

Rep. Stephanie Murphy Legislative Update



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1. Overview

- Rep. Murphy’s legislative agenda is focused on fulfilling her promise to promote positive change, national security and economic security, and equality for all Americans.
- In her first seven months in office, Rep. Murphy has introduced nine bills—which have obtained a total of 321 cosponsors—and one floor amendment. One has passed the House as a standalone bill, two have passed the House as part of a larger bill, one has been approved in committee, and one’s primary goal has been achieved.
 1. H.R. 804, *Protect the National Security Council From Political Interference Act* (2/1/17): Primary goal of bill was achieved when Steve Bannon was removed from NSC on 4/5/17.
 2. H.R. 1478, *Gun Violence Research Act* (3/9/17).
 3. H.R. 2056, *Microloan Modernization Act* (4/6/17): Passed the House on 7/24/17.
 4. H.R. 2175, *North Korea Intelligence Enhancement Act* (4/26/17).
 5. H.R. 2176, *Asia-Pacific Defense Commission Act* (4/26/17).
 6. H.R. 2645, *Prevention and Oversight of Intelligence Sharing with Enemies (POISE) Act* (5/24/17): Core of bill included in H.R. 3180, *Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018*, which passed the House on 7/28/17.
 7. H.R. 2767, *Stimulating Innovation through Procurement Act* (5/30/17): Included as an amendment to H.R. 2763, *Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Improvements Act*, which was approved by the Small Business Committee on 6/15/17 and by the Science, Space, and Technology Committee on 6/22/17.
 8. H.J. Res. 107, *Proposing a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution* (6/29/17).
 9. H.R. 3609, *Ensuring Linguistic Excellence and Vocational Aptitude by Teaching English (ELEVATE) Act* (7/28/17).
 10. Floor Amendment: Amendment #202 (clarifying that Procurement Technical Assistance Centers can help small firms seek SBIR/STTR funding), included in H.R. 2810, the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018*, which passed the House on 7/14/17.
- Rep. Murphy is also the lead Democratic sponsor on eight Republican-introduced bills. One has passed the House as part of a larger bill, and three have been approved in committee.
 1. H.R. 1597, *Commercial Market Representatives Clarification Act* (with Rep. David Brat, R-VA) (3/17/17), included in H.R. 2810, the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018*, which passed the House on 7/14/17.
 2. H.R. 2594, *Small Business Payment for Performance Act* (with Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, R-PA) (5/23/17): approved by the Small Business Committee on 6/15/17.
 3. H.R. 2763, *Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Improvements Act* (with Rep. Steve Knight, R-CA) (5/30/17): approved by the Small Business Committee on 6/15/17 and by the Science, Space, and Technology Committee on 6/22/17.

4. H.R. 2835, *Veteran Small Business Export Promotion Act* (with Rep. David Brat, R-VA) (6/8/17).
 5. H.R. 2938, *Road to Recovery Act* (with Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, R-PA) (6/23/17).
 6. H.R. 3284, *Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series Act* (with Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, R-PA) (7/18/17), approved by Homeland Security Committee on 7/26/17.
 7. H.R. 3558, *Improve Access to Care for Our Female Veterans Act* (with Rep. Susan Brooks, R-IN) (7/28/17).
 8. H.R. 3632, *Promoting Affordable Childcare for Everyone (PACE) Act* (with Rep Kevin Yoder, R-KS) (7/28/17).
- In addition, Rep. Murphy has authored or co-led nine multi-Member letters:
 1. Authored letter to Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security urging them to swiftly address Jewish Community Center telephone threats. (2/23/17) (158 bipartisan co-signers).
 2. Authored letter to the Office of Management and Budget urging support for a transportation infrastructure investment package and the inclusion of key central Florida projects in that package. (3/14/17) (three co-signers).
 3. Authored letter to House Appropriations Subcommittee in support of robust funding for SBA's Entrepreneurial Development Programs, like SCORE, Small Business Development Centers, Women's Business Centers, Microloan Technical Assistance, veterans programs, and export support programs. (3/28/17) (39 bipartisan co-signers).
 4. Co-led letter to House Appropriations Subcommittee in support of continued funding for the Department of Commerce's Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program, which provides manufacturers with customized services to improve production, upgrade technological capabilities, facilitate product innovation, support workforce training, and promote exports. (3/31/17) (111 bipartisan co-signers).
 5. Authored letter to House Appropriations Subcommittee in support of robust funding for the Department of Defense's National Guard Counterdrug program, which seeks to reduce the supply of drugs entering the U.S. and drug-related violence. (4/5/17) (22 bipartisan co-signers).
 6. Authored letter to House Appropriations Subcommittee urging it not to cut funding for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, as proposed in the President's FY 2018 budget request. (6/6/17) (64 bipartisan co-signers). The House Appropriations Committee approved full funding at \$57 million.
 7. Authored letter to President urging him to incorporate human rights promotion into Administration's comprehensive policy approach to North Korea. (6/13/17) (11 co-signers).
 8. Authored letter from Democratic Caucus National Security Task Force co-chairs to President urging Administration to submit legally-required National Security Strategy. (6/26/17) (57 co-signers).
 9. Co-led letter to President regarding importance of appointing White House liaison to Jewish Community. (6/30/17) (44 bipartisan co-signers)
 - Rep. Murphy has delivered 15 speeches on the House floor about a broad array of topics.

- Rep. Murphy is working in a bipartisan way. According to an [independent scorecard](#), Rep. Murphy’s voting record on the House floor is the **seventh-most bipartisan** of the 194 Democrats in the House. Of the 10 bills/amendments that Rep. Murphy has introduced, six (60 percent) have obtained bipartisan support, and she is the lead Democrat on eight Republican-sponsored bills. Rep. Murphy has cosponsored 124 bills introduced by other Members of Congress. Of those, 71 were introduced by Democrats (57 percent) and 53 (43 percent) were introduced by Republicans. Rep. Murphy is a member of the Bipartisan Working Group and the (bipartisan) Problem Solvers Caucus.
- Rep. Murphy has been selected to serve in a number of leadership positions:
 - Ranking Democratic Member, House Small Business Committee, Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce
 - Co-Chair, House Democratic Caucus, National Security Task Force
 - Member, Board of Visitors, U.S. Military Academy (West Point)
 - Panelist, Aspen Security Forum (appeared with the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, the Chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, and the Ranking Member of House Intelligence Committee)
 - Co-Chair, New Democrat Coalition, Housing Task Force
 - Co-Chair, Blue Dog Coalition, Fiscal Responsibility Task Force
 - Vice-Chair, Future Caucus (focuses on issues affecting younger Americans and the next generations)
 - Co-Chair, Congressional Modeling, Simulation, and Training Caucus

2. Empowering Small Businesses and Strengthening Our Economy

- Introduced a bill to improve the SBA’s Microloan program, so that start-ups and small firms have increased access to small-dollar loans and technical assistance. Passed by the House.
- Filed an amendment to the FY 2018 NDAA to provide clear authority for Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs)—established under a federal program administered by the Defense Logistics Agency—to help small firms pursue contracts and grants through the SBIR and STTR programs. These programs enable small, technologically-advanced firms to obtain federal R&D funding to create innovative products that can be commercialized. Passed by the House.
- Co-led a bipartisan bill to clarify the roles and responsibilities of Commercial Market Representatives. CMRs are SBA employees located throughout the country—including in Orlando—whose job it is to make certain that small firms obtain their fair and legally-required share of federal government contracts. Included in the FY 2018 NDAA and passed by the House.
- Co-led a bipartisan bill to make various improvements to the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs so that small, technologically-advanced firms can benefit more from the programs. Approved at committee level. Florida’s 7th congressional district is well-positioned to benefit from these programs,

since it is home to a large and growing number of small firms that harness the power of technology, produce innovative products for customers in the public and private sector, and—in the process—create well-paying jobs and generate broad-based economic growth.

- Co-led a bipartisan bill to ensure that small business federal construction contractors get paid in a timely manner when the federal government issues a change order altering the scope or nature of the construction work to be performed. Approved at committee level.
- Authored a letter to a House Appropriations Subcommittee in support of robust funding for SBA’s Entrepreneurial Development Programs, like SCORE, Small Business Development Centers, Women’s Business Centers, Microloan Technical Assistance, veterans programs, and export support programs. Letter obtained 39 bipartisan co-signers.
- Met with Linda McMahon, the Administrator of the SBA, to discuss SBA’s counseling, capital access, and contracting programs, and how they benefit small businesses in central Florida.
- Helping Small Firms Access Capital Through “Angel Investors”: Spoke on the House floor regarding, and crossed party lines to vote for, legislation to make it easier for small firms to connect with angel investors to fund their ideas and create jobs.
- Tax Reform
 - Supports passage of a comprehensive, bipartisan bill to streamline the federal tax code; simplify the filing process; set the federal budget on a sustainable course; raise revenues sufficient to fund the necessary operations, public investments, and safety-net programs of the federal government; and reasonably reduce corporate tax rates to spur domestic investment and job creation.
 - Is particularly focused on the 92 percent of Florida businesses that are pass-through entities, and seeks to reduce the differential tax treatment between C corps and pass-through entities to the greatest extent feasible, while ensuring there are appropriate guardrails in place to prevent gaming the system.
- Regulatory Reform: Believes reasonable federal regulations are essential to protect the economy, public safety, and the environment, but has regularly crossed party lines to vote for bills on the House floor designed to alleviate the burden—especially on small businesses—of poorly-conceived or poorly-crafted regulations. Cosponsor of a bill to establish a Regulatory Improvement Commission to make recommendations and propose legislation for modification, consolidation, or repeal of regulations that impose disproportionately high costs on small businesses, create substantial paperwork burdens or transaction costs, or could be made more cost-effective.
- Support for Domestic Manufacturing: Co-led letter to House Appropriations Subcommittee in support of robust funding for the Department of Commerce’s (NIST’s) Manufacturing Extension Partnership program, which provides manufacturers with customized services to improve production, upgrade technological capabilities, facilitate product innovation, support

workforce training, and promote exports. Obtained 111 bipartisan co-signers. The President had proposed to eliminate funding for MEP. The House Appropriations Committee approved \$100 million for the program.

- **Bringing the Federal Budget into Balance**: Authored a constitutional amendment to require—with appropriate exceptions—that federal spending not exceed federal revenue in a fiscal year. The goal of this amendment is to spur a bipartisan conversation about the consequences—for the U.S. economy, U.S. national security, and future generations—of unsustainable deficits and debt. Testified before the House Judiciary Committee in support of this amendment.
- **Workforce Training**: Has supported various federal initiatives to provide individuals of all ages and from all backgrounds with the education and training they need to capably perform the jobs of today and tomorrow, particularly in STEM fields.

3. Safeguarding Our National Security

A. Protecting Our Communities from Foreign Threats

- Member of the House Armed Services Committee. Member of (1) Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, which has jurisdiction over special operations, counter-terrorism, and cybersecurity; and (2) Subcommittee on Readiness, which ensures our service members have the training and equipment they need to succeed in their missions.
- One of two Florida members on HASC, and the only Florida Democrat. The range of military missions and installations in Florida is unrivaled in the United States, and defense spending in Florida is responsible for nearly \$80 billion dollars—or close to 10 percent—of total economic activity in the state.
- Named one of three co-chairs of the newly-established Democratic Caucus Task Force on National Security, which seeks to ensure that Democrats are putting forth a strong, smart, and strategic national security policy and explaining that policy to the public in a clear and effective way.
- Introduced a bill to prohibit political operatives from either party from serving on the National Security Council, which obtained 182 cosponsors and helped lead to Steve Bannon’s removal from the NSC.
- Introduced a bill—the POISE Act—to require the executive branch to notify the congressional intelligence committees when a member of the executive branch, including the President, intentionally or inadvertently discloses top-secret information to a foreign adversary. The core of the POISE Act was included in the FY 2018 Intelligence Authorization Act, which passed the House.
- Introduced two bills to counter the threat posed by North Korea, manage the rise of China, and address other security challenges emanating from the Asia-Pacific region.

- Successfully included key provisions in the House version of the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act to strengthen Orlando’s unparalleled modeling, simulation and training industry—a unique partnership between the government, the private sector, and academia known as “Team Orlando”—and its growing cybersecurity presence.
- Co-hosted Florida Defense Day; co-hosted the Capitol Hill Modeling & Simulation Expo; established a Modeling, Simulation and Training Advisory Board to hear from stakeholders.
- Undertook multiple efforts to support our allies, like Israel, and to counter threats posed by ISIL, North Korea, Russia, and Iran.

B. Protecting Our Communities from Domestic Threats

- Gun Violence
 - As a member of the Congressional Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, introduced a bill to enable the CDC and other HHS agencies to sponsor research into the causes of gun incidents and potential ways to reduce gun-related deaths and injuries. This research would inform federal and state policymakers as they consider whether to enact reasonable reforms that both save lives and protect the constitutional rights of law-abiding gun owners.
 - Helped introduce a bill to establish a House Select Committee on Gun Violence Prevention to investigate ways to reduce gun violence while respecting the 2nd Amendment.
- Terrorism Against the Homeland
 - Co-leading a bipartisan bill to authorize funding for federal program in which experts from different federal agencies conduct workshops in cities across the country to train state and local officials and private and non-profit sectors on ways to prevent and respond to complex terrorist attacks. The bill has been approved by Homeland Security Committee.
 - Working with fellow Members of Congress from central Florida to include Orlando in list of 35-40 cities that receive funding under the DHS’s Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) counter-terrorism program, since a flawed formula has resulted in Orlando’s exclusion for the last three years.
 - Authored a letter to the DOJ and the DHS urging them to swiftly address telephone threats against Jewish Community Centers in Orlando and around the country. The letter obtained 158 bipartisan co-signers.
- Drug Trafficking: Authored a letter to a House Appropriations Subcommittee in support of robust funding for the DOD’s National Guard Counterdrug program, which seeks to reduce the supply of drugs entering the U.S and to lower drug-related violence. Letter obtained 22 bipartisan co-signers. Co-signed a letter to a House Appropriations Subcommittee opposing potential funding cuts to the U.S. Coast Guard, which plays a key role in drug interdiction.

- Drug Addiction Treatment: As a member of the Bipartisan Heroin Task Force, is the lead Democrat on a bipartisan bill (*Road to Recovery Act*) to authorize federal Medicaid funding to be used to pay for the treatment provided in residential facilities to individuals addicted to prescription opioids, heroin, and other drugs.
- Zika and Other Diseases: Helped introduce a bill to expand CDC grants for mosquito control programs; supported creation of a \$300 million emergency rapid response fund to address infectious disease outbreaks; and co-signed a letter to the President urging him to make strong investments in Zika vaccine research and other anti-Zika efforts.
- Flood Insurance: Supports bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and to make substantial reforms designed to make flood insurance affordable for homeowners and sustainable for taxpayers.

4. Improving Quality of Life and Promoting Equality of Opportunity for All Americans

- Improving Quality of Life
 - Health Care
 - Supports federal policies to enable all Americans, regardless of age, economic status or health condition, to obtain affordable, high-quality health insurance. Supports federal policies to enable small business owners to provide affordable, high-quality insurance for their employees, while also operating a competitive and profitable enterprise.
 - Consistently opposed partisan efforts to repeal and replace the 2010 Affordable Care Act with legislation that would deprive over 20 million individuals of health insurance, require states like Florida to bear much more of the financial burden associated with health care, and eliminate important consumer protections, especially for the elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions.
 - Both before and after partisan efforts to repeal the ACA failed, worked with colleagues—including on the Problems Solvers Caucus—to put forth numerous bipartisan ideas intended to shore up the health insurance marketplaces created by the ACA and to strengthen other provisions of the law.
 - Co-signed a letter from members of the Florida congressional delegation to Governor Scott urging the state government to use the authority and federal funding provided by the ACA to expand Medicaid to cover more individuals and families.
 - Transportation
 - Transportation Infrastructure Investment: Authored, along with fellow central Florida representatives, letter to the OMB Director urging support for a transportation infrastructure investment package and the inclusion of key central Florida projects in

that package, such as SunRail Phase 2 (South and North), SunRail Phase 3, Interstate-4 Ultimate Improvement Project, Interstate-4 Beyond the Ultimate Improvement Project, the Orlando International Airport Intermodal Terminal Facility, and the Orlando International Airport New Terminal.

- Sun Rail: Helped secure \$16 million for the Federal Transit Administration to continue its support for SunRail Phase 2 South, which will link Sand Lake Road in Orange County to Poinciana in Osceola County. The entire Phase 2 South expansion project is a 17.2-mile segment that will add four additional stations to the existing rail system and is expected to be up and running by 2018.
- Orlando Sanford International Airport: Authored letter to the Transportation Security Administration urging the agency to deploy an Advanced Imaging Technologies machine for use at the domestic terminal of Orlando Sanford International Airport for both security and efficiency reasons, particularly given that the number of passengers using the airport has dramatically increased in recent years and is projected to increase in a similarly dramatic fashion in the coming years.

○ Education

- English-Language Instruction: Introduced the bipartisan *Ensuring Linguistic Excellence and Vocational Aptitude by Teaching English (ELEVATE) Act*, which would increase the amount of annual funding that Florida receives under the U.S. Department of Education's English Language Acquisition grant program, by fixing a flaw in the allocation formula that does not adequately account for the number of school-aged children and youth from the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico that have relocated to Florida and other states. It is important for children living in Florida and other U.S. jurisdictions to master English in addition to their native language. English-language proficiency opens many economic and social doors that would otherwise remain sealed shut.
- Pell Grants: Co-signed a letter to the House Appropriations Committee opposing proposed cuts to the Pell Grant program, which—if enacted—will make it harder for low-income students to attend college.
- Student Loan Relief: Helped introduce the *Federal Student Loan Refinancing Act*, which would lower interest rates on all federal student loans to 4 percent and allow individuals with multiple federal student loans to consolidate them into one package and refinance to pay the lower of (1) the average of the loan interest rates or (2) 4 percent. Cosponsor of bipartisan legislation to allow employers to make tax-free contributions of up to \$5,250 annually toward employees' student loans.
- Early Childhood Education: Co-signed letters to a House Appropriations Subcommittee in support of (1) the U.S. Department of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, which funds after-school programs for K-12 students; (2) the U.S. Department of Education's TRIO Programs, which assist low-

income individuals progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to post-baccalaureate programs; and (3) the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Head Start program, which provides comprehensive early childhood education services to low-income children and their families.

- Champion of Local Colleges and Universities: Strong supporter of the University of Central Florida, Valencia College, Seminole State College, and other colleges and universities in the district, advocating for them in the federal grant process and using their input to develop informed views on ways to improve federal education policies and programs.

- Supporting Working Families

- Child Care: Lead Democrat on bipartisan legislation—the *Promoting Affordable Childcare for Everyone (PACE) Act*—that would enable more hard-working families to afford child care services, by making improvements to the federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit and Dependent Care Flexible Spending Accounts.
- Fair Wages: Helped introduce the *Raise the Wage Act*, which would raise the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 per hour (where it has been since 2009), to \$9.25 in 2017; \$10.10 in 2018; \$11.00 in 2019; \$12.00 in 2020; \$13.00 in 2021; \$13.50 in 2022; \$14.25 in 2023; and \$15.00 in 2024. Florida's state minimum wage in 2017 is \$8.10.
- Family and Medical Leave: Cosponsored the *FAMILY Act*, which would ensure that workers receive at least two-thirds pay for up to 12 weeks when they take time off for their own health conditions—including pregnancy and childbirth—or to care for others.
- Sick Leave: Cosponsored the *Healthy Families Act*, which would require employers to permit each employee to earn at least 1 hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked, while allowing employers with 15 or fewer employees to opt out. Employees could use such time to meet their own medical needs or the medical needs of their family members.

- Environment

- Helped introduce the *CLIMATE Act*, which would nullify the executive branch decision to withdraw from the landmark 2015 Paris climate accord, intended to bind the world community into battling rising temperatures in concert.
- Consistently emphasized that global warming—exacerbated by certain human activities—poses a direct threat to Florida's economy, environment, and way of life. Similarly emphasized that Florida should be a leader in the large and growing clean energy industry, which creates tremendous economic opportunities while protecting the planet for current and future generations.

- Opposed drilling in the waters around Florida for environmental, economic, and national security reasons.
 - Housing
 - As co-chair of the New Democrat Coalition’s Housing Task Force, organized numerous briefings and roundtables in Washington, DC and in the district about problems in the housing market and ways that federal policy can alleviate these problems.
 - Supported robust funding for key spending and tax credit programs administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of the Treasury, which are designed to increase the supply of affordable housing, enable low-income and middle-income families to rent or obtain a mortgage to purchase a home, and reduce homelessness. Central Florida faces particular challenges in each of these areas.
- Promoting Equality of Opportunity for All Americans
 - Military Veterans
 - Worked to provide better health care, education assistance, and employment assistance for military veterans, including the 1.6 million veterans living in Florida and the 100,000 veterans living in Orange and Seminole Counties.
 - Helped secure \$3 million in federal funding for the University of Central Florida’s RESTORES Clinic, which uses virtual reality to treat service members, veterans, and first responders with post-traumatic stress. This funding will supplement \$2.5 million in funding from the Florida government.
 - Lead Democratic on legislation to exempt veteran business owners and their spouses from certain upfront fees otherwise required to participate in SBA loan programs that help small firms export their products.
 - Lead Democrat on legislation to improve the care provided to female veterans at VA health facilities.
 - Helped enact the bipartisan *VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act* into law. While the vast majority of VA employees perform their mission with skill and diligence, this law would ensure that the VA can efficiently remove those employees who fail to live up to that high standard, and increase protections for VA employees who risk their jobs to expose wrongdoing within the VA.
 - Supported efforts to enable veterans to obtain medical care outside of the VA health system, while working to improve the VA health system so that veterans can receive the highest level of care within the system.

- Helped introduce legislation to update the GI Bill to enable more veterans and their family members to attend accredited institutions of higher education.
- LGBT
 - As a member of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus, helped introduce the *Equality Act*, which would provide consistent non-discrimination protections for LGBT people with respect to employment, housing, credit, education, public spaces and services, federally-funded programs, and jury service.
 - Opposed the President’s proposal to prohibit transgender service members from serving in the armed forces.
 - Helped introduce legislation to change a discharge from the military from “other than honorable” to “honorable” if the service member was discharged solely because of his or her sexual orientation.
- Women
 - As a member of the Congressional Caucus for Women’s Issues, helped introduce the *Paycheck Fairness Act*, to ensure that women can challenge pay discrimination and hold employers accountable; supported robust funding for the Department of Justice’s Violence Against Women Act programs; supported legislation (now law) designed to increase opportunities for women in STEM professions; supported legislation to reduce maternal deaths; and opposed efforts to unduly abridge a woman’s constitutional right to make certain pregnancy-related decisions.
- Puerto Rico
 - Florida’s 7th congressional district is home to approximately 100,000 individuals of Puerto Rican heritage, and many still have family and friends living in the U.S. territory. Supported Puerto Rico’s transition to a democratic and dignified status like statehood. So long as Puerto Rico remains a territory, has supported equal treatment for the island under all federal programs, including health, economic support, and small business programs.
- Immigration
 - Comprehensive Immigration Reform: Supported enactment of a bipartisan and comprehensive immigration reform bill that, among other things, will provide a pathway to legal status for certain undocumented immigrants living in the United States.
 - DREAMERS: Supported the bipartisan BRIDGE Act, which would allow people who are eligible for work authorization and temporary relief from deportation through

- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) to continue living in the U.S. with permission from the federal government.
- TPS: Authored a letter to the Department of Homeland Security urging the extension of Temporary Protected Status for Haitian nationals living in the U.S. A six-month extension was granted. Co-signed a letter to DHS urging extension of TPS status for nationals of El Salvador and Honduras.
 - Executive Orders: Cosponsored legislation to nullify both iterations of the President's executive order temporarily stopping the U.S. refugee program, prohibiting legal immigrants and refugees from certain Muslim-majority countries, and reducing the annual cap on the maximum number of annual refugees that the U.S. will accept. Provided assistance to two local families affected by the first iteration of the President's executive order.
 - Border Wall: Supported strong and smart border security, and opposed expensive, ineffective, and politically-motivated proposals like new construction of a wall along our southwest border with Mexico.
- Support for Low-Income and Vulnerable Communities
- Helped introduce the *Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2017*, which would strengthen voting rights by expanding the federal government's ability to monitor state election procedures.
 - Co-signed letters to the relevant House Appropriations subcommittees in support of robust funding for the following critical federal programs, among others:
 - HUD's Community Development Block Grant Program, which can be used by communities to support affordable housing, anti-poverty programs (like Meals on Wheels), and infrastructure development.
 - USDA's The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), which provides nutrition assistance to low-income individuals through prepared meals served on site and through the distribution of commodities to low-income households for home consumption.
 - DOJ's Legal Services Corporation, which provide grants for civil legal assistance to low-income individuals.
 - DOJ's Youth Mentoring programs, which help at-risk youth stay out of the juvenile justice system.
 - HHS's LIHEAP program, which helps low-income families pay their electricity bills.
 - HHS's Community Health Centers program, which provides care to low-income individuals, typically enrolled in Medicaid or uninsured.
 - HHS's Child Care and Development Block Grant, which helps low-income families obtain child care.

- IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, which provides tax return preparation assistance for underserved taxpayers, including low-income individuals and individuals for whom English is a second language.
- The U.S. Treasury Department's Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund, which seeks to generate economic growth in low-income communities that lack access to capital, credit and financial services.

5. Changing Washington So It Works for Central Florida and the Country

- Helped introduce the *No Budget, No Pay Act*, which would prohibit Members of Congress from receiving an annual salary unless Congress approves a budget and enacts all appropriations bills by the start of the upcoming fiscal year. Helped introduce legislation to eliminate automatic pay increases for Members of Congress and to prohibit various congressional perks.
- Supported legislation to change campaign finance laws to reduce the power of large donors and empower regular citizens; to overhaul the Federal Election Commission; to improve the congressional redistricting process, the abuse of which is responsible for many of the problems and excess partisanship in Congress; to establish an independent, bipartisan National Commission on Foreign Interference to investigate alleged ties between Russia and the Trump campaign, transition team, and administration; and to establish a temporary joint congressional committee to study, and make recommendations on measures to improve the structure and operations of Congress.