

CONGRESSMAN

# Jimmy Panetta

PROUDLY REPRESENTING THE 20TH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Dear Neighbor,

I hope that you had a wonderful holiday with loved ones and wish you a fruitful new year for 2020. This past year was certainly interesting and, at times, intense in Washington, D.C. However, despite the fervor that can grip our nation's capital, the United States House of Representatives continues to get things done legislatively for our country and our communities on the central coast of California. Due to our productive and positive work, my service as your United States Representative continues to be an absolute honor and true privilege. That is why I look forward to continuing to fight for you and our values in Washington, D.C. with legislation that promotes and protects the people of the place that I have always called home.

## **Monthly Update:**

Just in the past month, I have authored, introduced, sponsored, supported, and voted for bills to [lower the costs of health care and prescription drugs](#), [protect our environment and combat climate change](#), [serve our veterans](#), [bolster small businesses](#), [decrease student loan debt](#), and [help our farmworkers and agriculture](#). Moreover, I am proud to be part of a Congress that is upholding its constitutional responsibilities by taking affirmative steps to be a [necessary check in our system of checks and balances](#).



*Authored, introduced, and passed in the House of Representatives the Farm Workforce Modernization Act with a bipartisan group of Congressmembers (above with Arturo Rodriguez of the United Farm Workers of America Union (UFW))*

I, along with a bipartisan group of my fellow Members of Congress led by Congresswomen Zoe Lofgren, authored, introduced, and secured the successful passage of the [Farm Workforce Modernization Act](#) in the House of Representatives. By protecting existing farmworkers and promoting an enduring agricultural workforce, this immigration reform legislation would provide stability and fairness to one of the most critical sectors of our economy in our community and country. Moreover, the legislation would provide farmworkers with deserved safety and dignity and an earned legality.

Additionally, as a member of the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee, I was proud to help formulate and support the passage of [H.R. 3, the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act](#). This bill would lower drug prices, expand Medicare coverage to include dental, vision, and hearing services, and invest in research for treatment and cures.

I introduced the [California Central Coast Conservation Act](#) to stop new oil exploration and drilling in federal lands on the central coast of California. Throughout my time in Congress, this administration has sought to roll back many of our existing environmental protections, including its recent efforts to open up federally owned public lands to oil exploration and drilling. Local measures recently passed on the Central Coast that prevent certain types of oil exploration and drilling do not apply to federal lands. With my recent introduction of this federal legislation, I continue to fulfill my responsibility as your federal representative to act at the federal level to protect our environment.



*Spoke at the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve about federal work to support marine conservation, protect our oceans, and fight climate change*

My colleagues and I also ratified the [United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement \(USMCA\)](#), a comprehensive trade deal that provides the most progressive environmental and labor standards and stringent enforceability of any hemispheric trade agreement. The Democratic Majority in the House of Representatives was able to push back on the Administration in order to arrive at a deal that ensured proper protections for workers and the appropriate amount of federal funding to promote, preserve, and restore our environment, especially in California. In addition, the deal will afford continued access to critical export markets and certainty to our local farmers and ranchers by increasing market access for dairy, poultry, and eggs, ending discrimination of California wine in Canadian stores, and requiring sound science for food safety measures.

By voting to approve [two articles of impeachment](#) for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress against the President, the House of Representatives fulfilled its vital role as a check in our system of checks and balances. As your U.S. Representative, I did not run for office to take such a vote. However, I swore an oath to protect our country and defend the Constitution. My vote reflects that obligation and demonstrates my responsibility to the people I serve.

When it comes to the use of military force by this administration, Congress will continue to be cautious and critical. Although the recent military strike against Iranian General Qasem Soleimani was relevant due to his malevolence in the Middle East, it was done without congressional consultation and without any clear strategy for the stability of the region and security of our nation. As the Iranian regime threatens to retaliate, the Administration must provide an accounting of how it will protect U.S. interests and servicemembers in the region and around the world.



*Held meetings with locally owned businesses to talk about my Restoring Investment in Improvements Act to fix the federal tax code and help small businesses.*

### **2019 Congressional Legislative Update:**

This year alone, the House of Representatives passed over 500 bills, including 300 bipartisan pieces of legislation, that would improve the lives of all community members on the Central Coast. I realize that there is inadequate coverage of this type of work, but it is important to highlight some major pieces of legislation passed that would enact laws to:

- [Combat climate change](#) (the House of Representatives held [over 80 hearings on the climate crisis](#), examining how to effectively fight climate change)
- Prevent oil and gas drilling in coastal communities and vulnerable ecosystems with the:
  - [Protecting and Securing Florida's Coastline Act](#)
  - [Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act](#)
  - [Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act](#)
- Protect our public lands with the:
  - [Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act](#)
  - [Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act](#)
  - [Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act](#)
- [Provide support for homeless veterans](#)
- [Expand veterans' access to child care](#)
- [Protect Syrian Kurds from aggression by Turkey](#)

- [Reject any attempt to pull out of NATO](#)
- [Sanction financial supporters of the Syrian regime](#)



*Spoke with members of the Diversity Center about the Equality Act*

- [Protect Dreamers and temporary protected status immigrants](#)
- [Protect existing farmworkers and provide an enduring agriculture workforce](#)
- [Provide temporary protected status to Venezuelan nationals fleeing the Maduro regime](#)
- Respond to the humanitarian situation at the southern border with the:
  - [Humanitarian Standards for Individuals in Customs and Border Protection Custody Act](#)
  - [Homeland Security Improvement Act](#)
  - [U.S. Border Patrol Medical Screening Standards Act](#)
- [Raise the federal minimum wage](#)
- [Ensure equal pay for equal work for women](#)
- [Protect the retirement of those who work hard](#)
- [Allow cannabis-related businesses in states with existing regulatory structures to access the banking system](#)
- [Repeal the tax on high-cost employer-sponsored healthcare plans](#)
- [Provide a cost of living increase to federal employees](#)
- [Strengthen consumer protections and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau](#)
- [Encourage and protect retirement savings](#)
- [Prohibit forced arbitration for workplace dispute resolution](#)
- [Stop robocalls](#)

- [Protect net neutrality](#)
- [Protect Americans with preexisting conditions](#)
- [Strengthen health care and lower prescription drug costs](#)
- [Bolster drug price and patent transparency](#)
- [Increase access to lower cost prescription drugs](#)
- [Enact pro-democracy, anti-corruption election and political reforms and get rid of dark money in politics](#)
- [Amend the Civil Rights Act to include LGBTQ protections](#)
- [Support the right to vote](#)
- Secure Our Elections with the:
  - [Securing America's Federal Elections Act](#)
  - [Stopping Harmful Interference in Elections for a Lasting Democracy Act](#)
- [Reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act](#)
- [Enact more robust gun safety background checks](#)
- [Enact a bipartisan budget to ensure we pay our nation's bills and help prevent another harmful government shutdown](#)

Other additional consequential pieces of legislation passed by the House of Representatives in 2019 include:

- Legislation to reopen government in January and to prevent another shutdown on September 30
- [A resolution directing the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in Yemen](#)
- Three votes disapproving the national emergency declared by the President
- [The John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act](#), a conservation and public lands package that includes permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
- [The Disaster Relief Act](#), which provides additional funding to help Americans recovering from natural disasters
- [The Never Forgot the Heroes: James Zadroga, Ray Pfeifer, and Luis Alvarez Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act](#)
- [Legislation to provide funding for humanitarian assistance at the Southern Border](#)
- The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, [containing numerous provisions that I authored and secured to improve standards for military housing, support our local defense institutions and help our veterans](#)
- Three resolutions disapproving of arms sales to Saudi Arabia

Unfortunately, 80 percent of the bills that the House passed this year are being held up in the United States Senate. Most of our legislation is bipartisan, meaning more than 300 bills with Democratic and Republican support that would make a real difference in the lives of people in our district are being stopped for political reasons. Nevertheless, that has not prevented, and will not prevent me in 2020, from getting things done in the House of Representatives. I look forward to continuing to do my job in Washington, D.C. and faithfully executing my oath of office by representing the people and values of the Central Coast.

## **My 2019 Legislation and Work for the Central Coast:**

As we approach the end of 2019, I am proud to reflect on the work that I have completed just in the last year as your United States Representative:

- Over 25 pieces of legislation authored and introduced, including:
  - [H.R. 403, to reopen Clear Creek Recreation Area](#)
  - [H.R. 676, to reject any efforts to withdraw from NATO](#)
  - [H.R. 1019, to provide full military honors to Medal of Honor recipients and Prisoners of War eligible for burial at Arlington National Cemetery](#)
  - [H.R. 1622, to end deadly experiments on kittens](#)
  - [H.R. 1869, to ensure small businesses benefit from a tax provision meant to aid renovations and spur investment](#)
  - [H.R. 2040, to encourage investment in innovative new energy technology](#)
  - [H.R. 2811, to improve oversight of privatized military housing](#)
  - [H.R. 3161, to improve oceanographic research and education](#)
  - [H.R. 3185, to support the Defense Language Institute](#)
  - [H.R. 3748, to provide meaningful due process protections for families and children seeking asylum in the United States](#)
  - [H.R. 3749, to support legal services for homeless veterans](#)
  - [H.R. 4051, to price carbon pollution and invest in infrastructure, clean energy, and working families](#)
  - [H.R. 4185, to increase transparency and security of the U.S. nuclear force](#)
  - [H.R. 4319, to protect immigrant survivors of crime](#)
  - [H.R. 4319, to simplify and modernize federal student loan forgiveness programs](#)
  - [H.R. 4448, to protect Central Coast garlic producers from unfair tariffs](#)
  - [H.R. 4916, to provide labor stability for farmers and farm workers](#)
  - [H.R. 5020, to study radiation exposure relating to prostate cancer in veterans](#)
  - [H.R. 5074, to ensure veteran transportation services](#)
  - [H.R. 5102, to establish Coastal Climate Centers of Excellence](#)
  - [H.R. 5149, to prevent the U.S. from unilaterally withdrawing the United States from the Open Skies Treaty](#)
  - [H.R. 5163, to encourage the development and deployment of zero-emission buses](#)
  - [H.R. 5303, to prohibit new oil drilling in federal lands on the Central Coast](#)
  - [H.R. 5522, to increase flexibility for servicemembers seeking to transfer their GI Bill education benefits](#)
  - [H.Res. 214, to protect U.S. military personnel from malaria](#)
  - [H.Res. 414, to honor the life and legacy of Doris Day](#)
  - [H.R. 9 Amendment to recognize and reinforce U.S. leadership in the Paris Climate Agreement](#)
  - [H.R. 729 Amendment to encourage collaborations and partnerships between institutions of higher education and federal agencies to expand and improve coastal management](#)
- Over 400 meetings and events held and attended throughout the district
- Over 10 town halls conducted and participated in throughout the district

- Over 100,000 responses provided to constituents who contacted my offices by phone, email, and mail
- Over 850 federal cases completed for constituents that dealt with over 50 federal agencies and departments, including the VA, IRS, Social Security, Medicare, and more
- Over \$550,000 in federal government funds returned to constituents
- Over 400 pieces of legislation cosponsored in the House of Representatives
- Over 700 votes taken in the House of Representatives
- On 30 diverse House of Representatives Caucuses
- On 3 House of Representatives Committees, including Ways and Means, Budget, and Agriculture



*Met with students who volunteered to ensure that there were more healthy options at locally owned stores*

### **Getting the Federal Government to Do Its Job:**

As your United States Representative, my priority is to ensure that the federal government works for us on the Central Coast.

Since I was elected, one of my goals has been to push the United States Army Corps of Engineers to get started on the Pajaro River Project. After my constant and consistent work with local and federal officials, the Army Corps of Engineers confirmed in December that repairs and upgrades of the Pajaro River Levee will move forward. I am now working to secure \$1.5 million



in federal funding in order for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to embark on the first phase of the project. As we move into the design phase, I will continue to work with local stakeholders and the Army Corps of Engineers to ensure that this project continues to make progress and that the federal government does its job for us on the Central Coast.



*Working with local and federal officials on the Pajaro River Project.*

Since I have been in office, I have endeavored to serve all of the people of the Central Coast with all types of issues in dealing with the federal government. Recently, I had the honor of presenting the Purple Heart Medal to the family of Sergeant Keith A. Matthew. Sergeant Matthew was a U.S. Army Air Corps Airplane Electrician-Gunner in the Pacific Theatre during World War II. In January of 1945, Sergeant Matthew was killed in action when his plane was shot down after conducting a bombing raid over Japan. Years later, the family of Sergeant Matthew contacted numerous federal agencies to ensure that Sergeant Matthew posthumously received the Purple Heart. Unfortunately, the family was denied this recognition due to the inability of the agencies to locate records that demonstrated that Sergeant Matthew's plane was brought down by enemy fire. In 2018, the family contacted my office and, eventually, with the help of a local community member and veteran, I was able to obtain records that proved that Sergeant Matthew's B-29 went down as a result of enemy fire. I presented this information to the Department of the Army and, finally, Sergeant Matthew was recognized with the Purple Heart Medal. It is an honor to pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of Sergeant Matthew and his family to the United States of America.



*Presenting the family of Sergeant Keith Matthew with the Purple Heart Medal*

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

Handwritten signature of Jimmy Panetta in blue ink.

JIMMY PANETTA  
Member of Congress

