

CONGRESSMAN

Jimmy Panetta

PROUDLY REPRESENTING THE 20TH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA



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Dear Neighbor,

As your United States Representative, my Congressional committee assignments have a direct impact on the central coast of California. As a member of the House Agriculture Committee, I ensure our local agricultural and nutrition interests are represented and resourced in H.R. 2, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018, commonly known as the Farm Bill. This legislation, renewed every five years, governs agricultural policy and federal nutrition assistance programs. I strongly advocate for the needs of the Central Coast. From robust investments in research and specialty crops to support for our conventional and organic producers, and have called for additional resources to benefit the growers, shippers, and farmworkers of our community.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I successfully incorporated language protecting and supporting our local military installations and interests in the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The NDAA is comprehensive legislation directing resources and authorizing programs for national defense. It covers the range of Department of Defense (DOD) operations, personnel, facilities, and infrastructure around the world. I secured numerous provisions to integrate advanced technologies into professional military education, enhance language and cultural skills, expand innovation and entrepreneurial education, and strengthen military readiness.

Fighting for a Fair Farm Bill

As a member of the Agriculture Committee, I vigorously advocate for the needs of our district, including investments in research, mechanization, and specialty crops, support for conventional and organic growers, and strengthening the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) utilized by over 74,000 people on the central coast of California.



Click on this picture to watch video of speech on the House floor on the Farm Bill

Disappointingly, I could not support the bill when debated before the entire House. The bill suffered a flawed process and unnecessary partisanship that created an under-resourced Farm Bill and perpetuated harmful attacks on SNAP. Our farmers and neighbors deserve better. I cannot support legislation that makes it harder for working families to put food on their table. Moving forward, I seek to work with my colleagues in the House and Senate to negotiate, draft, and pass a bipartisan Farm Bill that benefits the growers, shippers, farmworkers, and families of the Central Coast.

Strong Congressional Oversight for Smarter Defense Spending

On May 19, 2018, the House Armed Services Committee debated, amended, and passed the NDAA out of committee. [During the mark-up](#), I successfully introduced numerous provisions to integrate advanced technologies into professional military education, enhance language and cultural skills, expand innovation and entrepreneurial education, and strengthen military readiness.



Click on this picture to watch some of my testimony during the NDAA debate

Strong Congressional oversight focused on smarter defense spending, clearly defined authorizations for the use of military force, and care for our military families is the best way for Congress to support our troops and keep our country safe.

I proudly voted for the bipartisan NDAA when it passed the House of Representatives. This legislation was the product of a bipartisan process that encouraged engagement across the aisle to identify policy solutions that helps our servicemembers and strengthens our national security.

I am committed to maintaining, strengthening, and resourcing the military installations on the Central Coast. Promoting professional military education, technological innovation, and foreign language training and readiness supports over 15,000 good paying jobs that boost the local economy and ensure the safety of our country.

May Legislation:

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

Introduced:

Co-introduced the bipartisan Kittens in Traumatic Testing Ends Now Act of 2018, or [KITTEN Act](#), to permanently end all of USDA's painful taxpayer-funded experiments on cats.

Cosponsored:

[H.R.5741](#) to require annual reporting on the on the research, development, test, and evaluation capabilities of the Department of Defense.

[H.RES.876](#) to support the goal of increasing public school teacher pay and public education funding.

The [National Purple Heart Hall of Honor Commemorative Coin Act](#) to authorize the U.S. Treasury to mint \$5 gold coins, \$1 silver coins, and half-dollar clad coins at the United States Mint at West Point. They will be sold in limited quantities. After production costs are recouped by the U.S. Treasury, proceeds from sales of the coin will go to the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor to allow the organization to develop and renovate their facilities.

Successful Casework

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.

Examples of our completed casework this month:

- Secured an expedited passport appointment for a constituent to visit terminally ill family member in Europe.
- Successfully worked to reimburse constituent for overpaid 2016 Tax Return.
- Facilitated expedited processing for VA claim for disability.
- Provided constituent with assistance to obtain Social Security resources.
- Helped constituent finalize pending immigrant visa case after 10 months of uncertainty.
- Assisted constituent with Department of Veterans Affairs health coverage for emergency medical expenses

If you or someone that you know has an issue or a question about federal benefits or services, please contact our office at 831-424-2229.

Events on the Central Coast and in Washington D.C.:



Meeting with Alfred Diaz Infante and Pfianna Cline of Community Housing Improvement System and Planning (CHISPA) to discuss the need for more affordable housing in our district.



Touring San Jerardo Migrant and Seasonal Head Start to learn about local childcare resources that give children the educational foundation that will help them succeed.



Speaking with students from Mt. Madonna High School in Watsonville visiting our nation's capital about protecting our environment and foster our agriculture industry.



Taking part in the first Memorial Day ceremony at the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery, where he talked about his work to serve our veterans.



Speaking with students from Santa Cruz about education and investment in STEM.

June 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.

King City

Thursday, June 21, 2018

Time: 10:00am-1:00pm

King City Hall

212 South Vanderhurst Avenue

King City, CA 93930

If you would like to get similar updates in the future, please sign up for newsletters by clicking [here](#).

If you have any questions or issues that I can help you with, please call or contact my Congressional offices in Salinas, Santa Cruz, or Washington, D.C. or through <https://panetta.house.gov>, for more information about legislation, votes cast in the U.S. House of Representatives, or the legislative process. Please do not hesitate to reach out and let me know how I can continue to serve you.

Sincerely,

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

JIMMY PANETTA
Member of Congress