

From: "Rep. Michael Lawler" <repmikelowler@mail.house.gov> To: Peter.Finocchio@mail.house.gov Subject: Honoring our Commitments to Families Date: Fri, 17 Nov 2023 19:07:51 -0500 Unsubscribe: <https://lawler.house.gov/Forms/EmailSignup/?Delete=true&MessageID=331&Email=Peter.Finocchio@mail.house.gov>

Honoring our Commitments to Families 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 rendering of resized image in Internet Explorer */ /* RESET STYLES */img { border: 0; height: auto; line-height: 100%; outline: none; text-decoration: none; }table { border-collapse: collapse !important; }body { height: 100% !important; margin: 0 !important; padding: 0 !important; width: 100% !important; }strong { font-weight: bold; } /* Editor reset */ /* FIRESIDE STYLES */.component img {max-width:600px;}.component table {mso-table-rspace:10pt; border-collapse:collapse;}.component { padding: 0px !important; }.press {padding-bottom: 0px;}@media all and (max-width:650px) { .image-1, .caption-1, .img-1 img, .image-1 tr, .image-1 td, .image-2, .img-2 img, .image-2 tr, .image-2 td {max-width: 100% !important; width: 100% !important;}.responsive-table {width:100% !important;}.responsive-table img {max-width:100% !important; height: auto !important;}.press .component, .press td {text-align:center;}.component { margin-left: 20px; margin-right: 20px;}.component .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; }.component.full-width {margin-left: 0px; margin-right: 0px; } } /* 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;} /* Remove spacing between tables in Outlook 2007 and up */

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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;}
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.video-thumb-padding {height: calc(((720 * (100vw - 50px)) / 1280) / 2 -
40px);} } Friday, November 17, 2023 Peter, This week, the House passed a
laddered continuing resolution to keep the government running while we continue
going through the appropriations process. I have said from the start that we
must responsibly cut spending and avoid inflicting on the American people the
pain that would result from a default or a government shutdown.&nbsp;That's why
I supported the bipartisan compromise that raised the debt ceiling earlier this
year, the bipartisan CR that averted a government shutdown in September, and
the CR the House just passed by a similarly broad bipartisan margin to ensure
that we do not have a shutdown on the eve of Thanksgiving. For thirty years,
Washington shirked the responsibility of going line by line through its
budgets, choosing to pass massive omnibuses instead of single-subject spending
bills. Breaking a decades-long bad habit is messy and takes time. To date, the
House has nonetheless passed seven of the twelve individual appropriations
bills and will complete its work on the five remaining ones before this new CR
expires next year. You can listen to my discussion of this new CR yesterday
with Julie Mason below: Friday, November 17, 2023 Peter, This week, the House
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discussion of this new CR yesterday with Julie Mason below: &nbsp; &nbsp; In a
divided government, compromise is essential. I will continue working with my
colleagues to responsibly rein in spending and restore trust in the legislative
process. This week the House voted on amendments to the Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education (LHHS)&nbsp;appropriations bill. The House passed two
amendments I introduced geared toward&nbsp;combatting antisemitism on college
campuses. My amendment requiring the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S.
Department of Education&nbsp;to prioritize the investigation of antisemitic
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incidents passed by a voice vote in the en bloc amendments for the bill.

My second LHHS amendment, which will rescind federal funding for college campuses that give a platform to antisemitism hate, was adopted with broad, bipartisan support. You can listen to my remarks on the House floor about the latter amendment below: A third amendment I introduced to the LHHS funding bill will allocate \$100 million in new funding for Head Start. As the father of a young girl, I know how critical it is to invest in the early childhood services that Head Start provides. That's why I was pleased to see the House adopt this amendment by voice vote. I spoke on this amendment prior to its passage and you can listen to my comments here: Like much of what we spend money on in Washington, our priorities on education are often backwards. When it comes to our children's education, I will always prioritize kids over bureaucrats and I will always work to make sure that the dollars we allocate go directly into communities and classrooms: In addition to my three amendments that were adopted for the House's FY 2024 LHHS funding bill, my latest bill to hold China and Iran accountable cleared a major hurdle. The Iran-China Energy Sanctions Act, which I introduced with my colleague Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ-05), passed the House Financial Services Committee by a margin of 47-0 during our markup meeting this week. H.R. 5923 targets the small, independent Chinese oil refiners driving Chinese purchases of Iranian crude and requires the Treasury Department to make annual sanctions determinations for Chinese banks. I spoke on my bill when it came before the Committee: Iran is exporting a record 1.5 million barrels of petroleum per day and around 80 percent of those exports are going to China. We must crack down on enablers of Iranian terror, of which there is no greater culprit than China. Cutting off Iran's ability to finance terrorist proxies around the world is long overdue, especially after Hamas' Iran-backed terror attack against Israel. That's why I introduced the SHIP Act which just passed the House last week and it is why I introduced the Iran-China Energy Sanctions Act. I was pleased to see H.R. 5923 advance from the Financial Services Committee. I look forward to getting it passed and signed into law. On Monday, I returned from a bipartisan, bicameral congressional delegation trip to Israel with several of my House and Senate colleagues. While there, we met with Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, and the U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Jacob Lew. We also met with family members of hostages held by Hamas terrorists. Additionally, my colleagues and I received a private briefing on Hamas' October 7 terrorist attack and the latest information regarding the safety and whereabouts of hostages. I told Prime Minister Netanyahu and the Israeli officials I met with in private the same thing I have been saying publicly for months: the United States stands firmly and resolutely with Israel - and we always will: In Washington, my colleagues and I saw a video of the October 7 attack. I explained in an interview yesterday why I think this footage should be available to the public. It's important for everyone to comprehend the depth of evil committed by Hamas. There is no moral equivalency between Israel and Hamas. We must be unwavering

in our support of our friend in its time of great need. That's why I was proud to join the nearly 300,000 people who marched in support of Israel in Washington this week. I joined many of my colleagues as well as several constituents at this historic rally. The message was clear. We are united with our ally and there is no daylight between us. Rep. Lawler participates in historic rally on the National Mall in support of Israel. I also attended a solidarity event with fellow members of the Congressional Israel Allies Caucus organized by the Israel Allies Foundation and Jerusalem Post. It's more important than ever that we unite in support for Israel and our Jewish communities. Rep. Lawler joins House colleagues for a solidarity event for Israel on Capitol Hill. Back in New York last night, I attended a solidarity gathering in Nyack for those taken by Hamas. This event brought together Jewish community leaders and Hudson Valley residents from across our district. I was proud to stand with them and will not stop fighting to ensure these men, women, and children return safely to their families and Hamas is never again able to inflict such devastation on innocent people. Rep. Lawler attends solidarity gathering for Israel in Nyack with Jewish community leaders and Hudson Valley residents. For those with loved ones who are in Israel at this time, I am again re-upping the information from the State Department on who you can contact for information: Citizens seeking to be in touch with the U.S. Embassy in Israel can fill out THIS FORM. They can also call 1-833-890-9595 or 1-606-641-0131.American citizens calling from Israel can dial 03-519-7426. For the latest updates, please monitor the messages to U.S. citizens from the U.S. Embassy in Israel HERE. Any U.S. citizens in Israel should enroll their contact information in the State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP):<https://step.state.gov/step/> The State Department will post additional updates to their travel advisory for Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza as they are issued HERE. My office continues to be in touch regularly with Administration officials concerning the safety of American citizens who are in Israel. From the start, I have called on the Administration to use every tool in its tool chest to evacuate our citizens and get them home, including by indemnifying commercial airlines and sending military aircraft. Our office held its first Service Academy nomination interviews this week! Led by Lou Liotti, our nominating committee is made up of amazing individuals from across NY-17 who have served our country. After a weekend of Veterans Day ceremonies and parades across our district, it was exciting to hear from these aspiring cadets about why they want to attend one of our Service Academies and give back to our country. Rep. Lawler's Service Academy Nominating Committee interviews a prospective Service Academy nominee. I met with a slightly younger group of leaders today - third, fourth, and fifth graders at Montebello Elementary School's career day. I enjoyed sharing my experiences with these future trailblazers earlier today and taking their thoughtful questions! Rep. Lawler speaks to students at Montebello Elementary School in Suffern. After meeting with these students, I spoke with constituents at our mobile office hours in Pound Ridge. I appreciated the questions and feedback and am looking forward to a similarly productive dialogue at our Bedford mobile office hours on Monday! Rep. Lawler speaks with

constituents at mobile office hours in Pound Ridge. One of the most important things my office does is help constituents with a wide assortment of constituent casework needs. In addition to the discussions I have at our mobile office hours with constituents, my district staff assists constituents with these issues, from tax issues to passport delays to many other issues. In order to better assist constituents with their needs, my district staff met with representatives from the IRS's Taxpayer Advocate Services earlier this week for a meet and greet and training on constituent tax issues. It was helpful to hear from the IRS directly on these issues so that we can better serve Hudson Valley families! Rep. Lawler's district team meets with representatives from the IRS's Taxpayer Advocate Services in order to better assist constituents with tax issues. In addition to Veterans Day on Saturday, Sunday marked Diwali - a joyous occasion celebrated by millions around the world, including many in our vibrant Indian American communities right here in the Hudson Valley. I was pleased to attend several Diwali events in our district; this month, including a Kerala Piravi and Diwali celebration with the Indian Cultural Heritage and Arts Awareness Club as well as a Diwali celebration hosted by the India Cultural Society of Rockland. Rep. Lawler celebrates Diwali with constituents and presents proclamations and certificates of recognition from his office. I have enjoyed getting around to events across New York's 17th District all year and look forward to seeing you around in our community soon! As a reminder, our Rockland County Town Hall will be; Sunday, November 19th at 6pm at Rockland County Community College. This is our third county-wide in-person town hall this year. Due to security considerations and limited seating available, an RSVP is required. Visit NY17TownHall.com to reserve your spot! Additionally, this Monday I am holding mobile office hours at the Bedford Town House from 11am to 2pm. My district staff and I look forward to answering questions and assisting families with any constituent casework needs. We hope to see you there! I have enjoyed getting around communities across NY-17, hearing directly from constituents at town halls, mobile office hours, and events in the community. I look forward to seeing you around the district and keeping you posted on future events! Lawler and Moskowitz discuss Israel; trip - ABC This Week; November 12, 2023 ; Rep. Lawler on bipartisan Israel trip - Morning Joe; November 15, 2023 ; Rep. Lawler: "We must be Churchills"; - Julie Mason; November 16, 2023 ; Holding China Accountable - The Sean Spicer Show | November 16, 2023 ; Lawler: Santos must go; - The Source with Kaitlan Collins | November 16, 2023 ; Over the summer, I joined several of my colleagues in sending a letter urging the State Department to address the massive passport delays Hudson Valley residents and citizens across our country are facing. Earlier this month, the State Department announced shorter wait times for both routine and expedited passport applications, dropping routine processing times to 7 to 10 weeks from 8 to 11 weeks, and expedited processing times to 3 to 5 weeks from 5 to 7 weeks. This comes after a previous announcement of wait time reductions in early October. I will continue working with my colleagues to ensure these wait times continue to decrease. In the meantime, if you are

having any difficulties with your passport application, please don't hesitate to contact our district team at 845-201-2060. Additionally, below are some tips from the State Department regarding passport applications: My office is still seeking a veteran for a two-year paid position through the Green and Gold Congressional Aide Program. This person will join our team as a district representative, attend local meetings and events on my behalf, and act as a facilitator between constituents and federal, state, and local agencies. To qualify for the Green and Gold Congressional Aide Program, veterans must meet all the following requirements: Honorably discharged, released from active duty within the last six years, pay grades at or below E-5, O-3, or W-2. Veterans promoted to the pay grades of E-6, O-4, or W-3 within 6-months of separation from active duty are eligible, granted they meet ALL other eligibility requirements. Veterans who are in receipt of a 20-year or Temporary Early Retirement Authorization (TERA) retirement are not eligible for the program. Interested veterans can [CLICK HERE](#) or below to apply. If you have any questions about any of the above information, or if there is anything we can do for you or your family, please don't hesitate to contact my office at 845-201-2060 or reach out through my website at lawler.house.gov. Additionally, you can keep up with the latest news on my efforts by following us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram - and by opting in to periodic updates from my office by [CLICKING HERE](#). Sincerely, Michael V. Lawler Member of Congress 17th District, New York [Click Here to view this email in your browser](#) [Click Here to be removed from this list](#)