

Dear Neighbor,

2017 was an eventful year for our nation and our region. In 2018, I look forward to continuing to work to improve the quality of life and opportunity for everyone in California's 20th Congressional District, to protect our environment, find bipartisan solutions for immigration reform, support agriculture and other drivers of our economy, and secure affordable and accessible health care. It is an honor to continue to serve the communities and people of the place that we call home.

This year will have its series of challenges. Congress kicked off the year by passing a short-term budget resolution to fund our government. Funding our government on a month-to-month basis is detrimental to our national security and domestic programs and agencies. Short-term spending bills weaken our military readiness by halting long-term planning, cancelling training exercises, and delaying necessary maintenance and upkeep. Such stop-gap federal funding measures undermine investments in our rural communities by delaying loans and grants to farmers and small business owners.

The continuing resolution that Congress passed on January 22, did not provide funding for community health centers, combatting the opioid crisis, or disaster aid for Californians recovering from wildfires and mudslides. Moreover, Congress failed to come up with a solution to protect our Dreamers, many who are losing their status on a daily basis. Today, Congress has only one day left to reach an agreement on all of these pressing issues before the February 8 deadline of the short-term spending bill.

Despite that short time period, I am working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to develop a bipartisan and long-term spending package that responsibly funds the federal government. I am also continuing to negotiate a lasting legislative solution that protects our nation's Dreamers. Congress has a duty to work together in order to improve the quality of life and opportunity for all of our constituents. As your representative in Congress, I remain committed to fulfilling that responsibility.

[Click here to read some highlights from January](#), including the work that I have done to serve our veterans, foster our agriculture industry, fix our broken immigration system, and protect our environment.

**Coming up:**

- In February, I will introduce my first bill of 2018, the Immigrant Victim Protection Act. The bill would increase the number of "U" and "T" Visas designated for undocumented immigrant witnesses and victims of violent crimes and human trafficking who are cooperating with law enforcement and living in the United States. The bill would prevent those undocumented individuals from being deported while awaiting the determination and processing of their visas, and allow them to be issued work authorization permits within a statutory timeline.

**February Mobile Office Hours:**

Hollister  
Veteran's Memorial Building  
649 San Benito Street  
Thursday, February 8  
Time: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Watsonville  
Public Library  
275 Main Street Suite 100  
Wednesday, February 14  
Time: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

King City  
King City Hall  
212 South Vanderhurst Street  
Thursday, February 15  
Time: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Congressional staff will be able to assist constituents with issues concerning, Social Security, Medicare, federal employee retirement, immigration services, veterans' services, passports, searching for military records and any other federal matters. To reserve your appointment, please contact our Salinas District Office: (831) 424-2229.

If you would like to get similar updates in the future, please sign up for newsletters by clicking [here](#). Please call or contact me at our 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 us know how we can be of service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Panetta', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

JIMMY PANETTA  
Member of Congress