

From: Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher <RepLizzieFletcherTX07@mail.house.gov> To:

Andrea.Peterson@mail.house.gov Subject: Weekly Wrap Up Date: Fri, 01 Dec 2023

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Weekly Wrap Up body, table, td, a{-webkit-text-size-adjust: 100%;  
-ms-text-size-adjust: 100%;} /\* Prevent WebKit and Windows mobile changing  
default text sizes \*/ img{-ms-interpolation-mode: bicubic;} /\* Allow smoother  
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td {text-align:center;}.component { margin-left: 20px; margin-right: 20px;}  
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CLIENT-SPECIFIC STYLES \*/ body, table, td, a{-webkit-text-size-adjust: 100%;  
-ms-text-size-adjust: 100%;} /\* Prevent WebKit and Windows mobile changing  
default text sizes \*/ table, td{mso-table-lspace: 0pt; mso-table-rspace: 0pt;}  
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img{-ms-interpolation-mode: bicubic;} /\* Allow smoother rendering of resized  
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font-weight: bold; } /\* Editor reset \*/ /\* FIRESIDE STYLES \*/.component img  
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{font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;} /\* Margin/NoMargin STYLES \*/  
.component.full-width{ overflow: hidden; margin: 0px; } /\* HEADER STYLES \*/  
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#000000;text-align: center;font-size: 24px;font-weight: bold; }.survey-content  
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input.survey-submit { font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif !important; }  
@media all and (max-width:650px) { .image-1, .caption-1, .img-1 img, .image-1  
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td, .split .component, .split .component td, .split td {text-align:center;}  
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.responsive-table { margin-left: 0px !important; margin-right: 0px !important;}  
.wide .video-thumb { width: 100% !important; height: auto !important; }  
.wide.video-container { width: 100% !important; } .scale1280x720  
.video-thumb-padding {height: calc(((720 \* (100vw - 50px)) / 1280) / 2 -  
40px);} } Dear Neighbor, It was great to be back home in Houston for the  
Thanksgiving holiday, before heading back to Washington this week.&nbsp; Dear  
Neighbor, It was great to be back home in Houston for the Thanksgiving holiday,  
before heading back to Washington this week.&nbsp; During the Thanksgiving  
week, I had a chance to visit with several of our neighbors in my office and at  
events throughout TX-07, including the Alexander Jewish Family Service's JFS  
Live event, the 100th Anniversary celebration for the Southampton neighborhood,  
and the Holocaust Museum's Guardian of the Human Spirit luncheon as well as  
(pictured below) the American Society of Civil Engineers and State  
Representative Suleman Lalani. &nbsp; &nbsp; I was also glad to convene a  
meeting with leaders of the Houston Minority Supplier Development Council for a  
discussion and a briefing with the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)  
Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) on projects and  
opportunities made possible by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and  
other USDOT projects. &nbsp; &nbsp; Over the weekend, I was also glad to join  
leaders from Harris County and the City of Houston for a successful gun buyback  
event in TX-07 organized by Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley  
Briones.&nbsp; Congress made the funds available to our local government  
through the American Rescue Plan Act, and our leaders made the decision to use  
these funds to make our community safer, including using them for this buyback.  
&nbsp; &nbsp; I got to spend #SmallBusinessSaturday visiting some of my  
favorite spots in #TX07. &nbsp; &nbsp; And this Monday, I had the honor and  
pleasure of welcoming Vice President Kamala Harris to Houston for a discussion  
organized by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and hosted by Congresswoman  
Sylvia Garcia (TX-29) with leaders from Houston's Hispanic community.&nbsp; It  
was also a thrill to see our former TX-07 intern Mia, who is now working at the  
White House, back in town for the event! &nbsp; &nbsp; The House reconvened on  
Tuesday, and debated several bills under suspension of the rules.&nbsp; On  
Tuesday, the House passed H.Res. 683, a resolution expressing support for  
diplomacy to encourage the Mexican government to fulfill its water deliveries  
to the U.S. under the bilateral treaty regarding the Colorado and Tijuana  
Rivers and of the Rio Grande-an issue I have talked about with Texans and  
worked to address.&nbsp; This is a particular challenge for farmers in South  
Texas, so I am glad the House passed this resolution. &nbsp; The House also  
considered several small business bills to strengthen local economies.&nbsp;  
These bills, (H.R. 4666, H.R. 4667, H.R. 4668, H.R. 4670, H.R. 5427, H.R. 4480)  
would strengthen reporting requirements to ensure fairness on loans requested  
by minority-owned businesses and women-owned businesses, require the Small  
Business Administration (SBA) to report on access to credit for veteran owned

businesses, publish guidance to ease the application process for small business loans, and require the SBA to issue guidance on how small businesses can return unused PPP loans to avoid penalties.&nbsp; All passed on a bipartisan basis. Tuesday evening, the House considered two resolutions regarding the ongoing Israel-Hamas war: (1) a resolution calling on Hamas to immediately release hostages taken during the October 7 attacks on Israel (H.Res. 793), which passed on the House unanimously, and (2) a resolution affirming the State of Israel's right to exist (H.Res. 888), which passed the House on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis.&nbsp; I voted in favor of both resolutions.&nbsp;&nbsp; Later in the week, the House considered and voted on the No Funds for Iranian Terrorism Act (H.R. 5961), a bill that, if enacted, would direct the President to impose sanctions against financial institutions that facilitate transactions involving the restricted oil revenue the United States and Iran agreed could be accessed for a limited category of humanitarian transactions in exchange for freeing five Americans in Iran earlier this year.&nbsp; As you may know, these funds, which are proceeds from sales of oil to South Korea in the past, are in a restricted account in Qatar and can only be disbursed for humanitarian assistance.&nbsp; Following Hamas' October 7 attack, the United States and Qatar reached an agreement to freeze the funds.&nbsp; This bill would go further, undoing the prior agreement and removing the President's ability to conduct any future negotiations around the funds. &nbsp; While I share concerns of many regarding the actions of the Iranian regime, I am also concerned about this bill's implications for future negotiations in the event Americans are held hostage by foreign adversaries.&nbsp; For these reasons, I voted against this bill; but it passed the House by a vote of 307 to 119 with one person voting present.&nbsp; The House also considered the Protecting our Communities from Failure to Secure the Border Act of 2023 (H.R. 5283) this week.&nbsp; This bill prohibits federal funds for temporary or permanent housing for undocumented migrants on land controlled by federal land management agencies.&nbsp; Instead of supporting states and cities, this bill undermines the ability of American communities to receive these individuals.&nbsp; It also does nothing to address the reasons people come to the United States seeking protection or provide resources for efficient screening of arriving migrants at ports of entry.&nbsp; For these reasons, I voted no. The bill passed the House 224-203-1 on Thursday. The House also considered a resolution to disapprove of a rule that the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau issued on March 30 of this year requiring financial institutions that make 100 or more small business loans annually to collect and report small business lending data, including on women-and minority-owned small businesses' credit applications.&nbsp; This rule was issued to facilitate enforcement of fair lending laws and enable communities, governmental entities, and creditors to identify business and community development needs and opportunities of women-owned and minority-owned small businesses, and for that reason I voted against this resolution, which passed by a vote of 221-202-1. Finally, today, the House voted on a motion to expel Representative George Santos from the U.S. House of Representatives (H.Res 868).&nbsp; Since the beginning of this Congress, I have heard from many constituents concerned about

allegations that Representative Santos fabricated his qualifications and large parts of his resume and violated campaign finance laws while running to represent New York's Third Congressional District. And, as you may know, the United States has now brought charges against Representative Santos in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York. The week before Thanksgiving, the House of Representatives' Committee on Ethics adopted the report of its Investigative Subcommittee (ISC) unanimously concluding that there was substantial evidence that Representative Santos knowingly caused his campaign committee to file false or incomplete reports with the Federal Election Commission; used campaign funds for personal purposes; engaged in fraudulent conduct; and engaged in knowing and willful violations of the Ethics in Government Act as it relates to his Financial Disclosure Statements filed with the House. In light of the ongoing criminal investigation into Representative Santos, the Committee unanimously voted to refer the substantial evidence of potential violations of federal criminal law to the Department of Justice for such further action as it deems appropriate and it voted to concur in the determination that Representative Santos' conduct warrants public condemnation, is beneath the dignity of the office, and has brought severe discredit upon the House. After the Committee announced its findings, the Chair of the House Ethics Committee filed a motion to expel Congressman Santos. Expulsion is the most serious remedy against a member of the House, and it requires the yes votes of two-thirds of the body. In our history, the House has expelled only five members—three for joining the Confederacy as traitors to the Union and two after they were convicted of serious criminal offenses. I voted against an earlier resolution to expel Representative Santos because no determinations about the allegations had been reached in the court process or the House ethics process. Like many of my colleagues, I believed it would set a precedent for expulsion without due process that would ultimately harm the institution and our representative democracy. Today, however, with the Ethics process completed, I voted to expel Representative Santos from Congress for the reasons set forth in the House Ethics Committee's report and its conclusion that his conduct as a candidate and as a Member of Congress is beneath the dignity of the office and has brought discredit upon the House of Representatives. The resolution passed by a vote of 311 to 114 with two members abstaining, and Representative Santos was expelled this morning. What happens next? Members to the House must be elected and cannot be appointed. The Governor of New York has ten days to set a date for a special election to fill this seat. As a reminder, you can always find a list of all of the votes I have taken for the district on my website and you can look up bills by name or number on Congress.gov. This week, I co-sponsored several pieces of legislation on issues important to our community, including: The Stillbirth Health Improvement and Education (SHINE) for Autumn Act, H.R. 5012, to create the first comprehensive, federal-state partnership to reduce stillbirth rates in the U.S. through enhanced data collection, research, education, and awareness; The Better CARE for Animals Act of 2023, H.R. 5041, to expand the Department of Justice's capabilities to strengthen enforcement of the Animal

Welfare Act;The Humane Cosmetics Act of 2023, H.R. 5399, to prohibit new animal testing on cosmetics and their ingredients and prohibit the sale of animal-tested cosmetics in the U.S.;The Hot Foods Act of 2023, H.R. 3519, to remove an outdated prohibition that prevents families from using SNAP benefits to purchase hot foods;&nbsp;The American Dream Employment Act, H.R. 1381, to lift the current ban on DACA and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) recipients from working on Capitol Hill;The Rosa Parks Day Act, H.R. 308, to designate Rosa Parks Day (December 1) as a federal holiday;A resolution supporting the goals and principles of Transgender Day of Remembrance by recognizing the epidemic of violence toward transgender people and memorializing the lives lost this year, H.Res. 886; andA resolution proposing a constitutional amendment that will eliminate the Exception Clause of the 13th Amendment and fully outlaw slavery, H.J.Res. 72.I joined my colleagues in sending several letters on issues also important to our community, including:a letter to the UN Women urging it to condemn Hamas' sexual violence against women, including torture and rape, in its October 7 attack on Israel;a letter to House and Senate Agriculture Committee leaders asking for the inclusion of the Hot Foods Act in the 2023 Farm Bill, which would lift the prohibition on purchasing hot foods with food assistance benefits;a bipartisan letter to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack expressing support for USDA's proposed rule to improve enforcement of the Horse Protection Act and to urge USDA to finalize it; anda letter to President Biden proposing that he award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to enslaved African Americans, collectively, in recognition of their contributions to the prosperity of America. On Thursday, the Energy and Commerce Committee's Communications and Technology Subcommittee heard testimony from all five Federal Communications Commission (FCC) commissioners about their work to ensure all Americans have safe and reliable access to our nation's communications network, including enhancing cybersecurity protections and access to critical emergency information, examining the role of artificial intelligence in communications networks, and taking new steps to improve access to high-speed broadband.&nbsp; I took the opportunity to question Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel about protecting emergency communications and promoting multilingual access to emergency alerts.&nbsp; (And, yes, I now need reading glasses!) &nbsp; &nbsp; &nbsp; &nbsp; Under Chairwoman Rosenworcel's leadership, the FCC is successfully implementing legislation the 117th Congress delivered to help lower internet costs for Americans and expand access to communities left behind. The FCC is also implementing laws that protect our communications networks from global adversaries, promote innovation, and protect consumers.&nbsp; Legislation the Energy and Commerce passed that the FCC has worked to implement includes: the Martha Wright Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act, to end predatory phone rates for incarcerated people and their families; the Safe Connections Act, to support survivors of domestic abuse seeking to separate phone lines with an abuser; the Data Mapping to Save Moms' Lives Act, to use data to improve maternal health outcomes; and (everyone's favorite) the Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence (TRACED) Act to fight disruptive and dangerous robocalls and robotexts. This week was full of

meetings!&nbsp; I convened two meetings of the New Democrat Coalition's Trade Task Force, one regarding the World Trade Organization's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) waiver for COVID-19 vaccines and another with leaders in various industries to discuss trade challenges and priorities as well as how best to work to further a proactive trade agenda. With my colleagues in the New Democrat Coalition, I met with U.S. Department of Energy Director of the Loan Programs Office Jigar Shah about his work advocating for public-private partnerships established in the Inflation Reduction Act to drive new energy innovation companies.&nbsp; Earlier this year, his group announced that Sunnova, a residential solar company headquartered in TX07, will receive an up to \$3 billion partial loan guarantee to make distributed energy resources (DERs), including rooftop solar, battery storage, and virtual power plant (VPP)-ready software available to more American homeowners.&nbsp; We had a chance to visit one-on-one about more opportunities to convene Houstonians and advance the groundbreaking work happening here at home. And, the Regional Leadership Council met with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Regan to discuss key environmental provisions in our Investing in America Agenda.&nbsp; I was glad to ask about implementation of key programs in the Inflation Reduction Act and guidance people in our community are waiting to receive.&nbsp; We also talked about essential work to ensure communities across the country have clean water - including the \$1.1 billion the state has received from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the \$1 million Climate Production Reduction Grant (CPRG) from the Inflation Reduction Act in addition to the \$3 million in CPRG funding for the state.&nbsp; &nbsp; I always appreciate seeing Houstonians on the Hill, and was glad to have a visit this week with Huntsman CEO Peter Huntsman to discuss the work they are doing in connection with electric vehicle materials sourcing and American competitiveness and trade. &nbsp; Our teams in Washington and Houston were on the go this week, meeting with the Obesity Action Coalition, the Recording Academy, and others, taking part in METRO CEO Tom Lambert's retirement ceremony, and checking in at the Southwest Management District's Morning Mixer. &nbsp; Again this year, we are collecting Winter Wishes to share with senior citizens throughout our district.&nbsp; We will be delivering cards that neighbors from across TX-07 make.&nbsp; We are working with schools in the district, and welcome teachers, parents, and kids who would like to help!&nbsp; Contact our office or sign up to participate by visiting [bit.ly/WinterWishes2023](https://bit.ly/WinterWishes2023) or clicking on the image below. &nbsp; &nbsp; On Monday, December 11, I will host a virtual town hall to provide a congressional update on the work I have done in Congress on behalf of our district this year and to answer your questions.&nbsp; RSVP and submit your questions here.&nbsp; &nbsp; The House will be back in session next week, and I will be back in Washington.&nbsp; I look forward to providing you with another update then.&nbsp; As always, I am proud to represent you and I am here to help you.&nbsp; Please call my office at (713) 353-8680 or (202) 225-2571 or email here at any time to ask for assistance or share your thoughts.&nbsp; I look forward to hearing from you. Best wishes, &nbsp; PS: &nbsp; If you made it all the way to the end, I hope that means you like getting the weekly email.&nbsp;

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