

115th Congress

January 2017-October 2018

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Goals in Congress

- To create jobs, enhance security (both foreign and domestic), and promote equality.
- To achieve these goals, my legislative agenda is focused on five main areas:
 - 1. strengthen central Florida's innovative economy and help small businesses obtain capital, counseling, and contracts
 - 2. protect our country from security threats, support service members, and care for military veterans
 - 3. improve quality of life in central Florida with respect to public safety, education, working families, health care, housing, infrastructure, and environment
 - 4. promote equality of opportunity for all constituents, including communities that have historically endured discrimination, younger generations cynical about political process, displaced American families from Puerto Rico and other disaster-stricken areas, and aspiring Americans like Dreamers
 - 5. hold Congress accountable so it works better for central Florida and country.

Short Summary of Key Accomplishments

- 18 measures have become law
- Another 8 measures have passed House
- As of October 2018: I have introduced 17 bills that have over 630 cosponsors. That is more cosponsors than any other House freshman, and places me in the top 5 percent of all House members.
- According to objective <u>metric</u>, I finished 2017 as the #1-most effective and the #2-most bipartisan House freshman, out of nearly 60 House freshmen.
- According to an <u>independent analysis</u>, my voting record is the 7th-most bipartisan of the 193-member House Democratic Caucus.
- According to another <u>independent analysis</u>, I am among the "least ideological" members of the House and have the #1-highest "leadership" score of all House freshman Democrats.

Detailed Summary of Key Accomplishments

Measures that became law (18)

- 1. Measure to authorize Procurement Technical Assistance Centers—funded by the DOD—to help small businesses obtain grants and contracts from various federal agencies through the SBIR and STTR programs. The small business uses this funding to research and develop high-tech products that benefit the nation and that the business can commercialize for profit. [SM floor amendment]
- 2. Measure to ensure that Commercial Market Representatives—SBA employees located around the country are taking all reasonable steps to help small companies obtain their fair, legally-required share of federal government contracts and subcontracts. [SM bill with Rep. Dave Brat (R-VA)]
- 3. Measure to ensure that Puerto Rico receives equitable treatment under the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting grant program, which helps low-income families with children stabilize and achieve economic and educational success. [SM floor amendment]
- 4. Measure to provide K-12 schools that enroll displaced students with up to \$10k per student (to hire and pay teachers, offer tutoring and counseling, buy supplies, provide school transportation) and to provide colleges/universities that enroll displaced students with access to \$75 million pool of funding. [SM-led initiative]
- 5. Measure to lift effective 20-year ban on research sponsored by CDC and other HHS agencies into ways to reduce gun violence, and to pave way for such research to resume. [SM bill; provision was included in FY 2018 omnibus appropriations act.]
- 6. Measure to increase funding for SBA's Women's Business Centers program from \$17 million to \$18 million, with broad aim of helping women entrepreneurs succeed and specific aim of establishing a new WBC in the Orlando area. [SM floor amendment]
- Measure to increase funding for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum by \$3 million, from \$54 million to \$57 million. [SM-led bipartisan letter, signed by 60 members, to House Appropriations Committee]
- 8. Measure that makes change to SBA's Microloan program to enable more aspiring and existing small business owners to obtain low-interest loans. [SM bill]
- 9. Measure to enable graduates of the service academies to have the opportunity to pursue professional sports opportunities following graduation, after two years of active-duty service. [SM floor amendment with Rep. Tom Rooney (R-FL); led letter to NDAA conferees]
- 10. Measure to get Orlando re-included in list of 30 or so metro areas that receive funding under the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) program. Urged FEMA to consider high-profile targets and number of foreign visitors. They included those criteria in allocation formula, resulting in Orlando making the cut. Will receive \$1.5 million in 2018. Also makes Orlando non-profits, like JCCs, eligible for funding under DHS Non-Profit Security Grant Program.
- 11. Measure to name post office in Oviedo after fallen war hero, SFC Alwyn Cashe [SM bill]
- 12. Measure (BATTLE for Servicemembers Act) to improve training provided to departing servicemembers so they can attend school, learn a trade, or open a small business. [SM bill; substantially similar version included in FY 2019 NDAA]
- 13. Measure to express congressional support for U.S. support for Israel's missile defense systems. [SM bill; substantially similar provision included in FY 2019 NDAA]
- 14. Measure increasing funding by \$250,000 for the U.S. House of Representatives' Wounded Warrior Program, which provides paid two-year fellowships to disabled veterans within House offices. There are currently about 50 disabled veterans with fellowships and this funding will help the program reach its goal of expanding that number to 110. [SM floor amendment with Reps. Kildee (D-MI), Mast (R-FL), and Gabbard (D-HI)]
- 15. Measure requiring FEMA to provide guidance and training to state and local governments, first responders, and local health care facilities on establishing emergency plans to ensure patients at these health care facilities are safe in the event of a major disaster. [SM floor amendment with Rep. William Keating (D-MA)]

- 16. Measure requiring FEMA to provide guidance and training to state and local governments, first responders, and hazardous waste facilities on establishing emergency plans to protect public health and safety by prevent hazardous materials from being released in the event of a major disaster and responding effectively if they are released. [SM floor amendment with Rep. William Keating (D-MA)]
- 17. Measure to ensure states have effective plans in place to protect infants who are innocent victims of the opioid epidemic. Bill would establish grant program to help Florida and other states develop evidence-based policies and procedures so drug-dependent babies receive proper care at the hospital and the necessary family, community, and medical support once they are discharged. [SM bill with Rep. Garrett (R-VA)]
- 18. Measure increasing funding for the National Guard counter-drug program, which helps FL national guard and other state national guards combat drug trafficking and drug-related violence. [SM floor amendment with Rep. Barr (R-KY)]

SM measures that passed the House (8)

- 1. Measure (POISE Act) that responds to President Trump's disclosure of highly-sensitive, Israeli-provided intelligence to Russian officials by requiring notification to congressional intelligence committees when executive official, including president, discloses classified information to adversary nation outside of authorized intelligence channels, thereby deterring imprudent disclosures and enabling Congress to conduct oversight and damage control. [SM bill]
- 2. Measure to require FEMA, the National Counterterrorism Center, and the FBI to establish a Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series to help eligible metropolitan areas—including Orlando—prepare for and respond to major terrorist attacks. [SM bill with Rep. Fitzpatrick (R-PA]
- 3. Measure to improve the SBIR and STTR programs, through which federal agencies provide grants and contracts to small businesses, who use this funding to research and develop high-tech products that benefit the nation and that the business can commercialize for profit. [SM bill with Rep. Knight (R-CA)]
- 4. Measure to require procurement professionals at every federal agency to increase their engagement in the SBIR/STTR programs so they can help more small businesses use the programs. [SM bill]
- 5. Measure to deter and punish the stalking and cyberstalking of children by increasing potential criminal penalties for convicted offenders. [SM bill with Rep. Fitzpatrick (R-PA)]
- 6. Measure to prevent and punish scam charities; protect taxpayers who donate to charities; and increase transparency among charitable organizations. [SM bill with Rep. Kelly (R-PA)]
- 7. Measure increasing funding for SBA's Women's Business Centers by \$600,00 and SBA's Veteran Outreach initiatives by \$400,000. [SM floor amendment]
- 8. Measure to ensure that college students thinking about transferring schools receive the financial counseling they need to make an informed decision and, specifically, that they understand that the loans they have received up to that point will count towards their aggregate loan limit, regardless of whether all the course credits they have completed are accepted by the school they seek to transfer to. [SM floor amendment]

Measures that have achieved practical success or generated national attention (6)

- 1. Measure to prohibit political advisors from serving on NSC or Principals' Committee. Obtained 182 cosponsors, drew national media attention, and contributed to Steve Bannon's removal from the NSC and PC. [SM bill]
- 2. Measure to require federal officials, including aides to president, to have fully-adjudicated security clearance before obtaining access to highly-sensitive intelligence. Contributed to WH policy change that resulted in Jared Kushner losing his ability to access Top Secret information. [SM bill]
- 3. Measure to expand federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit and Dependent Care Flexible Savings Accounts, which resulted in preservation of these provisions in GOP *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act*, a law that repealed many credits, deductions, and savings accounts. Endorsed by major organizations dedicated to early childhood development. [SM bill with Rep. Yoder (R-KS)]

- 4. Measure to extend funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP); the Community Health Centers program; other expired public health programs like the National Health Service Corps, the Special Diabetes program, the Family-to-Family Health Information Centers program, and the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) program; the underfunded Medicaid programs in Puerto Rico and the other U.S. territories; the Medicaid programs in states like Florida that enroll displaced individuals from hurricane-stricken areas. Many of these provisions, or similar provisions, ultimately became law as part of Bipartisan Budget Act. [SM bill]
- 5. Measure to repeal an antiquated federal law—called the "IMD exclusion"—and authorize the federal government to spend Medicaid dollars to pay for services offered to individuals addicted to opioids and other drugs at high-quality residential facilities with 16 or more beds. Endorsed by the President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis. [SM bill with Rep. Fitzpatrick (R-PA)]
- 6. Measure (FAITH in Congress Act) to prohibit lobbying by former Members, end Member perks like abovecoach class travel and automatic annual pay adjustments, codify 'No Budget, No Pay', require House leadership to prioritize bipartisan bills when deciding what bills to bring to floor for vote. [SM bill with Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)]