



# Congressman Mark DeSaulnier

## Town Hall

FEBRUARY 18, 2020



# 116<sup>th</sup> Congress House Makeup

197

Republicans

1

Independents

232

Democrats

5 \*

Vacancies

# Committees

- ▶ **One of only a handful of Members on 4 Committees**
- ▶ **Education & Labor**
  - ▶ Ensure that Americans' needs are addressed so that students and workers may move forward in a changing school system and a competitive global economy
- ▶ **Transportation & Infrastructure**
  - ▶ Maintain and improve the transportation and infrastructure in our country to best ensure the efficient flow of people, goods, and ideas
- ▶ **Oversight & Reform**
  - ▶ Main investigative committee in the U.S. House of Representatives
- ▶ **Rules**
  - ▶ Power over which bills are considered on the floor and influence over procedure

# Impeachment Wrap Up

- ▶ On December 18, 2019, the House voted to impeach President Trump.
- ▶ On January 15, 2020, the House voted to send the articles of impeachment and appoint 7 managers for the Senate trial.
- ▶ On January 16, 2020, the Chief Justice of the United States, John Roberts, and all Senators were sworn in for the impeachment trial.
- ▶ On January 21, 2020, the Senate began the impeachment trial.
- ▶ On February 5, 2020, the Senate acquitted Trump on both counts largely along party lines.
  - ▶ One Republican Senator, Mitt Romney (R-UT), voted to convict the President on the count of abuse of power.

# Trump Actions Since Impeachment

- ▶ Less than a week after being acquitted by the Senate, the President:
  - ▶ Removed Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman, a key witness in the impeachment investigation, from his post on the National Security Council;
  - ▶ U.S. Ambassador to the EU Gordon Sondland, another key witness in the investigation, was removed from his post;
  - ▶ Went on a Twitter tirade about the sentencing recommendation of his long-time political ally Roger Stone, who was convicted of lying to Congress and trying to block a witness in order to impede an investigation into the 2016 Trump campaign.
    - ▶ All four prosecutors have withdrawn from the case and one resigned from the DOJ.

# House Successes in 2019

## Democratic-led House passed over 400 bills, including:

- ▶ **For the People Act (H.R. 1)** - Reforms campaign finance laws to loosen the grip of special interests on our democracy;
- ▶ **Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act (H.R. 3)** - Reduces the cost of prescription drugs for millions of Americans;
- ▶ **Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 4)** - Expands voting rights for all Americans;
- ▶ **Equality Act (H.R. 5)** - Protects the civil rights of the LGBTQ+ community;
- ▶ **American Dream and Promise Act (H.R. 6)** - Creates a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers;
- ▶ **Bipartisan Background Checks Act (H.R. 8)** - Requires commonsense background checks for all gun sales;
- ▶ **Raise the Wage Act (H.R. 582)** - Increases the minimum wage for workers across the country;
- ▶ **Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (H.R. 1585)** - Addresses gender-based violence;
- ▶ **Securing America's Federal Elections Act (H.R. 2722)** - Secures electronic voting systems against cyberattacks and improves access for voters.

# Senate Inaction

	PASSED HOUSE	PASSED SENATE		PASSED HOUSE	PASSED SENATE
Protecting and Expanding Health Coverage	✓	✗	Legislation to Support Veterans	✓	✗
For the People Act	✓	✗	Bills Blocking Drilling in Coastal Communities and ANWR	✓	✗
Lower Drug Costs Now Act	✓	✗	Legislation to Protect Public Lands	✓	✗
Voting Rights Advancement Act	✓	✗	Legislation to Respond to the Humanitarian Situation at the Border	✓	✗
Equality Act	✓	✗	FAIR Act	✓	✗
American Dream and Promise Act	✓	✗	Corporate Transparency Act	✓	✗
Paycheck Fairness Act	✓	✗	Insider Trading Prohibition Act	✓	✗
Bipartisan Backgrounds Check Act	✓	✗	Protect Against Conflict by Turkey Act	✓	✗
Enhanced Backgrounds Check Act	✓	✗	NATO Support Act	✓	✗
Climate Action Now Act	✓	✗	Venezuela TPS Act	✓	✗
Legislation to Secure Our Elections	✓	✗	United States - Northern Triangle Enhanced Engagement Act	✓	✗
VAWA Reauthorization and Debbie Smith Act	✓	✗	BURMA Act	✓	✗
Raise The Wage Act	✓	✗	Resolution Opposing the President Abandoning Allies in Syria	✓	✗
Butch Lewis Act	✓	✗	Federal Civilian Workforce Pay Raise Fairness Act	✓	✗
Save the Internet Act	✓	✗	SAFE Banking Act	✓	✗
Consumers First Act	✓	✗	Farm Workforce Modernization Act	✓	✗

# Recent House Action

- ▶ **Removing the Deadline for Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (H.J.Res. 79)** – Removes the arbitrary deadline set for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution;
- ▶ **No War in Iran Act/Repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (H.R. 550)** – Prohibits the President from engaging in war with Iran without Congressional approval and repeals the AUMF that authorized war in Iraq;
- ▶ **Protecting the Right to Organize Act (H.R. 2474)** – Extends protections to workers to secure their rights to form labor unions;
- ▶ **Comprehensive CREDIT Act (H.R. 3621)** – The first overhaul of U.S. credit laws in over a decade to improve transparency at credit agencies and expand consumer protections;
- ▶ **Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act (H.R. 1230)** – Makes it illegal to retaliate against an individual who has filed an age discrimination suit.

# What's Next for Congress

- ▶ Bipartisan legislation to address surprise medical bills;
- ▶ College Affordability Act – Overhaul of the higher education system in the United States to reduce costs for parents and students;
- ▶ Comprehensive legislation to address our nation's crumbling infrastructure;
- ▶ Legislation to raise the debt ceiling and fund the government through 2021;
- ▶ Consideration of expiring surveillance authorities, such as Section 215, which allows the collection of certain data about domestic text messages and phone calls.

# Mark's Actions Since Coming to Congress

**28 initiatives** enacted into law, including efforts to:

- ▶ Expand John Muir National Historic Site
- ▶ Rename post office in Richmond after the site's first African American postmaster
- ▶ Empower pharmacists to fight the opioid crisis
- ▶ Create and fund statewide family engagement centers to help families participate in their children's education

**25 legislative efforts** passed the House and Committee including efforts to:

- ▶ Instructing the Navy to exonerate the Port Chicago 50
- ▶ Require states to be notified of disinformation campaigns interfering with state elections

## **Caucuses & Initiatives:**

- ▶ **Future of Work Wages and Labor**
- ▶ **Bipartisan Cancer Survivors Caucus**, *Founder & Co-Chair*
- ▶ **Urban Regional Studies Caucus**, *Founder*
- ▶ **Working Group on Saving Local News**

# Legislation Our Office Has Introduced

- ▶ **Equitable Transit Oriented Development Support Act (H.R. 5783)** – Creates loans for affordable housing and developments in underserved communities near transit hubs;
- ▶ **Protecting Student Athletes from Concussions Act (H.R. 5611)** – Creates policies to protect student athletes who may have concussions;
- ▶ **Early Childhood Mental Health Support Act (H.R. 5569)** – Identifies and funds mental health interventions for students in Head Start programs;
- ▶ **Preventing Vape Use Act (H.R. 5005)** – Recalls all vape devices until they undergo pre-market review by the FDA;
- ▶ **Clean Federal Fleet Act (H.R. 5554)** – Ensures that federal vehicle fleets comply with low greenhouse gas emissions standards;
- ▶ **Gun Safety Board and Research Act (H.R. 4177)** – Establishes a gun safety board to research and address the epidemic of gun violence;

# Legislation Our Office Has Introduced - Continued

- ▶ **Saving Local News Act (H.R. 3126)** – Creates a new pathway for local news organizations to gain non-profit status;
- ▶ **Exonerating the 50 African-American Sailors Court-Martialed by the Navy After the Port Chicago Explosion (H.Con.Res. 49)** – Recognizes the sacrifice of the sailors who died in the explosion at Port Chicago and exonerates the 50 sailors convicted of mutiny;
- ▶ **Deportation Relief for Isabel Bueso and Her Family (H.R. 4225)** – Provides permanent status for Isabel Bueso to continue receiving life-saving medical treatment;
- ▶ **Funding Early Childhood is the Right IDEA Act (H.R. 4107)** – Creates funding to support programs for young children with disabilities in schools;
- ▶ **Bots Research Act (H.R. 2860)** – Establishes a task force to study the effects of bots on social media, public discourse, and elections.

# Democracy Awards

- ▶ **Transparency, Accountability, and Innovation Award – 2019 Winner**
  - ▶ *“The office believes Americans deserve an efficient and effective government that works on their behalf each and every day. **In order to build public trust, Congressman DeSaulnier and staff strive to be transparent and accountable to constituents by providing a higher-level of customer service.**”* – Brad Fitch, President & CEO of the nonpartisan Congressional Management Foundation
- ▶ **Constituent Service Award – 2018 Finalist (1 of 3 Democrats)**
  - ▶ *“**Constituent service has been the hallmark of Representative Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA-11) and his office since his election in 2015...**To keep constituents informed, Representative DeSaulnier uses Facebook Live to explain hot button issues happening in Washington in real time, and maintains an impressive four-day response time for constituents who send questions or concerns regarding his congressional activity. “* – Brad Fitch, President & CEO of the nonpartisan Congressional Management Foundation

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