

# Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D.

## 2019 Annual Year End Report



Serving the 26th District of Texas

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### A Glimpse of 2019

Republican Leader on the Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Health

Participated in **more than 30** hearings and markups in the Energy and Commerce Committee

Participated in more than **50** hearings in the Rules Committee

Cast **687** votes, a **98%** vote attendance record

Authored and introduced **31** pieces of legislation

Cosponsored **98** pieces of legislation

Resolved **more than 500** cases with federal agencies on behalf of constituents

Received and responded to more than **50,000** pieces of correspondence

Signed more than **60** letters on issues ranging from health care to energy to national security

Traveled more than **3,870** miles in North Texas

Held or attended more than **339** meetings

Assisted in having **more than 100** American flags flown over the U.S. Capitol

Honored **18** outstanding student constituents entering the U.S. Service Academies

Participated in **38** radio interviews and **32** television interviews

Issued more than **100** press releases and **17** weekly video addresses

Wrote **5** OpEds and gave **more than 20** newspaper interviews



## About Me

In 2003, I was elected to serve the constituents of the 26th District of Texas in the United States House of Representative. Before coming to Congress, I practiced medicine in North Texas for nearly three decades.

I currently serve on the esteemed House Energy and Commerce Committee and powerful Rules Committee. In the 116th Congress, I assumed the role of Republican Leader of the Subcommittee on Health and continued to serve on the Subcommittees on Oversight and Investigation and Consumer Protection and Commerce. In 2009, I founded the Congressional Health Caucus to promote market principles in delivery of health care.

Because of my medical background, I have been a strong advocate for health care legislation aimed at reducing health care costs, improving choices, reforming liability laws to put the needs of patients first, and ensuring there are enough doctors in the public and private sector to care for America's patients and veterans. I also have played an important role in bipartisan efforts to ensure the safety of food, drugs, and consumer products, and have introduced legislation to strengthen our ability to stop dangerous goods and products from coming into this country. I continue focus on the cost and complexity of health care, and ensuring that patients have more rather than fewer choices.



As a member of Congress representing one of the fastest-growing areas of the country, transportation is also a top priority. During my time on Capitol Hill, I have worked to build, maintain, and improve the safety of our roads, bridges, air service, and transit in the North Texas region.

I believe Americans deserve a federal government that is more efficient, more effective, less costly, and always transparent. I am a proponent of a flat tax and have introduced a flat tax bill, H.R. 1040, every term I have served in Congress. I follow a strict adherence to the Constitution and oppose unnecessary expansion of the federal government's control over the personal freedoms of Americans. Instead, I believe in giving people more control over their lives and their money. I am committed to reducing undocumented immigration into our country and have taken action to ensure our borders are secure and our immigration laws are enforced. I strongly oppose any proposal to grant amnesty to undocumented immigrants.

During my time on Capitol Hill, I have earned a reputation as a problem-solver who seeks sensible solutions to the challenges Americans face and have received several awards including: the Guardian of Small Business award from the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB); the Spirit of Enterprise award from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; and the Taxpayer Hero award from the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste; among others.

Today, I represent the majority of Denton County and parts of Tarrant County. I was raised in Denton, and attended The Selwyn School, graduating in 1968 as valedictorian. In addition, I graduated with both an undergraduate and a master's degree from North Texas State University, now the University of North Texas. I earned my M.D. from the University of Texas Medical School in Houston and completed my residency programs at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. I also earned a master's degree in Medical Management from the University of Texas at Dallas, and in May 2009, was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Public Service from the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center.

My wife, Laura, and I have been married for 46 years. We have three children and two grandsons.

## About the 26th District

The 26th United States Congressional District of Texas is located in the heart of North Texas. The 26th District includes most of Denton County, as well as large portions of Tarrant County, and a sliver of Dallas County. Cities within the 26th Congressional District include:

- In Denton County, I represent the cities of Argyle, Aubrey, Bartonville, Celina, Copper Canyon, Corinth, Cross Roads, Denton, DISH, Double Oak, Draper, Flower Mound, Frisco, Hackberry, Haslet, Hickory Creek, Highland Village, Justin, Krugerville, Krum, Lake Dallas, Lakewood Village, Lewisville, Lincoln Park, Little Elm, Northlake, Oak Point, Pilot Point, Ponder, Prosper, Providence Village, Roanoke, Sanger, Shady Shores, The Colony and Trophy Club.
- In Tarrant County, I represent the cities of Haltom City, Haslet, Keller, North Richland Hills, Watauga, Westlake, and Fort Worth.

The 26th United States Congressional District of Texas continues to flourish. Census Bureau data report a 20 percent increase in the Denton County population since April 2010. Rapid growth and business expansions from Dallas and the Tarrant County area make the District a thriving economic center. The University of North Texas, Texas Woman's University, North Central Texas College, and Midwestern State University anchor a large student base within the District.

Energy, agriculture and farming remain essential to the 26th District. Home to Barnett Shale, the largest field of natural gas reserves in the country, clean energy production occurs across the district. Agriculture also plays an important role in the 26th District, as ranchers raise horses, beef cattle, sheep and goats, while farmers grow corn, wheat, hay, and other crops.

The 26th District also is home to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Region VI Headquarters in Denton, Texas, which provides assistance to a five-state region: Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and New Mexico. Its mission is to reduce the loss of life and property, and to protect institutions through an emergency management program of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. It is also home to the Denton Mobile Emergency Response Support Detachment.

The Federal Aviation Administration's Southwest Regional Office manages the leadership, safety and capacity and operational integrity for the 26th District's Lakeview Airport, Denton Municipal Airport, Northwest Regional Airport, and Alliance Airport as part of the FAA's broader five-state regional responsibilities. Housing large segments of the East and West I-35 corridors, the 26th District remains a vital artery for Texas and international transportation. The 26th District also sports the Texas Motor Speedway, which hosts two Nextel-NASCAR events in the spring and fall.



## About the 26th District continued

### Constituent Services

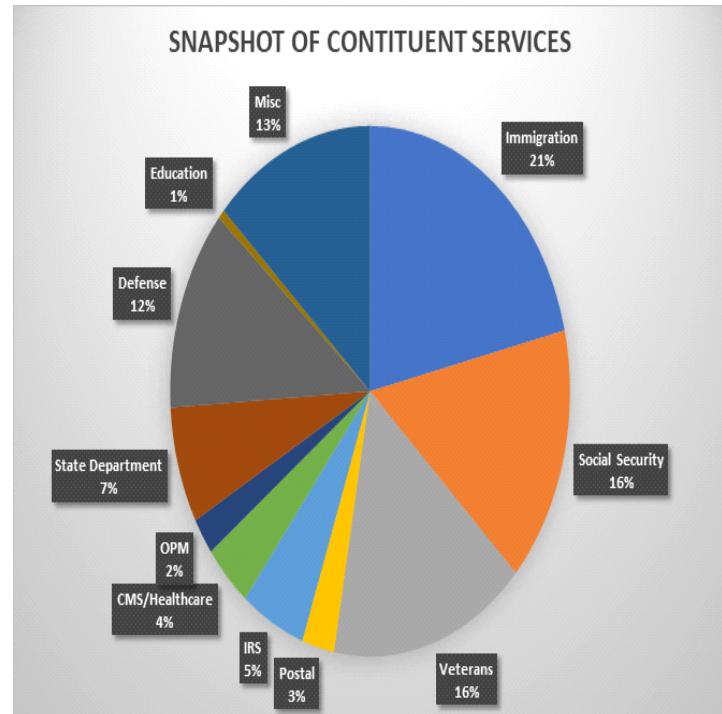
One of the most important things I do as your U.S. Representative is help you gain access to and information about the federal government. Although I cannot override the decisions made by a federal agency, I can often intervene on a person's behalf to answer questions, find solutions, or just cut through the red tape.

Throughout 2019, 487 constituents from the district received assistance in the form of a Congressional Inquiry to address an issue or concern with a federal agency. Additionally, I was able to resolve 535 concerns throughout the year. Some of the more frequent topics I assisted with included benefits from the Social Security Administration, the Affordable Care Act, Department of Veterans Affairs, Internal Revenue Service and United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. In addition, my office referred 1,077 constituents with various state and local issues to the appropriate entities. I sent 2,128 correspondences via mail providing casework updates and informational referrals. More than 50% of the constituents who contacted my office with concerns relating to a federal agency resided in Lewisville, Denton, Frisco, Flower Mound, Little Elm, The Colony and NE Tarrant County\*. Through the casework process, I was able to get \$1,364,196 released to constituents within the 26th Congressional District, owed to them in such ways such as retroactive SSA/VA payments, tax refunds, erroneous debt collection, burial funds, compensation benefits, and debt forgiveness.

### Top Cities:

- Lewisville: 89
- Denton: 62
- Frisco: 37
- Flower Mound: 35
- Little Elm: 34
- Argyle: 15
- The Colony: 12
- North East Tarrant County\*: 81

\*Fort Worth, Watauga, Keller, North Richland Hills, Haltom City, Northlake, Roanoke



## About the District continued

### Tours, Internships, and Flags

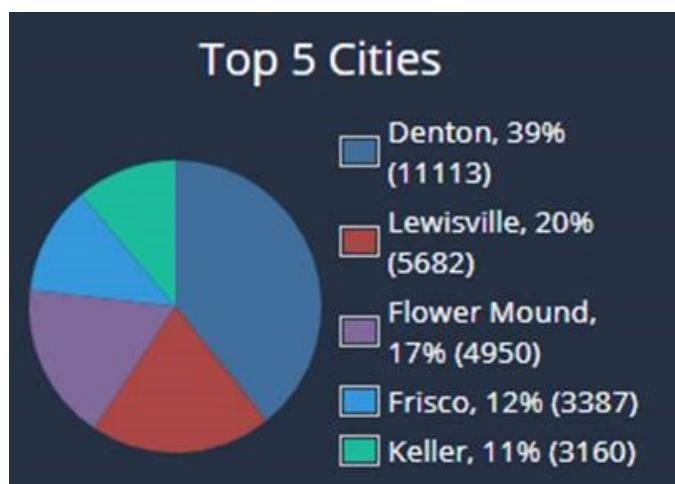
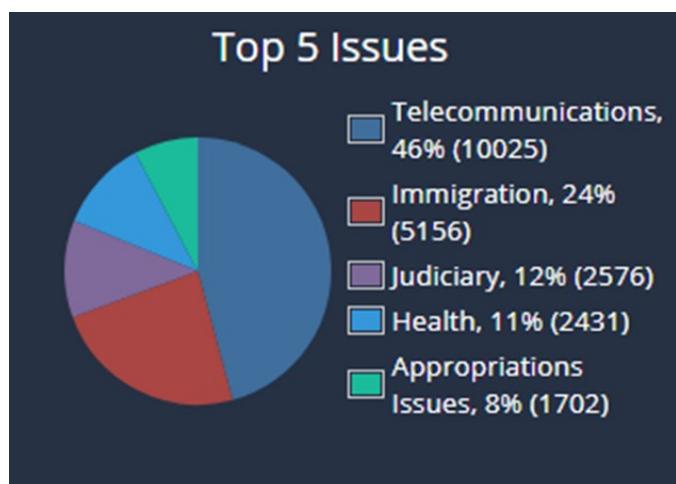
More than 3,000 26th District residents let my D.C. office know they were visiting our Nation's Capital this year. As a result, over 400 families and groups received a tour of the U.S. Capitol and more than 280 received a White House tour. In addition, my office assisted in having more than 100 American flags flown over the U.S. Capitol.

My two offices hosted 22 college and high school interns; these students came from the University of North Texas, Texas Tech University, Baylor University, Texas A&M University, Texas Woman's University, the University of Texas at Austin and Indiana University School of Law, and Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law as well as Argyle High School, Coram Deo Academy (Flower Mound), Flower Mound High School, Liberty Christian School (Argyle), Ursuline Academy (Dallas).

### Correspondence with Constituents of the 26<sup>th</sup> District of Texas

Since the beginning of 2018, more than 50,000 North Texans have contacted me through email, letters, phone calls, and faxes, to express their concerns and communicate their opinions to me on various topics.

Telecommunications policy was by far the most common topic of communication with more than 10,000 pieces of correspondence received. That issue was followed by concerns over Immigration, with more than 5,000 pieces of correspondence, and Judicial issues, with more than 2,500 pieces of correspondence.



### Special Recognition

#### **U.S. Service Academies:**

On April 13th, I co-hosted the annual North Texas Academies Forum at The Colony High School with 11 other Congressional offices to inform high school students about the U.S. Service Academies. More than 600 students and parents attended. Students requesting nominations to the U.S. Service Academies are rigorously evaluated on a variety of criteria including academic performance, leadership qualifications and physical preparedness. Appointments to an academy must be preceded by a nomination from a Member of Congress, Academy Superintendent, the Vice President or a military connected nomination. The exception is the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, where a nomination is not required for consideration; appointments are based upon a competitive nationwide admissions process. The 26th District Service Academy Board is comprised of academy graduates and community representatives. The Board meets annually to provide comprehensive screenings and conduct personal interviews and recommends outstanding service academy candidates to me for nomination.

On June 7th, 18 outstanding students residing in the 26th District of Texas who accepted appointments to the U.S. Service Academies were honored at a reception hosted by the City of The Colony. These young men and women are attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY, the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY, and the U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, CO. I presented the appointees with a Special Certificate of Congressional Recognition and an American flag flown over the U.S. Capitol in honor of their appointments. Special guests were two recent graduates of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY: 2nd LT Downon Park of Fort Worth and 2nd LT Seth Sowalskie of Frisco.

## About the District continued

### **2019 Congressional Veteran Commendation:**

The Congressional Veteran Commendation (CVC) was created in 2005 to honor the distinguished living veterans of Texas' 26th District. This year's commendations were presented on November 9th at the annual "Salute Our Veterans" luncheon sponsored by the Highland Village Business Association and the City of Highland Village. Nominations were solicited from the public, peer reviewed by the CVC Board and five local veterans were selected to receive this year's Congressional Veteran Commendation. I was pleased to present a commendation and flag flown over the U.S. Capitol to each of the 2019 recipients:

**Sharon Balsley** – U.S. Army (Corinth)

**Carlos Gallardo** – U.S. Air Force (Frisco)

**Tom Kim** - U.S. Navy (Highland Village)

**Robert Kohankie II** – U.S. Navy (Flower Mound)

**James Trombley** – U.S. Marine Corps (Frisco)



### **Veterans History Project:**

The Library of Congress' Veterans History Project collects, preserves, and makes accessible the firsthand accounts of America's veterans so that future generations may learn about veterans' experiences in their own words. As your Congressman, I am committed to supporting the

45,000 veterans who reside in the 26th District - including giving them an opportunity to tell their stories. All veterans who reside in the 26th Congressional District are encouraged to contact my Lake Dallas office to be interviewed for the Veterans History Project. Since this summer, my staff has conducted interviews with fifteen local veterans.

### **High School Art Competition:**

The 17th annual 26th District Art Competition was open to public, private and home-schooled high school students residing in or attending schools in the district. Entries were submitted digitally by art teachers on behalf of their students. This provided an opportunity for a "Texas Choice" winner to be selected by popular vote in a virtual gallery on my website. Ms. Amanda Choi was the winner of this category for her artwork entitled "Hot 'n Cold". She is a junior attending Westlake Academy and her art instructor is Gail James. Professional artist Millie Giles served as the competition judge. Giles reviewed the posted artwork online and determined the contest finalists based upon artistic merit, selecting a "Best of School" award for one student from each school as well as additional "Jurors Choice" awards based upon her appraisal of artwork that had a high level of artistic merit and execution. I honored the finalists with a "Certificate of Congressional Recognition" at a reception on April 24.



## About the District continued

at the Patterson-Appleton Art Center in Denton hosted by the art competition's co-sponsor, The Greater Denton Arts Council. Ms. Anu Lal, a sophomore art student of Chana Jayme at Lewisville High School, won the Grand Prize in the 2019 competition with her photograph entitled "Dawn." As the Grand Prize winner, Ms. Lal's artwork is displayed for an entire year in the U.S. Capitol. In addition, Ms. Sarah Wainwright, a senior at Aubrey High School and a student of Andrew Scott, won First Place for her drawing entitled "Framework." Her artwork will be displayed in my Lake Dallas district office for the next year.



### **Library of Congress Surplus Books Project:**

Over the summer, my district office staff distributed books that were received from the Library of Congress' Surplus Book Program to several of the smaller municipal libraries in the district.

Aubrey Area Library – 8 Books

Pilot Point Community Library – 25 Books

Betty Foster Ponder Public Library – 21 Books

Justin Community Library – 57 Books

Lake Dallas Public Library – 83 books

Roanoke Public Library – 24 books

University of North Texas Library – 1 Book (antique US Treasury architecture reference volume.)

### Events and Meetings

#### **Breakdown of meetings**

##### **In District Constituent Meetings: 32**

**Trump:** 5

**First Lady:** 1

**Administration:** 41

**Transpiration:** 4

**Education:** 14

**Immigration:** 30

**Telecom:** 3

**Energy:** 3

**Veterans:** 6

**Miscellaneous:** 34

##### **Health care: 142**

**Remarks:** 27 events

**Miles driven (through 10/31):** 3,870

**Awards:** 5

1. Family Research Council: February 2019

2. NRF & TRA Hero of Main: Street April 2019

3. TEXO (ABC Eagle): June 2019

4. The Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease: 2019

Champion for Healthy Seniors: September 2019

5. American Life Sciences Innovation Council 2019 Champion of Health Care Innovation: December 2019

## About the District continued

In 2019, I held two town hall meetings: in July at Westside Baptist Church in Lewisville, and in August at Heritage Church of Christ in Fort Worth. I also conducted two summits that brought leaders from local, state and federal levels together to address key issues facing North Texans. In addition, I hosted the annual High School Art Competition and co-hosted the North Texas Service Academies Forum. In the fall, my office hosted the Congressional App Challenge, open to middle and high school students residing or attending schools in the 26th District.

### **Emergency Preparedness Summit:**

The 11th Annual Emergency Preparedness Summit was held on March 23rd at the Trophy Club Town Hall. The weather keynote speakers, Dan Henry, Chief Meteorologist for KDFW/Fox4, and Jennifer Dunn, Warning & Coordination Meteorologist for the National Weather Service - Weather Forecast Office DFW, discussed "Making Sense of North Texas Weather." The event included a community preparedness panel with local, regional, state, and federal emergency preparedness managers as well as a personal preparedness panel delivering practical applications. The event also included an indoor fair where exhibitors distributed helpful consumer information to educate families on how to be personally prepared to meet all hazards at home, school and work.

### **Energy Efficiency Summit:**

The 12th Annual Energy Efficiency Summit was held July 13th at the University of North Texas' Discovery Park in Denton. The keynote address was delivered by Texas State Senator Kelly Hancock, Chair of the Senate Business & Commerce Committee and Vice-Chair of the Transportation Committee. A panel comprised of industry experts addressed energy savings and energy efficiency in home construction and improvements. The Energy Efficiency Fair provided additional opportunities for constituents to engage with exhibitors and learn about renewable energy, solar initiatives, alternative fuels and reduction of their carbon footprints, in addition to viewing fuel efficient vehicles like the UNT special events solar trailer.

### **Department of Veterans Affairs Denton Mental Health Annex:**

To address the lacking mental health care needs of Denton County veterans, I worked with the Honorable Robert Wilkie, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), to open a new VA Behavioral Health facility in Denton, Texas. As one of the largest veterans' population in the state of Texas, additional mental health resources were greatly needed. As a result, I facilitated communications between VA officials, the United Way of Denton County and local community leaders who located and secured space for a facility in Denton where VA counseling and other services could be provided. Towards this objective, the *VA Denton Behavioral Health Annex* was established and opened July 8, 2019, as an expansion of the VA Denton Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC). This amazing 4,800 sq. foot facility can now service Denton County's 40,000/+ veterans and provide quality care close to home with a team of 11 psychiatrists, psychologists, physicians, social workers and administrative professionals.



GEORGE W. BUSH

August 2, 2019

Greetings to those gathered in Denton, Texas, to celebrate the opening of the Veterans Behavioral Health Clinic.

Americans are forever indebted to the men and women who have bravely worn the uniform of the United States in defense of our freedom. Through their service, often in difficult and dangerous circumstances, our veterans have developed unique and valuable skills. They are a priceless national asset who have a lot more to offer our country as civilians.

As they transition out of the Armed Forces, they may need help bridging the military civilian divide. Some need help overcoming their wounds of war – both visible and invisible. I want our veterans to know that I believe that it is courageous to seek help. The good news is, Americans want to help, and excellent resources are available.

The Bush Institute is committed to helping veterans through our Military Service Initiative. Our Warrior Wellness Alliance helps connect high-quality care providers and veteran peer networks across our country. Thanks to the efforts of Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D., the United Way of Denton County, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Veterans Behavioral Health Clinic will be a wonderful resource in North Texas.

Laura and I are grateful to all who helped make this important place a reality. We send our best wishes on this special occasion. May God bless our veterans, and may God continue to bless America.

## About the District continued

### **Events of Interest:**

Feb 4: Ericson Ribbon Cutting (telecom)  
State of the Union: Guest: Chris Odette  
Feb 19: Border Visit  
March 5: Texas Medical Assoc Building Dedication (Austin)  
March 13-14: DC Constituent Open house  
March 23: Emergency Prep Summit  
April: District 1 Office Hours  
May 28: Border Visit  
June 11: Medlin MS in DC  
June 28: Border Visit  
July 13: Energy Summit  
July 19: Border Visit  
July 23: Event at Denmark Embassy, RE: Alzheimer's  
July 29: Sept 11 bill signing at WH  
July 30: Townhall  
Aug 1: townhall  
Aug 2: Denton VA Mental Health Ribbon Cutting  
Oct: District Office Hours  
Oct 9: Ericson Groundbreaking (telecom)



## Serving the District



## Glimpse of 2019 Legislative Accomplishments

Participated in more than **30** hearings and markups in the Energy and Commerce Committee

Participated in **19** Subcommittee on Health hearings

Participated in more than **50** hearings in the Rules Committee

Managed **7** Rules on the House Floor consisting of **14** pieces of legislation

Cast **687** votes, a **98%** attendance record

Authored and introduced **31** pieces of legislation

Co-sponsored **98** bills

### **Committee Memberships:**

- House Energy and Commerce Committee
- Subcommittee on Health - Republican Leader
- Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
- Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation
- House Rules Committee
- Republican Study Committee

## Caucus Membership and Committee Assignments

### Caucuses:

Flat Tax (Chairman)	Afghanistan	Horse
Motorcycle (Co-Chair)	Ukraine	General Aviation
Health Care (Chairman)	Taiwan	Automotive Performance & Motorsport
Parkinson's Disease	Navy & Marine Corps	Bike
Cystic Fibrosis	Military Veterans	Boating
Diabetes	Army	India and Indian-American
Dyslexia	Air Force	Bipartisan Task Force to End Sexual Violence
Multiple Sclerosis	Privacy	Research and Development
Bipartisan Pro-Life	Values Action	Black Maternal Health
GOP Doctors	TeamAlzheimer's	Bipartisan Allergy & Asthma
Mental Health		

## CONGRESSIONAL MOTORCYCLE CAUCUS (CMC)

More than 27 million Americans are estimated to operate a motorcycle annually. In 2008, I co-founded the Congressional Motorcycle Caucus with then-Congresswoman Gabby Giffords (D-AZ) to support riders – both on-and-off street – through education and awareness to encourage responsible motorcycling. I now co-chair the caucus with Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI) to support motorcycling by ensuring legislative and executive branch actions treat motorcyclists equitably.

The CMC has weighed in on the composition of the Federal Highway Administration's Motorcyclist Advisory Council, encouraged the U.S. Trade Representative to keep motorcycles off a list of EU retaliatory beef trade tariffs, and introduced legislation promoting motorcycle profiling awareness, among other actions. We also regularly engage with industry groups and rider organizations, including participating in fly-ins.

While the CMC is a motorcycle caucus, we encourage support of not only motorcyclists, but also those interested in safety on our roads and highways, and the enjoyment of all that motorcycling has to offer. Below is a sampling of Congressional Motorcycle Caucus activity from this year:

- On March 26th, I introduced with co-chair Tim Walberg (R-MI) **H.Res. 255, a resolution promoting awareness of motorcycle profiling** and encouraging collaboration and communication with the motorcycling community and law enforcement officials to prevent instances of profiling.
- On April 11th, I led a caucus letter to Heidi King, Deputy Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) at the Department of Transportation, requesting NHTSA's views on the current definition of a motorcycle. Advances in technology have allowed innovative vehicles to share the road with motorcycle and traditional passenger vehicles, but states do not uniformly classify these vehicles creating confusion as to what regulatory standards they must follow.
- On May 1st, I introduced **H.Res. 338, a resolution expressing support for the designation of May 2019 as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month**. This resolution promotes rider education and training and encourages all motorists to safely share the roadway.
- On May 21st, I spoke at the **Motorcycle Riders Foundation** fly-in on the plaza of the Capitol. We discussed H.Res. 255, H.Res. 338, and the advancement of responsible motorcycling by all who enjoy the ride.
- In July, I was **featured in the Motorcycle Riders Foundation magazine as Legislator of the Year** and wrote a column highlighting the accomplishments of the Motorcycle Caucus and the excellent partnership between the caucus and the motorcycling community.
- On June 18th, I cosponsored an **amendment to H.R. 3055, the Transportation and Housing and Urban**

**Development Appropriations Act, 2020**, offered by Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI). This amendment prohibited funds for NHTSA to promote activities by states that would result in profiling motorcycle riders.

## **PRO-LIFE CAUCUS**

I am a member of the Pro-Life Caucus and am engaged on many pro-life efforts. This year, I cosponsored and fought for a full House vote on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act that protects children that are born alive following an abortion or attempted abortion. I signed five letters regarding federal funds used for abortions and funding for pro-life protections. I joined three amicus briefs arguing a legal case for protecting pro-life values and states' rights. Below is a sampling of pro-life focused activity from this year:

- On February 6, 2019 I cosponsored **H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act**, introduced by Rep. Ann Wagner (R-MO). This bill would establish requirements for the degree of care a health care practitioner must exercise in the event a child is born alive following an abortion or attempted abortion.
- On May 10, 2019, I led a letter with **Rep. Martha Roby (R-AL)** and joined by 116 other Members of Congress to Acting Director Norman Sharpless, M.D. of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to thank the agency for their work in limiting the sale of illegal, foreign abortion drugs by mail order.
- In March 2019, I led a group of 75 Members of the House and Senate in sending an **amicus brief urging the en banc Fifth Circuit court to uphold states' sovereign power to determine Medicaid provider qualifications** and exclusions that fit the needs of their citizens, including the ability of States to defund Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers.
- On April 2, 2019, I joined a **motion to discharge a committee from the consideration of a resolution providing for the consideration of H.R. 962 the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act** by the full House.
- On September 10, 2019, I participated in a **Pro-Life Caucus hearing** hosted by Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA) and Rep. Ann Wagner (R-MO) on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.
- On January 15, I signed a **letter led by Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) to President Trump** detailing a number of pro-life policies included in appropriations bills. This letter also requests the President to publicly commit to veto any appropriations bill that would undermine existing pro-life protections.
- On April 3, 2019, I signed a **letter led by Rep. Ron Estes (R-KS) and Rep. Vicki Hartzler (R-MO) to Secretary Alex Azar**, Department of Health and Human Services, supporting the Department's final rule "Compliance with Statutory Program Integrity Requirements," which prohibits federal funds used for family planning from being used for abortions.
- On May 7, 2019, I signed a **letter to the Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Minority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD)** supporting the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits tax-payer funded abortions.
- On May 9, 2019, I signed a **letter to the Comptroller General of the United States, Gene Dodaro**, requesting information on federal funding provided to Planned Parenthood International and several other abortion providers in the United States.
- On October 24, 2019, I signed a **letter to the Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar** asking for an update of the progress in isolating abortion funds and thanking Secretary Azar for his leadership on advancing pro-life policies.
- On April 15, 2019, I joined an **amicus brief to the United States District Court for Maine supporting the Trump Administration's updated Title X rule**. The updated Title X rule requires grantees to be physically and financially separate from abortion providers and does not require that Title X grantees refer for abortion.

- On October 28, 2019, I joined an **amicus brief to Supreme Courts of the United States supporting the Little Sisters of the Poor** and their religious belief and rights not to be compelled by the government to provide contraceptives in their insurance plans.

## **RULES COMMITTEE**

The 116th Congress marked the beginning of my fourth term being appointed by Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy to serve on the powerful House Rules Committee. The minority being led by Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK), the Rules Committee establishes the parameters of debate for every bill considered by the House of Representatives on the House floor. The committee consists of nine Democrats and four Republicans and meets weekly to discuss the floor schedule and consider which bills will be advanced for debate. As a member of this committee, I am in a unique position to influence policy on every aspect of the House agenda, including issues pertaining to health care, energy, immigration, impeachment, federal spending, national security and defense, election security, and consumer and labor protections.

In 2019, the Rules Committee met more than 50 times to debate legislation for floor consideration. I authored and supported key amendments during Rules Committee hearings. In addition, I managed 7 Rules on the House floor. Below are amendments I offered in the Rules Committee this year:

- **Amendment #2 to H.J.Res. 31, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019:** Transfers \$1.8 billion to Customs and Border Protection for construction of fencing in the Rio Grande Valley sector of the Southern border.
- **Amendment #6 to H.R. 1112, Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2019:** Requires a report from the Department of Justice Office of Inspector General on the numbers of NICS denials referred for investigation for falsifying information, the number of prosecutions resulting from these investigations, and the number of firearms recovered by ATF following delayed NICS denial sales.
- **Amendments #67 and #68 to H.R. 1, the For the People Act of 2019:** Requires the Speaker of the House, post-election, to submit tax returns to the Federal Election Commission and requires Members of Congress or candidates for Congress to submit tax returns in place of the financial disclosure reports.
- **Amendments #37 and #38 to H.R. 1585, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019:** Strikes a section titled “Homicide Reduction Initiatives” that deprives individuals of their Second Amendment right without due process and requires recipients of the DNA Backlog Grant program to include best practices on reducing the backlog in their annual report to the Attorney General.
- **Amendment #13 to H.R. 1644, the Save the Internet Act of 2019:** Directs the Government Accountability Office to initiate a study on the influence of all entities on the virtuous cycle of the Internet ecosystem and whether they protect the access of consumers.
  - On April 9th, this amendment passed the House as H.Amdt. 157.
- **Amendments #11 and #12 to H.R. 9, Climate Action Now Act:** Includes findings in the bill that the United States should encourage innovation and technological development to reduce emissions, including carbon-free nuclear power, and requires the President’s plan to meet nationally-determined emission reductions to include carbon-free nuclear power.
- **Amendment #42 to H.R. 987, the Strengthening Health Care and Lowering Prescription Drug Costs Act:** Strikes the Health Insurance Market Stabilization title and inserts a reauthorization for community health centers, the national health service corps, and other public health priorities.
- **Amendments #11 and #14 to H.R. 1500, the Consumers First Act:** Strikes section requiring all consumer complaints to be made available to the public on a website and permanently subjects the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to Congressional appropriation.
  - These amendments were considered on the House floor as H.Amdt. 252 and H.Amdt. 253.
- **Amendments #6 and #7 to H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act of 2019:** Makes a Deferred

Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipient ineligible for Legal Permanent Resident status if they originally entered the United States from Mexico and are not a Mexican national and increases the credible fear threshold for those claiming asylum.

- **Amendment #1 to H.R. 3401, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Humanitarian Assistance and Security at the Southern Border Act, 2019:** Appropriates \$800 million to the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to reimburse the State of Texas for efforts to secure the border.
- **Amendments to H.R. 2740, the Labor, Health and Human Services, Legislative Branch, Defense, State and Foreign Operations, and Energy & Water Appropriations Act, 2020:**
  - **Amendment #3 to Division C:** Prohibits funding for new contracts with private developers to carry out the Military Housing Privatization Initiative.
  - **Amendment #7 to Division C:** Strikes language prohibiting any funding to construct a border wall along the southern border.
  - **Amendment #3 to Division D:** Reduces funding for El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras by their number of Unaccompanied Alien Children in Office of Refugee Resettlement custody, multiplied by \$30,000, the average cost of care.
  - **Amendment #41 to Division D:** Directs not less than 50% of reprogrammable funding for El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras be available to nongovernmental organizations directly serving residents in those countries.
  - **Amendment #6 to Division E:** Reduces spending in the Energy and Water Development division by 5%. This amendment was considered on the House floor as H.Amdt. 379.
  - **Amendment #9 to Division E:** Strikes language prohibiting funding for border security infrastructure along the southern border. This amendment was considered on the House floor as H.Amdt. 380.
- **Amendments to H.R. 3055, the Commerce, Justice, Science, Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2020:**
  - **Amendment #47 to Division A:** Increases funding by \$2.5 million for the Keep Young Athletes Safe Act grant program.
    - This amendment passed the House as H.Amdt. 387.
  - **Amendment #46 to Division C:** Places a funding limitation on the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to use Title 42 Special Pay Authority.
  - **Amendment #47 to Division E:** Reduces funding for the Essential Air Service by \$50 million to match President Trump's budget request.
- **Amendment #1 to H.R. 3494, the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for FY2018-2020:** Adds Energy and Commerce and Senate Health, Education, and Labor Committees to the Congressional committees that will receive a briefing from the Director of National Intelligence on the effects of emerging infectious disease and pandemics on national security.
  - This amendment was considered on the House floor as H.Amdt. 565 and passed by voice vote.
- **Amendment #28 to H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act:** Reforms the base minimum wage for new hired employees under 20 years old to create an “entry-level minimum wage” for workers with less than one year of work experience.
- **Amendment #1 to H.R. 2513, the Corporate Transparency Act of 2019:** Requires an annual report to Congress of anonymized data on the number of beneficial owners per corporation or LLC reporting to the SEC, the industry of each corporation or LLC, and the locations of the beneficial owners of corporations or LLCs.
  - This amendment was considered on the House floor as H.Amdt. 633 and passed by a vote of 395–23.
- **Amendment #23 to H.R. 4863, United States Export Finance Agency Act of 2019:** Creates an Office of

Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy Exports to advise the Board of Directors on ways to improve exports to increase energy efficiency and clean energy abroad. This amendment was considered on the House floor as H.Amdt. 667.



## Legislative Work

### **HEALTH CARE**

As the Republican Leader of the Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Health, I have led during another busy year of Health Subcommittee activity. The Subcommittee has held 16 hearings and three Subcommittee markups of legislation, considering numerous bills dealing with critical topics such as drug pricing and maternal mortality.

The Subcommittee on Health has broad jurisdiction over the health sector, including private and public health insurance; biomedical research and development; hospital construction; health information technology, privacy, and cybersecurity; medical malpractice and medical malpractice insurance; the 340B drug discount program; the regulation of food, drugs, and cosmetics; drug abuse; the Department of Health and Human Services; the National Institutes of Health; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Indian Health Service; and all aspects of the above-referenced jurisdiction related to the Department of Homeland Security.

### ***Drug Pricing***

Lowering the cost of prescription drugs has been at the forefront of many of the Health Subcommittee's conversations throughout this year. Americans want lower drug costs, and I am committed to addressing that issue while ensuring continued biomedical innovation and development of the treatment and cures of tomorrow. The Health Subcommittee worked on a number of bills to prevent pharmaceutical companies from gaming the system and to improve generic competition, including the **CREATES Act (H.R. 965)**, the **BLOCKING Act (H.R. 938)**, and the **Protecting Consumer Access to Generic Drugs Act of 2019 (H.R. 1499)**, all of which passed through both the Health Subcommittee and the full Energy and Commerce Committee.

My bill, **H.R. 2700**, includes all of the aforementioned policies and uses the \$5 billion in drug offsets to pay for one year of public health extenders. This bill is cosponsored by every Republican member of the Energy and Commerce Committee. Additionally, the **Purple Book Continuity Act (H.R. 1520)**, on which I am the lead Republican cosponsor, and the **Orange Book Transparency Act (H.R. 1503)** both passed the House with robust, bipartisan support.

Unfortunately, many of these bipartisan efforts to lower the cost of prescription drugs have been sidelined as the Committee pursues **H.R. 3, a drug-pricing bill** that was written without Republican input. Prior to this proposal, Republicans and Democrats were working together to draft policy to cap the out-of-pocket costs for our seniors in Medicare Part D. If we worked together in a thoughtful bipartisan, bicameral manner on restructuring Medicare Part D, the President would sign that legislation. **Republicans offered H.R. 19, the Lower Costs, More Cures Act**, as a bipartisan alternative to H.R. 3 that could have become law in 2019. The bipartisan policies in H.R. 19 would directly lower Americans' out-of-pocket drug costs. Lower drug costs should not come at the cost of limiting patients' access to care.

Lowering the cost of prescription drugs for Americans is of the utmost importance, but we must foster a framework that spurs innovation to improve the health, well-being, and lives of patients and their loved ones.

### ***Health Extenders***

As Chairman of the Health Subcommittee in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, I made it a priority to reauthorize public health extenders, including the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), community health centers, Special Diabetes Programs, and other public health programs early on in the year. I passed along that wisdom to the current Health Subcommittee Chairwoman, Anna Eshoo (D-CA), because there a number of important public health reauthorizations were set to expire on September 30, 2019. Not only is reauthorizing these programs important in the appropriations process, but reauthorizations provide the opportunity to revise policies to make sure that the programs are successful and efficient.

The Energy and Commerce Committee was able to pass four-year reauthorizations of community health centers, teaching health centers, Special Diabetes Program for Type 1 Diabetes and Special Diabetes Program for Indians, Family to Family Health Information Centers, and other programs.

Following on my leadership as Subcommittee Chairman in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, we were able to move reauthorizations of the Public Health Service Act Titles VII and VIII physician and nurse workforce programs through the Health Subcommittee, full Committee, and the House.

### ***Maternal Mortality***

On September 10th, the Health Subcommittee held a hearing on maternal mortality, building on the hearing I held as Chairman last Congress and the enactment of **H.R. 1318, the Preventing Maternal Deaths Act**, which President Trump signed into law in December 2018. As an OB/GYN, I am personally troubled by maternal morbidity and mortality and am committed to improving maternal health outcomes. This fall, I invited Dr. David Nelson, who serves as the Chief of Obstetrics at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, Texas, to testify about best practices in caring for pregnant and postpartum women, especially in the Medicaid population.

In November, Energy and Commerce marked up two bills to improve maternal mortality rates in the United States. Representative Robin Kelly (D-IL) and I introduced **H.R. 4996, the Helping Medicaid Offer Maternity Services Act of 2019**, or Helping MOMS Act, to provide for and extend continuous coverage for pregnant and postpartum mothers for 12 months after birth. I also cosponsored **H.R. 4995, the Maternal Health Quality Improvement Act of 2019**, introduced by Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY), which will establish Health Resources and Services Administration grants for collaborative improvement networks to address gaps in maternity care and maternal morbidity and mortality, particularly in rural areas. This builds on my bill from last Congress, the **Improving Access to Maternity Care Act (H.R. 315)**, which identifies maternity care health professional target areas and was signed into law in December 2019. Below is sampling of other health care-focused legislation from this year:

- On March 5th, I joined Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA) as the lead Republican cosponsor of **H.R. 1520, Purple Book Continuity Act**. This bill provides for the publication of a list of licensed biological products for the

purposes of lowering drug costs.

- This bill passed through the Energy and Commerce Committee and passed the House on May 8, 2019 by a vote of 421-0.
- On January 3rd, I introduced **H.R. 107, amending the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program**. This bill would sunset the limit on the maximum rebate amount for single source drugs and innovator multiple source drugs. This maximum rebate amount was established in the Affordable Care Act.
- On July 24, I introduced **H. Con. Res. 55, expressing the sense of Congress** on the need to inform American consumers with balanced pricing information in direct-to-consumer prescription drug advertisements.
- On February 6th, I led letters with **Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR)**, the Republican Leader of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and **Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY)**, Republican Leader of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation, to **Eli Lilly and Company, Novo Nordisk, Sanofi, CVS Health, Express Scripts, and United Health Group**. These letters requested information regarding the relationship between the list price and discounted price of insulin and the impact these prices have on American patients.
- On June 3rd, I introduced **H.R. 3062, the Patient Access to High Quality Health Care Act**. This bill repeals the provision in the Affordable Care Act that bans the expansion of existing or development of new physician owned hospitals.
- On March 5th, I introduced **H.R. 1510, the Premium Relief Act of 2019**. This bill provides for a Patient and State Stability Fund, which would provide reinsurance, coupled with a structural reform of the Affordable Care Act to states. The bill would give states more choices regarding how to repair their markets that have been damaged by the Affordable Care Act.
- On July 9th, I introduced **H.R. 3644, the Independence at Home Demonstration Act of 2019**. This bill extends the Independence at Home medical practice demonstration program under the Medicare program for an additional three years. This program provides home-based primary care to high-need Medicare beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions, helping them to avoid unnecessary hospitalizations, emergency room visits, and nursing home admission.
  - This bill passed through the Energy and Commerce Committee by unanimous consent on July 17th, as part of H.R. 2328.
- On April 12th, I cosponsored **H.R. 2294, the Association Health Plans Act of 2019**, introduced by Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI). This bill establishes criteria for determining when employers may join together in a group to sponsor a group health plan, forming an association health plan.
- On April 12, I led a **letter with Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX) and Rep. Mark Amodei (R-Nevada) to Attorney General William Barr** requesting that the Department of Justice issue a stay and an appeal of a recent court decision blocking a Department of Labor rule that would have expanded eligibility for association health plans (AHPs).
- On July 18th, I signed a **letter to President Trump thanking him for his work on expanding the use of health reimbursement arrangements (HRAs)**. The new HRA rule will allow an estimated 800,000 small and medium businesses provide pre-tax funds to employees, allowing them to purchase health insurance.
- On May 8th, I led a **letter with Rep. Roger Marshall (R-KS) to Administrator Seema Verma, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services**, encouraging her to design a demonstration program for expanding physician owned hospitals within Medicare.
- On May 16th, I joined Rep. Janice Schakowsky (D-IL) as the lead Republican of **H.R. 2781, the EMPOWER for Health Act**. This bill reauthorizes certain programs relating to the health professions workforce such as, health professional training for diversity, primary care training and enhancement, pediatric and public health

dentistry, and area health education centers.

- This bill passed out of the Energy and Commerce Committee on September 24th and passed the House by unanimous consent on October 28th.
- On October 28th, I introduced **H.R. 4870, United States Public Health Service Modernization Act of 2019**. This bill amends the Public Health Service Act to allow retirement benefits for the Ready Reserve Corps, which is a critical workforce in protecting our nation's public health and disaster preparedness efforts.
- On November 11, I joined Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) as the lead Republican of **H.R. 5199, the Expanding Access to Health Outcomes (ECHO) Act of 2019**. This bill builds upon the Project ECHO grant program, which was established by my policy that was signed into law in 2016 as part of the ECHO Act. Project ECHO is a federal grant program to increase access to health care services and enhance health care workforce capacity in underserved areas through technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models.
- On January 30th, I cosponsored **H.R. 647, the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act**, introduced by Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY). This bill works to build the palliative and hospice care workforce and to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice.
  - H.R. 647 passed the House unanimously on October 28th. I shepherded this bill through the Health Subcommittee in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress.
- On March 28th, I led a letter to the Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) of the House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education in support of funding for Title VII health professional education and training programs in the Health Resources and Services Administration.
- On May 21st, I joined Rep. Kim Schrier, M.D. (D-WA) as the lead Republican cosponsor of **H.R. 2862, the VACCINES Act**. This bill provides resources to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to enhance its work with state and local public health officials to educate the public on the health benefits of vaccines and conduct surveillance of vaccine rates and authorizes research on vaccine hesitancy.
- On June 27th, I cosponsored **H.R. 3539, the Behavioral Intervention Guidelines (BIG) Act of 2019**, introduced by Rep. Drew Ferguson (R-GA). This bill directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop best practices for the establishment and use of behavioral intervention teams at schools.
- On May 8th, I joined Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO) as an original cosponsor of **H.R. 2584, the Preventative Health Savings Act**. This bill directs the Congressional Budget Office to analyze scientific medical data to provide information on the savings of preventive health initiatives in over a 20-year period rather than the existing 10-year budget window. This legislation will provide a more accurate projection for programs with children and other populations or diseases with longer development periods.
- On June 5th, I joined Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY) as the lead Republican cosponsor of **H.R. 3109, the GEDI Act**. This bill provides grants to conduct research on and reduce incidence of gestational diabetes.
- On May 17th, I sent a letter to Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, requesting a Congressional Delegation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to evaluate the ongoing Ebola outbreak.
- On February 26th, I signed a letter with Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR) and Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY) to Dr. Robert Redfield, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requesting information on how the CDC is working to expand the use of influenza vaccines in senior citizens. Additionally, the letter requests information on how preferential recommendation for certain types of the vaccine can improve health outcomes for seniors.
- On March 7th, I signed a letter led by Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR) of the House Energy and Commerce Committee to Acting Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS),

**Rear Admiral Michael Wallace**, requesting information about report medical failures and systemic failures at IHS hospitals.

- On June 28th, I signed two letters led by **Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ)** of the Committee on Energy and Commerce to Acting Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Norman Sharpless and Comptroller General Gene Dodaro requesting information on the foreign drug manufacturing.
- On November 11th, I joined Rep. Robin Kelly (D-IL) as the lead Republican cosponsor of **H.R. 4996, the Helping MOMS Act**. This bill provides for a State option under the Medicaid program to provide for an extend continuous coverage for certain individuals.
  - This bill passed out of the Energy and Commerce Committee on November 19th by voice vote.
- On November 15th, I cosponsored **H.R. 4995, the Maternal Health Quality Improvement Act of 2019**, introduced by Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY). This bill will establish Health Resources and Services Administration grants for maternity care collaborative improvement, particularly in rural areas, and enable sharing of best practices and innovation
  - This bill passed out of the Energy and Commerce Committee on November 19th by voice vote.
- On August 30th, I cosponsored **H.R. 4215, the Excellence in Maternal Health Act of 2019**, introduced by Rep. Larry Bucshon (R-IN). This bill will improve maternal health care quality, improve training of health care professionals to reduce or prevent discrimination in certain health care services, and improve perinatal care.
- On April 10th, I cosponsored **H.R. 2207, the Protect Medical Innovation Act**, introduced by Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI). This bill repeals the excise tax on medical devices.
- I cosponsored bills to repeal or **delay the Affordable Care Act taxes**, including the **Cadillac Tax, Health Insurance Tax**, and **Medical Device Tax**. All of these taxes were repealed in a funding package that was signed into law in December.

#### **Amendments to Health Bills considered at Energy and Commerce Committee**

- **Amendment to H.R. 1425, State Health Care Premium Reduction Act:** This amendment would insert the Hyde Amendment and prevent taxpayer dollars from paying for abortions.
  - The amendment failed on a party-line vote of 12-17.
- **Amendment to H.R. 1425, State Health Care Premium Reduction Act:** This was offered as an amendment in the nature of a substitute that would provide reinsurance to states and allow for structural reform of the Affordable Care Act. The amendment was fully paid for and included language that affirms the long-standing consensus that taxpayers should not foot the bill for abortions. The amendment failed.
- **Amendment to H.R. 2781, the EMPOWER for Health Act:** This amendment was offered as an amendment in the nature of a substitute with Rep. Janice Schakowsky (D-IL).
  - The amendment was adopted by voice vote.
- **Amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 2328, the Reauthorization and Extending America's Community Health (REACH) Act:** The amendment allows for the benchmark methodology to take into consideration relevant payment adjustments that account for facility type, including higher acuity settings and case-mix.
  - The amendment was adopted by voice vote.
- **Amendment to H.R. 2339, the Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2019:** This amendment would strike the user fee increase for tobacco and vape products on the grounds that the Food and Drug Administration has not been transparent in their utilization of user fees. The amendment also would require FDA provide an answer within 30 days as to why the agency has not complied with section 106(a) of the Tobacco Control Act, which requires biannual reports to Congress on the Act's implementation.
  - The amendment failed on a party-line vote of 12-17.

- **Amendment to H.R. 2339, the Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2019:** This amendment would require annual reports on FDA's tobacco user fees.
  - This amendment was adopted by voice vote.
- **Amendment to H.R. 4996, the Helping MOMs Act:** Would allow the temporary five percent increase in Federal Medical Assistance Percentage for the first year of a state taking up the Medicaid state option for providing 12 months of coverage postpartum.
  - This amendment was adopted by voice vote.

## **CONSUMER PROTECTIONS**

The Consumer Protection and Commerce (CPC) Subcommittee on Energy and Commerce exercises jurisdiction over interstate and foreign commerce; regulation of the Federal Trade Commission and sports-related issues; data security, protection, and privacy; consumer product safety; motor vehicle safety; and regulation of travel, tourism, and time.

This year, the CPC Subcommittee held hearings on protecting consumer privacy, increasing diversity in technology fields, conducting oversight of the Federal Trade Commission, increasing vehicle safety and preventing impaired driving, considering consumer product safety legislation, and evaluating online liability protections. I participated in ten hearings as a member of the CPC Subcommittee. My priorities this year included working towards a federal privacy bill, reforming our patent system, and ensuring safe vehicle operation. Republicans outlined four principles for any federal privacy law, including: federal preemption, transparency, accountability, and small business protections.

In addition, I introduced and cosponsored two bills to make patent trolls a civil penalty under the Federal Trade Commission. I also emphasized the need for vehicle operators to maintain a focus on safety, from preventing hot car deaths to completing recall repairs. Below is a sampling of consumer protection-focused legislation from this year:

- On January 25th, I introduced **H.R. 108, the Targeting Rogue and Opaque Letters (TROL) Act**. This bill makes it an unfair or deceptive act or practice under the Federal Trade Commission's section 5 authority to send bad faith patent demand letters. A patent demand letter claims patent infringement and a bad faith letter uses false or misleading statements in an effort to force recipients to settle.
- On July 25th, I introduced as the lead Republican, with Rep. Bobby Rush (D-IL), **H.R. 3975, the Contact Lens Prescription Verification Modernization Act**. This bill follows a couple years of sending a letter to the FTC requesting they update the 2004 Contact Lens Rule to clarify prescription verifications for online contact lens sales. While patients are free to purchase contacts from multiple retailers, automatically-verified prescriptions have led to adverse health outcomes for some patients. H.R. 3975 will allow patients to upload a secure copy of their prescription and eliminate the use of robocalls to verify patient prescriptions. Sixteen bipartisan cosponsors support the bill.
- On January 29th, I cosponsored **H.R. 806, Portable Fuel Container Safety Act**, introduced by Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA). This bill directs the Consumer Products Safety Commission to require fuel containers that are fewer than 5 gallons to include flame arresting devices that prevent the internal contents of a container from igniting. This bill simply codifies an industry accepted practice to prevent burn injuries and deaths.
- On May 14th, I cosponsored **H.R. 2644, the State of Modern Application, Research, and Trends of IoT (SMART IoT) Act**, introduced by Rep. Bob Latta (R-OH). This bill directs the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on the state of the internet-connected devices industry in the United States. This bill passed the House during the 115th Congress.
- On July 10th, 2019, I cosponsored **H.R. 3666, the Support Technology and Research for Our Nation's Growth and Economic Resilience (STRONGER) Patents Act**, introduced by Rep. Steve Stivers (R-OH). This bill includes the text of my TROL Act, reforms the Patent Trial and Appeals Board to mirror proceedings used in district courts, and fully funds the Patent and Trademark Office.

- On December 16th, I cosponsored **H.R. 5434, the Recognizing the Protection of Motorsports (RPM) Act**, introduced by Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-NC). This bill amends the Clean Air Act to allow the modification of a vehicle's air emission controls if the vehicle is used solely for competition.

## TELECOMMUNICATION

Telecommunication encompasses communication by voice, video, audio, and data transmitted by wire or wirelessly using technology. The Communications Act of 1934 created the Federal Communications Commission and regulates nearly all communications. The bill has been amended over the years to match advances in technology. While I do not sit on the Communications and Technology Subcommittee on Energy and Commerce, I participated in markups of telecommunications legislation where I defended the continuation of a free and open Internet, worked to combat robocalls, and promoted tools to increase rural access to health care. Below is a sampling of telecommunications-focused legislation and letters from this year:

- On April 5th, I cosponsored three bills to preserve a free and open Internet, **H.R. 1096, the Promoting Internet Freedom and Innovation Act**, introduced by Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA); **H.R. 1101, a bill to prevent blocking, throttling, and paid prioritization**, introduced by Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR); and **H.R. 1006, the Open Internet Act**, introduced by Rep. Bob Latta (R-OH). Together these bills codify the Federal Communications Commission's regulation of Internet Service Providers as information services under Title I of the Communications Act of 1934 and prohibit blocking, throttling, and paid prioritization of content on Internet platforms.
- On June 21st, I cosponsored **H.R. 3375, the Stopping Bad Robocalls Act**, introduced by Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ). This is a bipartisan solution to combat the ever-growing nuisance of unwanted robocalls. Specifically, the bill gives the Federal Communications Commission four years to catch illegal callers, allows fines for first-time offenders, supports call authentication technology, and allows providers to block robocalls without adding a consumer charge on cell phone bills.
  - This bill passed the House on July 24th.
- I offered an **amendment to H.R. 3375, the Stopping Bad Robocalls Act**, with Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI) to establish a Hospital Robocall Protection Group at the Federal Communications Commission to aid hospitals in combatting robocalls.
  - This amendment was agreed to by voice vote.
- On July 16th, I introduced as lead Republican with Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI) **H.R. 3780, the Protecting Patients and Doctors from Unlawful Robocalls Act**. This is a standalone bill of the Hospital Robocall Protection Group amendment we offered during the markup of the Stopping Bad Robocalls Act.
- On July 9th, I signed a **letter to Federal Communications Commissioner Brendan Carr** supporting the creation of a Connected Care Pilot Program to bring telehealth services to areas lacking access to adequate health care. The Commission adopted this pilot program at their July meeting.

## ENERGY

The Energy Subcommittee within Energy and Commerce has jurisdiction over national energy policy; fossil, renewable, and nuclear energy; the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; synthetic and alternative fuels; utility issues; and pipelines; among others. As a senior member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I have always worked to improve the affordability, access, and consumer choice of energy. In 2019 alone, Energy and Commerce Republicans have worked to create a level playing field within the energy market, streamline new energy investments, and promote clean energy such as nuclear, hydropower, and natural gas.

Earlier this year, the Department of Energy under Secretary Rick Perry issued new rules to restore consumer choice in the incandescent lightbulb market. For years I have fought against federal mandates that essentially banned certain kinds of lightbulbs in order to protect your choice as a consumer to make the purchasing decisions best for you and your family. Below is a sampling of energy-focused legislation and letters from this year:

- On January 3rd, I introduced **H.R.104, the Leave Ethanol Volumes at Existing Levels (LEVEL) Act**.

This legislation would repeal the 2007 amendments to the Renewable Fuel Standard, which required increased volumes of ethanol to be blended into the national fuel supply.

- On January 3rd, I introduced **H.R.105, the Energy Efficiency Free Market Act of 2019**. This legislation would lift regulatory burdens on appliance manufacturers by eliminating all current standards and prohibiting any federal and state regulations establishing specific energy efficiency and water conservation standards for consumer and commercial appliances.
- On September 12th, I sent a **letter to Secretary of Energy, Rick Perry**, supporting the Department of Energy's regulatory rollback on incandescent lightbulbs.
- On September 26th, I was an original cosponsor of **H. Res. 597**, introduced by Rep. Gerald Connolly (D-VA). This resolution expresses the sense of Congress that the United States should support, and not limit, access to all domestic energy sources to achieve full energy security and independence.

## ENVIRONMENT

The Environment Subcommittee within Energy and Commerce has jurisdiction over the Clean Air Act and emissions; the Superfund and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; solid, hazardous, and nuclear waste; industrial plant security, including cybersecurity; the Safe Drinking Water Act; and the Toxic Substances Control Act. Congress has a duty to the American people to properly shepherd the natural resources and environment of the United States. To that end, the nation's air and water are cleaner than ever, emissions of pollutants and greenhouse gases are down, and dangerous, long-lasting contaminants are being addressed. This duty, however, must be conducted with consideration for the livelihoods and rights of Americans.

As a senior member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I've worked diligently to ensure the federal government uses a balanced hand when considering environmental policy. Below is sampling of environment-focused legislation, letters, and activity from this year:

- On May 1st, I attended and asked questions for the record at an **Oversight and Investigations subcommittee hearing** regarding the Department of Energy's efforts to address the environmental impacts of Manhattan Project and the Cold War-era nuclear projects.
- On June 11th, I attended an **Oversight and Investigations subcommittee hearing** addressing the direction of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). At this hearing, I questioned former EPA administrators on how the EPA's opaque processes have led to a public mistrust of the agency's mission and rulings.
- On October 18th, I cosponsored **H.R. 2699, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2019**, introduced by Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-CA). This legislation addresses the vital importance of fully licensing the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository. This site was selected in the 1980s to be the sole permanent storage location for high-level nuclear waste but has not yet been opened for use. The bill also addresses temporary and interim storage of such materials.

## VETERANS' AFFAIRS

While I do not serve on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I have engaged on many veteran issues. In 2019, I cosponsored eight bills and sent three letters to help improve lives for veterans, honor veterans, and help families of those who serve in our U.S. Military. Additionally, I worked with the Honorable Robert Wilkie when he was Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to open a new VA mental health facility in Denton, Texas. Below is a sampling of veteran-focused legislation and letters from this year:

- On January 30th, I cosponsored **H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019**, introduced by Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA). This bill would provide treatment of veterans who served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam for the purpose of treatment for service-connected injuries through the VA.
  - This bill was signed into law by President Trump on June 25th.
- On January 31st, I cosponsored **H.R. 553, the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act**, introduced by Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC). This bill repeals the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the current

Survivor Benefit Plan for military surviving spouses to offset the receipt of veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, ensuring that military spouses receive the much-needed financial support they deserve.

- On February 28th I cosponsored **H.R. 1377, the Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act**, introduced by Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY). This bill would provide treatment of veterans who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as radiation exposed veterans for the purpose of treatment for service-connected injuries through the VA. From 1948 to 1958, the U.S. conducted 43 nuclear tests on the Enewetak Proving Ground at Enewetak Atoll in the Pacific Ocean. Our Veterans participated in the cleanup.
- On May 3rd, I cosponsored **H.R. 2334, to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Odessa, Texas, as the "Wilson and Young Medal of Honor VA Clinic,"** introduced by Rep. Michael Conaway (R-TX). This bill would designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Odessa, Texas, as the "Wilson and Young Medal of Honor VA Clinic". Private First Class Alfred "Mac" Wilson of the Marine Corps and Staff Sergeant Marvin "Rex" Young of the Army were both posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for their heroic actions in the Vietnam War.
- On September 19th, I cosponsored **H.R. 3495, the Improve Well-Being for Veterans Act**, introduced by Rep. Jack Bergman (R-MI). This bill would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to give grants to entities to provide and coordinate suicide prevention services for veterans and their families.
- On October 23rd, I cosponsored **H.R. 4305, Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers Act of 2019 (PAWS Act of 2019)**, introduced by Rep. John Rutherford (R-FL). This bill would establish a VA grant program provide service dogs to eligible veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder.
- On October 28th, I cosponsored **H.R. 3350, VA Emergency Transportation Act**, introduced by Rep. Vicky Hartzer (R-MO). This bill clarifies that emergency services authorized for reimbursement include medical transportation to a VA facility after a veteran is stabilized.
- On October 29th, I cosponsored **H.Con.Res. 10**, introduced by Rep. Carol Miller (R-WV). This concurrent resolution would authorize the use of the rotunda of the Capitol to honor the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient of the Second World War upon death.
- On January 15th, I sent a **letter to Secretary Wilkie of the Veterans' Affairs Administration** thanking him for working to expand mental health services for veterans and to inform him of the partnership with the United Way of Denton County to establish a new mental health facility.
- On May 23rd, the I joined the Texas Congressional Delegation in sending a **letter to Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA) and Rep. Phil Roe (R-TN) of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs** expressing support for H.R. 2334, which would designate a VA outpatient clinic in Odessa, Texas, as the Wilson and Young Medal of Honor VA Clinic.
- On July 22nd, I signed a **letter to Secretary Robert Wilkie, Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA)**, requesting a clear and expeditious process for the donation of a hospital complex in Garland, Texas, to the VA North Texas Health Care System.

## **SPORT INTEGRITY**

Maintaining integrity of amateur sports within Olympic and Paralympic movement as well as for recreational athletes contributes to child development, socialization, physical health, and supports Americans representing the United States in competitions abroad. The widespread abuse by former USA Gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar is a terrible tragedy. The effects of this scandal were felt acutely in Texas, former home of the USA Gymnastics Olympic Training Center and countless young athletes. In response, Congress established a grant program, the Keep Young Athletes Safe Act grant, to support nonprofit nongovernmental entities, like the U.S. Center for Safesport, to safeguard amateur athletes against abuse in sport. Below is a sampling of sport integrity-focused legislation and activity from this year:

- On June 19th, I offered an **amendment to H.R. 3055, an appropriations bill including the Commerce, Justice, and Science Departments**, to provide an additional \$2.5 million in grant funding for the Keep Young Athletes Safe Act grant program.
  - This amendment passed by voice vote.
- On July 23rd, I cosponsored **H.R. 3303, the Strengthening U.S. Olympics Act**, introduced by Rep. Diana Degette (D-CO). This bill establishes the “Commission on the State of U.S. Olympics and Paralympics” to assess and make recommendations to improve the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic movement.

In 2016, Russian whistleblower Grigory Rodchenkov revealed a massive state-sponsored doping scandal that allowed more than 1,000 Russian athletes to compete while using illegal substances. The World Anti-Doping Agency banned Russia from the 2018 Winter Olympics, but then reinstated Russia’s Anti-Doping Agency upon receipt of athlete samples in 2019. Many of these samples were found to be fraudulent. In addition, U.S. intelligence officials have stated that Russia’s attempt to influence the 2016 presidential election was partly retaliation for disclosing the doping scandal.

- On March 25th, I introduced as lead Republican with Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX) **H.R. 835, the Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act**. This bill establishes criminal penalties for knowingly facilitating a doping scheme in a major international sport competition where U.S. athletes are competing and the competition organizer receives sponsorship or financial support from a U.S. entity, allows U.S. citizens to pursue civil action against deceptive competition and provides protection for whistleblowers. The bill is endorsed by the NFL, NHL, MLB, PGA, U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee, and numerous other athlete organizations.
  - On October 22nd, this bill passed the House by a voice vote.

On November 25th, the World Anti-Doping Agency banned Russia from global sporting events for the next four years, including the upcoming Tokyo Olympics. Clean Russian athletes will still be allowed to compete under the Olympic flag.

## **DEFENSE**

The United States has the strongest military in the world. I have always worked to ensure that the brave men and women in our armed forces receive the resources and care they need to serve our nation and take care of their families. As global threats persist, we must remain vigilant to ensure the continuation of a strong national defense.

Last year, the Department of Defense (DoD) completed its first full-scope, department-wide, financial statement audit. In 1990, Congress passed the Chief Financial Officers Act requiring every Department and Agency in the Federal Government to produce verifiable financial statements that can be fully audited. Until last year, every major Agency completed this task except the DoD. For the previous three fiscal years, I introduced and passed into law an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) requiring the DoD to submit a report to Congress rank ordering every entity in the order of readiness to undergo an audit. This language was included in the final FY2020 NDAA, which was signed into law as S. 1790. Despite DoD failing its initial audit, the completion of this report provides a much-needed baseline from which to begin additional oversight of DoD financial statements. Below are a sampling of other defense-focused legislation and letters from this year:

- On January 31st, I cosponsored **H.R. 553, the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act**, introduced by Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC). Under current law, if military surviving spouses receive veteran’s dependency and indemnity compensation their survivor annuity under the Survivor Benefit Plan is required to be offset by the same amount. This bill repeals that requirement to ensure the receipt of a Survivor Benefit Plan annuity does not affect dependency and indemnity compensation.
- On May 17th, I cosponsored **H.R. 2618, a bill to provide occupational license portability for military spouses**, introduced by Rep. Jim Banks (R-IN). This bill allows that a spouse accompanying a deployed service member serving away from the state of residence is deemed to reside in their domiciled state for the purposes of occupational licensing.
- On October 7th, I signed a **letter led by Rep. Ron Wright (R-TX)** to then-Secretary of Defense Mark

**Esper** urging the Department of Defense to utilize a competitive acquisition process to replace producers of F-35 parts previously manufactured in Turkey.

- On October 29th, the Department of Defense announced an agreement with Lockheed Martin for \$34 billion worth of F-35 production that will occur at Lockheed's Fort Worth plant.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

As the world's foremost democracy, it is incumbent upon the United States to support democracies and democratic principles wherever they may exist. I proudly support the efforts of furthering democracy in the Middle East, including supporting our ally Israel, finding a resolution to the years-long civil war ravaging Syria, ensuring North Korea remains nuclear-free, countering Russian influence, urging the safety of democratic protesters in Hong Kong, and combating the drivers of irregular migration in Central America.

One of the biggest threats to our democracy is an aggressive Russia. The U.S. Intelligence Community concluded that Russia engaged in a disinformation campaign to influence the outcome of the 2016 Presidential election but did not change any votes. Russia is conducting a long-term campaign to undermine the U.S.-led liberal democratic order. In addition to disinformation efforts throughout the world, Russia is aiming to sow distrust of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to accelerate its dissolution. This is evident by their increased engagement with our NATO ally Turkey, who recently chose to buy Russian-made military weapons. In addition, in 2014 Russia annexed Ukrainian Crimea and continues to wage a kinetic and disinformation war on Ukraine's eastern border. It is paramount that the United States engages with the American public and our allies to ensure that Russia's hybrid war fails.

Below are a sampling of foreign affairs-focused legislation and letters from this year:

- On October 15th, I cosponsored **H.R. 4692, the Countering Turkish Aggression Act**, introduced by Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY). This bill imposes sanctions against President Erdogan and other high-level Turkish officials in response to Turkey's military offensive against U.S.-allied Kurdish forces in Northern Syria.
- On January 3rd, I introduced **H.Res. 18, a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives** that the President should redirect and target foreign assistance provided to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras in a manner that addresses the driving causes of illegal immigration into the United States from such countries.
- On April 3rd, I introduced **H.R. 2049, the Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC) Assistance Control Act**. This bill reduces the amount of foreign assistance to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras based on the number of UAC who are nationals or citizens of those countries and who were placed in Federal custody due to their immigration status.
- On December 12th, I cosponsored **H.R. 5417, the Significant Transnational Criminal Organization Designation Act**, introduced by Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-WI). This bill allows the President to designate major transnational criminal organizations as significant Transnational Criminal Organizations and impose sanctions.
- On May 7th, I cosponsored **H.Res. 273, a resolution affirming the United States commitment to Taiwan** and to the implementation of the Taiwan Relations Act, introduced by Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY).
- On December 12th, I signed a **letter led by Reps. Steve Chabot (R-OH) and Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL) to the U.S. Trade Representative, Robert Lighthizer**, requesting he begin negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement with Taiwan.
- On May 10th, I cosponsored **H.Res. 374, a resolution condemning Iranian state-sponsored terrorism** and expressing support for the Iranian people's desire for a democratic, secular, and non-nuclear republic of Iran. The resolution was introduced by Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA).
- On September 19th, I signed a **letter led by Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX) and Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY) to President Trump** requesting that he use all available resources to bring reporter Austin Tice home from

captivity in Syria.

- On January 9th, I cosponsored **H.R. 221, the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act**, introduced by Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ). This bill establishes the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism as an ambassador-rank official to advise on combating anti-Semitism in foreign countries.
- On March 26th, I cosponsored **H.R. 1837, the United States-Israel Cooperation Enhancement and Regional Security Act**, introduced by Rep. Ted Deutch (D-FL). This bill provides increased security assistance to Israel, transfers military equipment to Israel, and authorizes \$55 million of cooperative programs focused on energy development, health technologies, agriculture production, and cybersecurity research, among others.
- On March 26th, I cosponsored **H.Res. 246, a resolution opposing efforts to delegitimize Israel and the global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement**, introduced by Rep. Bradley Schneider (D-IL).
- On April 8th, I signed a letter led by Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX), Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY), Senator Jim Risch (R-ID), and Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ) to President Trump requesting support for Israel against Hezbollah and the threats from the Syrian civil war.

## SECOND AMENDMENT

The Founders felt so strongly about protecting the right of the people to keep and bear arms that they made it the second amendment to the Constitution. I am strongly opposed to any limitations on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding gun owners. While no one condones the illegal purchase and use of guns, we must not improperly hamper the rights of law-abiding citizens to bear arms. If we are to honor and uphold our nation's Constitution, this right cannot be infringed.

That said, we must ensure the mechanisms authorized to vet individuals for gun ownership are up to date and in compliance. According to a 2016 report by the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Inspector General (OIG), less than one percent of individuals who lie on their background check forms are prosecuted. In addition, the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) does not receive complete data from all contributing entities. We must enforce these laws to ensure that high-risk individuals do not obtain firearms. Below is a sampling of second amendment-focused legislation and letters from this year:

- On January 4th, I cosponsored **H.R. 38, the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act**, introduced by Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC). The bill allows a concealed carry permit holder to conceal carry into another state that also allows concealed carry permits.
- On March 8th, I sent a letter to **Attorney General William Barr** requesting updated information following a 2016 Department of Justice Office of Inspector General report on how many individuals have been prosecuted for lying on their NICS background check form as well as how many firearms illegally in commerce have been recovered by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF).
- On September 26th, I introduced **H.R. 4490, a bill to require the Inspector General of the DoJ to submit a report** on the number of NICS background check prosecutions for those who lie and the number of ATF recoveries of delayed denial firearms sales resulting in firearms illegally in commerce.
- On March 28th, I cosponsored **H.R. 838, the Threat Assessment, Prevention, and Safety Act**, introduced by Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX). This bill establishes a joint behavior threat assessment and management task force to make recommendations and implement a national strategy on effective behavioral threat assessments and training programs. No action can be taken without Congressional approval.
- On May 10th, I signed an **amicus brief led by Rep. Bradley Byrne (R-AL)** supporting the **New York State Rifle and Pistol Association in a case against the City of New York** before the Supreme Court. The brief argues against New York's ban on transporting a handgun to a home or shooting range outside New York City's limits, claiming the ban violates the Second Amendment right to bear arms.

- On October 22nd, I signed an **amicus brief requesting the Supreme Court grant certiorari in Worman v. Healey**. The brief argues that lower courts have not faithfully followed Supreme Court precedent and that a Massachusetts ban on the sale of certain firearms violates the Second Amendment.

## TAX

In 2017, Congress passed, and President Trump signed into law, H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the first comprehensive tax reform bill enacted in 31 years. Tax reform lowered the corporate tax rate; allowed pass-through businesses to deduct more of their business income; doubled the standard deduction, child tax credit and estate tax exemption; increased the charitable contribution deduction and individual alternative minimum tax; and repealed the Affordable Care Act individual mandate penalty; among other changes. These tax reforms resulted in near-immediate and significant gains for businesses and individuals, with many companies providing bonuses and charitable contributions. Some provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act require technical fixes, and Congress continues to work toward solutions.

While I proudly supported the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, I have always been a proponent of a flat tax. This ensures that regardless of income level, all Americans are paying the same percentage of their income to the federal government, with few exceptions. A single tax rate structure would streamline completion of tax returns, increase savings, and help expand businesses.

- On February 7th, I introduced **H.R. 1040, the Flat Tax Act**. This bill authorizes a 17% flat tax rate in lieu of existing income tax provisions and repeals the estate transfer tax.

Below is sampling of other tax-related legislation from this year:

- On January 9th, I cosponsored **H.R. 141, the Social Security Fairness Act**, introduced by Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL). This bill eliminates the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) that reduces the social security benefits of a person who also receives a public pension and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) that reduces surviving spouse benefits if they also receive a government pension.
- On May 9th, I introduced **H.R. 2614, the Group Term Life Insurance Increase Act**. This bill increases the limit on the amount of employer-provided group term life insurance that an employee may exclude from gross income for income tax purposes.
- On July 24th, I cosponsored **H.R. 3934, the Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act**, introduced by Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX). This bill replaces the WEP with a benefit formula that treats public servants like all other non-public sector American workers.

## JUDICIARY

The Judiciary Committee has jurisdiction over federal courts, administrative bodies, law enforcement agencies, civil liberties, criminal law enforcement, Constitutional amendments, immigration policy, Members of Congress, patents and copyrights, and bankruptcy, among other issues. While I do not serve on the Judiciary Committee, many issues important to all Americans fall within its jurisdiction. I take all constituent concerns seriously and work with my fellow Members of Congress to advance the priorities of North Texans. Below is a sampling of judiciary-related legislation from this year:

- On January 3rd, I introduced **H.R. 110, a bill to provide an exception to certain mandatory minimum sentencing requirements under 18 USC 924(c)**. This bill provides an exception to mandatory minimum sentencing requirements for persons charged with a crime of violence with a firearm if they were employed overseas by a federal agency and required to carry a firearm as part of their contract. These federal contractors are employed overseas and required to carry weapons by the U.S. government to protect U.S. personnel. They should not be subject to a statute that was enacted in the 1980s to reduce violence during the height of our nation's war on drugs.
- On January 9th, I cosponsored **H.R. 467, the Reducing the Demand for Human Trafficking Act**, introduced by Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL). This bill allows the Attorney General to make grants to state and

local law enforcement agencies that prioritize reducing the demand for human trafficking by investigating and prosecuting the buyers of human trafficking.

- On February 28th, I cosponsored **H.R. 1327, the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund Act**, introduced by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY). This bill funds the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund through fiscal year 2092.
  - This bill passed the House of Representatives, with my support, and on July 29th President Trump signed it into law.
- On May 17th, I cosponsored **H.R. 1325, the Protect and Serve Act**, introduced by Rep. John Rutherford (R-FL). This bill establishes a criminal offense for knowingly assaulting a law enforcement officer causing serious bodily injury.
- On October 18th, I cosponsored **H.R. 3942, the Preventing Online Sales of E-Cigarettes to Children Act**, introduced by Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT). This bill makes online e-cigarettes an age-restricted product requiring age-verification at the point of delivery.
- On November 4th, I cosponsored **H.R. 4421, the Bankruptcy Venue Reform Act**, introduced by Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA). This bill requires entities to file bankruptcy in the jurisdiction in which the principal assets or place of business are located and eliminates place of incorporation as a qualified factor. This prevents forum shopping for favorable bankruptcy proceedings.

## FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

One of Congress' most basic responsibilities is funding the federal government. I am a strong proponent of a balanced federal budget and an advocate for reducing the size of the federal government. The appropriations process is broken. If Congress does not pass the twelve appropriations bills before the beginning of a new fiscal year, as has been the case for the last several years, current year funding levels are maintained through a Continuing Resolution. Continuing resolutions delay planning, procurement, federal contracts, and harm the ability of our military to continue its superiority.

Reckless spending is one of the biggest problems currently plaguing our federal government and has contributed to the growing budget deficit. As a fiscal conservative, I will continue to hold the line on the federal deficit by working to restrain discretionary spending. I will do my best to ensure that Congress exercises fiscal restraint in order to achieve a balanced budget, while still allocating sufficient funding levels to meet the needs of North Texans and all Americans. Fiscal discipline is the hallmark of a free society because it enables individuals to pursue their dreams without the burdensome intrusion of the federal government. Below is a sampling of fiscal responsibility-related legislation from this year:

- On January 11th, I cosponsored **H.Con.Res. 68, the Fiscal State of the Nation Resolution**, introduced by Rep. Kathleen Rice (D-NY). This resolution requires the House and Senate Budget Committees to receive a presentation on the Government Accountability Office's audit of the financial statement of the federal government and the financial position and condition of the federal government.
- On April 9th, I cosponsored **H.R. 2505, the Unauthorized Spending Accountability Act**, introduced by Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA). This bill establishes a three-year budgetary reduction schedule for unauthorized programs and the Spending and Accountability Commission to review all mandatory spending programs.

## INTELLIGENCE

In the past decade, the threats facing our nation have evolved, but the world is no less dangerous than when I first began serving the 26th District of Texas 16 years ago. We still face the possibility of terrorist attacks against Americans and our allies, nuclear weapons proliferation, localized aggressive acts by nation-states, cyberespionage and attacks, as well as destabilizing domestic conflicts. This requires continued advancement and development of our intelligence agencies while at the same time not infringing on Americans' civil liberties.

Shortly after the terrorist attacks of September 11th, Congress enacted the **USA PATRIOT Act** to provide

enhanced tools for tracking potential terrorists. While I initially supported these efforts, the implementation of these provisions resulted in the unnecessary collection of information on innocent Americans. Their continued authorization provides the potential for abuse, and I cannot support their reauthorization as currently in law. Below is a sampling of intelligence-related legislation and letters from this year:

- On January 3rd, I introduced **H.R. 112, a bill to limit CIA drone authority**. This bill prohibits the Central Intelligence Agency from using an unmanned aerial vehicle to carry out a weapons strike or other lethal action and transfers this authority to the Department of Defense.
- On February 13th, I sent a **letter to Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence**, requesting a classified Member briefing on the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi officials in their consulate in Istanbul, Turkey. To date, I have not received a response to this letter.
- On December 9th, I sent a **letter to Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence**, requesting a briefing on reports that Russia engaged in a disinformation campaign to blame Ukraine for the 2016 election interference. To date, I have not received a response to this letter.
- On July 16th, I offered **H.Amdt. 566, an amendment to H.R. 3494, the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal years 2018, 2019, 2020**. This amendment requires the Director of National Intelligence and Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission to undertake an effort to remove or neutralize unauthorized International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI) catchers installed foreign entities or that have an unknown attribution. IMSI catchers track phone traffic and location data and have previously been found around the White House, Federal Communications Commission, and the Pentagon. This amendment passed the House by voice vote.
  - This amendment, with some modifications, was included in **S. 1790, the Conference Report to accompany the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020** and signed into law.

## TRANSPORTATION

The 26th District is one of the fastest growing areas of the country. Building and maintaining a strong transportation infrastructure is vital to the economic development of North Texas. I will continue to work to ensure that our District receives federal assistance to address our infrastructure needs, such as improving Interstate 35 and State Highway 183, developing intermodal facilities, and expanding DFW Airport and surrounding municipal airports.

The current transportation authorization, the FAST Act, expires in 2020. A new transportation bill must continue to facilitate the deployment of autonomous vehicles as well as reform the mechanisms funding our infrastructure. Texas remains the only donor state to the Highway Trust Fund, contributing more in gas taxes than we receive in federal assistance. This resulted in a \$940 million imbalance in fiscal year 2019. In addition, in August, President Trump and Democratic leaders agreed to a \$2 trillion infrastructure package. To ensure the maintenance and safety of our roadways and bridges, effective allocation of federal transportation resources must be part of any future authorization. Below is a sampling of transportation-related legislation and letters from this year:

- On February 25th, I cosponsored **H.R. 1108, the Aviation Funding Stability Act**, introduced by Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR). This bill provides a continuing appropriation for the FAA from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund if a regular appropriation is not enacted at the beginning of a new fiscal year. This will ensure that Air Traffic Controllers will continue to get paid while working during a government shutdown and air traffic operations and programs will not be interrupted.
- On March 6th, I signed a **letter to the Secretary of Transportation, Elaine Chao**, requesting the Department of Transportation support American Airlines' application for service from DFW Airport to Tokyo's Haneda Airport.
- On March 15th, I signed a **letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee** requesting reform

of the Highway Trust Fund formula to ensure Texas receives an appropriate share of paid-in gas taxes.

- On May 13th, I signed a **letter to Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross** requesting an examination of Qatar's compliance with the Open Skies Agreement where Qatar agreed not to launch any new direct flights to the United States from third-party countries. Qatar is currently managing Air Italy's flights directly to the United States from Europe.

## IMMIGRATION AND BORDER SECURITY

We are facing a humanitarian and security crisis on our southern border. In fiscal year 2019, Custom and Border Portal (CBP) apprehended or found inadmissible over 977,000 migrants. In April, May, and June there were over 100,000 apprehensions or inadmissibility determinations each month, with May reaching over 144,000 – the highest number on record. These unprecedented levels are straining our border agents and officers as well as available resources. In July, Congress passed, and President Trump signed into law, an emergency supplemental appropriation to provide additional funding and resources to deal with the southern border crisis.

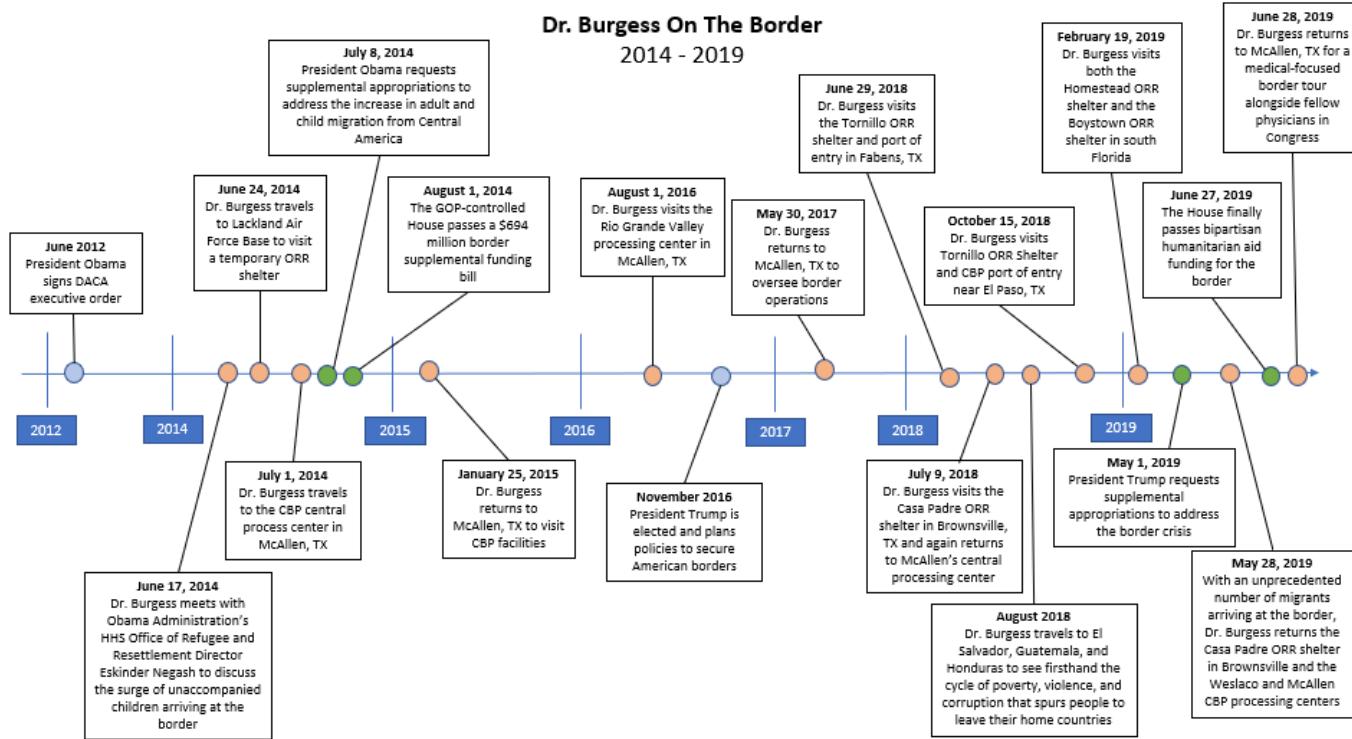
Since the Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC) crisis began in 2014, I have visited the southern border ten times. Last year, I traveled to the Central American countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to see firsthand the factors leading their citizens to make the dangerous journey to our southern border. If we are to limit the flow of undocumented immigrants across our southern border, we must find ways to combat the drivers of irregular migration at the source.

To disincentivize the dangerous and costly journey to the United States, we must secure the southern border and provide the resources needed by CBP and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to enforce a border system and keep Americans safe. In addition, we must reform our immigration laws to only grant asylum to those truly in need. According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), an overwhelming number of asylum claims are fraudulent. Those claiming credible fear of persecution in their home countries deserve our protection, but those simply seeking better opportunities must apply through the legally established process.

The United States is a nation of immigrants. Throughout our history, immigrants have made important scientific, cultural and political contributions to the United States. I believe immigration policy must ensure that the contributions of law-abiding individuals are not eclipsed by those choosing to ignore our laws. This includes ensuring all U.S. employees are legally able to work. Our policies must focus on improving employment verification and ending the availability of jobs for immigrants without the benefit of citizenship. I believe in preserving American jobs for American workers at American wages. Below is a sampling of immigration and border security-related legislation from this year:

- On January 3rd, I introduced **H.R. 109, the Equal Protection for American Workers Act**. This bill prohibits the Department of Homeland Security from granting work authorization to an alien who has been determined in a valid immigration preceding to have been at any time unlawfully present in the United States.
- On January 4th, I cosponsored **H.R. 250, the Legal Workforce Act**, introduced by Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA). This bill directs the Department of Homeland Security to create an electronic employment eligibility confirmation system to replace E-verify and mandates employer use of the system.
- On February 14th, I cosponsored **H.R. 1645, the Victims of Illegal Criminal Entry Act (VOICES) of 2019**, introduced by Rep. John Ratcliffe (R-TX). This bill strengthens legal punishment for crimes committed by illegal aliens that have previously been convicted of unlawful reentry.
- On July 23rd, I cosponsored **H.R. 3000, the Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act**, introduced by Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA). This bill withholds certain non-law enforcement federal grant funds from jurisdictions that forbid cooperation with federal immigration officials.
- On July 23rd, I cosponsored **H.R. 3717, the Dollars for the Wall Act**, introduced by Rep. Mark Green (R-TN). This bill replaces the taxpayer checkoff provisions of the Internal Revenue Code for payments to the Presidential Election Campaign Fund and replaces them with payments to the Border Wall Trust Fund.

Here is a timeline of significant events and my visits to the border since 2012:



## EDUCATION

Education is integral in shaping the future prosperity of American youth. It is imperative that parents and teachers have the last say in what students learn. The Education and Labor Committee has jurisdiction over all federal programs dealing with education at all levels, including No Child Left Behind, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Higher Education Act, Head Start, the Community Services Block Grant Act, and the Department of Education. While I am not a member of the House Committee on Education and Labor, I have always been a strong supporter of school choice and common-sense education policy. Below is a sampling of education-focused legislation from this year:

- On January 3rd, I introduced **H.R. 103, the Foreign Medical School Accountability Fairness Act of 2019**. Current law requires nearly all foreign medical schools to meet the same standards of attendance and quality to be eligible for federal student aid dollars. However, any school approved to work with any state in the U.S. prior to 1992 was grandfathered in. My bill simply removes this grandfather clause and requires all foreign medical schools to be held to the same standards.
- On January 24th, I cosponsored **H.R. 787, the SOAR Reauthorization Act of 2019**, introduced by Rep. Mark Walker (R-NC). This legislation reauthorizes and makes amendments to the important charter school program in Washington, D.C.
- On March 7th, I cosponsored **H.R. 1605, the Education Savings Accounts for Military Families Act of 2019**, introduced by Rep. Jim Banks (R-IN). This legislation increases school choice for military families by creating a special education voucher for those families who choose to educate their children through private or home schooling.
- On May 7th, I cosponsored **H.R. 1554, the Resident Education Deferred Interest (REDI) Act**, introduced by Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX). This legislation allows medical and dental interns and residents to defer the interest of their student loans while in those programs.

## WORKFORCE

Americans should have easily available opportunities to build a better life for themselves. The Education and

Labor Committee has jurisdiction over pensions and retirement, employee health care benefits, job training, unions, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, equal employment opportunities, the Fair Labor Standards Act, and worker's compensation. While I am not a member of the House Committee on Education and Labor, I will continue to work on behalf of the 26th District of Texas to ensure opportunities to earn a real wage are not limited by government regulation. Below is a sampling of workforce-focused legislation and activity from this year:

- On July 18th, I spoke on the House floor in opposition to **H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act**, introduced by Congressman Bobby Scott (D-VA). This legislation increases the federal minimum wage to fifteen dollars an hour and does not consider the economic realities this massive change would cause to employees and small businesses, especially those in entry level roles. I offered an amendment to this legislation in the House Rules Committee to protect entry level employees with less than a year of work experience from uncompetitive wage regulations.
- On March 27th, I cosponsored **H.R. 1935, the Wage Equity Act of 2019**, introduced by Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY). This bill protects employee and employer ability to close the gender wage gap and prioritizes the needs of employees and employers.
- On March 14, I cosponsored **H.R. 873, the Transformation to Competitive Employment Act**, introduced by Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA). Under current law, the federal government can grant waivers to certain employers permitting them to pay employees less than the federal minimum wage if they have a mental and physically disabilities. H.R. 873 would phase out these waivers and fund programs to ensure these individuals are integrated into the communities in which they live.

## FINANCIAL SERVICES

The United States has the world's most robust financial markets that support a strong economy. Entrepreneurs and businesses should have easy access to reliable capital, and investors should be able to take calculated risks that enable them to see returns on those investments. While I am not a member of the House Financial Services Committee, which has primary jurisdiction over finance and banking policy, I have always fought for increased transparency and reduced federal roadblocks on how Americans can access their money. Below is a sampling of financial services-focused legislation from this year:

- On January 8th, I cosponsored **H.R. 24, the Federal Reserve Transparency Act of 2019**, introduced by Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY). This bill requires that the Government Accountability Office regularly audit the Federal Reserve bank system and report its findings to Congress.
- On January 30th, I cosponsored **H.R. 587, to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal** to the Americans killed in the Benghazi attack on September 11, 2012, introduced by Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA).
- On June 20th, I cosponsored **H.R. 969, the Taking Account of Bureaucrats' Spending (TABS) Act**, introduced by Rep. Andy Barr (R-KY). This bill would bring the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau into the Congressional appropriation cycle rather than receiving funding through Federal Reserve transfers.
- I've also cosponsored **four bills that would direct the Treasury to issue new coinage** to commemorate the lives of President George H.W. Bush and Barbara Bush, the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the End of World War II, the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's Suffrage, and Christa McAuliffe - a teacher tragically killed in the Space Shuttle Challenger Disaster.

## AGRICULTURE

America is the bread basket of the world and Texas is a leader in this sector. Our farmers and ranchers deserve to compete on a level playing field. Families should have access to food assistance, but that assistance must go to those most in need. This year, I supported reforms to require able-bodied individuals receiving assistance to seek gainful employment. I also supported passage of the USMCA to provide opportunities for Texas farmers and ranchers. The Agriculture Committee has jurisdiction over general farm commodities and risk management, conservation and forestry, nutrition, biotechnology, livestock, and foreign agriculture. Below is a sampling of agriculture-focused legislation and letters from this year:

- On January 9th I signed a **letter to Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue**, led by Rep. Kevin Hern (R-OK), supporting the U.S. Department of Agriculture's new rules regarding work requirements for individuals who can work and do not have dependents, yet still receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.
- On March 7th, I cosponsored **H. Res. 45**, introduced by Rep. Collin Peterson (D-MN). This resolution congratulates the American Farm Bureau Federation for hosting its 100th anniversary convention.

## TRADE

International trade in goods and services is an integral part of the economy for the United States and Texas. Therefore, I support President Trump's agenda in renegotiating many of the United States' trade deals. New trade deals have been signed, China is at the negotiating table, and energy exports are at an all-time high. While I am not a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, which has primary jurisdiction over trade policy, I am monitoring the progress of ongoing trade negotiations.

- On January 24th, I cosponsored **H.R. 764, the Reciprocal Trade Act**, introduced by then-Rep. Sean Duffy (R-WI). This legislation gives the President authority to levy tariffs on foreign nations up to the same rates as other nations. This would give any President the ability to negotiate with such nations with scalpel-like precision to reduce tariffs on American exports.

## SOCIAL SECURITY AND RETIREMENT

The American people deserve the tools necessary to achieve peace of mind when it comes to how they choose to retire. In today's ever-changing economy, one individual's retirement may look vastly different from another's. Social security, personal savings, and pensions are all important tools in providing assurance to our senior citizens. This year, I prioritized ensuring fairness on behalf of the public servants of Texas. Under current Social Security law, state employees who have worked additional jobs to pay the bills or have changed careers have been treated unfairly by the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). I participated in reworking these provisions to ensure Texas' civil servants and their families are treated fairly. Below is a sampling of retirement-focused legislation from this year:

- On January 9th, I cosponsored **H.R. 141, the Social Security Fairness Act of 2019**, introduced by Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL). This legislation completely repeals both GPO and WEP.
- On July 24th, I cosponsored **H.R. 3934, the Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2019**, introduced by Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX). This legislation makes sustainable reforms to the WEP formula in order to ensure Texas civil servants, such as firefighters and teachers, are treated fairly.
- On May 23rd, I voted in support of **H.R. 1994, the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act**, introduced by Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA). This legislation removes many roadblocks and increases incentives for personal and employer-sponsored retirement plans, making them more affordable for workers and small businesses.
  - This legislation passed the House by a vote of 417-3.

## OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

Congress conducts oversight of agencies, departments, and programs within the jurisdiction of the Congressional committees. Ten of the 22 legislative committees in the House of Representatives have an Oversight and Investigations-focused subcommittee. In addition, the Oversight and Reform Committee has authority to investigate civil rights and liberties, economic and consumer policy, the environment, government operations, and national security. Below is sampling of Oversight and Reform legislation from this year:

- On January 3rd, I introduced **H.R. 111, the Semipostal Stamp Clarification Act of 2019**. Semipostal Stamps are crafted and sold by the United States Postal Service (USPS) at a premium to raise money for certain "national public interests." Under current law, the USPS designates which charities receive such support. My bill simply returns this responsibility to Congress.

- On July 30th, I cosponsored **H.R. 3348, the Modern Employment Reform, Improvement, and Transformation (MERIT) Act of 2019**, introduced by Rep. Barry Loudermilk (R-GA). This legislation updates the current civil service system by streamlining the dismissal of poorly performing federal employees and reducing benefits for felons convicted of crimes connected to federal employment.
- Throughout the year, I have cosponsored **legislation to rename postal facilities in Texas** after individuals important to Texans. These individuals include American war hero and actor Audie Murphy, former Congressman Ralph Hall, and others.

Below is a sampling of Oversight and Investigations activity within the Energy and Commerce Committee from this year:

- On February 27th, I participated in an **Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on measles outbreaks in the U.S.** This hearing helped show that vaccine programs are safe and effective in reducing the spread of measles. I am also the Republican Lead on **H.R. 2862, the VACCINES Act of 2019**, which provides for a national system for surveillance of vaccine rates, authorizes research on vaccine hesitancy, and increases public understanding of the benefits of immunizations.
- On March 29th and April 4th, I participated in two **Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearings on insulin pricing**. These hearings sought to understand the rising cost of insulin in the United States, which is bewildering and hindering access to insulin.
- On October 18th, I participated in an **Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee hearing on the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS)** efforts under the Trump Administration. CMS Administrator Seema Verma testified, and I was able to thank her for the Administration's work on providing coverage of cardiac stenting in ambulatory surgical centers and the propose Stark Law and Anti-Kickback Statute reforms. I was also able to ask questions about maternal mortality and secure a commitment to work together to address prior authorization.
- On February 7th and September 19th, I participated in two **Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearings on care provided to Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC)** in the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). Since the UAC crisis began in 2014, the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee has worked with ORR to improve care, resulting in the creation of a Division of Health for UAC, employment of medical professionals, full health screening with all appropriate vaccinations, and establishment of a hotline for UAC upon release. During these hearings I was able to question Commander Jonathan White of the Public Health Service and Director Jonathan Hayes of the Office of Refugee Resettlement on how we can advance this continuum of care.

## **IMPEACHMENT**

The Constitution grants Congress the power to formally charge a federal officer, including the President, with wrongdoing. A federal officer is impeached if the House of Representatives passes a resolution of Articles of Impeachment containing explanations of the charges. Once the House agrees to impeach a federal officer, the Senate conducts a trial to determine whether the charged individual should be removed from office, which requires a two-thirds vote in the Senate.

This process begins when the Rules Committee passes a resolution authorizing the parameters for an impeachment investigation. Authorized committees then conduct an investigation using existing House resources and decide whether to report Articles of Impeachment to the full House for consideration. The House has only conducted three presidential impeachment investigations and impeached two presidents. Congress investigated President Andrew Johnson, President Richard Nixon, and President William Clinton, resulting in impeachments of Presidents Johnson and Clinton. No president has been removed from office following an impeachment by the House.

On October 30, 2019, the Rules Committee, on which I sit, passed **H.Res. 660**, a resolution authorizing six committees to continue ongoing investigations into whether to impeach President Trump. During consideration of this resolution, I offered four amendments to increase transparency of the investigation, prohibit outside

consultants from acting as counsel during committee proceedings, and ensure Member access to all committee records as required by House Rule XI. Unfortunately, none of these amendments were adopted.

Since Speaker Pelosi announced the impeachment inquiry on September 24, 2019, I have sent six letters requesting information on committee proceedings and access to committee records. To date, I have not received a response. Below are descriptions of the letters:

- On October 17th, I sent a **letter to Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) requesting access to committee records** under House Rule XI, which states that records are the property of the House and no Members can be denied access. At this point, all impeachment inquiry hearings had been conducted during closed sessions.
- On October 18th, I signed a **letter to Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY) of the Committee on Foreign Affairs**, requesting they release the rules governing their closed depositions and transcribed interviews.
- On October 22nd, I sent a **letter to Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) requesting access** to the October 3<sup>rd</sup> interview transcript of Ambassador Kurt Volker that was conducted in closed session.
- On November 4th, I sent a **letter to Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) requesting access** to proceedings, transcripts, materials, and other records that are informing the impeachment inquiry.
- On December 10th, I signed a **letter to Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-NY) of the House Judiciary Committee** requesting he schedule a minority hearing as provided for in House Rules.
- On December 5th, I signed a **letter to Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA) of the House Rules Committee**, requesting he review the decision by Chairman Nadler not to schedule a minority hearing.

Since the impeachment investigation began, the House has conducted numerous depositions, many in a closed session, and several hearings, few of which were public. In addition, on September 26th during a hearing on a whistleblower complaint, Chairman Schiff (D-CA) fabricated content of a phone call between President Trump and President Zelensky of Ukraine, the subject of the impeachment investigation. In response, I cosponsored the following resolution:

- On October 16th, I cosponsored **H.Res. 630, a resolution censuring Rep. Schiff (D-CA)** for conduct that misleads the American people in a way that is not befitting an elected Member of the House of Representatives by fabricating information and presenting it as fact.

On December 3rd, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence submitted their investigation report to the Judiciary Committee in support of Articles of Impeachment. The day before, intelligence committee Republicans released a report detailing findings of the investigation. On December 10th, House Democrats introduced **H.Res. 755, Articles of Impeachment**, accusing President Trump of “abuse of power” and “obstruction of Congress.” To date, none of the evidence presented rises to the level of an impeachable offense. Therefore, on December 18th, I voted against impeaching President Trump. An impeachment is a national trauma, and Congress needs to get back to the business of legislating.



## In the News

I do my best to be accessible to the constituents of the 26th District. This includes being available for television, radio and print interviews. In 2019, I was interviewed more than 75 times, I put forward more than 100 press releases, wrote 5 opEds, and produced more than 15 Weekly Address. I took advantage of social media and grew my following on Twitter by 7%, Facebook by 3 % and Instagram by 15%. Below you will find a snap shot of my time in the news.

### Television Interviews:

This year the I did more than 30 national and local television interviews. Here are a few samples of those interviews:

- [Trish Regan Primetime](#): January 2019
- [Lone Star Politics](#): March 2019
- [Mornings with Maria](#): May 2019
- [Inside Texas Politics](#): November 2019
- [After the Bell](#): December 2019

### Press Releases

I put out more than 100 press releases. Here are a few samples:

- [Burgess Meets with President Trump on Trade](#): January 2019
- [Burgess Recognized for Streak of Effective Lawmaking in Congress](#): April 2019
- [Burgess Seeks Return to Bipartisan Efforts by Committee](#): September 2019
- [Burgess Votes Against Fewer Cures](#): December 2019
- [Burgess Votes Against Impeachment](#): December 2019

### Weekly Addresses

To ensure that the people of District-26 hear from me, I sent out more than 70 Weekly Addresses/e-newsletters. The topics varied but focused on the pressing issues facing Americans. Here are a few examples:

- Weekly Address: [Border Security is National Security](#): January 2019
- Weekly Address: [Stewarding Americans' Tax Dollars](#): June 2019
- Weekly Address: [The Dignity of Work](#): August 2019
- Weekly Address: [Increasing Our Energy Efficiency](#): September 2019
- Weekly Address: [Thank you to our veterans in North Texas and across this nation!](#): November 2019



Michael Burgess

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September is National Sickle Cell Awareness month to help remind us of the research and treatment programs that still need our time and energy. Around 70,000 to 100,000 Americans suffer from the disease at this time, and though we still have a long way to go it's good to remember the progress we have made and the hope our doctors and scientists have for it today. [@ssdaao.org #sicklecellawareness](#)





Michael Burgess, MD @michaelburgess

Thank you @realDonaldTrump for the invitation to the @WhiteHouse Christmas party. So honored to run into Capt Trey Gregory-Naval Acad grad from the TX26.



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