Congressional Update

Congressman Mark DeSaulnier

October 23, 2018
Hosted 74 Town Halls & Mobile District Office Hours

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Mobile District Office Hours

- El Cerrito
- Pittsburg
- Bay Point
- Walnut Creek
- Richmond
- Lafayette
- El Cerrito
- Moraga
- Martinez
- Walnut Creek
- Bay Point
- Kensington
- Walnut Creek
- Walnut Creek
- Walnut Creek
Map of the Congressional District (CA-11)
In The News
Recent Administration Actions

- Judge Kavanaugh’s nomination and subsequent defense and confirmation
- Inability to have reunited all children who were separated from their parents, and moving children to tent cities
- Departure of 35+ senior Administration officials, including 3 Cabinet Secretaries (VA, State, HHS) and most recently U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley

DeSaulnier Efforts:

- Voted twice to advance impeachment proceedings for President Trump
- Joined efforts to oppose Judge Kavanaugh’s confirmation based on his judicial record and the credible accusations against him
- Sent letter to HHS Secretary asking him to properly care for immigrant children in HHS’s care
Aviation Safety

Close Calls at SFO & Other Airports

• Our nation’s air travel system is world class. The number of accidents has steadily declined and our system is safe.

• However, the number of runway incursions increased 83% between 2011 and 2017.

**DeSaulnier Efforts:**

• Passed 4 amendments into law to take proactive steps to address safety gaps.
• Asked GAO to review gaps in aviation safety and make recommendations to Congress.
• Pressed FAA, NTSB to investigate close calls at airports and improve airplane landing safety.
• Called on Transportation Committee to investigate aviation safety.
  • Hearing was held on February 27th.
Total Number of Runway Incursions
Fiscal Years 2011-2017

Source: OIG analysis
Immigration

• At least 2,300 children were separated from their parents
  • 400+ children still have not been reunited
• Courts have ruled that the Administration must continue to accept renewals → This is not a permanent solution
• Dreamers will contribute $460.3 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product over the next decade
• Speaker Ryan will not allow a vote on immigration reform

DeSaulnier Efforts:

• Support Dream Act to provide a path to citizenship for Dreamers
• Signed discharge petition to force a vote on immigration in the House
• Sent letters to ICE opposing targeted immigration raids in Northern California
• Support at least 5 bills opposing family separation at the border
Tax Bill

• Last major tax reform: 1986
  • **President**: Ronald Reagan
  • **Speaker of the House**: Thomas “Tip” O’Neill (D-MA)
  • **Senate President Pro Tem**: Strom Thurmond (R-SC)
  • Bipartisan effort in both House and Senate
  • Almost 11 months between introduction and it being signed into law (in contrast, H.R. 1 introduced 11/2/17 signed into law on 12/22/17)

• Since 1986, the U.S. tax code has gone from less than 30,000 pages to over 70,000 pages

• The amount of credits, loopholes, and deductions has increased by 44 percent, from $844 billion (2013 dollars), to over $1.2 trillion (2013 dollars)
Tax Bill

• **Adds $1.8 trillion to debt** over 10 years (CBO)
• **83% of the tax cuts go to the wealthiest 1%** (Tax Policy Center)
• Raises taxes on **86 million middle class families**
• $1.3 trillion (permanent) tax break for corporations
• Massive tax rate cut from **35% to 21% for corporations**
• Repeal of the “individual mandate”
  • Will result in 13 million people losing health coverage
  • Without the individual mandate, premiums estimated to increase by 10% per year

**DeSaulnier Efforts:**

• Called for maintaining **State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction**
• **Voted against** Republican tax bill (H.R. 1) and its permanent extension (H.R. 6760)
Trump-GOP Tax Plan in 2019:
Who Benefits and How Much (in billions)

- Richest 20%, -$225
- Richest 1%, $85
- Next Richest 19%, $140
- Middle 20%, -$25
- Fourth 20%, -$43
- Second 20%, -$13
- Foreign Investors, -$48
- Poorest 20%, -$3

Source: Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, December 2017
Richest 1% of Taxpayers Receive the Largest Average Tax Cut Under the Revised Senate Plan in 2027, the Average Taxpayer in the Bottom 60% Faces a Tax Hike

Includes Impact of ACA Individual Mandate Repeal

- $+220 Poorest 20%
- $+200 Second 20%
- $+60 Middle 20%
- $−70 Fourth 20%
- $−180 Next 15%
- $−950 Next 4%
- $−50 Richest 1%

INSTITUTE ON TAXATION AND ECONOMIC POLICY • ITEP.ORG
Tax Bill – California Impacts

• Mortgage Interest Deduction – currently capped on debt of $1,000,000; new law reduces cap to $750,000
• Home Equity Loan Interest Deduction Eliminated
• State and Local Tax Deductions – limited to $10,000
  • Average deduction in 2015 in our district: $18,672, with 44% of households claiming the deduction
  • Pressure on states and local governments to cut taxes and cut back on services
Final GOP-Trump Tax Bill Gives Larger Tax Cuts to Upper-Income California Residents in 2019, Raises Taxes on Low-and Middle-Income Residents in 2027

Tax Change as a Share of Income in 2019 and 2027, Includes Impact of ACA Individual Mandate Repeal

Poorest 20% | Second 20% | Middle 20% | Fourth 20% | Next 15% | Next 4% | Richest 1%
---|---|---|---|---|---|---
-1.0% | -1.6% | -1.6% | -1.4% | -0.1% | -0.1% | -0.2%
-3.3% | -1.0% | -0.4% |

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Gun Violence

• Gun violence claims over **30,000 lives annually** in the United States
• The U.S. firearm homicide rate is **20 times higher** than the combined rates of 22 comparable countries
• Americans make up about **4.4% of the global population**, but own **42% of the world’s guns**.
• Gun industry annual net profit: **$1.5 billion**
  • Annual cost of gun violence: **$290 billion**
• Since 2003, state and local governments have given more than **$120 million in tax subsidies** to at least seven major firearms companies

**DeSaulnier Efforts:**

• Lifetime “F” score from the NRA
• Never accepted donations from the NRA
• **Drafting bill** to create Gun Safety Board
• **Authored 2 bills and 1 amendment** to help reduce gun violence
• **Supported 34 gun violence prevention bills**
• **Joined effort** to force a vote on universal background checks
Figure 11
Gun Violence Receives Less Federal Research Funding Than Most of the Top 20 Causes of Death in the United States

Leading in Congress
Congressional Actions

20 initiatives enacted into law, including efforts to:
• Expand John Muir National Historic Site
• Make our air travel system safer and more efficient
• Empower pharmacists to fight the opioid crisis

16 legislative efforts passed the House and Committee including efforts to:
• Better fund affordable housing and research on doctor-patient communication
• Ensure that no regulation rollbacks harm public health

Caucuses & Initiatives:
• Future of Work Wages and Labor
• Bipartisan Cancer Survivors Caucus, Founder & Co-Chair
• Urban Regional Studies Caucus, Founder
DeSaulnier Efforts on Cancer

- **Co-founder of the bipartisan Cancer Survivors Caucus**
- **Introduced bipartisan Patient Navigation Assistance Act** with Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX) to help at-risk Americans have access to patient navigation services
- **Introduced bipartisan Cancer Care Planning and Communications Act** with Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX) to improve doctor-patient communication by enabling access for more patients to cancer treatment plans
- **Hosted two Cancer Moonshot Events** – 375 people attended
- Held a roundtable with **the President of the Biden Cancer Initiative** – Greg Simon to discuss cancer care in America
- Member **meeting with the Director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI)** – Dr. Ned Sharpless to discuss the future of cancer care
Future of Work, Wages, and Labor

• Led 3 Members to explore the problems facing workers and identify solutions
  • 2.5+ years
  • 30 policy recommendations
  • 5 regional meetings
  • 100+ experts consulted

• Key policy recommendations:
  • Overturn *Citizens United*
  • Ban stock buybacks
  • Strengthen antitrust enforcement
  • Curb executive pay
  • Update WARN Act
Inequality

Wage Vs. Profit Share of GDP
Campaign Finance

• The 2016 election cycle was the most expensive election on record, with over $6.9 billion spent on the Presidential and Congressional elections combined, a 120% increase over the 2000 elections

• The cost of Congressional elections has spiked even further, with over $4.2 billion spent in 2016, a 155% increase from the 2000 elections

• The Government by the People Act would encourage public financing of political campaigns to:
  • Provide citizens with a campaign contribution credit to let their voice be heard and
  • Gives candidates an incentive to seek out small donors
Campaign Finance

Outside Spending by Cycle, Excluding Party Committees

- Independent Expenditures
- Communication Costs
- Electioneering Communications
Our Office
“Rep. DeSaulnier and his staff are to be congratulated for not only being a model for colleagues in Congress, but for helping to restore trust and faith that our democratic institutions can work.”

– Bradford Fitch, President and CEO of the Congressional Management Foundation

*DeSaulnier’s office was one out of six in Congress (3 Democrats, 3 Republicans) selected for this award.
Performance Standards

• The private sector uses performance metrics and standards to gauge businesses’ efficiency and effectiveness, using collected data to hold leaders accountable and perfect their business model over time.

• Performance measures in the public sector are critical to ensuring that hard-earned taxpayer dollars are spent in the most effective manner.
  - Metropolitan Planning Enhancement Act (H.R. 3787)
  - Transportation Megaprojects Accountability and Oversight Act (H.R. 4228)

• Internal office performance metrics include:
  - **Meeting Requests:** If you request a meeting, expect to receive a response within 24-hours.
  - **Correspondence:** Emails and letters received in our office will be sent a response within 5 business days of receipt.
  - **Casework:** Requests for assistance through our website or by phone will receive a phone call within 24-hours.
  - **Tours & Flags:** Requests submitted through our website will receive a phone call within 24-hours.
Contact Our Office

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**Congressional Website:**
www.desaulniers.house.gov