

CONGRESSMAN

Jimmy Panetta

PROUDLY REPRESENTING THE 20TH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Dear Neighbor,

As your United States Representative, I am providing you with an update about some of the work that I have done on behalf of the central coast of California over the last couple of months. From authoring and introducing legislation that benefits our local economy, to [voting](#) to fund clean energy priorities and raise our troops' wages, to encouraging community members to [participate in the public comment](#) period on the Administration's public charge proposal, to earning a [100% rating](#) from the Human Rights Campaign for my record to support LGBTQ Equality, it is an honor to serve the people of the Central Coast and represent our values in Washington, D.C.

In our nation, there are certain groups and people that thrive on divisiveness. In order to overcome such disunity and hate, we not only must stand up and speak out against any violence, rhetoric, and racism, but we also must step up to make our voices and choices heard. Throughout the history of our nation, our leaders provided guidance during difficult times. Unfortunately, there also are those that fail to confront moments of crisis with moral leadership and clarity. That is why it is important to demand that all elected officials, no matter what office they hold, promote civil discourse and the ability to be bipartisan in order to set the tone and mood for our communities and country. By ensuring that our political leaders are civil, we are upholding our civic duties and responsibilities of living in this democracy that is of, by, and for the people.

Authored Legislation To Support Veterans

I am proud to have authored and introduced two bipartisan bills to support our student veterans on college campuses. The [Veterans Resource Center Act](#) would authorize grants for Veterans Resource Centers to advise, assist, and support military-connected students and encourage priority registration for veterans. I co-introduced the [GI Bill Transfer Extension Act](#), legislation that will increase flexibility for service members seeking to transfer their GI Bill education benefits. I will continue to work to support veterans and their families in their pursuit of higher education.



Announcing the introduction of my legislation on the Veterans Resource Center Act at California State University Monterey Bay.

Authored Legislation To Support Our Agriculture

I authored and introduced the [Farmworker Housing Improvement Act](#) to increase Central Coast farmworkers' access to affordable housing. My legislation will address current challenges by strengthening the Farm Labor Housing Loan and Grant Program, improving access to information for local non-profits, and increasing quality housing options for our farmworker community.

I authored and introduced the [Specialty Crop Mechanization Prize Challenge Act](#) to spur innovation of agriculture technology to support our local agriculture industry and improve farmworkers' harvesting methods. The legislation encourages the private sector to engage with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop mechanization technology that can alleviate stress on farmworkers or automates activities where workers are not available. It does so by directing the Secretary of Agriculture to establish prize competitions that incentivize the development of this technology.



Joined Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL), fellow co-chair and co-founder of the Agriculture Research Caucus, to speak to the United Fresh Produce Association about bipartisanship, the Farm Bill, immigration reform, and the benefits of research in agriculture.

Authored Legislation To Protect The Special Counsel

I authored and introduced the [Special Counsel Security Clearance Protection Act](#) to prevent the unwarranted revocation of the security clearances of Special Counsel Robert Mueller or his any of his team during the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. Currently, the Office of the President claims the authority to revoke an individual's security clearance for any reason at any time. The legislation requires independent judicial approval of any decision to revoke the security clearance of a special counsel. Moreover, any revocation must be for cause and consistent with U.S. national security interests.

Secured Funding For Pajaro River Levee Repairs

I fought for and secured federal funding in order for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to repair damage to the Pajaro River levee caused by the winter storms in 2017. I was pleased to tour the recently completed restorations. I will continue to work with local stakeholders to break through federal bureaucracy to ensure improved flood protection for the residents of Pajaro and Watsonville.



Viewing the recent repairs to the Pajaro Levee in Watsonville.

Secured A Grant For Housing On The Central Coast

I fought for and secured a federal grant totaling \$205,950 from the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Housing Authority of the County of Monterey. The grant provides Mainstream housing vouchers for affordable housing and an array of supportive services for non-elderly persons with disabilities.

Secured A Grant For Substance Abuse Treatment On The Central Coast

I fought for and secured a federal grant totaling \$504,691 from the Department of Health and Human Services Center of Substance Abuse Treatment for Janus of Santa Cruz. These funds will be used for an integrated residential substance use disorder treatment program for pregnant and postpartum women and their families in Santa Cruz County.

Secured Grants For Agriculture On The Central Coast

I fought for and secured a USDA grant totaling \$40,000 for the El Pajaro Community Development Corporation and a USDA grant totaling \$38,000 for the Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association. The grants will be used to increase economic security in the region and provide skill building and business education opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs. In order for the central coast of California to remain the Salad Bowl of the World, investments must be made to ensure that the next generation of farmers, ranchers, and small business owners have the resources that they need to succeed. These grants will

help our agricultural industry and rural economies continue to thrive by providing opportunities for entrepreneurs on the Central Coast.

Fighting For Immigration Reform On The Central Coast

I was proud to welcome U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein to the Central Coast, where we toured Monterey Mushrooms, Inc. in Royal Oaks. We spoke with farmers from the Central Coast and California's Central Valley and farmworkers, including the leadership of the United Farm Workers, about the challenges they face due to the lack of immigration reform. The Senator and I talked about the importance of passing immigration reform, including the [Blue Card Bill](#), which she introduced in the Senate and I was an original co-sponsor in the House. That bill would provide farmworkers with a work authorization and an earned legal status if they show consistent employment in U.S. agriculture. During the discussion, the Senator directly asked for my continued leadership on the bill. I look forward to continuing to work with the Senator and others in Congress to pass legislation on immigration reform that benefits those who contribute so much to our community and country.



Touring Monterey Mushrooms with Senator Feinstein, farmers, and farmworkers.

Working To Protect And Improve Our Healthcare

I met with local healthcare leaders on the Central Coast to discuss ways to protect and improve the Affordable Care Act (ACA), including the preservation of coverage for pre-existing conditions. I shared the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus principles to save the individual market with the group. I will continue to meet with our local experts to gather evidence for ways to improve access to healthcare and lower healthcare costs.



Discussing the challenges facing our healthcare markets and developing solutions that improve options in Monterey County.

The 2019 Open Enrollment Period for the Affordable Care Act runs from October 15, 2018, to January 15, 2019. [Learn more here.](#)

Mobile Office Hours For November

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.

Veterans Mobile Office Hours

Aptos
Monday, November 26, 2018
Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Veterans Information Center (VIC), Cabrillo College
6500 Soquel Drive, Building 900, #914
Aptos, CA 95003

General Mobile Office Hours

Watsonville
Wednesday, November 7, 2018
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Santa Cruz County Immigration Project (SCCIP)
406 Main Street
Watsonville, CA 95076

Hollister
Thursday, November 8, 2018
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Veteran's Memorial Building
649 San Benito Street
Hollister, CA 95023

Gonzales
Thursday, November 15, 2018
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Gonzales City Council Chambers
117 Fourth Street
Gonzales, CA 93926

Providing Opportunities For The Next Generation On The Central Coast

If you or somebody that you know from the Central Coast would like to intern at one of my offices in either Washington, D.C., Salinas, or Santa Cruz, please call those offices. It is a great opportunity to volunteer and provide service to the people of California's 20th Congressional District.

Election Day Information

Next Tuesday, November 6th is Election Day. You can find more information [here](#).

Newsletters Can Only Contain Information About Official Business

The information in this newsletter only pertains to my official, rather than political, role and highlights my duties and obligation to serve everyone in our Congressional District as your United States Representative.

If you would like to get similar updates in the future, please sign up for 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 <https://panetta.house.gov>. Please do not hesitate to reach out and let me know how I can continue to serve you.

Sincerely,



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Member of Congress



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