

CONGRESSMAN

Jimmy Panetta

PROUDLY REPRESENTING THE 20TH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA



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Dear Neighbor,

As the United States Representative for the 20th Congressional District in California, my priority is personally serving the constituents on the central coast of California. The best way that I am able to do this is through my office's work in helping you with any issues that you may have with the federal government and its very large and, at times, slow and overwhelming, bureaucracy. Most of the work that we do is for constituents who have some type of issue with Medicare, Social Security, federal retirement, the Internal Revenue Service, immigration, or veterans' benefits.

An example of our work this month was when we successfully broke through the federal bureaucracy to help [a local Vietnam Veteran receive his Vietnam Service Medal](#). As your Member of Congress, and as a veteran, nothing makes me prouder than serving those who served our country. If you or someone that you know has an issue or a question about receiving or not receiving veterans' benefits, service records, or anything else from the Department of Veterans Affairs or any other federal bureaucracy, please contact our office. I am working hard to be that bridge for the people on the Central Coast to the federal government and its resources.



Presenting the Vietnam Service Medal to local veteran, Johnnie Johnson.

This year, Congress is working to pass the next Farm Bill. As a member of the House Agriculture Committee, I have the unique and important opportunity to help craft this bill. My focus for this Farm Bill is on the needs of our district, including investments in research and specialty crops, support for our conventional and organic growers, and strengthening the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and our rural communities.

On April 18, the House Agriculture Committee held its mark-up of the Farm Bill, a key formal step a committee takes for a bill to advance to the floor. At this meeting, members of the committee and I discussed and debated the text.

A majority of the debate by the members of the House Agriculture Committee centered on the funding for federal nutrition programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known here at home as CalFresh. Over 68,000 people in my Congressional district depend on SNAP benefits for their next meal. A majority of the

recipients of SNAP benefits are children and seniors, but the program also supports working families, active-duty military, veterans, and individuals with disabilities. Congress must work to help people effectively transition out of poverty and improve their lives with reasonable and feasible employment requirements and training. I remain committed to fighting to protect this critical program and working with members on both sides of the aisle to help those who face hunger.

My comments from the mark-up of the Farm Bill in the House Agriculture Committee are [here](#):



[Opening Remarks discussing the importance of protecting SNAP.](#)



[Calling for evidence-based policy proposals for the 2018 Farm Bill.](#)

April Legislation:

This April, I authored, introduced, and cosponsored various pieces of legislation to support our community on the Central Coast, including the following:

Introduced:

The [Armed Prohibited Persons Act of 2018](#) to help states launch initiatives to remove guns from convicted felons and the dangerously mentally ill through a competitive grant program within the United States Department of Justice.

The [Enhance Cybersecurity for Small Manufacturers Act of 2018](#) to ensure that our small and midsize manufacturers can minimize their risk of cyberattacks and properly protect our country's defense information. I introduced this bipartisan, bicameral bill with Congressman Mike Gallagher (R-WI) and U.S. Senators Chris Coons (D-DE), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY).

Cosponsored:

The [2020 Census Accountability Act](#) to ensure a review process of the decennial census questions and their impact on response rates for minorities, accuracy, redistricting, costs and funding distribution.

The [Student Non-Discrimination Act](#) to prohibit discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools and protect students from intimidation and violence.

The [Zero Tolerance for Domestic Abusers Act](#) to prohibit abusive dating partners and convicted stalkers from buying or possessing guns.

May Mobile Office Hours:

Mobile office hours are an opportunity for members of the community to meet with Congressional staff, and are offered in addition to meetings in the Salinas and Santa Cruz Congressional offices. Congressional staff members will be available to assist with issues concerning Social Security, Medicare, federal employee retirement, immigration services, veterans' services, passports, searching for military records, and any other federal matters.

To schedule a meeting, please call our Salinas District Office: (831) 424-2229.

Hollister

Thursday, May 10, 2018

Time: 10:00am-1:00pm

Veteran's Memorial Building
649 San Benito Street
Hollister, CA 95023

Watsonville

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

Time: 10:00am-12:00pm

Santa Cruz Immigration Project
406 Main Street Suite 217
Watsonville, CA 95076

Greenfield

Thursday, May 17, 2018

Time: 10:00am-1:00pm

Greenfield City Hall
599 El Camino Real
Greenfield, CA 93927

If you would like to get similar updates in the future, please sign up for newsletters by clicking [here](#). Please call or contact my Congressional offices in Salinas, Santa Cruz, or Washington, D.C. or through <https://panetta.house.gov>, which also has more information about legislation, votes cast in the U.S. House of Representatives, and the legislative process. Please do not hesitate to reach out to let me know how I can better serve you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jimmy Panetta', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

JIMMY PANETTA
Member of Congress



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This is an official correspondence from Congressman Jimmy Panetta. If you have any questions please [contact my office](#).

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