-FL) and Representative Kathy Castor (D-FL)

This letter supported language to prohibit the planned downsizing of military hospitals and clinics. The restructuring of Military Treatment Facilities (MTF) was included in the FY17 NDAA and medical billet cuts were proposed in the FY21 Department of Defense (DoD) budget.

6/02/2020 **Maternal/Child Health**

**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Diana DeGette (D-CO), Representative Susan Brooks (R-IN), Representative Eliot Engel (D-NY), and Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)

This letter urged leadership to include HR 1109, the *Mental Health Services for Students Act* in the next coronavirus package. HR 1109 has 126 bipartisan co-sponsors and has the support of 60+ mental health organizations, universities, local governments and teacher unions. It is now time to act on this bill, which has had broad support for years. While schools work to navigate this pandemic, it is important that we provide them with the resources to create a mental health plan to reach their students during this stressful time.

6/04/2020 **Unidentified DOJ Personnel in D.C.**

**Addressed to:** Hon. William Barr, Attorney General, Department of Justice

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jamie Raskin (D-MD), Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), and Representative Donald Beyer (D-VA)

This letter demanded AG Barr immediately order the restoration of identifying information to the uniforms of all DOJ personnel deployed within the city of Washington, D.C., as well as information on who ordered unidentified security personnel be deployed; identification of the authority for the removal of identifying insignia/patches/nameplates; information on who told these offices to refuse to answer inquiries regarding who they were & under which authority they were occupying D.C.; identification of all units present & unidentified; & request information on any plans that were in place should agitators have impersonated the unidentified personnel.

6/05/2020 **Fund DOJ Civil Rights Division to Investigate, Prosecute, and Seek Justice**

**Addressed to:** House Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Jose Serrano and Ranking Member Robert Aderholt

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Tony Cárdenas (D-CA)

This letter urged the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science (CJS) to increase funding levels for the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division (CRT) to at least \$200 million (+46.8 FY2020). This division, created by the *Civil Rights Act of 1957*, is responsible for enforcing Federal statutes that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, and religion. As one of its central tools for accomplishing police reform, restoring police-community trust, and strengthening officer and public safety, CRT has the authority to investigate and litigate cases involving “a pattern or practice of conduct by law enforcement officers” that violate Constitutional or federal rights.

- 6/05/2020 **Support Health Equity in the Next Stimulus Package**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Tony Cárdenas (D-CA), Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE), Representative John Katko (R-NY), Representative Joseph Kennedy (D-MA) and Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)

This letter requested that Congressional Leadership include provisions that provide critical healthcare services to support underserved communities be prioritized and included in future stimulus legislation. These provisions include funding for testing, public health agencies, Health Centers, the Indian Health Service, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

- 6/09/2020 **USPS Support**  
**Addressed to:** Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Mike Levin (D-CA) and Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)

This letter urged \$25 billion in emergency grants for the USPS to offset COVID-19 revenue losses and allow improved access to borrowing authority from the Department of the Treasury.

- 6/10/2020 **Condemning the Rollback of Policies to Hold Police Accountable**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. William Barr, Attorney General, Department of Justice  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Tim Ryan (D-OH)

This letter called for: Support of efforts to eliminate the use of force, conduct stringent oversight and investigations and hold individual law enforcement officers and police departments accountable for police brutality, racial profiling and violence; The Department of Justice to reinstitute its authority to investigate individual instances of police brutality, racial profiling as well as police departments that repeatedly violate civil rights; and Development of an immersive, real-life, scenario-based training curriculum that reflects and prepares officers for unique challenges and prioritizes improving community-police relations, de-escalation and crisis intervention and alternatives to use of deadly force. It is time for our nation to take bold action and condemn police brutality and the DOJ should proceed forward with addressing police brutality.

6/11/2020 **Excise Tax**

**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy; and House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal and Ranking Member Kevin Brandy

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Rodger Williams (R-CA) and Representative Jason Crow (D-CO)

This letter requested that H.R. 1175- the *Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act* – be considered on the House floor or included in future COVID-19 legislation. This bill has 352 cosponsors and would reduce the federal excise tax rates on alcohol producers and distillers.

6/11/2020 **Support ACA Navigator Funding**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services; and Hon. Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Kathy Castor (D-FL) and Representative Abigail Spanberger (D-VA)

This letter urged Secretary Azar and Administrator Verma to increase funding awards to healthcare “Navigators” in states that rely on federally facilitated marketplaces. The Navigators’ role as a resource for fair, accurate, and impartial healthcare coverage information is incredibly important as 13-16% (depending on which labor report you read) of Americans are unemployed and having difficulty finding coverage. Navigators’ work has been especially important in improving health care coverage rates in marginalized communities that traditionally struggle to access care, but they have had their budget slashed despite the growth in need for their assistance.

6/12/2020 **Support Ports of Tampa and Palm Beach’s WRDA Request**

**Addressed to:** House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio and Ranking Member Sam Graves

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Kathy Castor (D-FL)

This letter requested that T&I include language in WRDA that would permit USACE to maintain important shipping channels fully and consistently at the advance maintenance approved depth to assure the reliability so economic activity may continue at the fullest capacity authorized.

- 6/12/2020 **Reconsider Using Florida Ports of Entry for South African Citrus Imports**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary, Department of Agriculture  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Darren Soto (D-FL) and Representative Bill Posey (R-FL)

This letter requested that the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) consider other ports besides those located in Florida regarding the importation of fresh citrus from South Africa. The importation of these fruits increases the likelihood of introducing new exotic plant pests within Florida.

- 6/15/2020 **Protect Farmworkers During COVID-19**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Joaquin Castro (D-TX)

This letter, led by Congressional Hispanic Caucus Members, to Congressional leadership, requesting support and protections for farmworkers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis. Farmworkers are front line workers who are laboring every day to feed America and maintain the world food supply.

- 6/15/2020 **Opposing Offshore Oil Drilling**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. David Bernhardt, Secretary, Department of the Interior  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Kathy Castor (D-FL), Representative Darren Soto (D-FL), Representative Matt Gaetz (R-FL), and Representative Francis Rooney (R-FL)

This letter urged Secretary Bernhardt to protect the coasts of Florida from oil and gas development and asked for clarification on the Department of Interior's plans for drilling off the coasts of Florida.

- 6/15/2020 **Support Economic Relief for the Clean Energy Industry**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), Representative Matt Cartwright (D-PA) and Representative Mike Levin (D-CA)

This letter highlighted the impacts COVID-19 has had on the clean energy industry and urges support for economic relief for this industry through direct payment of existing tax incentives and delaying the phase down of these credits. There has been great growth in this industry, especially in FL, and this crisis could be a huge setback for progress.

- 6/16/2020 **Reports of Offshore Drilling on Florida's East Coast**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (D-FL)

This letter urged that President Trump immediately commit to Floridians and to the nation that he will not support drilling in the Eastern Gulf and to clearly communicate to Senators McConnell, Rubio, and Scott, that if the Senate passes an offshore drilling bill like the House, that he would swiftly sign such legislation into law.

- 6/16/2020 **Lift the Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies (REMS) Imposed by the FDA on Mifepristone**  
**Addressed to:** Stephen Hahn, M.D., Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Diana DeGette (D-CO), Representative Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA), and Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL)

This letter urged the FDA to use all its authorities to take steps to remove deadly chemicals from baby food. As noted in the recent CNN report, tests continue to find harmful chemicals in baby food that can have long term impacts on the health, development, and well-being of these children. The GAO has already called for the FDA to work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop a mechanism to coordinate the development of methods to detect contaminants in food, including arsenic in rice, a recommendation it reiterated in a letter earlier this year to the Department of Health and Human Services.

- 6/16/2020 **COVID-19 Vaccine Trial Participant Data Collection**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services; Stephen Hahn, M.D., Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Lauren Underwood (D-IL) and Representative Sean Casten (D-IL)

This letter urged the FDA to collect and report the aggregate sex, race, and ethnicity data of all participants in COVID-19 vaccine trials and a report of the steps taken to ensure that ongoing and upcoming COVID-19 vaccine trials have diverse and representative participation of historically underrepresented subgroups. Collecting and reporting demographic data on vaccine trial participants would ensure that the eventual COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective for the entire U.S. population without slowing the pace of the vaccine development process.

6/16/2020 **Pandemic Partial Unemployment**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor, Florida  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Lois Frankel (D-FL)

This letter demanded that Governor DeSantis take action to fix failures in Florida's unemployment system which is preventing partially unemployed Floridians from receiving benefits.

6/18/2020 **Florida Delegation – K-12 Education Funding**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor, Florida  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Frederica Wilson (D-FL)

This letter asked for clarity about the state plans regarding use of CARES ESSER Funds, and how it plans to disperse funding through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund.

6/18/2020 **Executive Order on Accelerating the Nation's Economic Recovery from the COVID-19 Emergency by Expediting Infrastructure Investments and Other Activities**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative A. Donald McEachin (D-VA)

This letter expressed opposition to the Executive Order signed on June 4, 2020 titled, "EO on Accelerating the Nation's Economic Recovery from the COVID-19 Emergency by Expediting Infrastructure Investments and Other Activities" (Order) and to requested immediate withdraw. This E.O. undermines the protections that the *National Environmental Protection Act* (NEPA), *Endangered Species Act* (ESA), and *Clean Water Act* (CWA) provides not just nature, but also to communities' rights to provide comment on federal projects.

6/22/2020 **Statewide Mask Order**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor, Florida  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) and Representative Donna Shalala (D-FL)

This letter urged Governor DeSantis to issue a statewide mask mandate.

- 6/22/2020 **Ocean and Coastal Restoration and Recovery**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Representative Don Young (R-AK)

This letter requested that House leadership work with the respective Committees to provide robust federal investments in coastal restoration and resilience, ocean data and monitoring, and research and extension efforts in any future recovery package to help rebuild our blue economy and create good-paying jobs. It emphasizes significant investments in NOAA, including in their Coral Reef Conservation Program.

- 6/24/2020 **Florida Delegation – Meeting Request**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor, Florida  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) and Representative Theodore Deutch (D-FL)

This letter followed up on the letter to Governor DeSantis on May 8. Now in light of spiking cases we asked for the Governor to meet with the delegation with hopes of regular communications.

- 6/25/2020 **Civic Education SEED**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Betsy DeVos, Secretary, Department of Education  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative John Lewis (D-GA)

This letter expressed strong support of two grant applications by the Center for Civic Education (the Center) for U.S. Department of Education Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) Program funding. These grants, which total \$25.9 million over three years, would provide teacher professional development in the field of elementary, middle, and high school civics and government across the country.

- 6/25/2020 **SNAP Program Benefits Increase During COVID-19**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Marcia Fudge (D-OH), Representative John Katko (R-NY), and Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA)

This letter asked leadership to increase the maximum SNAP benefit by 15 percent and increase the minimum monthly benefit to \$30 for the duration of this COVID-19 crisis, and to suspend administrative rules that have the potential to weaken applicants' eligibility. These modifications were included in the *Heroes Act*.

- 6/25/2020 **The HBCU Capital Financing Program**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Alma Adams (D-NC)

This letter requested the inclusion of the *HBCU Capital Finance Debt Relief Act*, which would cancel all debt obligations for Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the HBCU Capital Financing Program, in any final COVID-relief or infrastructure package.

- 6/25/2020 **Economic Impact Payments Issued Through Pre-Paid Debit Cards**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Steven Mnuchin, Secretary, Department of Treasury  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Lois Frankel (D-FL)

This letter urged the Secretary to resolve the numerous issues recipients have experienced when receiving their Economic Impact Payment (EIP) on pre-paid debit cards. For example, there had been no notice for recipients to expect their EIP on a debit card and they threw them away, fees are charged for ATM withdrawals, and some transactions require internet, hindering those with limited access.

- 6/26/2020 **Addressing White Supremacy and Extremism in the Armed Forces**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Mark Esper, Secretary, Department of Defense  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Gilbert Cisneros (D-CA)

This letter requested answers from the Secretary of Defense regarding existing Department of Defense (DoD) policy towards military personnel who are members of or actively participate in white supremacist and/or extremist organizations or hold sympathies with such ideologies.

- 6/26/2020 **Local Level Police Reform**  
**Addressed to:** Palm Beach County Commissioners and Mayor  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Lois Frankel (D-FL)

This letter urged Palm Beach County's officials to implement local-level police reform based on the *Justice in Policing Act*, specifically in regards to banning chokeholds, no-knock warrants, and racial profiling; ending qualified immunity to hold officers accountable for constitutional violations; implementing & using data collection to include body cameras; and establishing new policing standards.

6/30/2020 **Ability to Benefit**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Betsy DeVos, Secretary, Department of Education

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Alma Adams (D-NC) and Representative Ted Budd (R-NC)

This letter urged the Department of Education to issue clear guidance on Ability to Benefit (ATB) programs so more Americans can be upskilled into these good jobs, especially in light of the unemployment caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

7/02/2020 **Extend Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)**

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

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Danny Davis (D-IL) and Representative Dan Kildee (R-MI)

This letter advocated to extend the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), the \$600 per week federal benefit, through January 31, 2021. Right now, the benefit is scheduled to expire at the end of July, meaning millions of out-of-work Americans are facing a cliff while the economy is still in distress.

7/02/2020 **Opposing Corporate Tax Breaks that Increase Inequality**

**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Lloyd Doggett (D-TX), Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Representative Steve Cohen (D-TN), Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH), and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)

This letter urged leadership to oppose more corporate tax breaks that would widen the income gap. Many companies that benefited from the nearly \$600 billion worth of no-strings-attached corporate tax breaks for the next two years continue to reward wealthy investors through stock buybacks while laying off workers. The Congressional Budget Office recently found that aid to state and local governments and increased Medicare spending are far more effective at stimulating the economy than more business tax breaks.

7/03/2020 **Amicus Bereft Opposing Trump Administration’s EPA SAFE Vehicles Rule**  
**Addressed to:** U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit  
**Primary Sending Office:** Committee on Energy and Commerce Chairman Frank Pallone and Senator Thomas Carper (D-DE)

Chairman Pallone (Energy & Commerce) and Senator Carper’s bicameral amicus brief opposing the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s (NHTSA) and Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) joint final “Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles Rule Part One,” which undermines the protections afforded by the Obama Clean Car Standards and California’s ability to set its own clean air standard. This brief is a critical component of the litigation around the Trump administration’s decision to deny long-standing state authority to set emission standards that are at least as stringent as federal standards. Congress has always recognized California’s authority to set emissions standards and the ability of states with non-attainment zones to follow California’s standards. This brief lays out the legislative history and intent of Congress and is an important addition to the case.

7/07/2020 **Remdesivir Shortage**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Charlie Crist (D-FL)

This letter expressed strong opposition to the Trump Administration's reproductive health proposed rule as it would impose unnecessary and onerous burdens on insurers and consumers with the goal of eliminating abortion coverage in the *Affordable Care Act* marketplace and denying women comprehensive health insurance.

7/08/2020 **Support for Seasonal Trade**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Robert Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Gregory Stuebe (R-FL)

This letter addressed the promises made to Florida, assuring they would initiate an investigation into Mexico’s illegal dumping of seasonal produce. The letter requested this commitment be honored, and it conducted along with Florida’s Congressional delegation.

- 7/08/2020 **Child Care Relief**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Rodney Davis (R-IL) and Representative Tom Emmer (R-MN)

This letter expressed that childcare providers receive timely and targeted assistance during this challenging period to help stabilize the industry. In the wake of widespread closures, additional federal relief will ensure that childcare providers are able to survive this crisis in order to remain viable and available to serve children and families that depend on them. Parents, and the American economy, are relying on the childcare industry for a successful economic recovery.

- 7/08/2020 **Protect LGBTQ+ Across all Federal Agencies**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Chris Pappas (D-NH)

This letter requested an immediate review of existing Executive Branch policies in light of the June 15 *Bostock v. Clayton County* SCOTUS decision that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects employees against discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. It provides examples of such discriminatory executive policies (IEDC) and requests the administration to "review and revoke or revise all federal agency regulations, federal agency policies, and executive orders permitting discrimination against LGBTQ people." It further asks him to identify the steps being taken to implement the *Bostock* decision across all federal agencies.

- 7/09/2020 **Pediatric Research on COVID-19**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Francis Collins, MD, Director, National Institutes of Health  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Eliot Engel (D-NY) and Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA)

This letter asked the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to prioritize research focused on the impact of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) on children and adolescents.

- 7/10/2020 **International Students**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Chad Wolf, Acting Secretary, Department of Homeland Security  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI) and Representative Mark Pocan (D-WI)
- This letter urged the Trump administration to rescind recently announced changes to the Student and Exchange Visitor Program, which would require international students to leave the country if they are taking classes online only in the fall 2020 semester.
- 7/16/2020 **Head Start Program Funding**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Dina Titus (D-NV) and Representative John Katko (R-NY)
- This letter requested that Congress prioritize \$1.7 billion for Head Start programs in the upcoming coronavirus relief package. Even in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, Head Start and Early Head Start programs have worked diligently to ensure over one million children annually receive vital nutritional, educational, and developmental care.
- 7/17/2020 **Florida Delegation – Regarding need for Remdesivir**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Donna Shalala (D-FL) and Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)
- This letter expressed concern and need for increased allotments of Remdesivir as Florida experiences a major increase in hospitalizations of patients afflicted with COVID-19.
- 7/20/2020 **Opposing HUD’s Anti-Transgender Proposed Rule**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Benjamin S. Carson, Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jennifer Wexton (D-VA), Representative Joseph P. Kennedy III (D-MA), Representative Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ), and Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI)
- This letter expressed strong opposition to its proposed rule change to the Equal Access Rule, “Making Admission or Placement Determinations Based on Sex in Facilities Under Community Planning and Development Housing Programs,” which would weaken protections for transgender individuals experiencing homelessness, essentially empowering federally funded emergency homeless service providers to discriminately turn them away.

7/20/2020 **Combat Anti-Asian Bias During COVID-19**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. William Barr, Attorney General, Department of Justice  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Ted Lieu (D-CA), Representative Judy Chu (D-CA), Representative Rob Woodall (R-GA) and Representative Pete Olson (R-TX)

This letter expressed concerns about an apparent increase in verbal and physical attacks as well as discrimination against Asian Americans related to the spread of COVID-19. This bipartisan letter to Attorney General Barr urges him to continue to condemn these acts of anti-Asian bias and to inform signatories of the steps the Department of Justice is taking to combat them.

7/20/2020 **Dog Testing in Drug Development**  
**Addressed to:** Stephen Hahn, M.D., Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Brendan Boyle (D-PA) and Representative Scott Perry (R-PA)

This letter discussed a regulatory requirement of animal trials for drugs despite already having been tested on humans and proven safe and effective or having alternatives that can save money, time, and prove more “human relevant.”

7/21/2020 **Tri-Caucus Child Care Credit**  
**Addressed to:** Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Joaquin Castro (D-TX), Representative Judy Chu (D-CA) and Representative Karen Bass (D-CA)

This letter emphasized that targeted assistance is crucial to keeping open many of the nation’s currently closed licensed child care centers and homes will be unable to stay open to serve our country’s working families, child care deserts will be exacerbated, and millions of staff employed by this industry will be left without a job.

7/22/2020 **Account for PPP Data Inaccuracies**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Jovita Carranza, Administrator, Small Business Administration  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jason Crow (D-CO) and Representative Nydia Velázquez (D-NY)

This letter urged the SBA to provide more information on the data gathering process, their efforts to independently verify that data, what efforts they will undertake to correct this data in future releases, and what resources SBA needs from Congress in order to do so.

7/22/2020 **Nonprofits in COVID Package**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Emmanuel Cleaver II (D-CO)

This letter urged the SBA to provide more information on the data gathering process, their efforts to independently verify that data, what efforts they will undertake to correct this data in future releases, and what resources SBA needs from Congress in order to do so.

7/22/2020 **Florida Lobster Relief Program**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary, Department of Agriculture  
**Primary Sending Office:** Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)

This letter requested the USDA include Florida Spiny Lobster fishermen and producers in the forthcoming lobster relief program, which President Trump announced in his June 24th Memorandum on Protecting the United States Lobster Industry as a response to Chinese tariffs.

7/23/2020 **Hot Food Purchase Using SNAP**  
**Addressed to:** Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Grace Meng (D-NY) and Representative Adriano Espaillat (D-NY)

This letter requested that leadership include language in any Senate COVID supplemental legislation providing the USDA authority to waive restrictions on beneficiaries using SNAP to purchase hot foods. This language was included in the *HEROES Act* following the USDA's determination they did not have the authority to provide such a waiver.

7/24/2020 **Urging the Extension of the Payroll Support Program**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Peter DeFazio (D-OR)

This letter urged House and Senate Leadership to extend the *CARES Act* Payroll Support Program for airline workers (not the airlines) to the end of March 2021.

7/28/2020 **Amicus Brief for Lawsuit Challenging DeVos's Title IX Rule**  
**Addressed to:** U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts  
**Primary Sending Office:** Democratic Women's Caucus

This amicus brief opposed the Trump Administration's final Title IX rule. The lawsuit filed by the National Women's Law Center, Transgender Law Center, the Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund (TLDEF), the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation (CHLPI) of Harvard Law School, and law firm Hogan Lovells asserts that the new rule violates the Administrative Procedures Act by being contrary to law and arbitrary and capricious. The National Women's Law Center filed a request for a preliminary injunction, and the amicus brief would be in support of that request. The amicus brief will make the case that the final rule is arbitrary and capricious because it does not adequately account for the costs imposed when schools fail to prevent and properly investigate sexual harassment and sexual violence. It contradicts Congressional intent for Title IX as not only a ban on discriminatory conduct by recipients of federal funds but also as a means to remedy sex discrimination in education and provide individuals effective protection against these practices. The final rule also contravenes Title IX by substantially narrowing the responsibility of schools to investigate sexual harassment and assault and imposing unfair burdens on victims; conflicts with the text and purpose of Title IX by adopting a deliberate indifference standard for enforcement; and would treat sexual harassment and sexual violence differently than other forms of discrimination prohibited by similar civil rights statutes.

7/28/2020 **USACE Lake Okeechobee LORS 2008 Planned Deviation**  
**Addressed to:** Colonel Andrew Kelly, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Lois Frankel (D-FL)

This letter expressed concerns over the planned deviation from the LORS 2008 schedule, risking water access for numerous interests and requesting an extension of the comment period.

7/28/2020 **Protect Medicaid Maintenance of Effort**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Terri Sewell (D-AL) and Representative Joaquin Castro (D-TX)

This letter urged Democratic Leadership to reject proposals to weaken the protections of the MOE. MOE prevents states from restricting Medicaid eligibility, whether through explicit policy changes or by introducing burdensome new procedures that make it hard for eligible people to get covered and prevents states from terminating coverage during the public health emergency.

- 7/29/2020 **Transit Agencies Need Emergency Supplemental Funds**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jesús García (D-IL), Representative Gwen Moore (D-WI), Representative Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), and Representative Mark Takano (D-CA)

This letter urged House and Senate leadership to provide at least \$32 billion in emergency supplemental funding for public transit agencies through 2021.

- 7/30/2020 **Include Funds for Needy Tenants**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jesús García (D-IL) and Representative Adriano Espaillat (D-NY)

This letter urged House and Senate leadership to include \$100 billion for emergency rental assistance in the next COVID-19 relief package.

- 7/30/2020 **Restaurant Relief**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)

This letter requested that House leadership include the *RESTAURANTS Act* in future COVID relief, which would create a \$120 billion restaurant revitalization fund that is available through 2020 and can be used for everything from payroll and benefits to food, utilities, and rent.

- 7/30/2020 **Medicare Crisis Program**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) and Representative Joseph Kennedy III (D-MA)

This letter urged House leadership to expand public health insurance coverage for the unemployed and uninsured in the next stimulus package.

7/30/2020 **Florida Delegation – Physical School Reopening Mandate**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor, Florida  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Al Lawson (D-FL)

This letter urged the Governor to reevaluate his administration’s decision, in light of the growing number of COVID-19 cases, to require all school districts and scholarship student accepting private schools to reopen for in person educational instruction in August 2020.

8/03/2020 **Youth Sports Relief**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Max Rose (D-NY)

This letter requested the federal government provide much-needed relief for youth sports programs, who are facing economic ruin as the pandemic rages on.

8/03/2020 **FTC Contact Lens Rule**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Bobby Rush (D-IL) and Representative Michael Burgess (R-TX)

This letter asked the House to address deficiencies in the FTC’s recently update Contact Lens Rule. Despite the multiple, bipartisan calls to address the issue of robocalls in prescription verification, the FTC has chosen to allow this practice to continue. Many times, these robocalls are imprecise, inaudible, and hard to understand. Relying on robocalls such as this defeats the purpose of prescription verification and endangers patient health, potentially leading to a loss of vision.

8/04/2020 **Service Changes That Will Delay Mail Delivery**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Louis DeJoy, Postmaster General, United States Post Office  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Representative Peter King (R-NY)

This letter demanded answers from the Postmaster General about the service changes he’s trying to implement and that could delay mail delivery.

- 8/04/2020 **Support Critical EITC Improvements**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Dwight Evans (D-PA), Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA)

This letter urged Democratic Leadership to include provisions passed in the *HEROS Act* to expand the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for very low-wage workers without children to provide targeted relief to struggling households.

- 8/04/2020 **Faulty PPE Distribution**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Peter Gaynor, Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ), Representative Janice Schakowsky (D-IL), Representative Bill Pascrell Jr. (D-NJ), Representative Donald Beyer (D-VA), and Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA)

This letter called on FEMA to respond to how, and the level at which, faulty equipment was sent to nursing homes, how it has impacted staff and patients, and how FEMA plans to prevent such errors in the future.

- 8/05/2020 **Minority Medical Schools**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative J. Luis Correa (D-CA)

This letter requested that the Speaker retain provisions of the *HEROES Act* that protects funding for medical schools that serve under-served and minority communities. This funding is important to closing the health and well-being gap between minorities and their white counterparts.

- 8/06/2020 **FMAP Boost in Final COVID Package**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Susie Lee (D-NV)

This letter urged Leadership to include an increase in the Medicaid Federal Medical Assistance Program (FMAP). It specifically asks that the 14% increase through January 2021 included in the *HEROES Act* be included in a final COVID relief bill. This would be incredibly helpful to state and local governments as they face serious revenue loss and growing demand for healthcare coverage.

- 8/06/2020 **Support the Census in the Next COVID Package**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jamila Jayapal (D-WA)

This letter urged for an extension for statutory reporting deadlines for apportionment and redistricting data and allocate \$400 million to address continued 2020 Census challenges and modify the deadline to transmit state population totals to April 30, 2021.

- 8/07/2020 **Higher Education Relief in COVID Stimulus**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)

This letter asked House leadership to consider making changes to the way funding is allocated to Institutes of Higher Education (IHE) with a large number of graduate students in the next COVID-19 package. The Higher Education Emergency Relief (HEER) Fund formula in the *CARES Act* inadvertently hurts institutions with a large number of graduate students since it relies on the number of undergraduate Pell Grant-eligible students. This caused institutions with high populations of graduate students to have received inadequate aid amounts for their size.

- 8/07/2020 **Extend School Meal Waivers**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary, Department of Agriculture  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Ilhan Omar (D-MN) and Representative Chellie Pingree (D-ME)

This letter called on the USDA to renew waivers enabling the implementation of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) and waiving the Area Eligibility Requirement in those programs during the entirety of school year 2020-2021. These waivers permit schools and non-profit partners across the country to continue to have the necessary flexibilities to ensure that children have access to critical nutritious meals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

8/07/2020 **FWS Proposed Rule Re: Kenai National Wildlife Refuge**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. David Bernhardt, Secretary, Department of the Interior  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), Representative Ted Lieu (D-CA), Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Representative Pramila Jayapal (D-WA)

This letter expressed opposition to a proposed rule that would allow trapping of wildlife species without a federal permit within the refuge and would also reverse part of a 2016 regulation that prohibited the extreme trophy hunting practice of killing brown bears that threaten bait intended for another animal.

8/07/2020 **Lebanon Aid**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Mike Pompeo, Secretary, Department of State  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Darin LaHood (R-IL), Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI), Representative Charlie Crist (D-FL), Representative Donna Shalala (D-FL), and Representative Garret Graves (R-LA)

This letter urged Secretary Pompeo to consider available U.S. resources to support the immediate humanitarian crisis facing the country, aid in the recovery effort – including medical care and treatment for the injured and efforts for cleanup of the blast site and other impacted areas – and also remain consistent with the United States’ longstanding interest in a secure and independent Lebanon.

8/10/2020 **Strengthen NAAQS for Particulate Matter**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Andrew Wheeler, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative A. Donald McEachin (D-VA), Representative Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ), Representative Bobby Rush (D-IL), Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE), and Representative Nanette Diaz Barragán

This letter opposed the EPA's proposed weak and inadequate standards for PM 2.5 and calls on the EPA to strengthen the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter pollution (PM 2.5).

8/11/2020 **Reckless Cuts to Providers**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Bobby Rush (D-IL)

This letter opposed the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ (CMS) final CY2020 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule rule that increased rates for the office-based evaluation and management (E/M) code set in CY2021. Due to the requirement for budget neutrality, this would result in a significant cut for many providers, across multiple specialties and asks for these cuts be waived.

8/11/2020 **RE: Pastor Steven Tendo, A.201-520-012, Port Isabel Detention Center**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Chad Wolf, Acting Secretary, Department of Homeland Security  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative James McGovern (D-MA)

This letter asked that DHS halt deportation proceedings and immediately release from ICE detention on medical and humanitarian parole evangelical minister and asylum seeker Pastor Steven Tendo from Uganda.

8/11/2020 **Proposed Oil and Gas Lease Sale for Public Lands in Southern Utah**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. David Bernhardt, Secretary, Department of the Interior  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Alan Lowenthal (D-CA) and Representative Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ)

This letter opposed the upcoming 85,000 acres oil and gas lease sale at Bears Ears National Monument, Canyonlands and Arches national parks. The Outdoor Industry Association estimates that Utah's outdoor industry generates \$12.3B in GDP and supports more than 75,000 jobs that can't be outsourced or automated. This world-class recreation destination and region has seen steady economic growth for the past 40 years. With support, outdoor recreation will help provide jobs and tax receipts bringing prosperity to the eastern Utah area's working families and local businesses.

8/11/2020 **Complete and Accurate Census Count**  
**Addressed to:** Department of Commerce and the Census Bureau  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Marcia Fudge (D-OH) and Representative Cedric Richmond (D-LA)

This letter expressed concerns with their decision to end Census enumeration a month earlier than previously planned and requesting information on how they plan to ensure an accurate Census count in light of this decision.

8/12/2020 **Attacking LGBTQ+ Poles**  
**Addressed to:** Andrzej Duda, President, Poland  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY)

This letter condemned the President's actions and asks that he protect the rights and safety of LGBTQ+ citizens in Poland.

- 8/12/2020 **Follow Up on Earlier Letter About Service Changes**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Louis DeJoy, Postmaster General, United States Post Office  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY)

This letter expressed concerns that the changes the Postmaster General is implementing will hurt the USPS and slow delivery of mail, including mail-in-ballots.

- 8/13/2020 **Continue Critical Research to Support Front Line Communities During the Pandemic**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Andrew Wheeler, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency; and Hon. Francis Collins, MD, Director, National Institutes of Health  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Katherine Clark (D-MA)

This letter requested that the NIH and EPA provide a current summary of activities and grant programs under EPA's environmental justice program and an outline of any changes that have occurred in light of COVID-19; and information on their plan to ensure the sustainability of the joint EPA and NIH program supporting Centers of Excellence on Environmental Health Disparities (EHD) Research.

- 8/13/2020 **Continue Critical Research to Support Front Line Communities During the Pandemic**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Katherine Clark (D-MA)

This letter urged Leadership to include funding and a directive to the EPA to continue supporting the Centers of Excellence on Environmental Health Disparities in relief funding.

- 8/14/2020 **Consider Climate Change as a Financial Risk**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Steven Mnuchin, Secretary, Department of Treasury  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Mike Levin (D-CA)

This letter urged Treasury Secretary Mnuchin to consider climate-related risks to the financial system in his role as chair of the Financial Stability Oversight Council. The Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC), established by Dodd-Frank, is made up of the heads of all of the major federal financial regulatory agencies, and the Treasury Secretary serves as chair. Despite its statutory responsibility to identify risks to financial stability, promote market discipline, and respond to emerging risks to the stability of the US financial system, the FSOC has never addressed climate change—which has catastrophic financial costs—at any of its meetings or in any of its recommendations.

- 8/14/2020 **Opposing Pendley's Nomination to the Bureau of Land Management**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jamie Raskin (D-MD), Representative Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), and Representative Debra Haaland (D-NM)

This letter opposed Pendley's nomination as director to the Bureau of Land Management and demanded President Trump withdraw the nomination. Pendley has openly sought to undermine its entire mission, has engaged with special interests which can influence his decision making to the detriment of BLM, and has made comments that indicate his bigotry towards racial, religious, and social minorities.

- 8/17/2020 **Equitable Distribution of Vaccines**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Raul Ruiz (D-CA)

This letter called on HHS to ensure that the national COVID-19 vaccine plan include strategic efforts with a public health approach to ensure the equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to the American public, so that the highest-risk individuals are prioritized. This public health approach requires the plan to be fair and effective; prioritize those at highest risk for transmission and dying of the disease; and save the greatest number of lives.

- 8/19/2020 **Remove Postmaster General Louis DeJoy**  
**Addressed to:** Robert M. Duncan, Chairman of the Board, U.S. Postal Service  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Mark Pocan (D-WI) and Representative Katherine Clark (D-MA)

This letter called for the Board of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to remove Postmaster General Louis DeJoy. Recent actions by DeJoy to delay mail delivery and his current investments in USPS competitors demonstrate he is unfit to serve Postmaster General and must be removed immediately.

- 8/19/2020 **Payroll Tax Cut and Eviction Executive Order**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)

This letter expressed concern and opposition to the ill-conceived Executive Order issued by Trump suspending payroll taxes, meaningless eviction recommendation, and seizure of monies from FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund ahead of a projected above-average hurricane season. These all compound to disproportionately impact Floridians' security amid pandemic.

- 8/20/2020 **Urging Strong, Continued Support for the United States Postal Service during the COVID-19 Pandemic**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Donald Payne Jr. (D-NJ) and Representative Ayanna Pressley (D-MA)

This letter urged leadership to continue their support for the United States Postal Service in COVID-19 relief.

- 8/20/2020 **Opposing the President's Effort to Defund Social Security**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Joseph Kennedy III (D-MA) and Representative John Larson (D-CT)

This letter called on the President to rescind his ill-conceived, reckless action to destabilize Social Security, and instead pass the HEROES Act which would provide real relief to millions of Americans in need.

- 8/21/2020 **Concerns about DHS Repatriation of Thirty Vietnamese Nationals**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Chad Wolf, Acting Secretary, Department of Homeland Security  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Alan Lowenthal (D-CA)

This letter expresses opposition to deportations especially deportations of individuals protected by the 2008 memorandum of understanding between Vietnam and the US.

- 8/22/2020 **Additional Older Americans Act Funding**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Representative John Katko (R-NY), Representative Susan Wild (D-PA), and Representative Elise Stefanik (R-NY)

This letter called for \$1.1 billion in funding for *Older Americans Act* (OAA) programs, including \$750 million for OAA Nutrition Services to support the delivery of nutritious meals to older adults throughout the country. It also seeks additional funding for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and testing materials for the social services staff, health care workers, and caregivers who provide these services and for the senior adults who receive them.

- 8/24/2020 **Protect Cash Payments in COVID-19 Relief**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Donald Payne Jr. (D-NJ)

This letter urged that essential businesses continue to accept cash payments during the pandemic. This practice leaves under- and un-banked populations such as minorities, immigrants, and low-wage earners at a significant disadvantage, especially amid pandemic.

- 8/24/2020 **Drilling Off the Coast of Florida**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)

This letter requested the administration confirm that the expansion of oil or gas drilling in any offshore planning area around Florida is off the table. It also discussed the history of the BP oil spill, the implications of the Gulf for national security, as well as Florida's statewide opposition to expanding offshore drilling.

- 8/25/2020 **Methane Regulation Rollback**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Andrew Wheeler, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Diana DeGette (D-CO)

This letter urged the Administrator to withdraw the agency's final rule to rewrite the commonsense methane pollution standards put in place by the Obama Administration. The rule change will result in increases of harmful emissions that contribute to climate change and sacrifice public health. This decision also ignores the fact that our nation continues to grapple with the impacts of a global pandemic caused by a severe acute respiratory disease.

- 8/25/2020 **Fresh Cut Roses**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Robert Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL)

This letter respectfully requested, within all applicable rules and regulations, for the USTR's full and fair consideration of adding fresh cut roses to the list of GSP-eligible products. We understand that this October USTR will consider adding fresh cut roses to the list of products eligible for preferential treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and we wholeheartedly support you doing so.

- 8/27/2020 **Testing Guidelines**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Robert R. Redfield, MD, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
- This letter expressed concern about new CDC guidelines that suggest that not all exposed to the Coronavirus need to be tested. The letter also requested a prompt response to questions related to the new guidance.
- 8/28/2020 **Response to USDA Regarding School Meal Waivers**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary, Department of Agriculture  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Ilhan Omar (D-MN) and Representative Chellie Pingree (D-ME)
- This letter urged the USDA to immediately reverse the decision and extend school meal waivers for the full 2020-2021 school year, using the authority granted by the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act*. On August 21st Secretary Perdue stated in a letter that the Department will not extend these flexibilities, claiming they do not have the authority to issue such waivers despite Congress having provided clear authority to issue these waivers under FFCRA.
- 8/31/2020 **Support Zoos and Aquariums**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Alan Lowenthal (D-CA)
- This letter advocated for important assistance for zoos and aquariums to maintain essential care for hundreds of thousands of animals in the next relief package.
- 8/31/2020 **Methane Regulation Rollback**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Andrew Wheeler, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE), Representative Lauren Underwood (D-IL), and Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)
- This letter expressed deep concern over the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalizing new rules that would rescind limits on methane pollution from the oil and gas industry. These rollbacks are another blatant example of this Administration's disregard for public health and the environment—and it is especially unsettling given the growing evidence linking exposure to air pollution to more severe cases of COVID-19, as well as communities of color and those with comorbidities bearing the brunt of these health impacts.

- 9/04/2020 **Tele-ICU Technology**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Robert Wilkie, Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Representative Kathy Castor (D-FL)

This letter supported the expansion of Telehealth technologies at VA Medical Centers across Florida. The letter specifically requested the Secretary utilize CARES Act funds to expand adoption of tele-Critical Care coverage across Florida, which currently has zero ICU beds containing this technology.

- 9/04/2020 **STEM in JROTC**  
**Addressed to:** NDAA Conference  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Anthony Brown (D-MD)

This letter requested the *Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)* conferees retain language authorizing the Secretary of Defense to establish a grant program for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education in Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) units. The language provides a preference for grants for Title I schools.

- 9/09/2020 **Seeking Answers on Behalf of LGBTQ Students**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Betsy DeVos, Secretary, Department of Education; Hon. Kenneth Marcus, then-Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Department of Education  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)

This letter requested information about OCR's policies for processing sexual orientation and gender identity-related complaints. In the Department's response to this letter on March 26, 2020, they did not adequately respond to our requests with appropriate documentation.

- 9/11/2020 **NDAA Provisions Addressing Climate Change and Energy Resilience**  
**Addressed to:** NDAA Conference  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jason Crow (D-CO), Representative Don Bacon (R-NE), Representative Debra Haaland (D-NM), Representative Veronica Escobar (D-TX), Representative Gilbert Cisneros (D-CA)

This letter requested the NDAA Conference preserve provisions of the House-passed NDAA related to addressing the climate crisis and energy in the final NDAA bill.

9/14/2020 **Support of 340B Providers**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative David McKinley (R-WV) and Representative Diana DeGette (D-CO)

This letter urged HHS to preserve the integral role the 340B program plays in ensuring have eligible healthcare organizations access to vital lifesaving medications by taking immediate action to stop the denial or limitation of access to 340B pricing to hospitals, health centers, and clinics participating in 340B. Several pharmaceutical companies have taken a series of troubling actions to restrict federally required 340B drug discounts for our safety-net providers.

9/15/2020 **Support 988 as Suicide Prevention Hotline**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Seth Moulton (D-MA), Representative Chris Stewart (R-UT), Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), and Representative Greg Gianforte (R-MT)

This letter stressed the importance of supporting the implementation of the “988” three-digit phone number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Without expeditious passage, the vision of 988 as a robust crisis intervention resource that serves more people in emotional crisis will not be met.

9/16/2020 **Whistleblower Complaint**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Joseph V. Cuffari, Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Pramila Jayapal (D-WA), Representative Judy Chu (D-CA), Representative Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), and Representative Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)

This letter called for an immediate investigation into reports of mass hysterectomies at the Irwin County Detention Center in Ocilla, GA

9/18/2020 **Protect Schools and Students from Cybercriminals During COVID-19**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Donna Shalala (D-FL)

This letter urged leadership to include in any additional COVID-19 relief legislation robust and targeted funding to help school districts combat the threat of cyberattacks.

- 9/18/2020 **Joint Vaccine Acquisition Program (JVAP)**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Mark Esper, Secretary, Department of Defense  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative David Trone (D-MD) and Representative Jim Banks (R-IN)

This letter requested the reinstatement of the Joint Vaccine Acquisition Program (JVAP) and the inclusion of funding for this program in the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) budget request for the Department of Defense. As you know, JVAP funds the development of vaccines against two high-priority pathogens, botulism and plague.

- 9/21/2020 **Disclosure Avoidance System**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Steven Dillingham, Director, U.S. Census Bureau  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative A. Donald McEachin (D-VA) and Representative Jamie Raskin (D-MD)

This letter expressed concern with the Census Bureau's "differential privacy" approach to maintain the confidentiality of data.

- 9/22/2020 **Additional Funds for Airports and Airport Concessionaires**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Anthony Brown (D-MD)

This letter requested additional funding for our nation's airports and critically needed relief for concessionaires operating at our nation's airports. The funding, negotiated and supported by the airport industry and airport concessions organizations would provide a total of \$13.5B- \$10B in aid to airports to help sustain their operations and pay debt service and \$3.5B dedicated to rent and minimum annual guarantee abatement for airport concessionaires. Funding for airports and concessionaires is critical to the recovery of our aviation system and the broader economy.

- 9/23/2020 **Global Health Cooperation**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Mike Pompeo, Secretary, Department of State; and Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Judy Chu (D-CA) and Representative Brad Sherman (D-CA)

This letter expressed serious concerns over the Trump administration's reckless approach to U.S.-international health cooperation that reversed long-standing successful policies advocated on a bipartisan basis by previous administrations. We urge you to immediately reestablish common-sense cooperation with the global community and to explore additional measures that could further strengthen our domestic and international capacity to control the virus and save lives.

9/24/2020 **CY2021 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services; and Hon. Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Rodger Marshall (R-KS), Representative Bobby Rush (D-IL), Representative Brad Wenstrup (R-OH), Representative Terri Sewell (D-AL), Representative David McKinley (R-WV) and Representative Tom O'Halleran (D-AZ)

This letter urged HHS and CMS to reconsider the current specialty physician cuts set by the CY21 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. These cuts are all the more harmful given the current pandemic and economic downturn.

9/24/2020 **Preserve NOAA's Scientific Integrity and Independence**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Wilbur Ross, Secretary, Department of Commerce; Hon. Neil Jacobs, Acting Undersecretary, Department of Commerce  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jamie Raskin (D-MD), Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), and Representative Kathy Castor (D-FL)

This letter opposed the appointment of David Legates, who is a known climate-denier, to this newly created role as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for environmental observation and prediction. He would have a direct line to Commerce leadership, placing him in a position to undermine NOAA's mission and reputation, as well as what is left of their mission related to environmental preservation and restoration.

9/25/2020 **Pharmacist Provider Status**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Kurt Schrader (D-OR) and Representative Abby Finkenauer (D-IA)

This letter highlighted pharmacy efforts to respond to COVID-19 and called on Speaker Pelosi to include an emergency pharmacist provider status proposal in any COVID-19 response vehicle. The inclusion of language in whatever form the next COVID-19 package takes would ensure appropriate access to flu and COVID-19 tests and would provide temporary authority to permit pharmacies to bill Medicare for these services. The next COVID-19 response legislation is a critical opportunity to provide pharmacists a clear pathway to be able to serve as a provider for tests and immunizations during the public health emergency.

9/28/2020 **Agriculture Quarantine Inspection (AQI)**

**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Julia Brownley (D-CA)

This letter called Leadership's attention to a significant funding shortfall facing the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Agriculture Quarantine Inspection (AQI) program, which if left unaddressed could result in the entry of serious animal and plant diseases into our county.

9/30/2020 **Ensure Abuse Survivors Receive Economic Impact Payments**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Steven Mnuchin, Secretary, Department of Treasury; and Hon. Charles Rettig, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, Department of Treasury

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Gwen Moore (D-WI), Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), and Representative Jamie Raskin (D-MD)

This letter urged the IRS and Treasury to issue missing EIPs to survivors of domestic violence.

10/01/2020 **Request a Vote on H.R. 1407**

**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Seth Moulton (D-MA) and Representative Steve King (R-IA)

This letter requested that H.R. 1407, which has more than 290 cosponsors, be placed on the Consensus Calendar.

10/01/2020 **Addressing the Drop in Childhood Lead Exposure Testing**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Robert R. Redfield, MD, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Gwen Moore (D-WI) and Representative Daniel Kildee (D-MI)

This letter urged the CDC to take actions to address the reported nationwide declines in child blood test screening during the COVID-19 pandemic.

10/01/2020 **U.S. – Kenya Free Trade Agreement and Plastic Pollution**

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

**Primary Sending Office:** Senator Tom Udall (D-NM), Senator Jeff Merkley (D-MA), Representative Alan Lowenthal (D-CA), Representative Steve Cohen (D-TN), and Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)

This letter expressed strong opposition to increasing exports of plastic waste to Kenya and to any efforts to weaken Kenya’s restrictions on single-use plastic and other products responsible for plastic pollution.

10/05/2020 **Decision to Strip Tongass Protections**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary, Department of Agriculture

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Ruben Gallego (D-AZ), Representative Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), Representative Deb Haaland (D-NM) and Representative Diana DeGette (D-CO)

This letter called on the USDA to preserve Alaska’s Tongass National Forest’s Roadless Rule protections which preserves millions of acres of pristine forest, air, and water for flora and fauna, recreation, and indigenous culture.

10/06/2020 **Sewer Overflow Control Grant Budget Request**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Andrew Wheeler, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Lori Trahan (D-MA) and Representative Gwen Moore (D-WI)

This letter requested that the EPA’s budget request for FY 2022 include at least \$500 million for the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant program (“Section 221”). This funding level will significantly improve American communities’ ability to meet their wastewater infrastructure improvement needs, including the elimination of combined sewer overflows.

10/06/2020 **Raise the Refugee Admissions Cap for FY21**

**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump and Hon. Mike Pompeo, Secretary, Department of State

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Representative Donald Beyer (D-VA), Representative Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) and Representative David Cicilline (D-RI)

This letter addressed the fact that the Administration failed to meet the statutory requirement to meet with Congress before September 30th about the annual admissions cap, and now the Administration is recommending a cap of 15,000 for FY21, a further reduction from the all-time low of 18,000 they set the previous year.

10/06/2020 **Sage Grouse Listing Rider**

**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, and House Appropriations Chairwoman Nita Lowey

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI)

This letter urged House leadership and Appropriations Committee Chair Lowey to stand firm and uphold the House position to remove the rider prohibiting ESA protections for the greater sage-grouse from the final appropriations bill when it is negotiated later this year. This anti-ESA, anti-wildlife rider has been included in final appropriations bills since 2014. The House version of the FY 21 Interior and Environment appropriations bill has eliminated it, but the Senate majority and the administration continues to press for its inclusion. Time is running out for the sage-grouse – this iconic Western bird continues to decline and may soon reach the point of no return unless FWS scientists are allowed to use all the tools at their disposal.

10/07/2020 **NDAA K2 Toxic Exposure**

**Addressed to:** NDAA Conference

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Mark Green (R-TN)

This letter requested that the final conference agreement retains Section 742 of the House-passed NDAA in support of America's K2 Veterans. This critical provision, which is not included in the Senate-passed NDAA, requires the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on toxic exposure experienced by the more than 10,000 American servicemembers deployed at the Karshi-Khanabad (K2) Air Base in Uzbekistan between 2001 and 2005.

10/08/2020 **SCOTUS Confirmation of Judge Barrett**

**Addressed to:** Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer; Senate Judiciary Chairman Lindsey Graham and Ranking Member Diane Feinstein

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Diana DeGette (D-CO), Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA), Representative Judy Chu (D-CA), and Representative Ted Deutch (D-FL)

This letter urged Senate Leadership to wait to consider any Supreme Court nominee until a nomination can be made by the winner of the upcoming election and expresses vehement opposition to the nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett based on her record expressing her intent to overturn Roe v Wade and dismantle the ACA.

- 10/08/2020 **Farmer to Families Food Box Program Round 3**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary, Department of Agriculture  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Joseph Morelle (D-NY)

This letter requested a response regarding the serious lack of communication from the USDA heading into this final round of the Farm to Families Food Box (FFFB) program. There was misinformation on delivery regions and sub-contractor rules and the decision not to renew many of the round one & two contracts. These last-minute changes have already created a difficult transition to the final round and may leave many without the food resource they are depending on.

- 10/08/2020 **School Nutrition Program Flexibilities Funding**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Sonny Perdue, Secretary, Department of Agriculture  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Ilhan Omar (D-MN) and Representative Chellie Pingree (D-ME)

This letter urged the USDA to use their authority to immediately extend the school meal waivers through the full school year using the authority given to them by Congress.

- 10/09/2020 **Politicization of the Search for a COVID-19 Vaccine**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Representative Frank Pallone (D-NJ)

This letter expressed concern of the Trump Administration's actions and communications that undermined FDA leadership and industry transparency.

- 10/13/2020 **Census 2030 Outreach**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Wilbur Ross, Secretary, Department of Commerce; and Hon. Steven Dillingham, Director, U.S. Census Bureau  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Dusty Johnson (R-SD), Representative Deb Haaland (D-NM), and Representative Tim Cole (R-OK)

This letter urged the Census Bureau to implement early operations for Indian Country and extremely rural areas, akin to what is currently in place for Alaska and Island areas. Starting enumeration early will help ensure a more accurate count and make sure resources are accurately directed to these areas.

- 10/15/2020 **Ensure Non-Filers Receive their EIP**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Charles Rettig, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, Department of Treasury  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Steve Cohen (D-TN)

This letter called for the IRS to send non-filers a new round of notification letters with the correct, updated deadline so they are aware the deadline has been extended and to expand its outreach efforts to non-filers beyond notification letters.

- 10/15/2020 **Create Parity Between Telehealth Technology Platforms in the MA and OACE Risk Adjustment**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Terri Sewell (D-AL) and Representative Tony Cárdenas (D-CA)

This letter urged CMS to expand diagnosis codes from audio-only telehealth services to Medicare Advantage enrollees for purposes of risk adjustment and for CMS to apply consistent, fair rules across settings and programs. Currently, their guidance that when face to face or other telehealth (e.g. video) options are unavailable, audio-only services are equivalent to other options when considering risk (i.e. pandemic) in providing services. Currently, CMS is unwilling to accept audio-only telehealth diagnoses MA during the COVID-19 pandemic for risk adjustment purposes.

- 10/16/2020 **Support the Passage of H.R. 5534 before the Conclusion of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress**  
**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative A. Donald McEachin (D-VA)

This letter drew attention to and urged support for the passage of H.R. 5534, the *Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Patients Act*, before the conclusion of the 116th Congress. This legislation would take an important step in addressing the racial disparities that have long affected African American kidney transplant recipients, saving lives, and reducing Medicare spending by ensuring transplant patients have access to life-saving immunosuppressive medications

10/20/2020 **Youth Homelessness**

**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative John Yarmuth (D-KY)

This letter requested that leadership include H.R. 7950, the *Emergency Family Stabilization Act* (EFSA) into the next stimulus bill. EFSA would create an emergency funding stream through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide flexible funding to meet the unique needs of children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness.

10/20/2020 **Amicus Brief – Robocall Prohibitions**

**Addressed to:** The Supreme Court of the United States

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Anna Eshoo (D-CA) and Senator Edward Markey (D-MA)

This amicus brief was filed for the case, Facebook v. Duguid. The brief urged the Supreme Court to reject the telemarketers' argument for weakening the Telephone Protection Consumer Act of 1991 (TCPA).

10/22/2020 **HHS Provider Relief Reporting Requirements**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative David McKinley (R-WV) and Representative Andy Levin (D-MI)

This letter requested a return to the June reporting requirements for the Provider Relief fund, as HHS changed the definition of lost revenue, placing many struggling providers in an untenable situation. Now, funding is only accessible for COVID-19-related expenses and lost revenue up to the amount of a provider's 2019 net patient operating income. This change will dramatically reduce the amount of lost revenue providers can claim, create a massive administrative burden, and force many struggling providers to return some of their payments.

10/22/2020 **Ensure Equity in COVID Research Funding for HBCUs**

**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Alma Adams (D-NC) and Representative Anthony Brown (D-MD)

This letter urged Congressional leadership to ensure equitable access to research funds for HBCUs in any future COVID relief package. Specifically, and in order to ensure that HBCUs can continue to expand their crucial research and development work, we are requesting a set-aside for these institutions of at least \$1.56 billion in research relief funding provided for IHEs through federal agencies and institutes.

10/22/2020 **Plan to Prevent the Next Pandemic**

**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Minority Leader Charles Schumer

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Ro Khanna (D-CA) and Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)

This letter communicated the need to learn from the mistakes of our nation's poor pandemic preparation and response to the COVID-19 pandemic and lay the groundwork to prevent and mitigate future pandemics. The current Administration's response has exposed serious flaws in the country's ability to combat large scale public health challenges. In addition to passing a robust package to address the current crisis, there must be bold and comprehensive steps now to ensure the nation is better prepared for the next pandemic.

10/27/2020 **Save the Red Wolf**

**Addressed to:** Hon. David Bernhardt, Secretary, Department of the Interior; Hon. Aurelia Skipwith, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior

**Primary Sending Office:** A. Donald McEachin (D-VA), Representative Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), and Representative Donald Beyer (D-VA)

This letter urged the Fish and Wildlife Service to immediately take the steps necessary to conserve the wild population of the critically endangered American red wolf. Immediate action by the FWS is necessary to ensure a sustainable wild red wolf population in North Carolina and beyond, including reintroducing new breeding pairs into the wild, restarting the coyote sterilization program, and selecting additional, new sites for red wolf reintroductions. Failure to do so could result in another extinction event.

10/28/2020 **Confusion Herd Management Area (HMA)**

**Addressed to:** Hon. David Bernhardt, Secretary, Department of the Interior  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Dina Titus (D-NV) and Senator Corey Booker (D-NJ)

This letter expressed concerns with the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) latest plan to employ controversial surgical sterilization methods on federally protected horses in the Confusion Herd Management Area (HMA) in Utah. The Environmental Assessment (EA) for this HMA, which encompasses more than 235,000 acres and is home to approximately 551 wild horses, marks the agency's fifth attempt to ovariectomize wild horses despite significant opposition and concerns from federal lawmakers, the American public, veterinarians, and the National Academy of Sciences (NAS).

10/29/2020 **Mask Order**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor, Florida  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Theodore Deutch (D-FL)

This letter urged the Governor to issue a statewide mask order and to allow county officials to enforce mask mandates on individuals as COVID-19 outbreaks are raging around the country and parts of Florida are seeing a resurgence according to county officials.

10/30/2020 **Extend Virtual Meetings**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor, Florida  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Lois Frankel (D-FL)

This letter asked Governor DeSantis to once again extend his executive order, which expires on November 1st, to allow local officials, like school boards and county commissions, to hold virtual meetings in light of local officials and constituents expressing concerns about the risks of requiring local officials to hold in-person meetings while COVID cases are rising in Florida.

11/12/2020 **Preserve Rural Residency Programs**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Terri Sewell (D-AL) and Representative Brad Wenstrup (R-OH)

This letter asked Secretary Azar to support rural physician training issues that have been exacerbated by COVID-19 by releasing funding from the Provider Relief Fund established by the *CARES Act* to fund rural hospitals that train physicians and commit to maintaining these training programs for at least three years. In your district, Lakeside Medical Center runs a rural residency program.

- 11/13/2020 **Proposed Changes to the 340B Drug Discount Program**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) and Representative Cindy Axne (D-IA)

This letter raised concerns about efforts by a third-party vendor to unilaterally move the 340B Drug Pricing Program towards a rebate model for certain prescriptions. This action sets a concerning precedent that could undermine the 340B benefit for frontline, safety-net providers, including essential hospitals.

- 11/13/2020 **Oppose Global Gag Rule**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Mike Pompeo, Secretary, Department of State; and Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Nita Lowey (D-NY) and Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA)

This letter expressed opposition a deeply harmful rule proposed by the Trump Administration that would expand the global gag rule. Also known as the Mexico City Policy, the Global Gag Rule prevents foreign organizations receiving U.S. global health assistance from providing information, referrals, or services for legal abortion or advocating for access to abortion services, even with their own money.

- 11/13/2020 **Proposed National Coverage Determination on Blood-Based Colorectal Cancer Screening Test**  
**Addressed to:** Hon. Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Donald Payne, Jr. (D-NJ)

This letter expressed concerns for their negative decision on a colorectal cancer screening blood-based tests based on an alleged arbitrary standard that CMS. The decision completely ignores HHS's own, independently conducted and peer reviewed science (released this past August 2020) that finds in a compelling manner that the Epi ProColon test is the most cost-effective tool available for getting unscreened patients screened.

- 11/19/2020 **Fifth National Climate Assessment**  
**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump  
**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)

This letter urged the President to maintain a collaborative, transparent, peer-reviewed process through USGCRP and provide the nation's top scientists with the resources necessary to produce a Fifth National Climate Assessment that informs our work and the public about the implications of the climate crisis.

11/20/2020 **Screening for Colon Cancer**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Jamie Raskin (D-MD) and Representative Rodney Davis (R-IL)

This letter called for an update to colorectal screening guidance in order to catch early-onset colorectal cancer. This letter specifically supports the recent age drop from 50 to 40 years for screenings recommended by the US Preventative Services Taskforce.

11/30/2020 **Small Mom-and-Pop Landlord Relief**

**Addressed to:** President Donald J. Trump and Hon. Steven Mnuchin, Secretary, Department of Treasury

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative A. Donald McEachin (D-VA)

This letter urged the President and Secretary Mnuchin to act quickly and provide financial support to small individual “mom-and-pop” landlords, who are dependent on rental income and unlike institutional and larger landlords, often lack access to credit. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, these landlords will struggle without federal financial support.

12/01/2020 **OIG Investigation into On-Time Delivery of Election Mail**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Tammy L. Whitcomb, Inspector General, USPS

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Brenda Lawrence (D-MI) and Representative Alma Adams (D-NC)

This letter requested the United States Postal Service (USPS) Inspector General investigate declines in on-time mail delivery in more than a dozen postal districts across the country in the weeks leading up to the November 2020 general election.

12/02/2020 **EITC and CTC in the Next COVID-19 Package**

**Addressed to:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Dan Kildee (D-MI)

This letter encouraged House leadership to include an expansion of EITC and CTC in the next COVID-19 package, along the lines outlined in the bill.

12/03/2020 **Malnutrition in Older Adults**

**Addressed to:** Hon. Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services

**Primary Sending Office:** Representative Danny Davis (D-IL) and Representative Rodney Davis (R-IL)

This letter encouraged CMS to consider possible policy options, including quality measures, to address malnutrition in older adults.

## **FY 2020 Appropriations Requests**

The United States Congress is responsible for drafting and passing twelve appropriations measures every year to fund the Federal Government. These appropriations bills cover the full span of the discretionary budget, including national security and operations of dozens of federal agencies. Although I do not sit on the House Appropriations Committee, I am pleased to take a leading role every year in advocating for the full funding of programs important to our region and state. Every year, my office submits requests in support of hundreds of discretionary programs throughout the federal government.

During the appropriations process for FY 2020, I led 21 letters making 64 requests and submitted a total of 569 requests for programmatic support – a 17 percent increase from the year before and the most requests ever made by my office. Since a number of these requests were repeated in 2020, they are listed below and detailed in the section for Fiscal Year 2021 (see page 202).

### **Congressional Homelessness Caucus Requests for Preventing and Ending Homelessness**

#### **Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women**

- Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for the Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, or Stalking Program (funding)

#### **Federal Emergency Management Agency**

- Emergency Food and Shelter Program (funding)

#### **Department of Education**

- Education for Homeless Children and Youth (funding)
- Education for Homeless Children and Youth (language expanding data collection requirements for the program to include race and ethnicity)

#### **Department of Health and Human Services**

- Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals (funding)
- Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) (funding)
- Health Care for the Homeless (funding)
- Services in Supportive Housing (funding)
- Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (funding)
- Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (language urging LHHS to fully transition to the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) from the Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System (RHYMIS) to provide consistent data management)

### **Department of Labor**

- Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (funding)

### **Department of Veterans Affairs**

- Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem (funding)
- The Healthcare for Reentry Veterans and Veteran's Justice Outreach (funding)
- Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans Program (funding)
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families (funding)
- Compensated Work Therapy Program (funding)
- Case Management for HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program (funding)
- Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program (funding)
- Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program (language requesting a report from the Secretary on the Health on the Homeless Patient Alignment Care Team (H-PACT) program on the benefits of expanding the program to additional rural locations)

### **Department of Housing and Urban Development**

- United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (funding)
- The Continuum of Care Program (CCP) and the Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG) (funding)
- Vouchers Targeted to Homeless Families with Children (funding)
- HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program (funding)
- Language prioritizing Service Needs of Local Communities
- Language prioritizing Improving Access to Housing Services with Trauma Informed Care

### **Everglades and the Environment**

- Funding for Everglades Restoration
- Funding for the Herbert Hoover Dike, FL (Seepage Control)
- Language combatting the invasive Lionfish
- Language combating invasive plant species
- Language protecting pollinators
- Language protecting coral reefs

### **Agriculture**

- Support for the Agricultural Research Service and the Canal Point Sugarcane Field Station Facility
- Livestock Indemnity Program

**Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research**

- Peer-Reviewed Breast Cancer Research
- Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program – FSGS Research
- Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis and Nephrotic Syndrome Research

**Veterans Affairs**

1. VA Medical and Prosthetic Research

**Financial Services and Community Development**

2. Community Development Financial Institutions Fund

**State Department and Foreign Operations**

3. Programming for the Ethiopian Israeli population
4. Programming for reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians
5. Support for Tunisia
6. International Road Safety
7. Diversification within the State Department

**Support for Refugees**

8. Refugee and Entrant Assistance
9. The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)
10. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance (ERMA)
11. International Disaster Assistance (IDA)
12. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

**Transportation Safety**

13. Complex Electronic Systems for Rail Infrastructure
14. Pilot and Technical Apprenticeships in Aviation

**FY 2020 Appropriations Requests (All Submitted Requests, Alphabetically)**

**Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug  
Administration, and Related Agencies**

1890 Capacity Building Grants	1890 Facilities Grants Program
1890 Institutions Extension Programs and 1890 Facilities	1890s Centers of Excellence
516 Farm Labor Housing Program Grants	Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
Agricultural Research Service (ARS)	Agriculture and Food Research Initiative
Animal Welfare Act Enforcement	Animal Welfare for Farm Animals Used in Agricultural Research
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research Kidney Health Gateway	Child and Adult Care Food Program
Circuit Rider Program	Citrus Disease Research Program
Citrus Greening Disease Research	Citrus Health Response Program
Commodity Supplemental Food Program	Conservation Stewardship Program
Crop Production	Disaster Planning for Animals
Electric Loan Program	Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Evans-Allen Research Program	Evans-Allen Research; 1890 Capacity, Scholarship, & Centers of Excellence
Extension Services at 1890s Institutions	Farm to School
General Provision	Grassroots Source Water Protection Program
Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities Endowment Fund	Horse Protection Act Enforcement
Huanglongbing Emergency Response	Huanglongbing Multi-Agency Coordination Group
Humane Methods of Slaughter Act Enforcement	Increase Funding for McGovern-Dole Program
Livestock Indemnity Program	Multi-family Preservation and Revitalization
National Honeybee Disease Survey Report	National Organic Program
National Veterinary Medical Services Act	Office of Inspector General
Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production	Online Access to HPA and AWA Records
Organic Production and Market Data Initiatives	Organic Transitions Integrated Research Program
Origin of Organic Livestock	Protecting Animals with Shelter Grant Program

Regional Conservation Partnership Program	Rural Housing Service Voucher Program
Rural Housing Voucher Program	Scholarships for Students at 1890 Institutions
School Breakfast Expansion Grants	School Kitchen Equipment Grants
Section 502 Direct Home Loan Program	Section 504 Home Repair Loans
Section 515 Rural Rental Housing Loans	Section 521 Multi-Family Rental Housing Rental Assistance
Section 523 Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants	Section 533 Housing Preservation Grants
SNAP Reserve Fund	Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children's Peer Counselor Program
Specialty Crop Block Grant Program	Specialty Crop Research Initiative
Summer Food Service Program	Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education
The Emergency Food Assistance Program	The Emergency Food Assistance Program Administration Funds at USDA
The Healthy Food Financing Initiative	Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program
WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program	

**Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies**

Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing Grant Program	Bureau of Prisons Augmentation
Byrne Department of Justice Assistance Grant Program	Capital Litigation Grant Program
Child Abuse Training for Judicial Personnel	Coastal Ocean Observing Systems
Coastal Resilience Grants Program	Community Oriented Policing Services - Hiring
Computer Science for All - Education and Human Resources Directorate	Computer Science for All - Research and Related Activities
Consolidated Youth and Prevention Programs	Cooperative Science and Education Program (NOAA)
Coral Reef Conservation Program	Coral Reefs Competitive External Research Program
Court Appointed Special Advocates program	Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program
Department of Justice Reinvestment Initiative	Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program
Economic Development Administration	Education Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions
First Step Act Recidivism Reduction	Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments

Fishery Habitat Conservation and Restoration	Grants to Support Families in the Department of Justice System
HBCU Excellence in Research	Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program
Hispanic-Serving Institutions Undergraduate Program	Integrated Ocean Acidification Program
Internet Crimes Against Children task force grants	Juvenile Department of Justice Block Grant Program
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act - Title II State Formula Grants Program	Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act - Title V Delinquency Prevention Program
Legal Orientation Program	Legal Services Corporation
LSAMP, HBCU-UP, CREST, and AGEP	Manufacturing Extension Partnership
Marine Debris Program	Minority Business Development Agency
Minority Institutions Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity	NASA Aeronautics Research Directorate for Advancements in Commercial Aviation
NASA Minority University Research & Education Program	National Instant Criminal Background Checks System
National Marine Fisheries Service Protected Species	National Science Foundation
National Science Foundation Inclusion across the Nation of Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science	National Sea Grant College Program

NMFS Prescott Grant Program	NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Preventing Trafficking of Girls and Involvement in the Juvenile Department of Justice System	Preventing Trafficking of Girls and Involvement in the Juvenile Department of Justice System
Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions	Regional Information Sharing Activities
Scientific and Technical Research and Services	Second Chance Act
Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors (STOP) Formula Grant Program	Sexual Assault Kit Initiative
Space Launch System, Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle, and the Exploration Ground System	STOP School Violence Act
Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring	The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act
Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for the Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, or Stalking Program	US Census Bureau
Veterans Treatment Courts	Victim services programs for victims of trafficking
Violence Against Women Act programs	Violence Against Women Act Rural Program
Youth Mentoring Grants	

**Subcommittee on Defense**

Aircraft Procurement, B-21 Raider	Aircraft Procurement, F-35 Program Joint Strike Fighter
Aircraft Procurement, F-35A	Aircraft Procurement, F-35B
Aircraft Procurement, UH-60M Black Hawks	Civil Air Patrol Corporation (Aircraft Procurement)
Civil Air Patrol Corporation (Operation and Maintenance)	Congressionally Directed Medical Research, ALS Research Program
Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Bone Marrow Failure Disease Research	Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Include Brain Cancer and Pediatric Brain Tumors as Eligible
Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Defense Health Program Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis	Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Freeze Dried Plasma Products for Trauma Treatment
Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Gulf War Illness Research Program	Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Inclusion of GBS in the Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program
Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Lung Cancer Research Program	Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Military Burn Trauma Research
Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Multiple Sclerosis Research Program	Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Pancreatic Cancer Research Program
Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Parkinson's Research Program	Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Peer Reviewed Alzheimer's Research Program
Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program	Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program Increase Funding

Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program: Include Stomach Cancer as Eligible

Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Peer-Reviewed Lupus Research Program

Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Peer-Reviewed Neurofibromatosis Research

Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Peer-Reviewed Reconstructive Transplant Research Program

Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Prostate Cancer Research Program

Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Research Program

Congressionally Directed Medical Research Bladder Cancer

DoD STARBASE

Fisher House Foundation

Israeli Programs - Arrow 3

Israeli Programs - Iron Dome

Peer-Reviewed Breast Cancer Research Program

Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program

Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program: Sleep Disorders

Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Peer-Reviewed Orthopedic Research Program

Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Polycystic Kidney Disease Research Program

Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Psychological Health/Traumatic Brain Injury

Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Ovarian Cancer Research Program

Defense Community Infrastructure Program

Expanded Canine Therapy Research

HBCU/Minority Institution Program

Israeli Programs - David's Sling

National Guard Youth Challenge Program

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response

Submarine (SSBN) New Design,  
Columbia Class

Submarine (SSN) New Design, Virginia  
Class

Submarine Advance Procurement,  
Columbia Class

Submarine Advance Procurement,  
Virginia Class

Support Service Dogs for Servicemembers  
and Veterans in Need

University Research Initiatives, PE  
0601103N

UXO Cleanup on Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS)

**Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies**

Advanced Manufacturing Office

Advanced Research Projects Agency -  
Energy

Building Technologies Office

Clean Cities Coalitions

Coastal Data Information Program/Coastal  
Ocean Data System

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Energy Frontier Research Centers

Energy Information Administration

Energy Innovation Hubs

Environmental Infrastructure

Federal Energy Management Program

Fusion Energy Research Programs

Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund

Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies -  
Funding

Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies - Language	Inertial Confinement Fusion program
Inland Waterways	National Levee Safety Initiative/Program
National Nuclear Security Administration - Weapons Activities	Navigation Maintenance
Office of Science	Shore Protection Projects
Small, Remote, or Subsistence Navigation	Solid Oxide Fuel Cell
Solid Oxide Fuel Program	South Florida Ecosystem Restoration
State Energy Program	State Energy Program
Strategic Programs	Title XVI, Water Reclamation and Reuse Program
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Additional Funding Accounts	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Additional Funding for Environmental Restoration or Compliance
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities Program Section 103, Hurricane and Storm Damage	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities Program Section 107, Small Navigation Improvements
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities Program Section 111, Shoreline Damage	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities Program Section 1135, Project Modifications
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities Program Section 14, Emergency Streambank Protection	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities Program Section 204, Beneficial Uses of Dredged Material

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities Program Section 205, Flood Control Project

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities Program Section 206, Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration

U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperation Programs.

Vehicle Technologies Program

Water Power Technologies Office

Water Power Technologies Office

WaterSMART Program

Weatherization and Assistance Program

Wind Energy Program

**Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government**

Adjustment in rates of basic pay for employees under the statutory pay systems

Civil Rights Cold Case Record Collections

Community Development Financial Institutions Fund

Defender Services

Drug Free Communities Program

Election Assistance Commission

Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation

Help America Vote Funding

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas

Internal Revenue Service

Preserve Six-Day Mail Delivery

Prohibit the use of federal funds at President Donald J. Trump's Businesses

SBA Disaster Loan Assistance Program      Service standards for First Class mail and periodicals

Small Business Development Centers      The Healthy Food Financing Initiative

Virginia Graeme Baker (VGB) Pool and Spa Safety Act Grant Program

**Subcommittee on Homeland Security**

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program      Defund Muslim Ban

Emergency Food and Shelter Program      Enforcement and Removal Operations

Flood Mapping Funding      Homeland Security Centers of Excellence

Homeland Security Minority Serving Institutions      Increase Funding for the Office of Field Operations

Law Enforcement Officer Reimbursement Program      Pre-disaster Mitigation Funding to Communities Threatened by Climate Change

Presidential Residence Protection Assistance Grant      Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Program

State Homeland Security Grant Program      The INTERDICT Act

Title V General Provisions Transfers and Rescissions of Funds      Transit Security Grant Program

TSA's staffing of exit lanes from the sterile areas of airports U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Urban Area Security Initiative Urban Area Security Initiative (Nonprofit Security)

**Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies**

American Battlefield Protection Program BEACH Act grants

Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant Program

Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Environmental Health - Toxic Substances Hydrology Account

Environmental Justice program area Environmental Protection: National Priorities

EPA Brownfields Assessment/Cleanup Grant Program EPA Brownfields Categorical Grants

EPA Brownfields Environmental Programs & Management Account EPA Global Change Research Program

Everglades Restoration Hazardous Substance Superfund

HBCU Historic Preservation HBCU Historic Preservation Match Waiver

Heritage Partnership Programs	Historic Preservation Fund
Indian Health Service	International Affairs Program
Invasive Exotic Plant Species Control	Japanese American Confinement Site Grants
Multinational Species Conservation Fund	National Endowment for the Arts
National Endowment for the Humanities	National Estuary Program
National Estuary Program Competitive Grants	National Gallery of Art
National Museum of African American History and Culture	National Parks Service Land Acquisition
National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom	North American Wetlands Conservation Act
Office of Law Enforcement	Operation of the National Park System
Payment in Lieu of Taxes Program	Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant program
South Florida Geographic Program	State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program
Technical Assistance for Treatment Works	Toxic Substances Hydrology Account

Underrepresented Communities Civil Rights Grant Program

**Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies**

Occupational Safety and Health Agency

Adoption Opportunities

Alzheimer's Research

Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Office on Smoking and Health

Community Health Centers

Community Services Block Grant Program

Computer Science for All Development Grants

Corporation for Public Broadcasting

Division of Adolescent Health

Domestic Volunteer Service Act Programs & National and Community Service Act Programs

Education for Homeless Children and Youth

Education for Homeless Children and Youth

End-Stage Renal Disease and Glomerular Diseases

Family Planning

Family Violence Prevention and Services Act

Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis

Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals

Gun Violence Research

Head Start

Health Care for the Homeless	Health Care for the Homeless
Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Capital Financing	Historically Black Colleges and Universities, College Success Centers of Innovation
Holocaust Survivor Assistance Program	Home and Community-Based Supportive Services
Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program	Impact Aid
Implementation of Syringe Services Programs	Innovative Approaches to Literacy
International Education and Foreign Language Studies	International Education and Foreign Language Studies
Job Corps	LEARN program
Library Services and Technology Act	Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
Magnet Schools Assistance Program	Minority AIDS Initiative
National ALS Registry	National Cancer Institute
National Domestic Violence Hotline	National Family Caregiver Support Program
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Total Worker Health Program

National Lupus Patient Registry

National Violent Death Reporting System

Nutrition Services

Opportunities for Individuals with  
Intellectual Disabilities

Polio Eradication

Preschool Development Block Grants  
Birth through Five

Preventive Health and Health Services  
Block Grant Sex Offense Set Aside

Projects for Assistance in Transition from  
Homelessness

Rape Prevention and Education

Ready to Learn

Refugee and Entrance Assistance

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

Senior Corps

Services in Supportive Housing

Social Security Administration operating  
account

Statewide Family Engagement Centers

Strengthening Historically Black Colleges  
and Universities and Predominantly Black  
Institutions

Strengthening Predominantly Black  
Institutions Programs

Student Aid Administration

Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration

Substance Abuse Prevention and  
Treatment Block Grant

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program

Title I Financial Assistance Programs

Title V, Hispanic Serving Institution  
Program

Title VIII Nursing Workforce  
Development

TRIO Education Services

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity  
Act Title I-B

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity  
Act Title II - Adult Education and Literacy  
State Formula Grants

YouthBuild

**Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch**

Office of Technology Assessment

Wounded Warrior Program

**Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies**

Case Management for HUD-VA  
Supportive Housing Program

Compensated Work Therapy Program

Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans  
Program

Elimination of dog testing at the  
Department of Veterans Affairs

Ensure the Veteran Crisis Line Provides an  
Immediate Response

Healthcare for Homeless Veterans  
Program

Healthcare for Homeless Veterans  
Program - H-PACT Program

Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem

Military Construction/Veterans Affairs  
Resilient Infrastructure Programs

Renewable Energy Programs at Military  
Bases

Supportive Services for Veteran Families	The Justice Outreach, Homelessness Prevention: Healthcare for Reentry Veterans (HCRV, prison outreach) and Veteran’s Justice Outreach (VJO, law enforcement, jail and court outreach)
VA Medical and Prosthetic Research Program	Veterans Suicide Prevention and Outreach

**Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs**

United Nations Peacekeeping Operations	Implementation of a whole-of-government strategy to promote the empowerment of adolescent girls
Anti-Poaching and Wildlife Trafficking	Caribbean Basin Security Initiative - Disaster Resilience
Caribbean Basin Security Initiative - Economic Support Fund	Caribbean Basin Security Initiative - Foreign Military Financing
Clarifying the intent of the Anti-Terrorism Clarification Act	Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities
Countering anti-Semitism, Xenophobia, and racism in Europe	Countering Global Racism
Democracy Programs	Department of State Educational & Cultural Exchanges
Discrimination against LGBTI Persons	Donald M. Payne International Development Graduate Fellowship
East-West Center	Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance
Global Environment Facility	Global Equality Fund

Global Polio Eradication Initiative	Global Tuberculosis Control
Global UXO/Demining Efforts	Green Climate Fund
HBCU International Education	Humanitarian Assistance for the victims of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict
International Atomic Energy Agency	International Basic Education
International Decade for People of African Descent	International Disaster Assistance
International Family Planning and Reproductive Health Programs	International Family Planning and Reproductive Health Programs
International Road Safety Injury-Related Incidents	Maternal and Child Health, including Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance
Microbicides	Middle East Regional Cooperation
Migration and Refugee Assistance	National Endowment for Democracy
Global Nutrition Programs	Office of Global Women's Issues
Office on Race, Ethnicity, and Social Inclusion	Peace Corps Funding
People to People Reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians	PEPFAR and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria

Gender Equality	Programs to Prevent and End Gender-Based Violence
Re-authorization of the Lautenberg Amendment	Report Language for HIV/AIDS Vaccine Research
Ethiopian Israeli Support Programming	Report on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
Caribbean Basin Security Initiative - International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement	Report on programs and policies that reduce the incidence of child marriage and meet the needs of already married adolescent girls
Retain FY 19 Gender-Based Violence language	State and USAID Anti-Trafficking Programs
Support Funding for the Millennium Challenge Corporation in FY 2020	Support LGBTI rights efforts at State and USAID
Support programs that combat HIV/AIDS	Support the Human Rights Division, including the LGBTI portfolio
Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Application in the Middle East	The Asia Foundation
The U.S. Institute of Peace	Tunisia
U.S. African Development Foundation	U.S. Helsinki Commission
UN Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund	USAID Biodiversity Programs
Women, Peace and Security	Women, Peace, and Security

Women and Girls at Risk of Violent  
Extremism

Women's Leadership

Women's Economic Empowerment

Workforce Diversification (State  
Department)

Workforce Diversification and  
International Decade (USAID)

Workforce, Grantmaking, and  
Procurement Diversification

United Nations Peacekeeping Operations

Implementation of a whole-of-government  
strategy to promote the empowerment of  
adolescent girls

Anti-Poaching and Wildlife Trafficking

Caribbean Basin Security Initiative -  
Disaster Resilience

Caribbean Basin Security Initiative -  
Economic Support Fund

Caribbean Basin Security Initiative -  
Foreign Military Financing

Clarifying the intent of the Anti-Terrorism  
Clarification Act

Contributions for International  
Peacekeeping Activities

Countering anti-Semitism, Xenophobia,  
and racism in Europe

Countering Global Racism

Democracy Programs

Department of State Educational &  
Cultural Exchanges

**Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related  
Agencies**

Amtrak National Network

Amtrak Northeast Corridor

Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage  
Development Grants

Capital Investment Grant Program

Community Development Block Grant  
Program

Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and  
Safety Improvements Program

FAA Contract Tower Program

Fair Housing Assistance Program

Fair Housing Initiatives Program

Federal Ship Financing Program

Federal Transit Administration

Federal-State Partnership for State of  
Good Repair

Grants to Support the Education and  
Recruitment of Aviation Maintenance  
Technical Workers and the Development  
of the Aviation Maintenance Workforce

Grants to Support the Education of Future  
Aircraft Pilots and the Development of the  
Aircraft Pilot Workforce

HBCU Grant Program

HOME Investment Partnerships Program

Housing Choice Voucher Administrative  
Fee

Housing Choice Vouchers (Tenant Based  
Rental Assistance)

Housing Counseling Assistance Program

Housing Opportunities for Persons with  
HIV/AIDS (HOPWA)

HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program

Improving Access to Housing Services

Indian Housing Block Grant

Maritime Security Program

Minority Serving Institutions Intern  
Program

National Foreclosure Mitigation  
Counseling Program.

Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant

Office of Fair Housing and Equal  
Opportunity

Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes	Performance Standards for Critical Electronics Systems
Port Infrastructure Development Program	Public Housing Capital Fund
Public Housing Capital Fund	Public Housing Operating Fund
Restoration and Enhancement Grants Program	Section 184 Indian Home Loan Guarantee Program
Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly	Section 8 Project Based Rental Assistance
Section 8 Tenant Based Rental Assistance	Section 8 Vouchers
Section 811 Housing for Persons with Disabilities	Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program
Service Needs of Local Communities	The Continuum of Care Program and the Emergency Solutions Grant Program
Transit Oriented Development	United States Interagency Council on Homelessness
University Community Fund	Vouchers Targeted to Homeless Families with Children

## **FY 2021 Appropriations Requests**

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, my office submitted a total of 539 appropriations requests during the FY 2021 Appropriations process. In total, my office advocated for nearly twice as many programs during the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress than in previous years. I proudly led 26 letters making 74 requests for separate programs.

### **Congressional Homelessness Caucus Requests for Preventing and Ending Homelessness**

The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness leads the national effort to prevent and end homelessness in America, catalyzing planning and action among 19 federal member agencies and fostering partnerships at every level of government and with the private sector. The Agency's second comprehensive federal strategy to prevent and end homelessness, *Home, Together: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, was issued in July 2018 to cover the period between Fiscal Years 2018 and 2022. As in years' past, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) and I, Co-Chairs of the Congressional Homelessness Caucus, led a letter urging support for the following programs combatting homelessness in America:

#### **Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women**

- Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for the Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, or Stalking Program (funding)

#### **Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency**

- Emergency Food and Shelter Program (funding)

#### **Department of Education**

- Education for Homeless Children and Youth (requests for funding and language to ensure that local educational agencies reserve adequate amounts of funding under Title I Part A to provide educationally related support services for homeless students and use such funds effectively to meet their needs.)

#### **Department of Health and Human Services**

- Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals (funding)
- Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) (funding)
- Health Care for the Homeless (funding)
- Services in Supportive Housing (funding)
- Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (funding and language prohibiting the program from covering any treatment or referral that aims to change someone's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.)

### **Department of Labor**

- Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (funding)

### **Department of Veterans Affairs**

- Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem (funding)
- The Healthcare for Reentry Veterans and Veteran's Justice Outreach (funding)
- Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans Program (funding)
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families (funding)
- Compensated Work Therapy Program (funding)
- Case Management for HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program (funding)
- Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program (funding and language requesting a report from the Secretary on the Health on the Homeless Patient Alignment Care Team (H-PACT) program on the benefits of expanding the program to additional rural locations.)

### **Department of Housing and Urban Development**

1. United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (funding)
2. The Continuum of Care Program (CCP) and the Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG) (funding)
3. Vouchers Targeted to Homeless Families with Children (funding)
4. HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program (funding)
5. Housing First (language supporting Housing First approach that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has historically used to help people experiencing homelessness.)

### **Everglades Restoration under the Department of the Interior**

Working with my colleagues, Representatives Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (D-FL), Francis Rooney (R-FL), and Brian Mast (R-FL), I led a request to fully fund restoration efforts in the Everglades under the Department of the Interior.

### **Everglades Restoration under the Department of Energy**

Working with my colleagues, Representatives Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (D-FL), Francis Rooney (R-FL), and Brian Mast (R-FL), I led a request to fully fund restoration efforts in the Everglades under the Department of Energy.

### **Support for Pollinators**

Working with my colleague Representative Rodney Davis (R-IL), I led four requests in support of pollinators and pollinator protection. These requests included:

- Support for the National Honeybee Disease Survey Report (a national survey of honeybee pests and diseases to document which bee diseases, parasites, or pests of honeybees are present and/or likely absent in the United States)
- Support for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative and the Environmental Quality Incentives Programs (EQIP) research and conservation efforts.

### **Lionfish Invasion Response**

I led this request to fund the Cooperative Science and Education Program at NOAA and to include programmatic language to award competitive grants to combat the species of lionfish *Pterois miles* and *Pterois volitans*. These animals are an ecological and economic threat in the waters of more than 31 Congressional Districts.

### **Invasive Exotic Plant Species Control**

I led this request to address a shortage in funding to combat invasive exotic species at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, such as melaleuca trees and Old-World climbing fern.

### **Coral Reefs**

Working with my colleagues, Representatives Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) and Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (D-FL), I led four requests for the Coral Reef Conservation Program budget line under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Ocean Service, for both programmatic funding and language.

### **Agricultural Research Service (Canal Point Sugarcane Facility)**

I led two requests 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.

### **South Florida Ecosystem Restoration**

I submitted this request to eliminate the "new start" designation for USACE projects under the Comprehensive Everglades Restorations Plan (CERP) to facilitate future restoration efforts.

### **Peer-Reviewed Breast Cancer Research**

Working with my colleagues, Representatives James P. “Jim” McGovern (D-MA), Peter King (R-NY), and Mike Bost (R-IL), I led this request to appropriate \$150 million in funding for the Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research (CDMRP) for competitive, peer-reviewed research grants.

### **Medical and Prosthetic Research**

Working with my colleague Representative Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon (R-PR), I led this request for funding for Medical and Prosthetic Research through the Department of Veterans Affairs. This research plays a key role in advancing care for veterans with traumatic injuries and is uniquely positioned to lead a national transformation in American healthcare through research into some of the most devastating mental and physical health issues affecting veterans, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), traumatic amputations, sensory dysfunctions, and sexual trauma (MST).

### **Programming for Ethiopian Israelis**

Working with my colleague Representative Ted Deutch (D-FL), I led this request to allocate \$20 million in Economic Support Fund monies through the Department of State to programs advancing the integration of Ethiopian Israelis into Israeli society, focusing on education for youth.

### **Tunisia**

Working with my colleague Representative David Schweikert (R-AZ), Co-Chair of the Congressional Tunisia Caucus, I submitted this request to fully fund Department of State foreign assistance to Tunisia at \$205 million.

### **Person to Person Reconciliation Program Between Israelis and Palestinians**

Working with my colleague Representative Eliot Engel (D-NY), I led this request supporting programs through the Department of State promoting people-to-people coexistence and reconciliation focused on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

### **International Road Safety**

I submitted the request to expand the reporting requirements of the Department of State’s Bureau of Consular Affairs for tracking and managing data related to deaths of American citizens in foreign countries from injury-related incidents.

### **Complex Electronic Systems (CES) Rail Infrastructure**

Working with my colleagues, Representatives Darren Soto (D-FL) and Katie Porter (D-CA), I submitted this letter in support of Federal Rail Administration (FRA) CES investments, urging the adoption of national standard safety and risk reduction programs for complex electronic systems.

### **Department of Education Resiliency Study**

Working with my colleague Congressman James P. “Jim” McGovern and Members of the House Committee on Rules, I submitted this request for a study on student resiliency in the face of extreme weather events to identify ways to help communities prepare for natural disasters, help prevent future damage, and aid in recovery efforts.

### **Livestock Indemnity Program**

I submitted two requests for the inclusion of language that would promote fiscal responsibility and reduce the suffering and death of livestock in regards to the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency’s Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), which provides benefits to livestock owners and contract producers for the injuries and/or deaths of farm animals due to eligible loss conditions, including adverse weather events.

### **COMPASS CALL Aircraft Procurement**

I submitted three requests supporting the replacement program for the COMPASS CALL – the U.S. Air Force’s (USAF’s) premier electronic warfare aircraft. The aging EC- 130H COMPASS CALL is being replaced by the EC-37B Crossdeck aircraft, which will allow the USAF to more effectively conduct electronic operations in contested environments.

### **ADS-C Next-Generation Technology**

The FY 2021 Budget Request for the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) included funding for enhanced Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Contract (ADS-C) technology, which will allow for reduced distances between aircraft (referred to as minimum separation standards) and facilitate operational changes resulting from new operational standards and International Civil Aviation Organization mandates. I submitted this request supporting the FAA’s Oceanic Automation System (OAS) and continued implementation of ADS-C surveillance technology.

### **Underground Railroad Network to Freedom**

I co-led this request supporting funding for the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program, which is critical to saving Underground Railroad Network sites and preserving them for future generations.

### **Pool Safety**

Working with my colleague Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), I co-led three requests for the funding and implementation of the Virginia Graeme Baker (VGB) Pool and Spa Safety Act Grant Program, which support pool safety campaigns to prevent drownings.

### **Refugee Programming**

Working with my colleague Congressman Juan Vargas (D-CA), I co-led a letter making five requests to fully refugee-related accounts across the U.S. Government, including Refugee and Entrant Assistance (REA), Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA), Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance (ERMA), International Disaster Assistance (IDA), and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

### **CDMRP Polycystic Kidney Disease**

Working with my colleague Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, I co-led this letter supporting the creation of a Polycystic Kidney Disease Research Program (PKDRP) within the Congressional Directed Medical Research Programs.

### **Diversification within the U.S. State Department**

Working with my colleagues, Representatives Gregory Meeks (D-NY) and John Lewis (D-GA), I co-led a letter making six requests supporting workforce diversity programs at the Department of State, including funding the Race, Ethnicity, and Social Inclusion Unit (RESIU), programs promoting workforce diversification—including addressing global prejudice and discrimination, and the International Decade for People of African Descent—and supporting Historically Black Colleges and University International Educational Exchanges.

### **Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis (FSGS)**

Working with my colleague Congressman Ted Deutch (D-FL), I co-led a letter making three requests for research on FSGS under the Departments of Defense, Health and Human Services, and Agriculture, a cause of nephrotic syndrome in children and adolescents, as well as a leading cause of kidney failure in adults.

**FY 2021 Appropriations Requests (All Submitted Requests, Alphabetical)**

**Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration,  
and Related Agencies**

Biodiesel Fuel Education Program and  
Biomass Research & Development Initiative

1890 Capacity Building Grants

1890 Facilities Grants Program

1890s Centers of Excellence

516 Farm Labor Housing Program Grants

Advanced Research and Development  
Authority

Agricultural Conservation Easement  
Program

Agriculture Advanced Research and  
Development Authority

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

Agriculture Research Service

Animal Welfare Act Enforcement

Animal Welfare for Farm Animals Used in  
Agricultural Research

Biobased Markets Program Bio-preferred,  
Biorefinery Assistance Program, and  
Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels

Citrus Disease Research Program

Citrus Health Response Program

Citrus Huanglongbing Disease Research

Commodity Supplemental Food Program

Conservation Stewardship Program

Conservation Technical Assistance

Crop Production

Disaster Planning for Animals

Electric Loan Program

Environmental Quality Incentives Program	Evans-Allen Research Program
Extension Services at 1890s Institutions	Farm to School Grants
Food and Drug Administration, Office of the Director	General Provision
Healthy Food Financing Initiative	Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities Endowment Fund
Horse Protection Act Enforcement	Huanglongbing Emergency Response
Huanglongbing Multi-Agency Coordination Group	Huanglongbing Multi-Agency Coordination Group
Humane Methods of Slaughter Act Enforcement	Illegal Animal Fighting and Enforcement
Increase Funding for McGovern-Dole Program	Livestock Indemnity Program
Multi-family Preservation and Revitalization	National Honeybee Disease Survey Report
National Organic Program	National Veterinary Medical Services Act
Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production	Online Access to HPA and AWA Records
Organic Transitions Integrated Research Program	Protecting Animals with Shelter Grant Program

Regional Conservation Partnership Program	Rural Energy for America Program
Rural Water and Waste Disposal Grants	Rural Water and Waste Disposal Loans
Scholarships for Students at 1890 Institutions	School Breakfast Expansion Grants
School Kitchen Equipment Grants	Section 502 Direct Home Loan Program
Section 504 Home Repair Grants	Section 515 Rural Rental Housing Loans
Section 521 Multi-Family Rental Housing Rental Assistance	Section 523 Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children Program Funding	Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
Specialty Crop Research Initiative	The Emergency Food Assistance Program Administrative Funds
The Emergency Food Assistance Program Commodities	Urban Agriculture Data Collection
USDA Agricultural Research Services Areawide Integrated Pest Management	WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program

**Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies**

Bay-Watershed Education and Training	Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing Grant Program
Bureau of Prisons Augmentation	Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program
Capital Litigation Grant Program	Child Abuse Training for Judicial Personnel
Civil Legal Assistance for Victims	Coastal Resilience Grants Program/Title IX
Coastal Science, Assessment, Response, and Restoration	Community Oriented Policing Services Hiring
Cooperative Science and Education Program (NOAA)	Coral Reef Conservation Program
Court Appointed Special Advocates program	Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program
DOJ Rural Grant Program	Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program
Economic Development Administration	FBI's Hate Crimes Statistics Act program for the purposes of calculating extraordinary expenses associated with the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes under Public Law 111-84 Section 4704(b)(3)
First Step Act Recidivism Reduction	Grants to Support Families in the Justice System
Hispanic-Serving Institutions Undergraduate Program	Integrated Ocean Acidification Program

Integrated Ocean Observing System  
Regional Observations

Internet Crimes Against Children Task  
Forces

Justice Reinvestment Initiative

Juvenile Justice Account

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency  
Prevention Act Title II State (Part B)  
Formula Grants Program

Legal Services Corporation

LGBT Population

Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Marine Debris Program

Minority Business Development Agency

Nation of Communities of Learners of  
Underrepresented Discoverers in  
Engineering and Science

National Marine Fisheries Service  
Conservation and Restoration Program

National Sea Grant College Program

National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation  
Program

National Weather Service Observations  
Programs Projects and Activities

NOAA Competitive Education Grants  
Program

NOAA Office of National Marine Fisheries  
Service

NOAA Office of National Ocean Service

NOAA Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Research

Preventing Trafficking of Girls and  
Involvement in Juvenile Justice System

Regional Information Sharing Activities

Research Construction Facilities

Scientific and Technical Research and  
Services

Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors  
Formula Grant Program

Sexual Assault Kit Initiative

Sexual Assault Services Program

Space Launch System, Orion Multi-Purpose  
Crew Vehicle, and the Exploration Ground  
System

STOP School Violence Act

The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights  
Crimes Reauthorization Act

The Second Chance Act

Title 13 Data Protections Clarification  
Language

Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for  
the Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic  
Violence, or Stalking Program

VAWA Consolidated Youth and Prevention  
Programs

VAWA programs

Veterans Treatment Courts

### Subcommittee on Defense

Aircraft Procurement, B-21 Raider

Aircraft Procurement, Compass Call

Aircraft Procurement, F-35A

Aircraft Procurement, F-35B

Aircraft Procurement, F-35C

Civil Air Patrol Corporation (Aircraft  
Procurement)

Civil Air Patrol Corporation (Operation and  
Maintenance)

Compass Call Program Modifications

Congressional Directed Medical Research  
Programs, Traumatic Brain Injury

Congressionally Directed Medical Research,  
ALS Research Program

Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Bladder Cancer Research	Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Bone Marrow Failure Research Program
Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Continue to Include Brain Cancer and Pediatric Brain Tumors as Eligible Topics for Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program Funding	Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis
Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Freeze Dried Plasma Products for Manufacturing Technology	Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Gulf War Illness Research Program
Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Lung Cancer Research Program	Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Military Burn Trauma Research
Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Ovarian Cancer Research Program	Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Pancreatic Cancer Research Program
Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Parkinson's Research Program	Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Peer Reviewed Alzheimer's Research Program
Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program	Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program: Include Stomach Cancer as Eligible
Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Peer-Reviewed Breast Cancer Research Program	Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Peer-Reviewed Lupus Research Program
Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program: Sleep Disorders	Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Peer-Reviewed Neurofibromatosis Research
Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Peer-Reviewed Orthopedic Research Program	Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Peer-reviewed Reconstructive Transplant Research Program
Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Polycystic Kidney Disease Research Program	Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Prostate Cancer Research Program
Congressionally Directed Medical Research, Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Research Program	Defense Community Infrastructure Program

F-35 Program Modifications

Fisher House Foundation

HBCU/Minority Institution Program

Israeli Programs, Arrow 3 RDT&E

Israeli Programs, Arrow-3 Procurement

Israeli Programs, David's Sling Procurement

Israeli Programs, David's Sling RDT&E

Israeli Programs, Iron Dome Procurement

National Guard Youth Challenge Program

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response

STARBASE

Submarine Procurement, Columbia Class

Submarine Procurement, Virginia Class

Support Service Dogs for Servicemembers  
and Veterans in Need

UXO Cleanup on Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS)

**Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies**

Additional Funding for Environmental  
Restoration or Compliance

Advanced Manufacturing Office

Buildings Technologies Office

Coastal Data Information Program/Coastal  
Ocean Data System

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Energy Information Administration

Environmental Infrastructure	Federal Energy Management Program and AFFECT Grants
Fossil Energy Research and Development - Other	Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund
Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies	Inertial Confinement Fusion program
Inland Waterways	National Levee Safety Initiative/Program
Navigation Maintenance	New Starts within Programmatic Line Items
Office of Science	Shore Protection Projects
Small, Remote, or Subsistence Navigation	Solid Oxide Fuel Program
South Florida Ecosystem Restoration	State Energy Program
Title XVI, Water Reclamation and Reuse Program	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works program, Aquatic Plant Control Program
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works program, Flood Plain Management Services	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works program, National Coastal Mapping Program
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works program, National Levee Flood Inventory	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works program, National Shoreline Management Study
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works program, Regional Sediment Management Program	U.S. Energy and Employment Report

U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperation Programs

Vehicle Technologies Program

Water Operations Technical Support

Water Power Technologies Office

WaterSMART

Weatherization Assistance Program

Wind Energy Technologies Office

Wind Energy Technologies Office  
Distributed Wind Account

**Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government**

Civil Rights Cold Case Record Collections

Community Development Financial  
Institutions Fund

Drug Free Communities Program

Election Assistance Commission

Federal Defender Services

Healthy Food Financing Initiative Financial  
Assistance Program

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas

Increase Topline Funding for the IRS

Prohibit the use of federal funds at President  
Donald J. Trump's Businesses

Retail Redlining Study

Service Standards for First Class mail and  
periodicals

Small Business Development Centers

Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act Grant Program

**Subcommittee on Homeland Security**

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program

BIRD Homeland Security Program

Emergency Food and Shelter Program

Enforcement and Removal Operations

Limit funding for CBP border agents

Limit transfer authority for immigration  
detention

Next Generation Resilient Warning System

Pre-Disaster Mitigation

Presidential Residence Protection  
Assistance Grant

Reduce CBP wall funding

Reduce ICE detention and enforcement  
funding

Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency  
Response Grant Program

The INTERDICT Act

Transit Security Grant Program

United States Citizenship and Immigration  
Services International Operations Division  
Field Offices

Urban Area Security Initiative

**Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies**

3D Elevation Program

Battlefield Land Acquisition Program

Bureau of Land Management Land  
Acquisition

Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation  
Board

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund	Ecological Services
Environmental Justice Program	Environmental Programs and Management Account
Environmental Protection: National Priorities	EPA Global Change Research Program
Everglades Restoration	Fish and Wildlife Service Land Acquisition
Greater Everglades Priority Ecosystem Science Program	HBCU Historic Preservation
HBCU Historic Preservation Match Waiver	Heritage Partnership Programs
Historic Preservation Fund	Indian Health Service
Invasive Exotic Plant Species Control	Japanese American Confinement Site Grants
Management of National Scenic and Historic Trails	National Endowment for the Arts
National Endowment for the Humanities	National Estuary Program
National Gallery of Art	National Museum of African American History and Culture
National Park Service Land Acquisition	National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom

North American Wetlands Conservation Act

Office of Law Enforcement

Operation of the National Park System

Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers

Science and Technology Account

Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse  
Municipal Grant program

Smithsonian Latino Center

South Florida Geographic Program

Superfund Cleanup Programs

Support the creation of a future Smithsonian  
American Latino Museum, and, in the  
meantime, support the Smithsonian Latino  
Center

Technical Assistance for Treatment Works

U.S. Forest Service Land Acquisition

**Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related  
Agencies**

Adoption Opportunities

Alzheimer's Research

Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical  
Education Act

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention  
Program

Community Health Centers

Community Services Block Grant Program

Consortium of Food Allergy Research

Corporation for Public Broadcasting

DELTA Prevention Program

Department of Education Resiliency Study

Division of Adolescent Health	Domestic Volunteer Service Act Programs & National and Community Service Act Programs
Education for Homeless Children and Youth	Education for Homeless Children and Youth Proposed
End Stage Renal Disease and Glomerular Diseases	Family Violence Prevention and Services Act
Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis	Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals
Gun Violence Research	Hawkins Center for Excellence Grant
Head Start	Health Care for the Homeless
Holocaust Survivor Assistance Program	Home and Community-Based Supportive Services
Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program	Impact Aid
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B	Innovative Approaches to Literacy
International Education and Foreign Language Studies	Job Corps
LEARN program	Library Services and Technology Act
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program	Magnet Schools Assistance Program

Minority AIDS Initiative

National ALS Registry

National Cancer Institute

National Domestic Violence Hotline

National Family Caregiver Support Program

National Lupus Patient Registry

National Lupus Training, Outreach &  
Clinical Trial Program

National Violent Death Reporting System

Neurofibromatosis

Nutrition Services

Office of Museum Services

Office on Smoking and Health

Peripheral Neuropathies

Preschool Development Grants Birth  
through Five

Preventive Health and Health Services  
Block Grant Sex Offense Set Aside

Projects for Assistance in Transition from  
Homelessness

Rape Prevention and Education

Ready to Learn

Refugee and Entrance Assistance

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act  
Description

Senior Corps

Services in Supportive Housing

Social Security Administration operating  
account

Special Olympics education and health programs

Statewide Family Engagement Centers

Strengthening Predominantly Black Institutions Programs

Student Aid Administration

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program

The National Museum of African American History and Culture

Title I

Title V - Hispanic Serving Institutions Program

Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development

Title X Family Planning Program

TRIO Education Services

Violence Against Women Health Initiative (Project Connect)

Waiver of Section 313(d) for Predominantly Black Institution Grants

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Title III

YouthBuild

**Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch**

Office of Technology Assessment

Leadership Institute for Transatlantic Engagement

**Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies**

Case Management for HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program	Compensated Work Therapy Program
Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans Program	Eliminate painful dog testing at the Department of Veterans Affairs
Ensure the Veteran Crisis Line Provides an Immediate Response	Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program
Healthcare for Reentry Veterans and Veteran's Justice Outreach	Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem
Resilient Military Infrastructure	Supportive Services for Veteran Families
VA Medical and Prosthetic Research Program	Veterans Suicide Prevention and Outreach

**Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs**

Anti-Poaching and Wildlife Trafficking	Assistance to Ukraine
Caribbean Basin Security Initiative - Disaster Resilience	Caribbean Basin Security Initiative - Economic Support Funding
Caribbean Basin Security Initiative - Foreign Military Financing	Caribbean Basin Security Initiative - International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement
Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities	Countering anti-Semitism, Xenophobia, and racism in Europe

Countering Discrimination against LGBTI  
Persons

Countering Global Racism

Democracy Programs

Department of State Educational & Cultural  
Exchanges

East-West Center

Eliminate the Global Gag Rule

Emergency Refugee and Migration  
Assistance

Ethiopian Israeli Support Programming

Female genital mutilation/cutting

Gender Equality

Gender-Based Violence

Global Environment Facility

Global Equality Fund

Global Health Programs (including  
HIV/AIDS)

Global Tuberculosis Control

Green Climate Fund

HBCU International Education

Humanitarian Assistance for the victims of  
the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

Implementation of a whole-of-government  
strategy to promote the empowerment of  
adolescent girls

Inter-American Foundation Level Funding  
and Transfers

International Atomic Energy Agency

International Basic Education

International Decade for People of African  
Descent and RESIU

International Disaster Assistance

International Family Planning and Reproductive Health Programs	International Road Safety Injury-Related Incidents
Leadership Institute for Transatlantic Engagement	Maternal and Child Health, including Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance
Microbicides	Middle East Regional Cooperation
Migration and Refugee Assistance	National Endowment for Democracy
Nutrition	Office of Global Women's Issues
Office on Race, Ethnicity, and Social Inclusion	Peace Corps Funding
People to People Reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians	PEPFAR and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria
Reauthorization of the Lautenberg Amendment	Report on programs and policies that reduce the incidence of child marriage and meet the needs of already married adolescent girls
Retain FY20 Gender-Based Violence language	Stabilization Programs in Syria
State and USAID Anti-Trafficking Programs	Support Funding for the Millennium Challenge Corporation in FY 2021
Support LGBTI rights efforts at State and USAID	Support programs that combat HIV/AIDS
Sustainable Landscapes	The Asia Foundation

The United States Institute of Peace

Tropical Forest Conservation Act

Tunisia

U.S. African Development Foundation

U.S. Helsinki Commission

United Nations Peacekeeping Operations

United Nations Population Fund

USAID Biodiversity Programs

USAID Human Rights Division LGBTI  
Portfolio

Women and Girls at Risk of Violent  
Extremism

Women's Economic Empowerment

Women's Leadership

Women, Peace, and Security

Workforce Diversification (State  
Department)

Workforce Diversification and International  
Decade (USAID)

Workforce, Grantmaking, and Procurement  
Diversification

**Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related  
Agencies**

Amtrak National Network

Amtrak Northeast Corridor

Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Contract

Bus and Bus Facilities Competitive Grant  
Program

Capital Investment Grant Program

Community Development Block Grant  
Program

Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety  
Improvements Program

Direct Payments for State Maritime  
Academies

FAA Contract Tower Program

Fair Housing Initiatives Program

Federal Transit Administration Programs

Federal-State Partnership for State of Good  
Repair

HBCU Grant Program

HOME Investment Partnerships Program

Housing Choice Vouchers (Tenant Based  
Rental Assistance)

Housing Counseling Assistance Program

Housing First

Housing Opportunities for Persons with  
HIV/AIDS

HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program

Maintenance and Repair of State Maritime  
Academy Training Vessels

Maritime Guaranteed Loan (Title XI)  
Program

Minority Serving Institutions Intern  
Program

National Security Multi Mission Vessel

Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation

Office of Fair Housing and Equal  
Opportunity

Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy  
Homes

Performance Standards for Critical  
Electronics Systems

Port and Intermodal Improvement Program

Restoration and Enhancement Grants  
Program

State Maritime Academy Training Vessel  
Sharing

Student Incentive Programs for State  
Maritime Academies

Student State Maritime Academy Fuel  
Assistance

Support for Aging ATC Facilities

Terminal Air Traffic Control Facilities  
Replacement Program

The Continuum of Care Program and the  
Emergency Solutions Grant Program

United States Interagency Council on  
Homelessness

University Community Fund

Vouchers Targeted to Homeless Families  
with Children

**Rules Managed**

The House Committee on Rules 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.

During the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress many significant and transformative pieces of legislation, addressing social justice issues, passed through the Committee, including the *George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2020*. The Committee also passed a historic Rule, H.Res.767, Providing for consideration of the resolution (H.Res.755) impeaching Donald John Trump, President of the United States, for high crimes and misdemeanors. As Vice Chairman of the House Committee on Rules, I frequently manage Rules on the House floor for the Democrats.

<b>Rule</b>	<b>Providing for the consideration of...</b>
H.Res.548	H.R.205, the <i>Protecting and Securing Florida's Coastline Act of 2019</i>  H.R.1146, the <i>Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act</i>  H.R.1941, the <i>Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act</i>
H.Res.650	H.R.4617, the <i>Stopping Harmful Interference in Elections for a Lasting Democracy Act or the SHIELD Act</i>
H.Res.1017	H.R.51, the <i>Washington, D.C. Admission Act</i>  H.R.1425, the <i>Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act</i>  H.R.5332, the <i>Protecting Your Credit Score Act of 2020</i>  H.R.7120, the <i>George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2020</i>  H.R.7301, the <i>Emergency Housing Protections and Relief Act of 2020</i>  H.J.Res.90, <i>Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency relating to "Community Reinvestment Act Regulations"</i> .

### Briefings Hosted

Throughout the 116<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 Quality Issues**

*Florida Delegation Meeting*  
February 27, 2019

The Florida Delegation held a meeting on water quality issues facing Florida communities. The meeting focused on Harmful Algal Blooms, Lake Okeechobee water levels, and upcoming Army Corps of Engineers' projects.

**Panelists:**

- **Adam Gelber**  
Director of Everglades Initiatives, U.S. Department of Labor
- **Colonel Andrew Kelly**  
Commander Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- **Noah Valenstein**  
Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- **Dr. Michael Crosby**  
President & CEO, Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium
- **Garrett Wallace**  
Florida Government Relations Manager, The Nature Conservancy

**Agriculture Issues**

*Florida Delegation Meeting*  
May 16, 2019

The Florida Delegation held a meeting on Florida agriculture issues. The meeting focused on trade, disaster relief, and hemp/cannabis.

**Panelists:**

- **Nikki Fried**  
Commissioner, Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
- **John Hoblick**  
President, Florida Farm Bureau Federation
- **Mike Joyner**  
President, Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association
- **Alan Shelby**  
Executive Vice President, Florida Forestry Association

**Black Youth Suicide and Mental Health**

*CBC Emergency Task Force on Black Youth Suicide Roundtable*  
August 28, 2019

The CBC Emergency Task Force on Youth Suicide held a Congressional roundtable addressing issue related to black youth suicide and mental health. The event was held at Keiser University in West Palm Beach, Florida and was moderated by **Tom Robinson** of the National Public Policy Council.

**Panelists:**

- **Michelle Beatty, M.Ed.,**  
SEDNET, Florida Department of Education, Palm Beach
- **Charlene M. Grecsek, EdD, LMHC**  
SEDNET, Florida Department of Education, Broward
- **Mary Claire Mucenic, PhD**  
Director of Behavioral and Mental Health, School District of Palm Beach County
- **Leslie Harriot-Godfrey, MS**  
Licensed School Psychologist, School District of Palm Beach County
- **Susan N. Vialpando, LCSW**  
Supervisor, Family Counseling Program Student Services Department/Family Counseling, School District of Broward County
- **Allen Mednick**  
Board Member, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- **Jowharah Sanders**  
Founder/Executive Director, National Voices for Equality, Education, and Enlightenment (NVEEE)
- **David Krasky, Psy. S.**  
Licensed School Psychologist
- **Dr. Rachel Needle, Psy. D.**  
Board Member, 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast
- **Casper Mitchell**  
Student Ambassador
- **Makeda Drummond**  
Student Ambassador

**Chronic Homelessness and Mental Health**

*Congressional Homelessness Caucus Briefing*  
September 10, 2019

The Congressional Homelessness Caucus held a briefing to discuss Chronic Homelessness and Mental Health.

**Panelists:**

- **Steve Berg**  
Vice President for Programs and Policy, National Alliance to End Homelessness
- **Andrew Sperling**  
Director of Legislative and Policy Advocacy, National Alliance on Mental Illness
- **Tamara Foster**  
Vice President of Onsite Operations, New Hope Housing, Inc.

**Data Project by National Alliance to End Homelessness**

*Congressional Homelessness Caucus Briefing*  
September 18, 2019

The Congressional Homelessness Caucus held a briefing to on the Data Project by the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

**Panelists:**

- **Joy Moses**  
Research Director, National Alliance to End Homelessness
- **Jackie Janosko**  
Research Associate, National Alliance to End Homelessness

### Civil Rights

*Congressional Homelessness Caucus Briefing*  
September 26, 2019

The Congressional Homelessness Caucus held a briefing to discuss homelessness and Civil Rights.

**Panelists:**

- **Megan Hustings**  
Managing Director, National Coalition for the Homeless
- **Davis Pirtle**  
National Coalition for the Homeless

### Tourism

*Florida Delegation Meeting*  
November 14, 2019

The Florida Delegation held a meeting to discuss the state of the tourism industry in Florida. Tourism is one of Florida's top industries and continues to grow in its economic impact as Florida visitor numbers continue to break records.

**Panelists:**

- **Brian Sands**  
Vice President and Director of Economics, Themed Entertainment Association/AECOM Southeast
- **Kalyn Stephens**  
Vice President of Government Affairs, American Hotel and Lodging Association
- **Dana Young**  
President and CEO, VISIT FLORIDA
- **Michael McGarry**  
SVP for Global Government Affairs, Cruise Line International Association

**Human Trafficking**

*Florida Delegation Meeting*  
January 29, 2020

The Florida Delegation held a meeting on Human Trafficking Prevention ahead of Super Bowl LIV in Miami, Florida.

**Panelists:**

- **Heidi Schaeffer, M.D.**  
Advisory Board, Nova Southeast University (NSU) Patel College of Healthcare Sciences (PCHCS) and Coalition for Research and Education Against Trafficking and Exploitation (CREATE) and Member, Human Trafficking Coalition of the Palm Beaches
- **Roger DeHart**  
Founder, First S.T.O.P. (saving Teens and Others from Predators), Inc and Deputy Officer, Broward Circuit Court
- **Elizabeth Melendez Fisher Good**  
Co-founder, President, and CEO Selah Freedom and Selah Way Foundation
- **Trent Frazier**  
Executive Director for the Office of Campaigns and Academic Engagement, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- **Kaitlin Seale**  
Program Manager, Blue Campaign, Office of Partnership and Engagement, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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January 3, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Reintroduction of the *Build America Act***

Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the *Build America Act*, legislation that will provide \$10 billion annually for merit-based infrastructure grants across the country. For years, House Democrats have called for a dramatic investment in infrastructure, and for years, these calls have gone unanswered. I am hopeful that this will be the year that we finally make the investments we need. I am 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 that will ensure we put money towards the greatest infrastructure needs regardless of any additional package passed in the House.

My legislation will significantly increase the size and scope of two existing infrastructure grant programs, the Capital Investment Grant Program (CIG), also known as New Starts/Small Starts, and the BUILD Grant Program, formerly known as the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Grant Program, or TIGER Grants. These programs have been immensely successful in the past, assisting rural and urban communities prioritize their own needs. Each program requires matching funds from those seeking assistance, making them smart and effective avenues for leveraging federal funding to make a real impact across the country.

My bill takes these programs out of the annual appropriations process. Instead, it establishes them as mandatory programs with permanent and expanded funding streams totaling more than \$10 billion annually.

This expansion will be welcome news to the thousands of communities like those I represent. Consider this, Madam Speaker: since 2009, Congress has dedicated more than \$5.1 billion for multiple rounds of TIGER funding. In FY2015 alone, the program received \$10.1 billion in applications. That's twice the total amount of funding over a 10 year period in just a single fiscal year. The process is competitive, and it allows the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to reward applicants that exceed eligibility criteria and demonstrate commitments to their projects.

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 projects of national, regional, or metropolitan-area significance, including the construction and repair of roads, bridges, and tunnels, the installation of high speed internet, revitalization of drinking water infrastructure, and the construction and expansion of fixed-guideway public transportation systems, including subways, light rail, commuter rail, and bus rapid transit (BRT).

Madam Speaker, we have talked about prioritizing a large-scale infrastructure package for years. Last Congress, Congressional Democrats 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 Republican Majority. We need to get serious.

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 two years ago. 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 urge my colleagues to consider my bill without delay, so that our country can begin making the investments it desperately needs.

**January 8, 2019**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Honoring Florida Representative Richard Stark as the Elected Official of the Year by the Jewish Federation of Broward County**

Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize State Representative Richard Stark of Weston, Florida, a dedicated public servant and my good friend and who will be honored as the Elected Official of the Year by the Jewish Federation of Broward County.

Richard attended New York public schools before receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Denver. He then moved to South Florida to join his family's furniture business. In 1990, he became an independent insurance agent, and today, operates a thriving independent agency specializing in life, health and insurance plans for seniors.

After holding leadership positions with Temple B'Nai Aviv, Rotary Club of Weston, and the American Youth Soccer Organization, Richard was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2012. Soon after, he was elected Chair of the Florida Jewish Legislative Caucus. Under his leadership, the Caucus has been instrumental in promoting legislation to combat the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, securing funding for human services needs in the Jewish community, and ensuring the security of Jewish Day Schools throughout our state. As a State Representative, he works closely with rabbis, Jewish community leaders, and Hillels at Florida State University to engage students in the policy process and grow the next generation of Jewish leaders.

Richard currently Chairs the Broward County Legislative Delegation, serves as Deputy Leader of the House Democratic Caucus, and serves on the House Appropriations Committee, Commerce Committee, Justice Appropriations Subcommittee and Health Quality Subcommittee.

He has been married to his wife, Debbi, for over 30 years and his children, Lindsey and Jason, attended and graduated from Broward County public schools.

Madam Speaker, this award is a true testament to Representative Richard Stark's ongoing commitment to his community. I want to extend my warmest congratulations to him on receiving the Elected Official of the Year Award from the Jewish Federation of Broward County, and send along my best wishes on such a momentous occasion.

**January 9, 2019**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Honoring Ruthann Geib on Her Retirement from the American Sugarbeet Growers Association**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ruthann Geib, a great friend, who is retiring after 36 years of working with the American Sugarbeet Growers Association and the sugarbeet and sugar cane communities.

Originally from Wooster, Ohio, her grandparents had a dairy and feed grains farm nearby where she learned about the care and feeding of animals and the joys of grain harvest.

After earning her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology with Minors in Psychology and Political Science from Malone University, Ruthann was accepted into a three-month internship program in Washington, D.C. She worked at an international development organization and was later hired to be the diplomatic liaison with embassies for the more than 20 countries where the organization had development and linguistic projects.

Following her internship and after a brief stint at a law firm, she joined the American Sugarbeet Growers Association (ASGA) in 1982. Ruthann quickly moved through the ranks, becoming Vice President of the association a few years later. Her portfolio included federal legislation, regulatory and administrative issues, Board education and communications, and management of the annual grower fly-ins. Her years with ASGA covered 19 Congresses, seven farm bills, and multiple free-trade agreements. In 2016, after over 30 years of service, the ASGA presented Ruthann with a Distinguished Service Award.

Her most memorable experiences include visiting the farms and communities in sugarbeet and sugar cane areas, and visiting Cuba in 1999 as a member of the U.S. sugar industry delegation to a United Nations sugar meeting.

Ruthann and her husband, Paul, currently live in Alexandria, Virginia, but are looking forward to moving to the mountains of Tennessee in 2019. In her retirement, she plans to travel and volunteer with various projects in her new community.

Madam Speaker, Ruthann's impact on the sugarbeet and sugar cane communities is a true testament to her longstanding commitment to the industry. I wish her well as she embarks on the next chapter of her life in the beautiful mountains of Tennessee.

January 10, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Introduction of the *Everglades for the Next Generation Act***

Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the *Everglades for the Next Generation Act*.

Protection and restoration of the Everglades is vital to the overall health of both South Florida's ecosystem and economy. As America's largest sub-tropical wilderness, it is the source of much of Florida's drinking water, an important flood barrier and a home for wildlife, including a number of endangered species.

As we know all too well, this vital ecosystem is facing a number of threats, and while much progress has been made, including the recent authorization of the Central Everglades Planning Project, there is still much work left to be done. Congressional inaction has persevered for far too long despite bi-partisan support for restoration.

Regardless of any progress, it is clear that restoration efforts will not succeed without the next generation of projects, which cannot begin without further Congressional authorizations. That is exactly what this bill does: authorizes the shovel-ready projects which have been awaiting another *Water Resources Development Act* (WRDA). Additionally, this legislation will make it easier for the Army Corps of Engineers to move on many of the remaining projects in order to prevent future Congressional bottlenecks.

Restoration is not a theoretical exercise. The Central Everglades Restoration Project (CERP) has demonstrable successes and biennial reports from the National Academy of Sciences. We know that the federal and state governments can successfully work together with private businesses and landowners to reach mutually beneficial agreements that restore the health of this unique, beautiful, wild, and wonderful resource that is absolutely essential for Florida.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this critically important legislation.

January 17, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Introduction of House Concurrent Resolution *Expressing Congress' Support for Providing Temporary Protected Status to Haitian Nationals Residing in the United States at the Time Hurricane Matthew Hit Haiti***

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my House concurrent resolution, which expresses Congress' support for extending Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Haitian Nationals who resided in the United States when Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti on October 4, 2016.

Hurricane Matthew was the worst hurricane to hit the country in 50 years. It took the lives of over 1,000 people and directly affected 2.1 million Haitians with the internal displacement of 175,000 people and leaving 1.4 million in need of urgent humanitarian aid.

It is estimated that Hurricane Matthew resulted in damage that will cost Haiti \$1,000,000,000, or about 11.4 percent of its gross domestic product. This includes extensive damage to Haiti's roadways, bridges, buildings, and other critical infrastructure. Additionally, Hurricane Matthew resulted in tremendous destruction in Haiti's agricultural sector with crop losses estimated to be \$360 million.

Madam Speaker, as we all know, Haiti continues its efforts to rebuild from the 2010, 7.0 magnitude earthquake, and recover from the Cholera outbreak of the same year. With these tragedies in mind, and the knowledge that Haitians continue to work diligently to address these and other important issues, including creating strong democratic institutions, I encourage all Members to join me in letting the Haitian Diaspora know that we stand with them.

January 17, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Introduction of the *Haitian Educational Empowerment Act of 2019***

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the *Haitian Educational Empowerment Act of 2019*.

Thought the current occupant of the White House may want to have us believe that all is well in Haiti while, parenthetically, speaking of the country in derogatory and disgusting terms, those of us who truly know this country, those of us who truly care about the country and the Haitian Diaspora, know that Haiti remains on the road to recovery. The rebuilding continues from not only Hurricane Matthew, but the 2010 earthquake and the cholera outbreak, all of which continue to provide roadblocks to Haiti's full recovery. It is imperative that we do all that we can to ensure that the Haitian people receive the assistance they need to realize a vibrant, strong, and healthy democracy.

To that end, the *Haitian Educational Empowerment Act of 2019* authorizes the Secretary of State to establish a scholarship program for Haitian students who have had their studies disrupted by the 2010 earthquake or Hurricane Matthew. Such scholarships will ensure that Haiti has access to the future teachers, doctors, lawyers and civil servants it will need to realize its full potential with strong democratic institutions and a strong economy.

Madam Speaker, I invite all of my colleagues to join me in support of this important bill—a bill that will help Haitians help Haiti as the country continues its hard work on its road to recovery.

January 23, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Introduction of the *Ending Corporal Punishment in Schools Act of 2019***

Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the *Ending Corporal Punishment in Schools Act of 2019*.

This bill would prohibit any educational institution from receiving federal funding that allows school personnel to inflict corporal punishment on students and creates grants to encourage improvements in schools, which promote positive behaviors.

Madam Speaker, corporal punishment is a form of physical punishment where someone deliberately inflicts pain on another individual in order to punish them. In schools, it includes the spanking or paddling of children by school officials.

Although corporal punishment in schools has certainly been part of this country's history, it has been a blemish on that history and must end immediately. In addition to the fact that there is no conclusive evidence that corporal punishment mollifies disruptive behavior, it is disproportionately used against African American students and children with disabilities. These punishments can result in physical as well as emotional harm to children.

Schools must be a safe place where students are protected from harm, so that they are able to thrive, grow, and learn. Sadly, 19 states still allow corporal punishments in school. Last year, more than 100,000 students were physically punished by being hit, slapped, and spanked. This is completely unacceptable.

Madam Speaker, schools must be a safe space for our children to learn. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this critically important bill, and hope to see its swift passage very soon.

January 24, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Honoring the Life and Legacy of Darlene Hatcher**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ms. Darlene Hatcher. Darlene was so many things to so many people: a committed mother, loving daughter, fiancé, sister, grandmother, aunt, and co-worker. She was a very strong family woman and a staple of our community for all of her professional life.

After graduating from Jupiter High School in Florida, she received her Associate of Arts degree from Palm Beach Atlantic Community College and her Bachelors in Business Administration from the University of Miami. Darlene initially worked as a coordinator for the Radiology department at Good Samaritans Hospital for 15 years, where she was able to display her passion for helping people in need. She then followed her desire to aid her community when she moved to work at Riviera Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) as their Community Redevelopment Director, where she had served for the last ten plus years. Darlene's hard work and dedication will always be remembered by her co-workers.

Darlene's commitment to community work did not stop at the CRA. She loved volunteering and was the president of the Limestone Creek Community group, a non-for-profit advocacy organization with a primary focus on improving, protecting and promoting civic, cultural and recreational community interests.

Madam Speaker, Darlene will be remembered by the many people she touched in her 44 years of life. She held herself to the highest standards, and always encouraged others to be successful contributing members of society, in whatever way that could be. Fond memories of her will forever remain with her parents, Willie and Pearline, her fiancé, David Coley, and her two children, Johnathan and Shatoria, as well as her two grandchildren, Noah and Jeremiah. I offer my deepest condolences to her entire family during this time of great sadness. She was truly a blessing to our community, and I am pleased to honor her memory today. She will be dearly missed.

January 24, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Honoring the Life and Legacy of Jack Shifrel**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Jack Shifrel. For decades, Jack was a tireless voice for our veterans, the Democratic Party, and for countless other causes close to his heart. I was blessed to count him as a close friend. He was one of the very first people to endorse me for public office. He supported me in three losing causes, and in 1992 when I was first elected to Congress. I will always be eternally grateful to my dear, dear friend.

Jack dedicated his life to serving our community. As a proud veteran, he worked tirelessly to ensure that his fellow veterans had access to the services they rightfully deserved. He was deeply committed to improving access to health services, and his advocacy helped make it safer and easier for veterans to access the VA Clinic in Sunrise, Florida. Among the many hats Jack wore was that of the President of the Broward Veterans Coalition, where the good work he did continues to positively affect the lives of those who have served our country.

Jack was also known for going out of his way to mentor the next generation of Democratic activists, and was always available for advice and counsel. As a leader in the Broward Democratic Party, he was a delegate to five Democratic national conventions and an outspoken advocate for equal rights and what he considered our collective responsibility to each other. He was serving his 10<sup>th</sup> four-year term as a Democratic Party committeeman, and was just as committed to making our community and country stronger as the day he began. That's who Jack was, and he was one of a kind. He made our entire community a better place, and every life he touched was made better. His loss will be felt in Broward County for years to come.

I extend my deepest condolences to Jack's wife, Laurie, his children Darrin, David, and Jillian, his siblings Lori, Myke, and Scott, his grandchildren, and his entire family during this extremely difficult time.

January 29, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Introduction of the *Civics Learning Act of 2019***

Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the *Civics Learning Act of 2019*, a bipartisan bill that focuses on increasing civic participation by ensuring that young people in our country receive a strong civics education.

It might surprise you to learn that, according to the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania, in 2018 only 32 percent of Americans surveyed were capable of naming all three branches of government. Only 30 percent of Americans surveyed knew that the Senate is in charge of confirming Supreme Court nominees. In 2017, only 37 percent of Americans surveyed could name any of the rights guaranteed under the First Amendment. In 2014, only 23 percent of eighth graders performed at or above the proficient level on the National Assessment of Educational Progress civics exam. This startling reality makes it clear that civics education in this country is in need of renewed focus.

Madam Speaker, the *Civics Learning Act of 2019* promotes new and existing evidence-based strategies to strengthen and prioritize innovative civics learning and teaching by encouraging innovative American history, civics and government, and geography instruction. Professional development activities, programing, and learning strategies would also be available to prepare teachers, principals, and other school leaders. Such instruction and programing would particularly benefit low-income students and underserved populations including students and teachers at high-need schools and low-access areas such as rural or inner-city communities. Recognizing that most civics programs focus on high school teachers and students, this bill would ensure funding for elementary, middle, and high school programs in order to create a lasting foundation for civic knowledge.

Madam Speaker, it is my sincere hope this body will expeditiously pass this measure. Doing so will reaffirm America's commitment to civics education, fostering a more informed citizenship that will only strengthen our democracy.

February 6, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Recognizing the Eighteenth Congress of Kazakhstan's Nur Otan Party**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Nur Otan party in Kazakhstan for its twentieth anniversary and the convening of its eighteenth Congress in Astana, Kazakhstan later this month. The Nur Otan party has made Kazakhstan's growth in the region, and around the world, its core mission through "Kazakhstan 2050".

This strategy seeks to place the country in the top 30 global economies by 2050 by investing in not only economic sectors; but through social initiatives as well. For instance, President Nazarbayev, Chairman of Nur Otan, has singled out investments in public housing, education, small business, economic diversification, and energy.

Madam Speaker, we must encourage such development, but we must also never forget the role Kazakhstan has played in our fight against terrorism and the immense role the country has played in the global cause of non-proliferation. In Afghanistan, Kazakhstan has provided invaluable support for supply lines used by the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Coalition, while also conducting joint military training programs with American and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces in the Central Asian steppes. As for non-proliferation, Kazakhstan, under President Nazarbayev's steady leadership, has not only relentlessly championed the cause of nuclear disarmament, but it has also established the world's first-ever Low Enriched Uranium Fuel Bank, in order to ensure stable civil nuclear energy use worldwide.

Madam Speaker, it is abundantly clear that Kazakhstan has been, and continues to be, a strong partner of ours in Central Asia, and it is my hope that the U.S.-Kazakhstan relationship will continue to strengthen to the benefit of both countries.

February 7, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Condemning the State of Affairs in Venezuela**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the human rights atrocities that are occurring in Venezuela. Under the leadership of Nicolas Madura, Venezuela has reverted from one of the most prosperous nations in South America to a country into severe crisis.

Venezuela's economy, once the envy of South America, currently faces one of the worst cases of hyperinflation in modern history. The International Monetary Fund expects the inflation rate to reach an astounding 10 million percent this year. Across the country Venezuelans are struggling to survive, facing immense difficulties putting food on the table or affording basic necessities such as fuel and medicine. More than 80 percent of Venezuelan households have insufficient access to food. As grocery stores become increasingly bare, hospitals too are running dangerously low on supplies as the medical system continues to crumble. Even though the Ministry of Health has stopped reporting national health data, we know that rates of malnutrition are rising, as are outbreaks of preventable diseases and the rate of infant mortality.

Madam Speaker, more than three million Venezuelan citizens have fled their home to nearby nations, including nearly 300,000 who have come to the United States seeking refuge in 2018. As the situation continues to deteriorate, tens of thousands of protestors have taken to the street to protest the economic and humanitarian crises and demand change. We must stand with those who are putting their lives on the line to ensure that future generations of Venezuelans live in a peaceful and prosperous country.

February 7, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Recognizing Mr. Jack Keleher for his Internship with the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jack Keleher. Jack has worked in my Washington, D.C. Congressional office as an intern through the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme (UCWIP) since January. I am so pleased to acknowledge his hard work and dedication.

Jack is currently pursuing his Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws at Deakin University in Victoria, where he is a Member of the Deakin Law Student's Society, the Law Institute of Victoria, and the Golden Key International Honor Society. He earned a certificate in Advanced Legal Research in 2017 and gained valuable experience as a legal caseworker, law clerk, and paralegal.

For the past 19 years, UCWIP has paired students from nearly a dozen partner universities in Australia with offices on Capitol Hill, giving them the opportunity to work in the halls of Congress and learn about the American legislative process. Over the years, I have been honored to host many outstanding Australian students, and Jack has been no exception.

As an intern, Jack has helped my office with many of the day-to-day administrative functions, including taking calls from constituents, welcoming visitors, and drafting letters in response to inquiries. He also had the opportunity to work on floor remarks, as well as helping my staff with legislative research and outreach on several bills that I have introduced in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress. Jack approached his internship with great enthusiasm and clearly has showed his passion for public service.

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, Jack had the opportunity to attend the 2019 State of the Union Address by President Trump. I know this is just one of several experiences that he will take away from his time in Washington and the United States.

Madam Speaker, it has been my honor to host Jack for his Congressional internship. I have no doubt he will go on to do great things in the future. I wish him much success.

February 19, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

***Introducing a Bipartisan 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***

Madam 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 my colleagues, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Eliot Engel, and Representatives David Schweikert and Rob Woodall, for introducing this resolution with me today.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict presents an immensely difficult challenge—a challenge to which there are no easy answers. Successive United States Presidential administrations have pursued peace agreements between the parties for over three decades, 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. President Donald Trump has announced that he too will soon unveil a plan for peace.

Despite a lack of progress on a formal agreement, 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 violent extremism allowed for new dialogue to take root, and today, Israel enjoys closer relations to many of its neighbors in the region. These efforts represent an opportunity to improve security, stability, and prosperity in the Middle East. The concurrent-track approach—where Arab and Muslim-majority states work to improve their bilateral relations with Israel as Israel and the Palestinian Authority work concurrently to advance the Israeli-Palestinian peace process—should be embraced by our government as a new paradigm for the region. The resolution I am introducing today expresses support for this 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. This is the only way to ensure that both the Israeli people and the Palestinian people can have sovereign homelands. 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.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure passage of this resolution.

**February 25, 2019**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Remembering the 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Khojaly Massacre**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Khojaly Massacre, which took place on February 26, 1992, and remember the 613 men, women, and children who were brutalized during this despicable act of violence.

Khojaly, a town in the Republic of Azerbaijan, was home to an unprecedented act of brutality that desecrated the norms and principles of international law, human rights, and freedoms. Armenian forces, with the support of the 366<sup>th</sup> motorized rifle regiment of the Russian army, stormed the besieged town of Khojaly engaging in acts so violent that their effects are still felt in the community, indeed the entire country, to this day.

Madam Speaker, although a ceasefire was achieved in 1994, more than 20 percent of Azerbaijani territory including Nagorno Karabakh remain occupied and more than 1 million Azerbaijanis remain refugees and internally displaced persons. Over the past 20 years, Azerbaijan has spent over 6 billion dollars to ensure the social welfare of the internally displaced. Notably, while providing this crucial and costly support, Azerbaijan has still taken significant and impressive strides to improve economic development in their region.

Indeed the Government of Azerbaijan has not only contributed to regional stability, but has continued to be a reliable ally for the United States in combating terrorism around the world. In the days after September 11, 2001, Azerbaijan quickly conveyed its solidarity with the American people and provided crucial assistance to our fight against terrorism by granting unconditional clearance to our military to use Azerbaijan's airspace as part of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. This is in addition to the naval and ground routes the country provides for the international coalition's supplies that are to be delivered to forces in Afghanistan.

Madam Speaker, marking the anniversary of a tragedy is always a solemn occasion. However, as a member of the Azerbaijan Caucus, I believe it is important to recognize and remember those whose lives were lost. I ask my colleagues to join me in offering condolences to the people of Azerbaijan.

February 25, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Reintroduction of the *Restoring the Partnership for County Health Care Cost Act of 2019***

Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to restore the partnership between the federal government and counties for the health care costs of inmates who have not been convicted of a crime. This legislation will provide some relief to our nation's local economies, while strengthening the fundamental principles of our justice system.

In almost all states, a person who is incarcerated in a county jail or juvenile detention facility loses their Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP or SSI benefits even if they have not been convicted of a crime. The U.S. Supreme Court's interpretation of the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment requires government entities to provide medical care to all inmates. As a result, local governments are burdened with the expense of providing health care to thousands of men, women, and children currently awaiting trial.

Providing health care for inmates constitutes a major portion of local jail operating costs. Requiring county governments to cover health care costs for inmates who have not yet been convicted of a crime places an unnecessary burden on local governments, which have their fair share of widespread budget deficits and cuts to safety net programs and other essential services to deal with as it is.

Terminating benefits to inmates who are awaiting trial undermines the presumption of innocence, which is a cornerstone principle of our justice system. The current practice does not distinguish between persons who are awaiting disposition of charges and persons who have been duly convicted and sentenced. Moreover, this reality disproportionately affects low-income and minority populations who are often unable to post bond, which would enable them to continue receiving benefits.

Madam Speaker, my legislation addresses this problem by prohibiting the federal government from stripping individuals of their Medicare, Medicaid, and SSI benefits before the inmate has been convicted of a crime. It preserves the partnership between the federal and local governments and ensures that local governments are not burdened with an unfair share of meeting the constitutional mandate to guarantee medical coverage. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this commonsense bill that addresses a problem affecting communities all across the nation.

February 26, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Honoring the Life and Legacy of Anne Marie Labelle**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Anne Marie Labelle. Anne was a wonderful mother, sister, grandmother, great grandmother and aunt. She was a selfless community advocate and will always be remembered for her strength and love of family.

Anne was born in Troy, New York before moving to Broward County, Florida as a teenager. After high school, Anne became known for her activism in Sunrise city politics, before retiring far too young after suffering a stroke in 1982. In typical Anne fashion, she fought hard in rehab and recovered to work for local real estate developers in Plantation and Boca Raton. Anne was appreciative of those who helped her in her time of need, so she started volunteering at the Sunrise Rehabilitation Center and became a popular one-on-one volunteer for victims of stroke rehabilitation and brain injuries. She served on the hospital's community advisory board, while also volunteering with Shake-a-Leg, a group for individuals with disabilities who sailed monthly on Biscayne Bay.

Madam Speaker, Anne's commitment to her community is a true testament to the person that she was. Anne will be remembered by the lives that she touched during her 77 years on this earth. Many fond memories of her will forever remain with her sons, Robert and Michael, her sister, Maureen, her grandchildren, Amanda, Matthew, Courtney, Casey, and Kelly, her great-grandchild, Parker, and her nieces and nephews, Ryan, Lauren, Grant, Logan and Abby. Anne's love for her family will be forever enshrined in her last words to her son, Robert, when she told him 'tell everyone I love them'. I offer my deepest condolences to her entire family during this time of great sadness. Anne was truly a blessing to our community. I am so pleased to honor her memory. She will be dearly missed.

March 6, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Introduction of the *Outpatient Mental Health Care Act of 2019***

Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the *Outpatient Mental Health Care Act of 2019*.

Medicare Partial Hospitalization Programs (PHPs) provide a structured and clinically intensive alternative to hospitalization for patients who otherwise might require sustained inpatient psychiatric hospitalization. PHP psychiatric patients typically receive four to six hours of treatment per day, five to six days a week in hospital-based settings and community mental health centers. However, the severity of a patient's illness often prevents that individual from obtaining or seeking transportation to a PHP facility, or from accessing high quality food. Additionally, some psychiatric medications that are prescribed to the patient cannot be safely administered without food.

Currently, Medicare does not cover the costs of nutritional planning, meals or transportation for patients who receive psychiatric treatment in PHP programs. Therefore, PHP facilities are responsible for the cost of providing food and transportation. This exacerbates financial burdens that many PHPs and countless other community organizations are experiencing in these difficult economic times.

Medicare also does not provide for vocational counseling. However, this counseling provides a direction for patients that they might not find on their own. Therefore, vocational counseling is vital for individuals while they work through their treatment allowing them to set employment goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.

Madam Speaker, my bill will require Medicare to reimburse PHPs for providing transportation, food, nutritional services and vocational counseling. The bill also establishes a Behavioral Health Advisory Committee in which a diverse group of behavioral health stakeholders would examine and provide recommendations on how to address the persisting challenges of access, stigma, quality and operability in the mental health delivery system.

PHPs are a cost effective alternative that can prevent mentally ill individuals from facing expensive inpatient care, incarceration, or institutionalization. The growing role of mental health PHPs in our health care system requires that we amend the law to assist PHPs in delivering the services, care and support to those who are living with severe and chronic mental illness.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this critically important legislation.

March 6, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Honoring the Dillard High School Lady Panthers Girls' Basketball Team on Winning their  
10<sup>th</sup> Florida State Championship**

Madam Speaker, I enthusiastically rise today to honor the Dillard High School Lady Panthers girls' basketball team and their coach Marcia Pinder on winning their 10<sup>th</sup> state championship on March 2, 2019 with a 43-40 win against Ponte Vedra Nease at George W. Jenkins Arena.

Coach Pinder leads by example. Her dedication to Dillard High School and its basketball program is truly commendable.

Under Coach Pinder's tutelage, the Dillard girls basketball team has consistently been recognized for being among the best in their sport.

In this year's game, Genovea Johnson and Raven White, two senior stars on the team, helped carry the Lady Panthers to victory. They both have had the unique experience of attending Dillard since they were in middle school.

I would also like to recognize the entire Lady Panthers team, which includes: Markhyia Davis, Briah Christia, Chynna Mattair, Kayla Burrows, Sequoia Emmanuel, Angel Howell, Genovea Johnson, Kintaeja Ling, Taja Stephens Aryanna Boyce, Monique Harris, Raven White, and Marcus Harris.

Madam Speaker, I am so very proud of the Dillard High School Lady Panthers girls' basketball team. They had a tremendous season and should be extremely proud of themselves. I wish Coach Pinder and the entire team many more years of continued success.

**March 12, 2019**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Honoring the Keiser University Men's Swimming Team on Winning the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics National Title**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Keiser University men's swimming team and their coach Adam Epstein on winning the 2019 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) national title.

Coach Epstein leads by example. His dedication to Keiser University and its swimming program is truly commendable. Not only has Coach Epstein been named Coach of the Year for the second time, since forming his team in 2017, but in just three seasons he has led the Seahawks to two NAIA national titles.

This year's championship team had many standout swimmers. Junior Marcel Nagy won three events and was named the NAIA Swimmer of the Year. Freshman Pol Roch won the 500 meter free-style and set a national record in winning the 400 meter individual medley. Lukan Macek and Joel Hannson made their teammates proud with their respective performances in the 200 breaststroke, and Jan Suchan won his third national championship in the 100 meter breaststroke. The Seahawks won all five relays in the competition and totaled 622 points to win the national title.

Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Dr. Arthur and Mrs. Belinda Keiser, the Keiser University Seahawks' Swim Team, and Coach Adam Epstein on this momentous win. It is my distinct honor to be the University's representative in Congress. I wish Keiser University and its swimming program many more years of continued success.

March 12, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Celebrating the Palm Center's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today to recognize the Palm Center on the occasion of their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Founded in 1998 by the University of California, Santa Barbara, the Palm Center conducts policy research on key social and political issues affecting the most vulnerable Americans. For 20 years, the Palm Center has been a trailblazer in efforts to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) service members. The organization has worked diligently against the discriminatory ``Don't Ask, Don't Tell'' (DADT) policy, which prohibited service members of the LGBT community from disclosing their sexuality while serving.

The Palm Center's independent research has enhanced the quality of public dialogue and contributed to the work of independent scholars, students, journalists, members of the public, and policymakers, like myself. In 2009, the Palm Center's research was a welcomed resource that allowed me to introduce the *Open and Honest Testimony Act*. This legislation addressed the discriminatory DADT policy by allowing LGBT troops to testify openly without the risk of discharge and ensured that Congress based its decision on the best possible information.

In 2013, the largest collection of research on DADT policy was published in the *Journal of Homosexuality*. This publication was composed of the work of Palm Center scholars, as well as reviews of the literary works of Palm Center authors. The Palm Center was the first to release a study on openly gay military service members following the repeal of DADT. Even after its repeal, the Palm Center has continued its work against other anti-LGBT military policies.

The Palm Center's current research focuses on transgender military service. This research comes at a pivotal time when President Trump's Administration threatens the ability of transgender men and women to serve in our military. The Palm Center's scholarship has made it abundantly clear that the transgender ban would weaken our military readiness, cause substantial disruptions, deprive the military of talent, and wreak havoc on the lives of military families. The research the Palm Center is conducting is crucial to negating the misinformation and belittling rhetoric the Trump Administration continues to engage in regarding our brave transgender service members.

Madam Speaker, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Palm Center on its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The work they are doing to provide the public with accurate and evidence-based information is invaluable to us all. I look forward to continuing my work with the Palm Center, and wish them many more years of great success.

**March 12, 2019**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Honoring the Blanche Ely Boys' Basketball Team for Winning its Second Straight Classic  
8A State Championship**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Blanche Ely boys' basketball team and their coach Melvin Randall on their 57-52 victory to claim its second straight Class 8A boys basketball state championship at Lakeland's RP Funding Center on March 9, 2019.

Coach Randall's dedication to Blanche Ely High School and its basketball program is truly commendable. Before the game, Coach Randall provided the team the same piece of advice he always does: "piece by piece". The All-USA Boys Basketball Coach of the Year and Broward County Sports Hall of Fame Inductee led his team by example, providing them with the courage, resilience, and wisdom needed to win.

The Blanche Ely boys' basketball team would not be a success without their tremendous commitment to the sport. Senior Joshua Scott will be the first player in the program's history to win four back-to-back state titles. Aderes Stanton-McCray also was critical to his team's win. His block brought the team back into the lead in what Coach Randall described as the "play of the game".

I would also like to recognize the entire Tiger basketball team, which includes: Tyrecke Francois, Jayden Fye, Daniel Merrius, Eric Guerrier, Aderes Staton-McCray, Javier Zapata, Jeremiah Mathieu, Jair Copeland, Derrick Lovett, Joshua Scott, Malachi Hazelton, Lance Rainer, Javon Williams, Lamont Evans, Colby King, and Bryson Williams.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Principal Dr. Karlton O. Johnson for his outstanding leadership of Blanche Ely High School, as well as Coach Melvin Randall, and the entire Blanche Ely boys' basketball team. They had a tremendous season and should be extremely proud of themselves. I wish the Blanche Ely High School and their basketball program many more years of continued success.

March 12, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Introduction of the *Teacher Victims' Family Assistance Act of 2019***

Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the *Teacher Victims' Family Assistance Act of 2019*. It is well known that this country faces a gun violence epidemic. In fact, in the 2018 school year alone, there were 24 school shooting incidents. This is the highest annual number of school shootings in recent history, averaging out to one school shooting incident every seven and a half school days. The pain and heartache that result from this tragic and needless loss of life sends shockwaves through our communities, but especially through the families left behind. Today, our teachers must contend with not only the awesome responsibility of preparing our children for bright and meaningful futures, but also with protecting them from the very real threat of active shooters and others wishing to harm our children and grandchildren. Too often, the teachers themselves are casualties in this epidemic, leaving the families of the slain teachers, many with small children, unprepared financially.

The *Teacher Victims' Family Assistance Act of 2019* directs the Secretary of Education to provide assistance to the immediate family members of K-12 teachers who are killed during their performance of duties at a public or private school. This bill provides victims' families with funeral assistance; a death benefit payment to the surviving spouse, dependent child, or other next of kin; monthly living assistance for the surviving spouse; and undergraduate education assistance for each dependent child.

In time, it is my sincere hope that the need for the crucial assistance provided by this measure will not be necessary as fewer and fewer families are forced to cope with the sudden, tragic loss of a loved one at school. However, until that time, we must do all we can for our dedicated and hardworking teachers and their families, and that is exactly the spirit with which this legislation is put forward.

Madam Speaker, I urge this body to expeditiously pass this measure. Doing so will reaffirm America's solidarity, gratitude, and support for our nation's dedicated educators, who work tirelessly on behalf of our children.

**March 14, 2019**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Introduction of the *Corey Jones Act***

Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the *Corey Jones Act*, which is named after a young man who was taken from us far too soon under circumstances far too tragic and preventable to be allowed to happen again.

During the early hours of October 18, 2015, Corey Jones of Lake Worth, Florida, was shot and killed by Nouman Raja, a plainclothes police officer operating an unmarked vehicle. Corey was legally and peacefully pulled to the side of the road awaiting roadside assistance when he was approached by Mr. Raja. Corey had no reason to believe that the person in plainclothes and driving an unmarked vehicle was a law enforcement officer. This uncertainty and confusion ultimately led to a tragedy that could have been easily avoided.

After Corey's tragic death, I met with members of his family as well as officials from Palm Beach County. We discussed the urgency of addressing the issue of plainclothes officers in unmarked vehicles engaging in routine traffic stops. I promised that I would work to promote safer policing practices in our communities and the *Corey Jones Act* helps to accomplish this goal.

Madam Speaker, Nouman Raja, the officer involved in the tragic shooting death of Corey Jones, was recently found guilty of manslaughter and attempted murder. In an effort to ensure that this tragedy does not happen to other families, I respectfully ask my colleagues to lend their support to this important bill.

March 26, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Introduction of a Resolution *Recognizing People of African Descent and Black Europeans***

Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution with my good friends and colleagues, Representatives Gregory Meeks of New York, Gwen Moore of Wisconsin, and John Lewis of Georgia, which recognizes People of African Descent and Black Europeans.

Our resolution would observe the history and current situation of People of African Descent living in Europe and Black Europeans during the United Nations designated International Decade for People of African Descent. It also encourages the U.S. Secretary of State to take a number of steps to ensure their situation is improved following recommendations from last year's People of African Descent Week (PADWEEK) held by our colleagues in the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium May 13-17, 2018.

As it was quite rightly put by European Parliamentarian Cecile Kyenge, "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 for 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.

Madam Speaker, 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.

March 26, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Introduction of the *African Descent Affairs Act***

Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce 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 globe.

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*. This bill seeks to improve the situation of people of African descent around the world by establishing within the United States 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; requiring Annual State Department Human Rights Reports to include a section on discrimination faced by people of African descent; and creating similar initiatives at the United States Agency for International Development that can work in partnership with the State Department.

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, and special initiatives focusing on disability, LGBTQ+ and other communities.

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 our 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.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will embrace the challenge of combating prejudice and discrimination around 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, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Honoring the Life and Legacy of Florida B. Thomas**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Florida B. Thomas. Florida was a selfless member of her community and spent her life serving others. She was a woman of strong values and always worked to help her community through her church and her jobs as a teacher and librarian.

Florida was born in Tallahassee, Florida in 1938. She attended Florida A&M University where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Library Science, before continuing her education at the University of South Florida where she received a Master's in Administration and Supervision.

She served for 59 years at Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, where she was on the finance committee and served as a choir member and secretary. In addition to serving at her church, Florida worked for 40 years as a teacher within the Hendry County School System. After retiring from teaching, Florida felt she could still serve her community so she began working as a full-time librarian at the Harlem Library where she worked until she retired in 2014.

Throughout her career, Florida was recognized again and again for her hard work and dedication to those around her. She was the first black librarian in the state of Florida within the integrated school system and was named ``Children Intermediate School (CIS) Teacher of the Year'' in 1987. She was also an active member of The Order of the Eastern Star fraternity. In May, 2017 the Harlem Community Library was re-named in her honor, and now serves the community as the Florida B. Thomas Library. And, just last year, she was honored with The Heritage Award for 2018.

Madam Speaker, Florida Thomas was a champion for her community and she positively impacted the lives of many in Harlem and surrounding communities. I extend my deepest condolences to her husband, Melvin, and the rest of her friends and family during this extremely difficult time. Florida Thomas was a blessing to our community and I am proud to honor her memory today. She will be dearly missed.

**April 1, 2019**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Honoring the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kluger, Kaplan, Silverman, Katzen & Levine, PL**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the law firm of Kluger, Kaplan, Silverman, Katzen & Levine, P.L. on celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Kluger Kaplan was founded in 2009 by attorneys Alan J. Kluger and Abbey Kaplan. Since opening, they have expanded their offices from Miami and Boca Raton, Florida to Minneapolis, Minnesota. The firm focuses on a range of disciplines and industries, including business and corporate litigation, real estate litigation, securities and financial fraud, corporate governance, bankruptcy litigation and debtor and creditor's rights, appeals in state and federal courts, professional liability, intellectual property law, entertainment sports law, fashion law, class actions, and complex matrimonial litigation.

Kluger Kaplan has always taken great pride in the work that they do on behalf of their clients and has rightly earned national recognition for that work.

As a firm, they have made giving back to their community a top priority. Organizations they are working with include: The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), America's Second Harvest, Boy Scouts of America, Chapman Partnership for Homeless, Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America, Diabetes Research Institute, Dr. Abe Chames Foundation, Florida International University Alumni Association, Friends for Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, Greater Miami Jewish Federation, Hispanic Unity Charity, Jewish Adoption & Foster Care Options (JAFCO), Lawyers for Literacy, Legal Services of Greater Miami, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Miami Art Museum, Miami Children's Museum, Miracle League of Howard—Palmetto, Howard-Palmetto Baseball & Softball Association, Mt. Sinai Foundation, Museum of Contemporary Art, Samuel Scheck Hillel Community Day School's President's Award for Pro-Bono Work, and Top Responsibility Israel, Business & Education Society (TRIBES).

As an attorney and former judge, who practiced law in South Florida for many years, it is always great to see the success of law firms such as Kluger, Kaplan, Silverman, Katzen & Levine, P.L. The firm's esteemed lawyers continue to be advocates for their clients, taking on many complex cases around the nation.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pride to honor Kluger, Kaplan, Silverman, Katzen & Levine, P.L. on the occasion of their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They have had a tremendous impact on our community over the past 10 years, I wish them many more years of continued success.

April 2, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Introduction of the *Donate for Disaster Relief Act of 2019***

Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the *Donate for Disaster Relief Act*.

Last year, there were 53 major disasters declared. The year before that, we had 61 declared major disasters. As we continue to feel the effects of climate change, there are going to be more major disasters and we as a nation are going to have to pay for the response and repair after these events. Now is the time to start thinking about what we can do to be better prepared for when these disasters strike.

That is why I am introducing the *Donate for Disaster Relief Act*, which creates a completely voluntary check-off on income tax returns that lets taxpayers elect to donate to a disaster relief trust. This bill is an opportunity for us to share our selflessness and generosity and be better prepared to adequately fund our response to an emergency situation.

The harsh reality of disasters is that while we may not be able to predict when or where they will always occur, we certainly can be prepared. The altruism of the American people is on display in their willingness to pitch in and help those in their greatest time of need. This bill creates an easy way for concerned Americans to anticipate the need for disaster relief, wherever and whenever it may be necessary.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this critically important legislation.

April 4, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Introduction of a Resolution *Celebrating the Heritage of Romani Americans***

Madam Speaker, this body has long recognized the accomplishments and unique heritage of cultures that make up and enrich the United States. Today, I, along with my colleague Representative Steve Watkins of Kansas, am proud to introduce a resolution recognizing and celebrating the heritage of Romani Americans.

Few cultures are as geographically diverse as the Romani people. Tracing their ancestry to the Indian subcontinent, the Romani people migrated and settled throughout Europe over the last millennia. Often, they faced scorn, hatred, persecution and discrimination. Nevertheless, they maintained their unique language and culture while enriching the culture and economies of the countries in which they became citizens. They have made distinct and important contributions in many fields including agriculture, art, crafts, literature, medicine, military service, music, sports, and science.

In 2005, the European Parliament estimated that there were 12 to 15 million Roma in Europe. Roma were among the many groups of people that suffered at the hands of the Nazis and their allies during World War II. It is estimated that between 200,000 to 500,000 Romani people were killed in death camps and elsewhere throughout Europe. In an attempt to liquidate the so-called "Gypsy Family Camp" at Auschwitz-Birkenau, on August 2 to 3, 1944, between 4,200 and 4,300 Romani men, women, and children were murdered in gas chambers in a single night. This year marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that tragic event.

Roma have also been a part of every wave of European migration to North and South America. In the United States, there may be as many as 1 million Americans with some Romani ancestry, whether distant or more recent.

Representative Steny Hoyer was the first Member of Congress to raise concern about the situation of Roma, doing so in meetings with Romanian government representatives during a 1990 congressional visit to Romania not long after the execution of Nicolae Ceausescu. In 1994, the late Congressman Tom Lantos, himself a Holocaust survivor, convened Congress's first hearing regarding the situation of the Romani people. That hearing, before the Subcommittee on International Security, International Organizations and Human Rights, received testimony from Dr. Ian Hancock, Andrzej Mirga, Klara Orgovanova, and Nicolae Gheorghe.

Though a great deal has changed since then, sadly, Romani people still face widespread human rights abuses and discrimination in employment, housing, and education. However, there is greater urgency for Roma to advance their causes today than ever before as evidenced by organizations such as the European Roma Rights Center and the still new European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture.

The Helsinki Commission has maintained robust engagement on these issues and, as chairman during this Congress, I will build on those practices.

The resolution I am introducing today does four things. First, it celebrates Romani American Heritage. Second, it supports International Roma Day and the Department of State's robust engagement in related activities. April 8 marks "International Roma Day" around the world and is a day to celebrate Romani culture and raise awareness of the issues facing Romani people. Third, it commemorates the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the destruction of the "Gypsy Family Camp" at Auschwitz. Fourth, it commends the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum for its critically important role in promoting remembrance of the Holocaust and educating about the genocide of Roma.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask all Members to support this resolution and for its timely consideration on the House Floor.

April 4, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Reintroduction of the *Wildlife Veterinarians Employment and Training Act of 2019***

Madam Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the *Wildlife Veterinarians Employment and Training Act of 2019*. This bill will provide incentives for students to pursue wildlife and zoological medicine and increases the number of positions available at wildlife and zoological facilities.

Wildlife and zoo veterinarians are the primary source of essential health care and management that is required for animals in both their natural habitat and in captivity. These physicians preserve natural resources and the lives of animals, while also protecting human health by preventing, detecting and responding to exotic and dangerous diseases.

With the intensification of globalization and climate change, along with the growing interaction among humans, livestock and wildlife, the threat posed by emerging infectious diseases to humans and wildlife continues to increase. Controlling pandemic and large-scale outbreaks of disease has become more challenging over the years, yet there has never been a time where this is a more pertinent issue.

We must take preventative measures to ensure the well-being of both animals and humans. In spite of these threats to public health, the United States faces a shortage of positions for wildlife and zoo veterinarians. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), less than one percent of AVMA members identify themselves as wildlife or zoological veterinarians.

On average, veterinarian graduates owe \$143,000 in student loans. Relatedly, salaries for wildlife and zoological professionals are relatively low compared to those who practice companion animal medicine, ranking second to the bottom for salaries paid to veterinarians as a whole. Lower salaries, combined with high educational debt and the small number of positions available, discourage students from becoming wildlife or zoo veterinarians. The number of internships, practical training programs, and formal education programs specializing in wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine are also insufficient.

My bill directly addresses the aforementioned issues, by doing the following:

Create new positions for wildlife and zoo veterinarians.

Limit the amount of educational debt for veterinary medicine students, while providing incentives to study and practice wildlife and zoo veterinary medicine through a scholarship program and a loan repayment program.

Help schools of veterinary medicine develop curricula and training programs specializing in wildlife and zoo veterinary medicine.

Develop affordable and well qualified opportunities for individuals to become wildlife and zoo veterinarians, spur job growth, and promote public health policy across the nation.

Madam Speaker, as you know, wild animals play a very critical role in our natural resources and contribute to maintaining a balanced ecosystem. The number of endangered species has only increased. Invasive non-native species and infectious disease threaten our public health. Therefore, wildlife and zoological veterinarians must be prioritized and given the resources and recognition necessary to protect both animal and human lives.

I urge my colleagues to extend a helping hand to America's veterinarians by supporting this important piece of legislation.

April 9, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Reintroduction of Resolution *Supporting the Goals and Ideals of Jubilee Day***

Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Jubilee Day, which is celebrated on October 6<sup>th</sup> of every year by the Fisk University community.

Just after the end of the Civil War, the Fisk School was founded in Nashville, Tennessee as an educational institute that would be open to all, regardless of race or age. However, just five years after its founding, the school faced dire economic struggles.

In an effort to save the University from closing, a group of students formed a choral group, the Fisk Jubilee Singers, with the goal of raising money to fund the institution. They took all of the funds in the university's treasury for travel expenses, hoping that the enormous risk would pay off.

Despite a few initial struggles, the Jubilee Singers eventually came to tour throughout the United States and Europe and raised enough funds to not only preserve the University, but also to pay for the construction of Jubilee Hall, the first permanent structure built for the education of African American students in the South.

The singers performed for such notable figures as William Lloyd Garrison, Wendell Phillips, Ulysses S. Grant, William Gladstone, Mark Twain, Johann Strauss, and Queen Victoria. Through their music they introduced the world to the spirituals of enslaved Africans as a musical genre.

Since its founding in 1866, Fisk University has educated countless intellectuals, artists, and civic leaders, and has played a pivotal role in the advancement of education for African American students. None of its accomplishments would have been possible without the talents and sacrifices of that first group of nine students.

Madam Speaker, as a proud alumnus of Fisk University, I urge my colleagues to honor the hard work, perseverance, and accomplishments of the original Jubilee Singers by cosponsoring this resolution, and I urge its immediate consideration.

April 15, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Celebrating the Dedication of the Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge in Honor of Nathaniel P. Reed**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication of the Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge in honor of the late Nathaniel P. Reed. Nathaniel, who was known as Nat, was an environmentalist and champion of Florida's environment. He served as Assistant Secretary of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks at the United States Department of the Interior from 1971 to 1977, under President Richard Nixon and President Gerald Ford. Furthermore, had it not been for Nathaniel, our nation would be without the *Marine Mammals Protection Act*, the intact and expanded Redwoods National Park, the *Endangered Species Act* and the *Clean Water Act*.

Originally born in New York City, Nathaniel spent much of his time growing up in Hobe Sound, Florida. His concern for the environment developed from his firsthand experience with the threat of overpopulation to Florida's natural landscape and by the example of his mother, who was a lead organizer in opposing the development of a theme park on an island near their home.

Nathaniel started his career in the family real estate and hotel business in Florida, where his concern for the environment steered him into public service. He went on to serve six Florida governors.

He was a member of many environmental advocacy groups, most notably the 1000 Friends of Florida, an organization which he founded, and served as president and chairman. He also served on the boards of the Everglades Foundation (which he helped found), the Nature Conservancy, the Atlantic Salmon Federation, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the National Audubon Society, Yellowstone National Park, the National Geographic Society, and the South Florida Water Management District. Throughout his career, he was one of the most eloquent and effective advocates for fish, wildlife and nature of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

The Hobe Sound National Wildlife refuge is a part of the United States National Wildlife Refuge system, and is the type of vulnerable land Nathaniel dedicated his life to protecting. The newly named Nathaniel P. Reed Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge will rightly honor his life's work.

Madam Speaker, 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. 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. Hobe Sound represents the starting place of Nathaniel's love for our nation's environment, and this dedication of the Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge in his honor will allow his life and legacy to always endure.

**April 18, 2019**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Honoring the Life and Legacy of Maude Ford Lee**

Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor my dear friend, Maude Ford Lee. Maude was a long-time civil rights activist and truly one of a kind. A native of Tallahassee, Maude spent her life advocating for equality. She participated in a bus boycott in her hometown in the 1950s. That action led Tallahassee to desegregate its public transit. She moved to West Palm Beach in the 1960s and spent decades working as a manager of county social programs. Among her many accomplishments, she was the first black candidate elected to the Palm Beach County Commission, where she served for ten years. Her husband, the late Percy Lee, ran the Urban League of Palm Beach County.

Maude lobbied for the creation of commission districts as the only way for a black candidate to win a seat in a mostly white county. Through her efforts, single-member districts were created, expanding opportunities for African Americans to run and win in those districts.

After stepping away from politics, Maude became president of the West Palm Beach chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). In that role, she continued her advocacy for the needs of the African American community, working to address inequities locally and nationwide. She reveled in another first, the 2008 election of Barack Obama as president. "This is our greatest accomplishment," she told the Palm Beach Post at the time.

Madam Speaker, if there was such a thing as a community servant, than Maude Ford Lee was it. She will always be remembered for her tireless efforts to bring resources to Florida and the African American community. Her legacy of public service speaks for itself, and she will be dearly missed by all who knew her. I offer my deepest condolences to Maude's family, during this extremely difficult time.

May 3, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Congratulating the 2019 Enlistees from Florida's 20<sup>th</sup> Congressional District**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor 40 high school seniors from Florida's 20<sup>th</sup> Congressional district, who have chosen to enlist in the United States Armed Forces.

Of these forty fine young people, seventeen have joined the United States Army, to include: Yvelande Blanc, Brisa Gonzalez, Coraleigh Little, Josue Aguilar-Gonzalez, Terry Akins, Jovaughn Campbell, Rusheem Gibbs, Richard Joseph, Patrick Newton, Andrea Velez, Christopher Whyte, Tyreik Kelly, Brandon Lee, Yuliana Osoria, Terry Hines, Vanessa Perez-Morales, and Tae'Lonte Wainwright.

Eleven have joined the United States Marines Corp, to include: Ernesto Ibarra, Jefremias Mazariegos, Harold Khyle Ong, Caleb Walker, Jose Diez Munoz, Jesus Juarez, Jay Marine, Anthony Medina, Shiloh Robinson, Joseph Saavedra and Alberto Velazquez. Furthermore, eleven have joined the United States Navy, to include: Alessandro Riccio, Shahine Beaumont, Jacob Carrigan, Juliandra Faust, Shakarra Haigood, Julia Hernandez, Dakota Downs, Noah Gonzalez, Jorge Salmeron Gomez, Ciclary Rosas Carranza and Brandon Diaz Guzman.

One has joined the Air Force, to include: Alexia Ayers.

Thanks to the dedication of patriots such as these, we are able to meet here 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 20<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, I thank them for their service. I wish them the very best of luck now and in the future.

May 7, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Introduction of the *Prevent Blood Loss with Emergency Equipment Devices Act***

Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the *Prevent Blood Loss with Emergency Equipment Devices Act of 2019*—the *Prevent BLEEDing Act*—legislation that would expand access to Bleeding Control Kits (BCKs) in public gathering places across the country. I would like to thank my colleague, Dr. Brad Wenstrup, for introducing this legislation with me, which will help to save lives during emergency situations.

Approximately 214,000 people die every year from traumatic incidents. Motor vehicle crashes, shootings, natural disasters, and workplace accidents, to name just a few, oftentimes result in situations where people suffer traumatic blood loss. Such an injury can lead to death within five minutes, where many of these deaths can be prevented. The *Prevent BLEEDing Act* will help states to distribute thousands of BCKs to schools, libraries, places of worship, concert venues, shopping malls, and any other place where people gather, while providing staff and volunteers at these facilities with the necessary training to utilize the materials.

Following the disaster at Sandy Hook in December 2012, the American College of Surgeons (ACS) as well as others in the medical community, the federal government, and the U.S. military, convened the Joint Committee to Create a National Policy to Enhance Survivability from Active Shooter Events and Intentional Mass Casualty. The committee's recommendations are called the Hartford Consensus, and they led to the establishment of the Stop the Bleed Program, a national awareness campaign to train and equip everyday Americans with the skills to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives. To date, Stop the Bleed has trained nearly 125,000 Americans anti blood-loss skills, empowering them to help prevent unnecessary deaths from blood loss.

This legislation builds on that program's successes by amending the *Homeland Security Act of 2002* to make it easier for states to apply for BCKs through the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). By making these materials more accessible during times of disaster, bystanders with little or no medical training can save lives when confronted with traumatic injury, similar to the use of CPR or automatic defibrillators (AEDs).

Madam Speaker, this bill will help save lives. We can't prevent disasters, but we can help to ensure we are ready to respond to them. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

May 16, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Celebrating World Dog Day 2019**

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to recognize and celebrate World Dog Day 2019, which will take place on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> in West Hollywood, CA. Created by my good friend, Lisa Vanderpump and the Vanderpump Dog Foundation in 2016, World Dog Day is a day focusing on the celebration of our furriest family members by recognizing the impact that dogs bring to our everyday lives. This celebration draws attention to the amazing, empathetic creatures that dogs are, while also raising awareness about global dog abuse that sadly still exists today. Our love for these animals, without the necessary activism, can't protect themselves from abuse or neglect. This event is so critically important in taking a stand against the abuse of animals and being united in the love that we hold so dear for our beloved dogs.

Sadly, dogs and other animals across our nation and around the world suffer abuse from animal fighting, to torture, inhumane research testing, and abuse in puppy mills. We must advocate for all animals who cannot defend themselves and ensure their overall well-being and safety.

In the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, I was proud to work with Lisa, Dr. John Sessa, and the Vanderpump Dog Foundation on passing H. Res. 401, a resolution urging all nations to outlaw the dog and cat meat trade and to enforce existing laws against such trade. Their steadfast leadership and unwavering commitment to the welfare of animals is truly inspiring. Passage of H. Res. 401 was a culmination of years of hard work and dedication. From the bottom of my heart, I cannot thank them enough, along with the thousands of activists around the country and across the globe for all of their efforts. Lisa, John, and the Vanderpump Dog Foundation have never wavered in their commitment in the fight against the global dog meat trade. I am honored to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with them to champion this effort, sending a strong signal to the world that the welfare of animals must be taken seriously.

As we celebrate World Dog Day 2019, we must come together to raise awareness about global dog abuse and work to end this horrific and barbaric practice once and for all.

Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate Lisa Vanderpump, Dr. John Sessa, and the Vanderpump Dog Foundation on what I am certain will be another successful World Dog Day. I look forward to our continued work on animal welfare issues for years to come.

May 24, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**National Stop the Bleed Day**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark National Stop the Bleed Day. More than 200,000 Americans lose their lives every year from traumatic incidents, including shootings, vehicular crashes, and workplace accidents. When injuries involve traumatic blood loss, death can occur in as little as five minutes. These deaths, however, are oftentimes preventable.

National Stop the Bleed Day is a day to raise awareness of how to respond to severe bleeding incidents. Just as people learn CPR so that they can help a person having a heart attack, or the Heimlich maneuver for when someone is choking, learning how to respond to a traumatic bleeding incident can be the difference between life and death while waiting for professional help to arrive.

This month, my colleague Dr. Brad Wenstrup (R-OH) and I introduced H.R. 2550, the *Prevent Blood Loss with Emergency Equipment Devices Act of 2019* (the *Prevent BLEEDing Act*), to provide this lifesaving training and expand access to Bleeding Control Kits (BCKs). This legislation will help place tens of thousands of emergency blood loss prevention materials in schools, places of worship, and other public gathering places across the country, so that if disaster strikes, bystanders can be better equipped to respond. I ask my colleagues to support this effort and work with me to ensure its speedy passage.

June 6, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Recognizing Ms. Ynette Lopez of Piper High School Class of 2020**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Ynette Lopez, a student at Piper High School and Class of 2020 in Sunrise, Florida. This remarkable young lady has a current weighted GPA of 3.4, while taking a rigorous schedule of all Honors classes. Additionally, she is passionate about her extracurricular activities, hobbies, and volunteer work. She is a six-year professional clarinetist and currently occupies the 1<sup>st</sup> chair position with the Bengal Band of Pride.

Ynette has volunteered at the Department of Veterans Affairs since 2017. Her father is a disabled veteran with post-traumatic stress disorder. Growing up and learning so much about his disability, she was inspired to give back in the best way possible. She has accrued more than 200 hours of volunteer work in her many different capacities. Ynette has gained valuable experience by scheduling appointments, communicating with others, and delivering important documents to various offices at the Broward County Veterans Hospital.

She is currently preparing to take the next step in her future and will apply early admission in November of this year. Ynette plans to attend Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in Tallahassee, where she will study Sociology with a Psychology minor. Ynette's persistence, dedication, and ambition has carried her far and I wish her much success in the future.

June 10, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Introducing Legislation *Requiring the Department of Defense to Review and Update Forms Containing Racially or Ethnically Insensitive Terminology***

Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation requiring the Department of Defense (DOD) to review and modernize any of its in-use forms utilizing outdated and racially insensitive terminology. Today, Senator Tammy Duckworth will introduce the same legislation in the U.S. Senate. I thank her for joining me in this effort, and express my gratitude for the 42 members of the House of Representatives and the four Senators who have joined us in introducing this legislation.

It was recently brought to my attention that the Defense Department's DD-2064 Form, which is issued when a service member loses his or her life while deployed overseas, utilized the term "Negroid" as one of the means for denoting race. Quite frankly, I was shocked to see this term listed on documentation sent to the family of one of my constituents just a few months ago, after their son lost his life in service to our country.

Imagine for a moment what this must feel like. In the midst of the pain and crisis of losing a son, a daughter, a husband, or a wife, to receive a form from the Federal government identifying that loved one with outdated, offensive, pseudoscientific terminology once used to justify racism and concepts like racial inferiority or racial superiority. No family should ever have to cope with such added injury when mourning a family member in a time of crisis.

This terminology is not compliant with requirements from DOD and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). In 1997, OMB set guidance for federal data on race and ethnicity, and in the years that followed, DOD released several issuances guiding the implementation of OMB's direction.

I also want to acknowledge—and I want to be very clear—that the Department of Defense acted expeditiously to rectify this oversight once my office brought it to their attention. While I commend them for addressing this issue with the seriousness it requires, the fact that this document retained outdated terminology for more than two decades calls into question the status of other forms in use by the Department. It is my understanding that the Department has begun a process of reviewing hundreds of other forms to ensure that no others are out of compliance. However, this review is just a small fraction of the forms and surveys utilized by the Department, individual service components, and military installations world-wide.

That is why this legislation is a necessary step that is in the best interest of our service members and our country.

This is a short, straightforward bill. It requires the DOD to review each of its forms and surveys currently in use to determine if any others contain terms or classifications that may be considered racially or ethnically insensitive. If they find any, they must take the appropriate steps to modernize them.

I would again like to thank my colleagues who have supported this measure, and ask that we move expeditiously to bring it to the floor for a vote.

June 13, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Reintroducing the *Services for Ending Long-term Homelessness Act***

Madam Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the *Services for Ending Long-Term Homelessness Act*, legislation that will help our nation address the long-term homelessness crisis.

Since the first Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness was launched in 2010, rates of homelessness among veterans, families, and chronically homeless individuals have fallen significantly. Our country has successfully taken thousands of individuals and families off the streets. Unfortunately, last year, the homeless population in the United States increased for the second year in a row since the inception of the Federal Strategic Plan. According to the annual U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Point in Time count, there were about 88,484 chronically homeless individuals and 8,429 people in households with children, for a total of 96,913 chronically homeless.

Allowing men, women, and children to live on the streets is not a standard America should be willing to accept. Unstable housing impacts the lives of millions of Americans every year and addressing this problem forthrightly, as this bill does, will help get chronically homeless individuals and families off the streets. I ask that you join me in prioritizing these efforts to combat long-term homelessness in our country.

Madam Speaker, this important legislation addresses our country's homelessness problem in the following ways:

Requires the Secretary of HHS to design national strategies for the establishment of supportive housing services and programs to assist in ending chronic homelessness and to implement programs that address chronic homelessness.

Requires the Secretary of HHS to make matching grants to eligible entities to provide services promoting recovery and self-sufficiency and augment the HUD-administered McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants.

Requires the Secretary of HHS to report performance outcome data on the projects carried out under the Act.

Madam Speaker, as you know, the most recent data available shows us that more than a quarter of those currently living without permanent shelter are chronically homeless. We must continue to invest in the needs of these vulnerable and marginalized members of society, which will result in healthier, safer, and more productive communities.

I urge my colleagues to join me in working to end homelessness across our nation by supporting this important piece of legislation.

**June 13, 2019**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Honoring the Dillard High School's SupportMusic Merit Award**

Madam Speaker, it is my great privilege to rise today to honor Dillard High School for being the recipient of the 2019 SupportMusic Merit Award by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM).

The Support Music Award recognized Dillard High School for outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. It recognizes the commitment and dedication of Dillard High School to music and the arts as innovative learning opportunities for a well-rounded education. Dillard High School has always supported and encouraged students in music education from the beginning, starting with Julian Edwin "Cannonball" Adderley teaching jazz to students to today when students get to work and perform with professionals at the Broward Center for Performing Art and the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art.

Dillard High School is one of 98 schools across the nation to be a SupportMusic Merit Award recipient demonstrating an unwavering commitment to providing comprehensive music education. I applaud the hard work and dedication of each person making Dillard an exceptional school.

The NAMM Foundation is a nonprofit organization that advances active participation in making music throughout a person's life. The SupportMusic Award given by NAMM recognizes that Dillard High School is leading the way with learning opportunities as outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). ESSA recognizes that music is an important element of a well-rounded education for all children.

Madam Speaker, Dillard High School is an exceptional High School in our community, one that we can all admire and respect. I commend the students, faculty and staff for their inspiring commitment to music, and wish them many more years of continued success.

September 16, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Introduction of the *Transnational Repression Accountability and Prevention Act of 2019*  
(*TRAP Act*)**

Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission—a congressional watchdog for human rights and democracy in Europe and Eurasia—I am frequently reminded of the new opportunities that technology and globalization present for human rights defenders around the globe. For those struggling to defend their liberty and human dignity, our interconnected world brings with it the possibility of sharing information, coordinating action, and demonstrating solidarity across thousands of miles in fractions of a second. It means that truth is more capable of piercing the veil of enforced ignorance erected by the world’s most repressive states. Technology also further empowers dissidents in exile to connect with, and influence the foot soldiers of freedom who march on in their homelands.

But with these new openings for liberty come novel approaches to repression. Authoritarian and autocratic regimes are appropriating agile, 21<sup>st</sup> century technology to prop up sclerotic systems of brutality and corruption. Technological developments have provoked greater feelings of insecurity in these brittle regimes and propelled them to extend their repression far beyond their borders, sometimes reaching into the refuge of democratic societies where political opponents, independent journalists, and civil society activists operate in safety.

Madam Speaker, I recently introduced bipartisan legislation to tackle these emerging challenges with my friend and Helsinki Commission Ranking Member, Representative Joe Wilson of South Carolina. We are confident that this legislation, supported by the bicameral leadership of the Helsinki Commission and other leaders on human rights, will place the United States on course to lead the free world in holding the line against these modern manifestations of political persecution, or what some have called “transnational repression.” The *Transnational Repression Accountability and Prevention Act*—or *TRAP Act*—is designed to counter one key instrument in the autocrat’s 21<sup>st</sup> century toolkit: politically-motivated abuse of the International Criminal Police Organization, more commonly known as INTERPOL.

INTERPOL is a legitimate and potent tool for international law enforcement cooperation—one that the United States relies on heavily to bring criminals to justice and thwart threats to security around the globe. Sadly, autocrats have recognized the potential for repression in INTERPOL’s worldwide communications system that ties into the law enforcement agencies of its 194 member countries.

The Helsinki Commission regularly receives credible reports from human rights defenders, journalists, political activists, and businesspeople who have fallen victim to the efforts of corrupt regimes to ensnare them using INTERPOL’s system of international requests for arrest and extradition, known as Red Notices and Diffusions. These are the modern-day “traps” addressed by the *TRAP Act*. Because of these notices, innocent individuals live in fear of traveling internationally and have been detained, had their bank accounts closed, and, sometimes, been returned into the hands of the very regimes from which they escaped.

Madam Speaker, our legislation opens three new fronts against the threat of INTERPOL abuse. First, it clearly states that it is the policy of the United States to use our influence in INTERPOL to advance specific reforms that increase transparency and accountability for those that abuse the system while helping the organization to live up to its stated obligations to uphold international human rights standards and resist politicization. It further establishes that the United States will use its diplomatic clout to confront countries that abuse INTERPOL and work to ensure the freedom of movement and ability to engage in lawful commerce of victims of this abuse the world over.

Second, the *TRAP Act* exerts oversight over the United States' internal mechanisms to identify, challenge, and respond to instances of INTERPOL abuse. The bill requires the Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, and State—in coordination with other relevant agencies—to submit to Congress an assessment of the scope and seriousness of autocratic abuse of INTERPOL, an evaluation of the adequacy of the processes in place domestically and at INTERPOL to resist this abuse, and a plan for improving interagency coordination to confront this phenomenon.

Third, and perhaps most importantly, the *TRAP Act* places strict limitations on how the United States Government can use INTERPOL notices in legal or administrative proceedings that could interfere with the freedom or immigration status of individuals in our country. We have been deeply concerned by reports that some authorities in this country have improperly cited INTERPOL notices from autocratic countries to detain individuals and place them in danger of being returned to the very countries from which they fled. The *TRAP Act* will make crystal clear that autocratic regimes cannot use INTERPOL notices to weaponize the U.S. judicial system against their political targets.

Madam Speaker, these measures are critical to restricting the freedom that some autocratic regimes have enjoyed to harass, persecute, and detain their political opponents around the world. Authoritarian and autocratic states like China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Venezuela must be called out by name and held to account for their repeated manipulation of legitimate law enforcement tools for petty political ends.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to place the *TRAP Act* in the context of the other work that the U.S. Helsinki Commission has done to address the grave threat of transnational repression and malign influence by authoritarian regimes. The *Countering Russian and Other Overseas Kleptocracy*—or “*CROOK*” *Act*, the *Kleptocrat Exposure Act*, and the *Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act* have all been the result of a focus by Commissioners and Commission staff on developing a bipartisan congressional response to the existential threat of global authoritarianism.

We can no longer sit idly by, content that those who wish to do us harm are on the other side of the world. In this new age of autocracy, the threat is here—now—and it comes in the form of abusive Red Notices, dirty money, and bought-and-paid-for lawfare tactics. The purpose of these tactics is to silence journalists and activists, hollow out the rule of law, and ensure that no one ever dare pursue this new class of transnational kleptocrats whose sole goal is the wholesale looting of the countries they claim to serve and the seamless transfer of those ill-gotten gains to our shores and those of our allies.

September 17, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Honoring the Life and Legacy of Robert Lee Smith**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Robert Lee Smith. For decades, Robert pursued public service as a dedicated teacher, school administrator, and a member of the United States Air Force. We have lost a great leader, a tremendous educator, and a dear friend and advisor.

Robert dedicated his life to sharing knowledge. He sought out opportunities through which he could give back to his community, progressing first as a high school valedictorian and scholarship recipient to earning degrees from Florida A&M University and Columbia University Teachers School in education and school administration. As an exceptional Communications Specialist in the United States Air Force, education remained a focus as he additionally served as a part-time instructor and education services coordinator. Robert's service was rewarded with the National Defense Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Outstanding Airman Award. He was Honorably Discharged as a Sergeant on June 10, 1956. Robert knew what it meant to serve his community and our nation. He always went above and beyond to improve the lives of those around him.

Robert's 36-year career in the Broward County School System enriched the lives of thousands of students, having served as a well-respected and cherished elementary school teacher and principle. His leadership expanded far beyond school walls, as he was president of Justice for All in Broward and the Golden Heights Homeowners' Association and he was the first African-American president of the Fort Lauderdale Optimist Club. He was also a leader in the First Baptist Church Piney Grove and his 63-year membership included serving as a Deacon and as Chairman of the Deacon Board. Undoubtedly, Robert's membership to the NAACP and position as Board Chairman for the L.A. Lee YMCA ensured his indelible mark on every facet of our community.

I extend my deepest condolences to Robert's wife, Betty; his daughter, Anitha Rhodette; his son-in-law, Darrell; his grandson, Kamyron; and his entire family during this extremely difficult time. His life and legacy will always live on and he will be dearly missed.

October 16, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Passing of Ms. Elizabeth J Wesley**

Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor Ms. Elizabeth ``Libby`` Wesley, an extraordinary activist and dear friend from Palm Beach County, Florida.

Ms. Wesley was born in Defuniak Springs, Florida to William and Allie Mae Jackson. In 1958, she moved to Delray Beach, Florida where she began her 37-year career in the field of education as a classroom teacher, instructional television educator, and project manager of early childcare welfare and services with the Palm Beach County School District. Her steadfast commitment to quality education on the local, state, and national level and her expertise in the field of early childhood education and development was highly sought after by leading parent advocacy groups, businesses, and national and local legislators.

Ms. Wesley, affectionately known as Libby, gifted her talents, time, and voice to the community as a prolific speaker, soloist, community activist, organizer, and innovator. Throughout her 61 years as a member of St. Paul AME, she served as the church secretary, on the trustee board and finance committee, and lifted the spirits of the congregation with her signature rendition of Amazing Grace. Libby became a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. in 1954 at Florida A&M University. She continued the works of her beloved sisterhood first as a member of Delta Epsilon Zeta Chapter in West Palm Beach, and later a founding member of the Tri-City Chapter Omicron Delta Zeta.

Perhaps Ms. Wesley's most impactful community legacy was her role as a co-founder of the Roots Cultural Festival in Delray Beach. Her leadership of this festival grew a weekend celebrating Black American excellence and African culture into a year-round youth program that included music, culture, education, and athletic components.

Ms. Wesley was also the recipient of numerous prestigious awards for her contributions in the areas of volunteerism and leadership, including the Old School Square Life Achievement award, the Delray Beach Rotary Service Above Self award, the Sojourner Truth Living History award, the Jefferson Award, the JM Family Enterprises The Prestigious African-American Achiever's Award, the Publisher's Award from the Sun Sentinel, as well as the building and dedication of The Elizabeth ``Libby`` Jackson Wesley Plaza in Delray Beach.

Madam Speaker, my friend Libby dedicated her life to serving our community. She was admired, respected, and beloved by all. I want to extend my heartfelt condolences to her family and friends, during this time of great sadness. She will be dearly missed.

November 1, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Recognition of Mrs. Yvette DuBose as a 2019 Angels in Adoption Honoree**

Madam Speaker, it is my great privilege to rise today to honor Mrs. Yvette DuBose, for her extraordinary contributions as the CEO/Executive Director of the Heart Gallery of Broward County and as a caring foster parent herself.

Yvette was recognized as a 2019 Angels in Adoption by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI). She is admired in our community for her steadfast commitment to the welfare of children as both a caring foster parent and as the Executive Director of the Heart Gallery of Broward County, as well as serving as a Board Member of the Heart Gallery of Florida and the Children Families Leadership Association. Her leadership at the Heart Gallery has led to more than 350 adoptions of foster children to their forever families, changing the course of their lives. Yvette'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 their commitment to improving the lives of children in need of permanent, loving homes.

Madam Speaker, I am so very proud of Mrs. Yvette DuBose for all the work that she has done in our community. I wish her the best as she continues her work to make the dream of a forever family a reality for so many children in need.

November 12, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Honoring the Life and Legacy of W. George Allen**

Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend, W. George Allen, a selfless member of our community who spent his life serving others. I had the great privilege of working alongside George as his law partner for many years. Throughout his more than four-decade career practicing law, he established himself as one of our state's most influential civil rights advocates. I will never forget the years we spent working together to fight and end segregation in Broward County.

George was born in Sanford, Florida in 1936. He attended Florida A&M University and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science with a minor in Economics, before continuing his education at the University of Florida Law School, where he became the first African American to receive a Juris Doctor degree.

Between 1958 and 1960, George served in the United States Army as a special agent in the Counter Intelligence Corps, before being honorably discharged at the rank of First Lieutenant. Following his military service, George was accepted into law school, where he became involved in social activism by organizing lunch counter sit-ins around Gainesville, Florida. After graduating and being admitted to the Florida Bar Association, he decided to open his own firm in Fort Lauderdale. Here he practiced for forty-two years, specializing in trial work, probate, personal injury, insurance defense and wrongful death.

Throughout his career, George was recognized time and again for his hard work and dedication to those around him. He was a member of the Urban League of Broward County, the NAACP, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc, the University of Florida Foundation, and the Florida Bar Association. He also served as the Broward County Bar Association's president. Additionally, he received numerous awards for his achievements, including the University of Florida Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2000, and the National Conference for Community and Justice Silver Medallion Award in 2001. In 2003, George was inducted into the National Bar Association's Hall of Fame, and in February of 2005, Governor Jeb Bush appointed him to the Florida A&M University's Board of Trustees.

Madam Speaker, W. George Allen was a champion for our community and positively impacted the lives of all those he met. He was a South Florida icon, whose life and legacy has left an indelible mark on our state and nation. I want to extend my deepest condolences to his children, Jonathan, Timothy, Frederick, and Amy Carole and the entire Allen family during this heartbreaking time. W. George Allen was a blessing to our community. I am so truly honored to have called him my friend. He will be dearly missed.

November 19, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Recognizing the Keiser University Seahawks on an Undefeated Football Season**

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor the Keiser University Seahawks on securing a 9-0 undefeated football season.

Led by local seniors Seth Freeman, Ronnie Bennett, and Tremane Gabriel, the Seahawks won their regular season finale game, after defeating Ava Maria University on Saturday, November 16th. Under the leadership of Head Coach Doug Socha, Keiser will now head into the 2019 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) postseason, beginning with a home game against University of the Cumberlands in the first round of the 16-team playoffs.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the entire Seahawks football team, which include: Traionn Jones, Sage Chen-Young, Tyler Foster, Eli Mathews, Maurice Murphy Jr., Ronnie Bennett, Kade Glenn, Alex Taylor, Coby Golden, Logan Good, Da'Shawn Bostic, Tremane Gabriel, Seth Freeman, Cade Socha, Rodney Green Jr., Dylan Inman, Carlos Silencieux, Jamarquios Autry, Jaylen Arnold, Asfunso Elam, Payton Burke, Lucas Matias, Shawn O'Gorman, Shaw Pomianowski, Trevor Phillips, Deandre Henderson, Caleb Walls, Luckaad Dorsainvil, Jamian Lovett, Marques Burgess, Schnider Louis, Troy Sloan, Cordell Wiley, Isaiah Rampart, Jermaine Wilson, Osner Valmeus, Carl Barrow, Taeon Holte, Austin Cha, Austin Carr, Amari Hayes, Brendan Parr, Preston Hays, Wesley Scott, Marc Laureore, Jordan Grant, Treykevian Gilbert, Victor Alvarez Jr., Mitchel Desulme, Byron Fraley, Joseph Irlbeck, Davion Cross, Robenson Lafleur, Christopher Hart, Tommy Richemond, Logan Wakefield, Camron Allen, Edward Krajewski, Alessandro Cantillo, Jeremiah Guillaume, Cedrick Dervil, Zach Shahin, Okevious Hinds, Rashad Harris, William Bell, Mikhail Hanson, Juwan James, Logan Robinson, Dalton Barbara, Donovan Hinds, Justin Thomas, Shelby Langen, Mike Altenor, Austin Sherrill, Nicholas Sierra, Jerson Jacques, Michael Robinson, Samuel Snell, Donavyn Martin, Thomas Waldron, Mohammad Shatara, Shavon Taylor, Luke Sharkey, Dante Trott, Markel Finney, Khalil Absolu, Joshua Norzea, Corey Lamy, Zachariah Istvan, Eddie Adams, Ruben Alexis, Matthew Barber, Balitan Celestin, Alec Charland, Claude Charles, Corey Cola, Owen Connell, Dakota Cox, Damon Daniel, Gabriel Davenport, Akarri Davis, Amarri Davis, Cory Hamilton, Earnest Johnson, Adreal Johnson, Trusteb Johnson, Angerlyns Julceus, Amari Kindred, Jamari Kindred, Judah Martin, Qwad Martin, Gage McNellis, T-Jay Mitchell, Ki-Mani Olivacce, Alex Saint-Jean, Benjamin Serrano, Isaiah Silva, Tristan Simmons, Duane Simon, Ty Smith, Shea Spencer, Andy St. Hillaire, George Swain, Garrison Swain, Joseph Villano, Chris Webber, and Ian Willhoite.

Madam Speaker, I am so very proud of the Keiser University Seahawks for their exceptional season. I wish the team and their entire athletic program many more years of continued success.

**December 3, 2019**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Honoring the Life and Legacy of Garth C. Reeves, Sr.**

Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Garth C. Reeves, Sr. who sadly passed away in November at the age of 100. Garth was the publisher emeritus of The Miami Times and a voice for the aspirations of African Americans in Miami for most of the past century. He was a man of principle, who after serving in the United States Army during World War II, worked to improve his community through civil rights activism, journalism, and publishing.

Garth was born in Nassau, Bahamas in 1919. He attended Florida A&M University, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in printing in 1940. He served in both the European and Pacific theaters during World War II, from 1942 to 1946, and later returned to Miami to work under his father, Henry Reeves, who founded The Miami Times newspaper.

Garth dedicated his life to resisting and fighting racism. Taking the helm as publisher and chief executive officer of The Miami Times following his father's passing, he advanced the cause of civil rights and challenged segregation laws with acts of civil disobedience. In 1949, when African Americans were only allowed to play golf on Mondays, he showed up to play on a Wednesday. Garth and others sued for equal access to the golf course and won after a seven-year court battle. And in the 1950s, he was among the first to swim at Crandon Park in defiance of laws that designated it a whites only beach. Today, these may appear to be small acts, but they raised up the black community and highlighted the systemic inequalities facing African Americans each and every day.

Garth's good works didn't stop there. He provided scholarships for students to attend his alma maters, Booker T. Washington High School and Florida A&M University, and he donated to The Black Archives/Lyric Theater. It is no surprise that in 2011, he was recognized by the National Newspaper Publishers Association with the Legacy of Excellence Award, and The Miami Times named as the top black newspaper in the country. More recently, he was inducted into the National Association of Black Journalists' Hall of Fame in 2017.

Madam Speaker, Garth C. Reeves, Sr. was a champion for our community and positively impacted the lives of countless people in Miami and around our nation. I extend my deepest condolences to his family during this extremely difficult time. Garth was a true blessing to so many. His legacy will always endure. I am proud to have called him a friend. He will be dearly missed.

December 13, 2019

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Introduction of the *FAA Family and Medical Leave Act***

Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the *FAA family and Medical Leave Act*. This legislation will ensure that employees of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) are extended the same paid parental leave benefits afforded to other government employees under the conference report for the *National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2020*.

The conference report to the NDAA, which was announced earlier this week and passed in the House of Representatives Wednesday evening, secured a critical provision for federal employees that will provide 12 weeks of paid parental leave in the case of birth, adoption, or fostering. The provision will help the federal government retain talent and remain competitive with private industry.

Unfortunately, this section was drafted to apply to Title 5 only, which has resulted in FAA employees being left out of this very important benefit. More than 35,000 federal employees across our nation are responsible for managing air traffic control, aircraft, and airport safety. I believe we must move quickly to address this oversight and ensure that FAA employees receive the paid parental leave benefits they rightly deserve under the NDAA agreement.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce this measure and urge this body to provide for its immediate consideration.

**January 9, 2020**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Honoring Mr. Alex Richardson**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Alex Richardson who recently graduated from college with a degree in Criminal Justice. Immediately following graduation, Alex was hired by the City of Sunrise Police Department and sent to the police academy. On December 9, 2019, he was pinned in a ceremony at the Sunrise police headquarters and is currently undergoing police training in his community.

Alex is known for beating the odds. He grew up without a father and lost his mother to cancer at age four. One of five children, he and his siblings were adopted by Mr. Patrick Hosler, Jr., who mentored him throughout his childhood. Alex played YFL football for his city, and he now coaches other young men and women in four sports. I am delighted that this fine young man lives in my Congressional district. I am confident that he will succeed beyond all expectations at whatever endeavor he chooses to pursue. I wish him all the very best and thank him for his service to our community.

**January 14, 2020**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Congratulating the People of Taiwan for Holding Successful Elections and Commending  
President Tsai Ing-Wen on Her Reelection**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of Taiwan for holding successful elections on January 11, 2020 and commend President Tsai Ing-wen on her re-election. Free and fair elections are a core tenet of democratic societies and it is encouraging to see the people of Taiwan continue to enthusiastically embrace their civic duty, especially in the face of significant election meddling on the part of the People's Republic of China.

The United States and Taiwan have long enjoyed a close friendship, with strong bonds forged through our economic, trade, and security ties. It is critical that the United States never loses sight of the importance Taiwan will play in our efforts to assure a prosperous and peaceful rise for all our friends and allies in the region.

Taiwan's dedication to democracy, freedom, and the rule of law make it not only a great partner for the United States, but a beacon of hope for all countries striving to protect and further democratic ideals.

Madam Speaker, I again congratulate our friends in Taiwan and President Tsai Ing-wen on this momentous occasion.

February 4, 2020

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Honoring Reverend Dr. Marcus Demond Davidson Senior Pastor of New Mount Olive Baptist Church on his 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Pastoral Anniversary**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Dr. Marcus Demond Davidson, Senior Pastor of the New Mount Olive Baptist Church, on his 10th Annual Pastoral Anniversary, which will take place during the month of March 2020.

This achievement truly is remarkable and a testament to Rev. Davidson's commitment to faith, leadership, and our community. Throughout his career, he has tirelessly served faith-based and secular groups by helping to transform and empower others to achieve their greatest potential.

Rev. Davidson is a graduate of Deshler High School in Tuscumbia, Alabama. In further studies, he received his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering Technology from Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University in Normal, Alabama; Master of Biblical Studies from Heritage Bible College in Huntsville, Alabama; Master of Divinity from Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama; and a Doctor of Ministry with an emphasis in Black Church Leadership from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. He has studied at the Dallas Theological Seminary in Dallas, Texas; abroad at the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology, Kingston, Jamaica, West Indies.

At the age of six, Rev. Davidson accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior and united with the St. James Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of his father, Rev. Dr. Green Davidson, III. When he was sixteen years of age, Rev. Davidson acknowledged his call into the preaching ministry. In 1999, he was elected and previously served for ten years as pastor of the Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Courtland, Alabama.

Rev. Davidson's move to the New Mount Olive Baptist Church continued his career as a young, spirited minister who's many achievements include his work as a gospel recording artist, entrepreneur, noted preacher, pastor, and teacher. Additionally, he has been an inspiring figure through his numerous other works and engagements within the community.

Madam Speaker, Rev. Davidson has long stated that "worship is not so much style as it is substance." It is abundantly clear that over the last decade at New Mount Olive Baptist Church that this remains his ethos every single day. I once again want to congratulate Reverend Dr. Marcus Demond Davidson on his 10th Annual Pastoral Anniversary and wish him many more years of successful service to our community.

**February 21, 2020**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Honoring the Legacy of the Tabernacle Baptist Church in West Palm Beach**

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize the legacy of the Tabernacle Baptist Church, a historically black church located in West Palm Beach, Florida. The Tabernacle Baptist Church was established in 1893, before the creation of the town of West Palm Beach in 1894. The Church has proven to be a pillar and haven in the community throughout its 127-year history and continues to maintain its strong presence today.

The Church's leadership through various projects, such as the establishment of the U.B. Kinsey Educational and Community Center, and the Rosemary Village Construction Project, illustrates a dedication to a holistic, community-driven mission. The Church has also created the first school for African American children in Palm Beach County and continues to champion education through programs such as their scholarship committee. Throughout the years, the Church has remained a steadfast spiritual guide and support and strives to strengthen its presence in order to better serve Palm Beach County.

Under the leadership of Rev. Gerald D. Kisner, Pastor of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church for the past 23 years; Reverend Kevin L. Jones, Assistant Pastor of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church and the Church's Minister for Youth and Young Adults; and Ms. Gwendolyn Ferguson, Executive Assistant of the Church, they have carried the mission of the Church to serve as God's witnesses or ambassadors to people who are in need, through discipleship, outreach, teaching, preaching, community development, praise and worship.

Madam Speaker, the Tabernacle Baptist Church is indeed an exemplary part of our community. I extend my warmest congratulations to the Church for its contributions over these 127 years and wish them many more years of continued success.

February 26, 2020

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Anniversaries of the Sumgait Pogrom and Khojaly Massacre**

Madam Speaker, I rise to mark two painful anniversaries this week in the decades-long conflict over the territory of Nagorno Karabakh. Although separated by four years and 200 miles, the Sumgait Pogrom in 1988 and Khojaly Massacre in 1992 both demonstrated the heinous potential of interethnic hatreds to tear apart communities and trample human dignity. The commemoration of these horrific events is an opportunity to reflect on the innocent lives lost in this ongoing conflict as well as a chance to affirm the need for urgent steps to heal these wounds and find peace for all those afflicted once and for all.

The Sumgait Pogrom occurred in the early days of the conflict between ethnic Armenians and Azeris over the semi-autonomous Soviet oblast of Nagorno Karabakh. At the time, the Armenian-majority region was self-governing but ensconced in the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic. In 1988, a mass Armenian political movement sought to capitalize on administrative reforms in the Soviet Union to unite the territory with the Armenian state. This self-determination campaign quickly unmasked mutual suspicions and interethnic resentments that degenerated into violence.

Azeri counter-protests emerged in Baku in early February 1988 as ethnic tensions in Nagorno Karabakh intensified. Later that month, the reported murder of ethnic Azeris in Nagorno Karabakh lit a tinderbox of tensions that had built up in the town of Sumgait, 20 miles northwest of Baku. Gangs broke off from an Azeri rally in town and began looting, beating, raping, and murdering ethnic Armenians. Ethnic Azeris killed approximately 26 Armenians and injured hundreds more in the violence. The trauma of the pogrom sparked fears of escalating violence and led to the first major wave of relocations that eventually resulted in the near complete displacement of ethnic Armenians out of Azerbaijan and Azeris from Armenia.

Reciprocal atrocities coinciding with the collapse of the Soviet Union caused the outbreak of all-out war in the early 1990s. The Khojaly Massacre on February 26, 1992 is the single greatest loss of life in the history of the conflict, which continues to this day under a shaky ceasefire agreed in 1994. In the early morning hours, advancing Armenian fighters opened fire on a stream of mostly civilian Azeris fleeing the town of Khojaly in the Nagorno Karabakh region.

Although estimates vary, Armenian militiamen killed several hundred Azeri civilians in the snow-covered woods of Nagorno Karabakh that morning. All told, the Nagorno Karabakh War claimed approximately 20,000 lives and displaced more than a million people in both directions.

Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, I am deeply familiar with the efforts that the United States, in partnership with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, has made over the past quarter-century to resolve this conflict. The United States is a co-chair alongside France and Russia in the trilateral Minsk Group process the OSCE established in the late 1990s to facilitate de-escalation and peace talks between the sides. This process has largely succeeded in keeping all-out war at bay for more than 20 years, but the Armenian and Azerbaijani

sides bear responsibility for advancing the cause of peace, including by preparing their populations for a lasting resolution.

I am encouraged by the significant decrease in ceasefire violations over the past couple of years as well as the steady pace of high-level encounters between Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders during this period. Yet no meaningful progress has been made in these talks. Moreover, the Armenian Prime Minister and Azerbaijani President punctuate their private discussions with inflammatory public statements that often distort the historical record and damage the cause of peace.

Madam Speaker, I strongly encourage the political leadership in Yerevan and Baku to use these solemn commemorations of Sumgait and Khojaly this week to turn a new page in this terrible conflict. The most fitting way to honor the lives of those lost would be through words of reconciliation and steps toward peace. Together, the peoples of Armenia and Azerbaijan can ensure such atrocities are never repeated and that future generations will know a life of secure and prosperous coexistence.

March 2, 2020

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Honoring the Life and Legacy of Wilton Manors Mayor Justin S. Flippen**

Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Wilton Manors Mayor Justin Flippen, a dedicated public servant, who loved his community and contributed greatly to the people of Broward County, Florida. Justin passed away on February 25, 2020 at the age of 41.

A graduate of Coconut Creek High School, Broward College, and Florida Atlantic University (FAU), he became Florida's first openly gay student body president at FAU, as well as serving as an intern for United States Senator Bob Graham. He earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Florida College of Law. Justin was a Wilton Manors City Commissioner before being elected Mayor in 2018. Active in the community, he became a member of the Wilton Manors-based Dolphin Democrats in 1997 and served as president from 2008 to 2009, overseeing the growth of the club to over 400 members. Justin was also a member of the Florida LGBT Democratic Caucus.

When marriage equality became legal in 2015, Justin officiated the Valentine's Day marriages of nearly 40 couples at city hall as part of a city-sponsored marriage equality mass wedding program entitled, "We Do It!" He successfully worked to have Wilton Manors become the first city in Broward County to raise the Pride Flag outside city hall for National LGBT Pride Month, and then less than a year later to have Wilton Manors become the first city in the nation to permanently raise the Pride Flag as the foundation to a monument and memorial dedicated to the contributions of the LGBT community and their allies.

In November of 2018, the people historically elected Justin as their Mayor by one of the largest margins of victory in a contested race. Now as "The People's Mayor," but more importantly as a product of our city and community, Justin believed in upholding the highest standards and to serve with his best and nothing less. He believed that all elected, and government officials should remember and heed the words of Thomas Jefferson who said, "Governments are the servants, not the masters, of the people."

Madam Speaker, Mayor Justin S. Flippen's spirit and loving memory will always live on. His contributions to our community will be remembered for generations to come. I offer my deepest condolences to his family, friends, and the entire Broward County community during this time of great sadness and loss.

March 12, 2020

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Introduction of the *Leadership Institute for Transatlantic Engagement (LITE) Act***

Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the *Leadership Institute for Transatlantic Engagement (LITE) Act*--a bill that will create an institute to assist in strengthening ties with our allies, protect democratic institutions, and support visionary leadership on both sides of the Atlantic.

In the 116th Congress, under my leadership as chair, the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the U.S. Helsinki Commission, has held events on the importance of international election observation, good governance, and focused on democratic backsliding in particular countries as part of our continued commitment to the underlying principles of the Helsinki Final Act adopted by the 57 North American, European, and Eurasian countries that make up the region of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

We identified numerous challenges in western leadership that are putting our democracies and the transatlantic partnership at risk, including as continuing disparities in wealth, health, employment, education, justice, and other sectors that lead citizens to question whether democracy can deliver. Common to among these issues is the role leaders can play in ensuring laws are equitable, transparent, and enforced; elections are free and fair; and laying the groundwork to ensure the same protections, rights, and laws, are extended to all in their constituencies.

The *LITE Act* will establish an institute to assist western democracies in living up to these ideals and restoring faith in democracy, by equipping transatlantic policymakers with legislative, communications, conflict resolution and other leadership tools to strengthen democratic institutions in their societies and the transatlantic relationship. Given demographic change on both sides of the Atlantic, the activities of LITE, as established by this legislation, will also include a focus on inclusive and intergenerational solutions to current challenges with the goal of empowering individuals across generations and from diverse backgrounds with the knowledge, tools, opportunity, and access to fully participate in their democracies. In addition, LITE will seek to reunify communities by assisting leaders with strategies that build resilience against the exploitation of community grievances that can lead to dangerous divisions in our societies.

In February, we hosted young parliamentarians from the OSCE region here in the U.S. Congress to discuss how we can strengthen their political inclusion to advance peace and security efforts. Last year, we held hearings featuring European lawmakers, and on global leadership, democracy and public diplomacy. These hearings were the capstone in a decade of events that began in 2009 whereby the Commission has convened U.S. and European policymakers under the banner of the Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conference and Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network to support increased political representation in western democracies. As we celebrate the tenth anniversary of these efforts that have been pivotal in strengthening international relations over the past decade, I hope you will join me in supporting LITE to further codify leadership exchanges and knowledge building between diverse and young transatlantic policy makers as a means to sustain our democratic futures.

March 12, 2020

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Introduction of a Bill to Ensure Fair Access and Opportunity to Federal Jobs for All Americans**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to ensure fair access and opportunity to federal jobs for all Americans.

For close to two decades now, I and many of my colleagues have been fighting to increase diversity in the international affairs and national security sector. I have called for a diversity plan from the Director of National Intelligence, as well as for the Department of State and USAID. Last year, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing entitled, "Diversity in Recruiting and Retention: Increasing Diversity in the Military--What the Military Services are Doing." And only last week, Senators held an event bringing attention to the February Report: "State Department: Additional Steps are Needed to Identify Potential Barriers to Diversity." My colleagues and I have been engaged in these efforts not because they are nice or correct, but because they are what is in the best interest for the survival of our nation.

The U.S. workforce is becoming more racially, ethnically, and otherwise diverse, with estimates that by 2050 over half of the workforce will be made up of Americans from diverse populations. Jobs across our government, whether they are in the military, intelligence, foreign service, health or education sectors, will require that we not only hire, but also retain a more diverse federal workforce to sustain the needs of our country and remain a stable democracy.

To do so, we must have a plan. My bill calls for a government-wide diversity and inclusion plan that ensures that all branches of government are engaged in multi-year strategic planning that recruits, hires, promotes, retains, and supports leadership from America's diverse talent pool in the federal workforce for the good of our country. It also calls for a review of diversity in government contracting and grantmaking, as both are often also pathways to government jobs.

Diversity and inclusion are the underpinnings of democratic societies. It is time that we enforce democratic values by ensuring all segments of our society have equal access and opportunity to contribute to a vibrant workforce that is at the heart of our democracy for the future of our nation.

May 12, 2020

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**World Press Freedom Day in the OSCE Region**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to emphasize the urgency of global press freedom, particularly across the 57-nation region of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Earlier last week, we celebrated World Press Freedom Day, a day originally proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1993 to celebrate the fundamental principle of a free and independent press. On this day and beyond, we honor journalists and media professionals for their tireless service in reporting the truth, sometimes at the risk of their own personal safety. World Press Freedom Day serves as an important reminder to governments around the world to respect their country's commitment to press freedom.

The U.S. Helsinki Commission, of which I am Chairman, is charged with monitoring compliance with human rights and security commitments in the OSCE region. Freedom of the press is a foundational commitment to human rights and democracy. Unfortunately, however, some leaders view the media as a threat and seek to silence individuals and outlets through financial, legal, and physical means. What these leaders truly fear is that journalists will expose corruption, human rights violations, abuses of power, and other undemocratic behavior.

According to the latest reports from the Committee to Protect Journalists, 250 journalists are imprisoned worldwide for their work, 64 journalists are missing, and 1,369 journalists have been killed since 1992. Additionally, Reporters Without Borders' 2020 World Press Freedom Index found that global press freedom has deteriorated by 12 percent since 2013.

Madam Speaker, I also rise to applaud the undaunted service of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Harlem De sir. His leadership as an independent monitor for these issues among OSCE participating States has offered candid review of our collective challenges, while demonstrating the importance of OSCE institutions. Mr. De sir's team has provided impeccable service to help nations implement their international commitments to this end through country visits and legislative review, as well as hosting expert conferences. I encourage my colleagues to closely follow his work and to learn more about his mandate by reviewing the proceedings of the U.S. Helsinki Commission hearing I chaired with Mr. De sir on July 25, 2019, addressing "State of Media Freedom in the OSCE Region."

Madam Speaker, amid this global pandemic, it is more important than ever that journalists and media professionals are able to work freely and without retribution. Unfortunately, too many journalists remain in jail throughout the OSCE region, while states like Russia, Azerbaijan, and Hungary criminalize providing essential information and transparency about the COVID-19 pandemic. Independent media continues to be assaulted under the pretense of punishing allegedly false, misleading, or unofficial information. This is unacceptable.

Earlier in April, I released statements expressing concern with the latest attacks on press freedom in Russia and the unchecked power granted to Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban amid the coronavirus pandemic.

During these trying times, strong journalism and access to accurate, unbiased information are essential tools for countering the spread of the disease. I ask my colleagues to join me in urging states to recognize the indispensable role of the media during this time and to reverse policies that in any way discourage freedom of expression.

May 27, 2020

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Celebrating the Life and Memory of Elmira V. Gilbert**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of, and express sadness over, the passing of an extraordinary woman, Elmira ``Nana" V. Gilbert: Elmira moved to West Palm Beach, Florida when she was five years old and lived there for nearly nine decades. She passed away on March 5, 2020, just a few months shy of her 105th birthday.

She was one of 52 members to graduate from the first high school for African Americans in Palm Beach County in 1935 and served as the vice president of her Class Reunion Committee for many years. She always lived her life to the fullest, embracing her role as matriarch of the Shederick, Gilbert, King, Brown I, and Brown II French families.

Elmira was an extremely resilient woman having survived the many injustices of segregation and numerous hurricanes, including the deadly hurricane of 1928. I extend my heartfelt condolences to Elmira's many family members and friends. Our nation grieves with you, and I pray that you may find comfort during this extremely difficult time.

May 27, 2020

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Azerbaijan's 102<sup>nd</sup> Republic Day**

Madam Speaker, May 28, 2020 marks Azerbaijan's 102nd Republic Day, the day on which the country became the first Muslim-majority secular democratic state. Since regaining its independence following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan has proven itself a partner of the United States particularly in its commitment to regional stability and security cooperation.

As someone who has traveled to Israel nineteen times and championed the cause of the U.S.-Israeli friendship since first coming to the House, I applaud Azerbaijan's commitment to ensuring that the Azeri and Israeli people remain good friends. Indeed, home to a thriving Jewish community of around 30,000, Azerbaijan is one of the few countries with a predominately Muslim population that is a staunch supporter of Israel.

Azerbaijan is also committed to regional security and stability. With its dedication to countering terrorism and nuclear proliferation, its support for U.S. troops in Afghanistan, and its contributions to UN and NATO peacekeeping missions, Azerbaijan continues to contribute to the stabilization of the region.

Madam Speaker, although friends will have difficult conversations at times, those discussions are based in honesty and respect. Today, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the people of Azerbaijan on their Republic Day.

June 11, 2020

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Introduction of the *National Defense Net Zero Review Act of 2020***

Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the *National Defense Net Zero Review Act of 2020*, legislation that will refocus the Defense Department's (DoD's) efforts on Net Zero initiatives and require the Secretary to establish the first integrated master plan for achieving Net Zero energy benchmarks.

The DoD consumes more energy than any other federal agency, spending nearly \$12 billion on energy in FY2017, approximately two percent of the Department's total budget. Since the early 2000s, the DoD has made commendable progress in implementing Net Zero projects. These initiatives have generally focused on efforts to produce more energy from renewable sources on installations, limit consumption of water in order to not deplete the local watershed, and reduce, reuse, and recover waste to prevent unnecessary additions to landfills.

Unfortunately, Madam Speaker, while progress has been made, it simply isn't enough. In fact, many of the energy benchmarks established by previous acts of Congress have never been achieved by the DoD, and many of the goals announced by senior DoD leaders over the past decade are no longer being pursued. To quote from the findings from a 2016 Government Accountability Office (GAO) study--the most systemic review of Net Zero with the DoD--the Department has ``not established an integrated net zero strategy or policy for achieving Net Zero," and ``none of the military departments have established Net Zero as a funded program". Further, the DoD has not fully identified the potential costs of implementing net zero initiatives, due at least in part to insufficiently defined statutory goals.

On the operational side of energy usage, DoD emissions for all military operations between 2001 and 2017 are estimated to be 766 million metric tons of carbon dioxide. The FY2017 Operational Energy Annual Report found that the Department used roughly 87 million barrels of fuel per year, which comes out to some 240,000 barrels per day. These findings paint a clear picture, that absent Congressional interest and oversight, pursuing and achieving Net Zero will not be prioritized in the way that it should be.

The legislation that I am introducing today will get us back on track with a wholesale review of Net Zero initiatives under the DoD. First, my bill commissions two studies from the Comptroller General of the United States--a follow-up to the 2016 study and a second examining options for increasing efficiency and resilience on the operational side of the DoD's energy usage--that will analyze the extent to which these types of initiatives have been implemented, and the associated costs, benefits, challenges, and opportunities that exist for moving forward. These studies also solicit new information from the DoD, including anticipated funding and infrastructure needs to get serious about achieving Net Zero, and options for achieving specific benchmarks. Once this information is at hand, my legislation requires the Secretary of the DoD to present Congress with a master plan outlining an integrated strategy for achieving these initiatives in a manner that continues to prioritize military readiness.

Importantly, Madam Speaker, my bill does not impose any arbitrary deadlines or requirements of the DoD. Rather, this legislation focuses on gathering the data we need to know what is feasible, what we'll need to get it done, and how much time it will take, so that Congress can make informed decisions in the future. This is the right way to move forward, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

June 18, 2020

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Introduction of the *Farm-to-Market Road Repair Act***

Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the *Farm-to-Market Road Repair Act*, legislation that will expand eligibility for the Surface Transportation Block Grant program to include rural roads that serve to transport agriculture products from farms or ranches to the marketplace.

American agricultural communities play a pivotal role in the economy within my district and across America. These farms and ranches provide the communities they serve with fresh products daily, ensuring consumers have an adequate and healthy food supply. Unfortunately, many of the roads are deteriorating.

Over 70 percent of our nation's total road mileage is in rural areas, yet, between 2009 and 2015, these roads have only seen about 37 percent of federal highway fund. As Congress debates how to move forward with a bold plan to address infrastructure, we need to ensure road-repair projects like these do not fall by the wayside as we seek to address other larger infrastructure projects. Just because a road is in a rural area does not mean the road is small or otherwise unimportant. To the contrary, I am aware of several rural road projects in my district and the surrounding region that are major connectors that would benefit from this type of funding opportunity.

My bill expands the current surface block grant program to include these roads--roads that serve as a lifeline to the people that depend on them. We must invest in our rural infrastructure now, before it is in complete disrepair. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

**June 22, 2020**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Celebrating the Life and Memory of Mr. Andrew James**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and express sadness over the passing of Mr. Andrew James. Mr. James was a chronically homeless man who spent nearly 20 years suffering on the streets, vulnerable and struggling with mental illness. He was able to find hope, treatment, and housing security through the help of The Lord's Place. The staff that worked with him at The Lord's Place described him as a "gentle soul, showing nothing but kindness to all he met, despite being treated unjustly while on the streets."

After receiving assistance through The Lord's Place, Mr. James flourished. He was placed in a supportive housing program and was connected to mental health care, but it was the connection to others that made all the difference in his life. He loved others and they certainly loved him too.

Mr. James passed away with dignity, in his own home on May 15, 2020. I extend my heartfelt condolences to all who were lucky enough to know Mr. Andrew James. He will be dearly missed.

**June 22, 2020**

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Florida's First Woman Senate President Gwen Margolis**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of my dear friend, Florida's first woman Senate President, Gwen Margolis. Gwen was a trailblazing figure in Florida and Miami-Dade politics, who dedicated her life to public service. During this time of great sadness and loss, it is helpful to reflect on the wonderful life she led. Gwen's reputation for honesty, kindness, and generosity made her the loving mother, great friend, and respected public official that she was. She was an excellent role model, not just for people wanting to follow in her footsteps, but for everyone in our community.

Gwen compiled an exemplary record as a Miami-Dade County Commissioner, including time as that body's first female chair. She also served multiple terms in the Florida legislature. Gwen was beloved throughout South Florida and will always be remembered for her selfless dedication to public service.

Madam Speaker, I extend my heartfelt condolences to Gwen's family and friends. As we honor the life and legacy of Senator Gwen Margolis, we will always be grateful for the glass ceilings she shattered and her indelible mark in history. I pray that her family finds comfort during this extremely difficult time. She will be dearly missed.

July 9, 2020

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Alan S. Becker**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of my dear friend, co-founder of Becker and Poliakoff law firm, Alan S. Becker. Alan's quest for a law degree brought him to Florida where he attended the University of Miami School of Law. Alan graduated in 1969 and scored the highest grade on that years legal Bar exam. Early in his career he worked in the Office of the Attorney General and as an assistant public defender.

At the age of 26, Alan became the youngest person elected to the Florida House of Representatives, serving three terms from 1972 to 1978. Alan pioneered community association law with his long-time business partner, Gary Poliakoff, initially working out of the trunk of a car representing condo owners. Their law firm has since grown into one of the largest in Florida, with offices in New York, New Jersey, and Washington, D.C.

The official accolades and honors for Alan are too numerous to count, however, I want to highlight a few. Alan passed the Czech Republic Bar exam in 1992 and served as honorary counsel there until 2016. He was a passionate writer, teacher and painter. He authored two books, taught "The Business of Law" at the University of Miami School of Law, and lectured on leadership at Keiser University. Alan sat on the Board of Directors for Enterprise Florida and received the Governor's Business Ambassador Medallion for his contributions to economic development.

Madam Speaker, Alan was a lifelong Democrat, but always reached across the aisle and worked in conjunction with others to find the best solution for our community, a quality that I honor and respect and is one of the many outstanding qualities of his character that made me proud to call him a friend. I extend my heartfelt condolences to Alan's family and friends and I pray that they find comfort during this extremely difficult time. Alan will be dearly missed.

July 23, 2020

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Congratulating His Excellency Faycal Gouia on the Conclusion of His Tenure as Tunisia's  
Ambassador to the United States**

Madam Speaker, I rise today as the co-chair of the Tunisia Caucus, a caucus I have had the pleasure of co-chairing with my friend, Congressman David Schweikert of Arizona,

As co-chairs of the Tunisia Caucus, we wish to extend our deepest gratitude and highest praise to His Excellency Faycal Gouia, Tunisia's Ambassador to the United States, as he concludes his impressive and valuable ambassadorship.

The Ambassador's career has been as impressive as it has been dedicated to the people of Tunisia--a more dedicated son to his mother country would be difficult to find.

Ambassador Gouia has multiple degrees and has studied at the National Defense University in the United States as well as the National Defense Institute in Tunis. With his impressive educational credentials, Ambassador Gouia has represented his country the world over including Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei, and of course, the United States.

Fortunately for the next generation of Tunisian diplomats, the Ambassador has shared his deep and broad experience with students at the Diplomatic Institute for Training and Studies of Tunis and at the High Institute of Human Sciences, University of Tunis. This is an invaluable opportunity for these students and does a great service for Tunisia's standing around the world--a standing as revered as it is today in large part because of Ambassador Gouia's diligent and meaningful work on behalf of the people of Tunisia and their government.

Madam Speaker, on a personal note, the co-chairs have enjoyed immensely their meetings and dinners with the Ambassador. His insights are always enlightening as we all work to make stronger the solid and long-lasting bond between the United States and Tunisia. It is a friendship borne long ago that has only grown stronger over the years as both countries dedicate themselves to the cause of liberty, justice, and democracy.

Madam Speaker, we again thank the Ambassador for his counsel, integrity, and friendship and wish him, his wife, and his two daughters, nothing but peace and prosperity as they embark on their latest journey.

August 7, 2020

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Celebrating the Life and Legacy of John W. Ruffin, Jr.**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of my dear friend and fraternity brother, John W. Ruffin, Jr. John was a natural born leader who understood the importance of education and his duty to give back to the community. He passed away peacefully on Friday, July 24, 2020, surrounded by his loving family.

John first moved to South Florida in 1980 as an executive with Food Fair/Pantry Pride, Inc. His entrepreneurial spirit always drove him to start his own businesses. He made this dream a reality when, in 1986, he and his business partner purchased WRBD, establishing the first black-owned radio station in South Florida. John and his wife, Dottie, fanned a partnership with a travel retailer and to this day operate shops throughout Florida, while also providing consultation services to new businesses.

As a philanthropist, John tirelessly advocated for a number of community and civic groups. As Chairman of the United Negro College Fund, he helped raise more than two million dollars in scholarships for Broward County students. He also served as the Chairman of the Urban League of Broward County, and Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Florida Memorial University. As Chairman and Board Member of the Internet Coast Initiative Council he helped to provide high tech access to underserved communities in South Florida. John's dedication to helping those less fortunate is inspiring and his presence in South Florida will be missed.

Madam Speaker, John always gave back to the community, earning him numerous awards. He truly was selfless and determined to make a difference in the lives he touched. I extend my heartfelt condolences to John's family and friends, during this extremely sad time. John's legacy and loving memory will always live on. He will be dearly missed.

September 11, 2020

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Congratulating Ms. Jailene Francois for Winning the 2020 Congressional Art Competition  
in Florida's 20<sup>th</sup> Congressional District**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Jailene Francois for submitting the winning entry in the 2020 Congressional Art Competition for Florida's 20th Congressional District. Jailene is a 10th grader at Millennium 6-12 Collegiate Academy in Tamarac, Florida. Her photograph, entitled "Oppression," represents the oppression faced by people of color in America. The piece features a black and white photograph of a small African-American girl, crying, with a white X across her lips.

Typically, we would recognize and congratulate young artists from Congressional Districts throughout the United States with a celebration here in the Capitol. This year is anything but typical. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced millions of American to cancel or postpone their celebrations and we in Congress are not exempt.

Madam Speaker, I take great pride in honoring Jailene for her inspiring art work, which will be displayed on Capitol Hill for the next year.

September 21, 2020

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Recognition of Melissa and David Comras as a 2020 *Angels in Adoption* Honoree**

Madam Speaker, it is my great privilege to rise today to honor Melissa and David Comras, for their extraordinary contributions to the lives of children and teenagers in the foster care system.

Melissa and David were recognized as a 2020 *Angels in Adoption* by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI). The Comras family has a strong history of involvement with both adoption and foster care. Melissa began her career helping children as a Guardian Ad Litem 20 years ago, when she began working with teenagers aging out of the foster care system. She is a fierce advocate for the rights of teens and guides them through the process of the independent living program through their 18th birthday and beyond. By opening their home and, most importantly, their hearts, through their personal experience with fostering and adopting their daughter Amelia, and by fighting for children who are at their most vulnerable as they age out of the foster system. Melissa and David truly exemplify Angels in Adoption.

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 their commitment to improving the lives of children in need of permanent, loving homes.

Madam Speaker, I am so very proud of Melissa and David Comras for all the work that they have done in our community. I wish them the best as they continue their work to make the dream of a forever family a reality for so many children in need.

October 9, 2020

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

***The Comprehensive Breast Reconstruction Act of 2020***

Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the *Comprehensive Breast Reconstruction Act of 2020*. This bill would provide breast cancer patients the option to have comprehensive reconstruction, including nipple-areola complex tattooing.

Approximately 275,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in the United States this year. As surgical options have improved in recent decades, the number of women pursuing breast reconstruction has continued to increase. In 2019 alone, 107,238 breast reconstructive procedures were performed in the United States--a 36 percent increase since 2000 when 78,832 procedures were performed. Post-mastectomy breast reconstruction is now universally recognized as a gold standard component of comprehensive breast cancer treatment. Breast reconstruction has been proven to significantly improve a woman's psychological and physical well-being, providing self-assurance, and affording women a new beginning.

The final stage of breast reconstruction surgery is to the nipple-areolar complex. This results in fully restoring the breast to a natural, symmetric appearance. This is achieved by a combination of tattooing with or without the addition of a surgical procedure to create a nipple. At times, tattooing is the only option for nipple-areolar reconstruction in patients that may have damaged tissue due to radiation therapy or simply want to avoid an additional surgical procedure. Most commonly, nipple-areolar tattooing is performed in a surgeon's office if a woman selects to have tattooing performed, which is not always the case. However, plastic and reconstructive surgeons are increasingly recognizing that professional tattoo artists can achieve superior results, including an impressively realistic 3-D nipple-areola complex tattoo. The price of tattooing can start at approximately \$400 for a single breast and reach as high as \$1,000 for both breasts.

Greater standardization of insurance coverage for nipple-areolar reconstruction across insurance carriers is needed. In order to achieve this consistency, we need to amend the *Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 (WHCRA)*, within the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. Further, we need to enhance the requirements for Medicare and Medicaid through the Social Security Act to protect a woman's right to comprehensive breast reconstruction, including nipple-areola complex tattooing.

My bill will:

Amend the *Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 (WHCRA)* to state that nipple-areola complex tattooing is medical necessary and is a part of breast reconstruction;

Amend the *Social Security Act* to require Medicare to follow the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998;

Amend the *Social Security Act* to add licensed tattoo artists to the list of Medicare providers; and

Amend the *Social Security Act* to require Medicaid to add nipple-areola complex tattooing (as medically necessary) to the list of required services each State must offer relating to breast cancer reconstruction.

Madam Speaker, as you know, breast cancer can affect not only a woman's physical well-being, but also her psychological well-being. Considering the significant role psychological factors can play in patients' overall well-being, it is essential that comprehensive breast reconstruction, including nipple-areola complex tattooing be required coverage by group health insurance companies, Medicare, and Medicaid.

I urge my colleagues to assist women in their fight against breast cancer by supporting this important legislation.

October 13, 2020

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Honoring the Life and Legacy of Alan Levy**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend, and pillar of the South Florida community, Alan Levy. Alan called Fort Lauderdale home for more than 70 years and was the founder, Chief Executive Officer, and President of Great American Farms, a Pompano Beach-based agricultural marketing firm. He passed away on October 7, 2020, at the age of 80.

Alan was a selfless leader who served on numerous nonprofit boards and was a passionate supporter of HANDY, a nonprofit that serves at-risk youth in South Florida. He dedicated a large portion of his life to helping youth and families in our community by ensuring they had every opportunity to succeed, serving as a beacon of hope for the less fortunate.

His dedication and passion for nonprofit organizations was beyond compare. Once he was asked, if he could wave a magic wand and do two things for Broward County what would they be? Alan responded by saying he ``wanted to strengthen our educational system from early childhood all the way through to universities." He continued by saying, ``Seeing is believing. We can't just sit here and wait for somebody else to do it. You've got to get behind it, make the decision that you are going to make it happen, believe in it, and have a passion for its success."

Madam Speaker, Alan did just that, he supported our community, believed in all of us, and because of that unyielding passion, ensured our success and the success of generations to come. It is true that our community has lost a hero, but it is undoubtedly the case that we are better for having had Alan in our lives. I will miss him dearly. I extend my heartfelt condolences to his wife, Marsha, and his children, Eric and Hope. I pray they find comfort during this extremely difficult time. May Alan's life and legacy live on for generations to come.

October 16, 2020

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Introduction of the *Congress Commission Act***

Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the importance of establishing a Congressional Commission to Strengthen Representative Democracy. My legislation, the *Congress Commission Act*, would establish such a commission to analyze the current size of the House of Representatives, examine alternatives to the current method by which Members are elected, and study the harmful effects gerrymandering continues to have on our democracy.

Today, a Member of Congress represents an average of over 740,000 constituents, well over 10 times the number of constituents envisioned by the First Congress. The United States presents itself as the world's leading representative democracy. And yet, the House's weighty representative ratio makes the United States an outlier among the 35 nations in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, most of them highly developed, democratic states.

It has been nearly 110 years since the House of Representatives has increased its ranks even though the United States' population has more than tripled in size. It is time we examine how this institution is constructed, so we can make the necessary changes for a more equitable tomorrow. It is not only within the power of Congress to improve itself, but it has a responsibility to do so. Such an effort as embodied in my proposed Congressional Commission to Strengthen Representative Democracy will result in a Congress that better reflects the constituencies, states, and nation we serve.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this critically important legislation, so that we can better serve the American people.

October 27, 2020

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Honoring the Life and Legacy of Mr. Willie Lee Lawson III**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend and pillar of the South Florida community, Mr. Willie Lee Lawson III. Willie sadly passed away on September 29, 2020. He will be deeply missed by those who knew and loved him. He was born in Americus, Georgia, to parents who instilled in him the importance of serving his community at an early age. Eventually, Willie and his family moved to Pompano Beach, Florida, where he would start to put those lessons to use as a community advocate.

Willie was a selfless leader who served multiple terms as the President of the Miami-Dade and North Broward County NAACP, respectively, and as the Chair of the Minority Business Council, New Alliance of Interactive Leaders & Supporters (NAILS) Founder & President, Advanced Certified Toastmaster, and committee leader for First-Time Homebuyers Program.

His dedication and passion for his community and colleagues was perhaps only outdone by the love he felt for his family. However, even here, Willie took the knowledge and love that came from being a parent and husband and used it to support the people around him. Whether it was a parent in need of help with a child who was in legal trouble, an employee who was wrongfully terminated from their job, or Black children in need of support in school, Willie always made time for anyone who needed his help.

Madam Speaker, I extend my heartfelt condolences to Willie's wife, Marie; and his children, Kimberly, Keisha, Miraj, and Willie. I pray they find comfort during this extremely difficult time. Willie will be dearly missed.

October 27, 2020

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Introduction of the *Armed Forces Deferred Tax Relief Act***

Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the *Armed Forces Deferred Tax Relief Act*, legislation that will require the Department of Defense (DoD) to cover any additional taxes incurred by our brave servicemembers as a result of President Trump's reckless Presidential Memorandum issued on August 8, 2020.

President Trump's Memorandum instructed the Secretary of the Treasury to use his authority to defer Social Security payroll taxes between September 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020. The resulting Internal Revenue Service Notice postpones the collection of these taxes until the period beginning on January 1, 2021 and ends on April 30, 2021. This will result in our servicemembers paying double the tax, or 12.4 percent, each month of the first quarter of 2021.

Many private businesses have opted out of the deferral, but the DoD has forced our servicemembers to participate, sticking them with a large tax bill coming due in the new year. My legislation will require the DoD to reimburse our servicemembers for any additional taxes withheld as a result of this Administration's willful ignorance.

November 12, 2020

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Recognizing the Importance of the Bilateral Relationship Between the United States and Kazakhstan**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of the bilateral relationship between the United States and Kazakhstan. This has been a key relationship for the United States ever since Kazakhstan established its independence almost 30 years ago. The Republic of Kazakhstan's first president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, oversaw Kazakhstan's emergence as the economic leader of Central Asia, and the United States' key ally in the region, as evidenced in part by the fact that U.S. companies are the largest source of direct foreign investment in Kazakhstan. This is in large part due to the fact Kazakhstan has implemented reform and liberalization policies that have strengthened the bond between our two countries.

Similarly, Kazakhstan has embarked on a path of political reforms to match its successful economic reforms and is taking an increasingly visible role in global affairs. As Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I must highlight the fact that Kazakhstan chaired the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in 2010 and led the U.N. Security Council in 2017-2018. In 2018, President Nazarbayev visited Washington, D.C., in connection with the announcement of an Enhanced Strategic Partnership for the 21st Century between Kazakhstan and the United States. The countries agreed to heightened cooperation on political and security issues, including those related to Afghanistan and other defense initiatives, terrorism, extremism, the rule of law, and human rights.

On November 30th, Kazakhstan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be hosting a conference to review former President Nazarbayev's long career and highlight his efforts and accomplishments in establishing Kazakhstan as a global leader in a number of important areas. Perhaps most notably is the former president's unbending dedication to advancing the principles of nuclear nonproliferation, a stance that has made the entire world a safer place for this and future generations.

I also applaud current President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's efforts to prioritize additional political reforms that will increase transparency and make the government more responsive to all of Kazakhstan's citizens.

Madam Speaker, as former President Nazarbayev celebrates his 80th birthday and the people of Kazakhstan approach the celebration of their country's 30th anniversary, I wish all people of Kazakhstan nothing but peace, prosperity, and continued blessings.

November 16, 2020

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Marking World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims**

Madam Speaker, on behalf of myself and Congressman Richard Hudson, Co-Chairs of the International Road Safety Caucus, I rise today to mark the 25th World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. This day of remembrance is a day to commemorate the millions of people who have lost their lives or been injured on the world's roads. It is also a day to thank emergency responders for their role in responding to emergencies and saving lives on roads and highways across the globe; a day to reflect on the impact of road traffic deaths and injuries on families and communities; and a day to draw attention to the need for improved legislation, awareness, infrastructure, technology, and international cooperation to save more families from the tragedy of losing a loved one.

More than one million people die from road crashes every year, and tens of millions are seriously injured. Road traffic crashes are the number one killer of young people aged 15 to 29 and the eighth leading cause of death among all people worldwide. Rochelle Sobel, President of the Association for Safe International Road Travel, highlighted the gravity of this issue and the imperative to fix it: Every 27 seconds, somewhere in the world, a person dies in a road crash.

On this 25th anniversary of World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, it is important to remember the history and recommit to the goals of this day. It was initiated in 1995 as the European Day of Remembrance and quickly spread around the globe to countries in Africa, South America, and Asia. In 2005 the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 60/2, recognizing November 15th as the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. Since that time, the observance of this day has continued to spread to a growing number of countries on every continent.

This year, the stated goals of World Day of Remembrance 2020 include remembering all people killed and seriously injured on the roads; acknowledging the crucial work of the emergency services; advocating for better support to road traffic victims and their families; and promote evidence-based actions to prevent and eventually stop further road traffic deaths and injuries.

Indeed, the day has become an important call to attention and an advocacy tool in global efforts to reduce road casualties. As a result of the growing awareness and global call to action that World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims has generated, in September 2020, the United Nations passed a resolution declaring the years 2021 to 2030 a new Decade of Action for Road Safety. The declaration affirms the UN's commitment to work vigorously to implement a new, ambitious agenda to halve road crash deaths by 2030.

Additionally, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3.6 calls on governments and their stakeholders, including NGOs and private citizens, to address the personal, medical, and financial burdens associated with road traffic deaths and injuries.

In every Congressional district across America, families lose loved ones to road traffic crashes at home and abroad. It is an issue that affects every demographic and almost every mode of mobility, leaving behind profound trauma and economic impacts.

In Florida's 20th Congressional district and North Carolina's 8th Congressional district, road traffic crashes claimed 1,947 and 669 lives respectively between 2014 and 2018, costing an estimated combined \$27 billion in medical expenses, lost wages, vehicle damages, administrative costs, and uninsured costs. Not to mention pain, anguish, and devastation of losing a child, parent, sibling, partner, friend, caregiver, or caretaker; the struggle of having to care for a permanently disabled loved one--these are incalculable. Those of us who have lost loved ones in a crash know all too well the ongoing pain that this tragedy causes families and communities.

Road traffic crashes are preventable. We owe it to our communities to work together so that the hopes and dreams of our loved ones are not shattered on the roads of the United States and the world. Today, we call on our colleagues in the United States Congress, Executive Branch agencies, and every community in America to remember, support, and act to prevent these avoidable tragedies and save lives.

December 03, 2020

**Speech of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings of Florida in the House of Representatives**

**Honoring the Life and Legacy of Ms. Sheila Paul**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ms. Sheila Paul. Sheila loved three things in her life: God, her family, and serving others. As a devoted member of the Usher and Diaconess teams for over 40 years, it is clear that Sheila's incredibly strong and caring soul made her a central part of her community. We have lost a great leader, a tremendous mother, and a dear friend.

Sheila dedicated her life to God and to others. She radiated a vibrant, tenacious spirit that made it known she was a child of God, drove her to serve, and that infected others. Her spirituality was present in everything she did and anyone that met her knew she was grounded in her faith. Her courage and determination was evident when she journeyed from Saint Louis du Nord, Haiti to Freeport, Bahamas and finally to the United States. She embodied the immigrant spirit and the American dream. Sheila carried her successful business to Fort Lauderdale, and expanded it into a thriving storefront and ventured into real estate, forever embedding her legacy in the community.

Sheila forged strong connections with everyone she met and exemplified what it means to be a child of Christ through her generosity and kindness. She would feed anyone who came to her house and extended her hand to anyone in need. She always went above and beyond to improve the lives of those around her.

To Sheila, family was of the upmost importance. She was the proud wife of the late Alberto Michael Joseph and the proud mother of eight biological children: Alberta, Duval, Rosianne, Ilinda, Ancelot (AJ), Guillene, Bernadette, and Carole. As an immigrant she faced many hardships and made great sacrifices for her children, and strove to improve the circumstances of all, so they may benefit from an education, an opportunity she valued immensely. In addition to her immediate family, she was the adopted mother to hundreds of children which she considered her own. Sheila was a caring and selfless mother to all who had the privilege to know her. She was a true trailblazer, a steady leader and caregiver, and lived her life the way we should all strive to, with an abundance of love.

Madam Speaker, Ms. Sheila Paul has indeed left an indelible mark on her loved ones and her community, and it will be present for future generations to come. She will be dearly missed.

**Constituent Correspondence**

**Total Letters Received**

**81,000**

**Top Issues**

**COVID-19**

**Post Office**

**Tax Reform**

**Immigration**

**Impeachment**

**Net Neutrality**