

CONGRESSMAN

# Jimmy Panetta

PROUDLY REPRESENTING THE 20TH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Dear Neighbor,

I would like to wish everyone on the central coast of California a happy and safe Independence Day. While we celebrate this holiday with family and friends, we must not forget the cost of our freedom. Let us remember what it takes to live in our democracy and recommit to our obligations to participate and engage in our nation of We the People.

As your United States Representative, I will continue to fulfill my responsibilities to serve you, the Central Coast, and our country and fight for our self-evident, but not self-executing, values of life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness.



*Speaking at an Independence Day naturalization ceremony. My office can assist with immigration and citizenship casework.*

## Recent News

### **Funding for our Communities:**

The House of Representatives recently passed [H.R. 2740](#) and [H.R. 3055](#) to fund programs and policies that will:

- Invest in infrastructure and combat the nation's affordable housing crisis
- Protect clean air, clean water, public lands, national parks, and strengthen our commitment to the Green Climate Fund and the Paris Agreement
- Give our servicemembers a pay raise of 3.1 percent; support anti-terrorism, nonproliferation, and peacekeeping initiatives; invest in urgently-needed humanitarian assistance for refugees and displaced persons
- Make our communities safer with strong investments to address the opioid epidemic, prevent gun violence, protect civil rights, and improve the criminal justice system

I proposed amendments to these bills and [secured critical funding for federal programs](#) to:

- Invest in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood protection projects. This resource could support the Army Corps' Pajaro River Levee Project
- Keep the United States in the NATO Alliance
- Advance Navy research of unmanned underwater systems that could support work done at the Naval Postgraduate School.
- Co-locate National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) facilities with public institutions of higher education. This funding could support combining the research and outreach efforts of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) with preeminent Marine Science programs in at public universities in California, including California State University, Monterey Bay and University of California, Santa Cruz.
- Support state and local law enforcement agencies' implementation of gunshot detection technologies
- Accelerate specialty crop automation and mechanization programs
- Increase federal grant programs for agricultural research



*[Speaking](#) on the House Floor in support of funding for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects for flood protection in economically disadvantaged communities, including the Army Corps of Engineer's Pajaro River Levee Project.*

### **Humanitarian Aid to Asylum Seekers**

The House of Representatives also passed [H.R. 3401](#), which provides funding for the humanitarian crisis at the southern border. It will fund legal assistance, food, water, sanitary items, blankets, medical services, refugee services, and support services for unaccompanied children in an attempt to relieve the situation of over-crowding and help prevent additional deaths. I will continue to push to include measures that help address the root causes of migration by reversing the decision to block humanitarian funding that Congress has already appropriated for Central American countries and ensuring that funding is used responsibly to improve border security, stop human smuggling and drug trafficking, combat corruption, reduce poverty, and promote growth in Central America.

Included in this legislation are provisions that:

- Include \$109 million to ensure the safety and well-being of these children
- Prohibit ICE from conducting immigration enforcement based on the information obtained from potential sponsors of unaccompanied children and formalize restrictions on information-sharing with ICE
- Prohibit funds appropriated to DHS from being transferred and used for any other purposes or accounts, such as construction of the wall or additional ICE detention beds

### **Securing Our Elections:**

The House of Representatives passed [H.R.2722](#), the Securing America's Federal Elections (SAFE) Act. This legislation aims to provide states with funding to replace outdated and vulnerable voting equipment, mandate paper ballot voting systems, and implement cybersecurity requirements for election technology vendors and voting systems that protect our elections from foreign interference.

### **Lowering Prescription Drug Prices:**

The House of Representatives passed [H.R. 986](#) and [H.R. 987](#) to lower prescription drug

prices, protect constituents with pre-existing health conditions, and eliminate junk health insurance plans.

I also introduced [H.R. 1781](#), a bipartisan bill that will increase transparency in the drug pricing system, so that Congress can more effectively develop solutions to lower the costs of medicine.

#### **Protecting Dreamers and TPS Recipients:**

The House of Representatives passed [H.R. 6](#), the American Dream and Promise Act. This legislation allows individuals with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to remain in the country legally, with the opportunity to earn citizenship, and allows Dreamers to remain in the country legally with the opportunity to earn citizenship if they go to college, work full time or serve in the armed services. If you are a Dreamer and a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipient, please know that you are eligible to apply for renewal of DACA. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is still accepting renewal applications. The process for renewal can take 90 to 120 days, so please apply as soon as possible. You can start your application [here](#).

#### **Promoting Equality:**

The House of Representatives passed [H.R. 5](#), the Equality Act, to amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing, public accommodations, public education, federal funding, credit, and the jury system.

#### **Hosting the Secretary of Agriculture:**

I hosted U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Sonny Perdue in Watsonville last week to show him the Central Coast's unique agriculture industry, the ways we are investing in innovation and sustainability, and to introduce him to the farmers and farmworkers who make our region the Salad and Berry Bowls of the World. I am glad we had the opportunity to discuss the important contributions of the diverse members of our agriculture community, including the immigrants who have made California's 20th district their home. It was an honor to host the Secretary of Agriculture so that he could see first-hand the value that our community on the Central Coast brings to our country in the hope that he will bring what he learned back to Washington to ensure the success of our farmers and farmworkers.

#### **Tours of Our Nation's Capital**

If you travel to Washington D.C. this summer, please know that my office can offer you tours of several sites. We offer a variety of different tour opportunities such as the Capitol Building, Supreme Court, White House, and other sites. Be sure to book as soon as you can, as the different tours are first come, first served. To schedule any one of these tours, please [click here](#).



*Meeting with students and staff from the Pajaro Unified School District during their recent visit to Washington, D.C. outside of the U.S. Capitol to speak about the legislative branch and my work on behalf of our community.*

### **Request an American Flag Flown Over the U.S. Capitol**

You can purchase a flag that was flown over the United States Capitol Building. Flags are flown daily, weather permitting, on top of the Capitol Building. After each flag is flown, it is issued a keepsake Certificate of Authenticity by the Architect of the Capitol. To request a flag, please [click here](#).

If you would like to receive future updates, please sign up for my newsletters by clicking [here](#). You can also find more information about legislation, votes cast in the U.S. House of Representatives, or the legislative process [here](#).

If you have any questions or issues that I or my staff can help you with, please call or contact my Congressional offices in Salinas, Santa Cruz, or Washington, D.C. or through [panetta.house.gov](http://panetta.house.gov). Please do not hesitate to reach out and let me know how I can continue to best serve you.

Sincerely,

JIMMY PANETTA  
Member of Congress