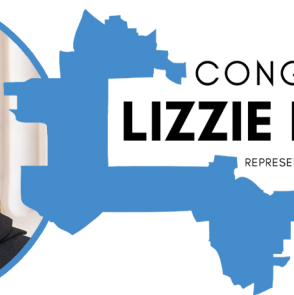




2020 MID-YEAR REPORT



CONGRESSWOMAN
LIZZIE FLETCHER

REPRESENTING TEXAS' 7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



Dear Neighbor,

As we reach the halfway point of this eventful year, I am glad to share a **mid-year report** on my work as your representative to the U.S. Congress.

For much of this year, our community and our country have responded to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The challenges and changes to our lives that the pandemic has brought have been the focus of much of the work of the Congress. As your representative, I am working to ensure that we meet this unprecedented moment by working together, partnering with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and with our local governments and agencies to protect the health, security, and well-being of our community and our country. At the same time, my team and I have continued work on other matters of importance to our community. You will find a summary of some of the highlights from the first six months of the year and of the 116th Congress to date on the pages that follow.

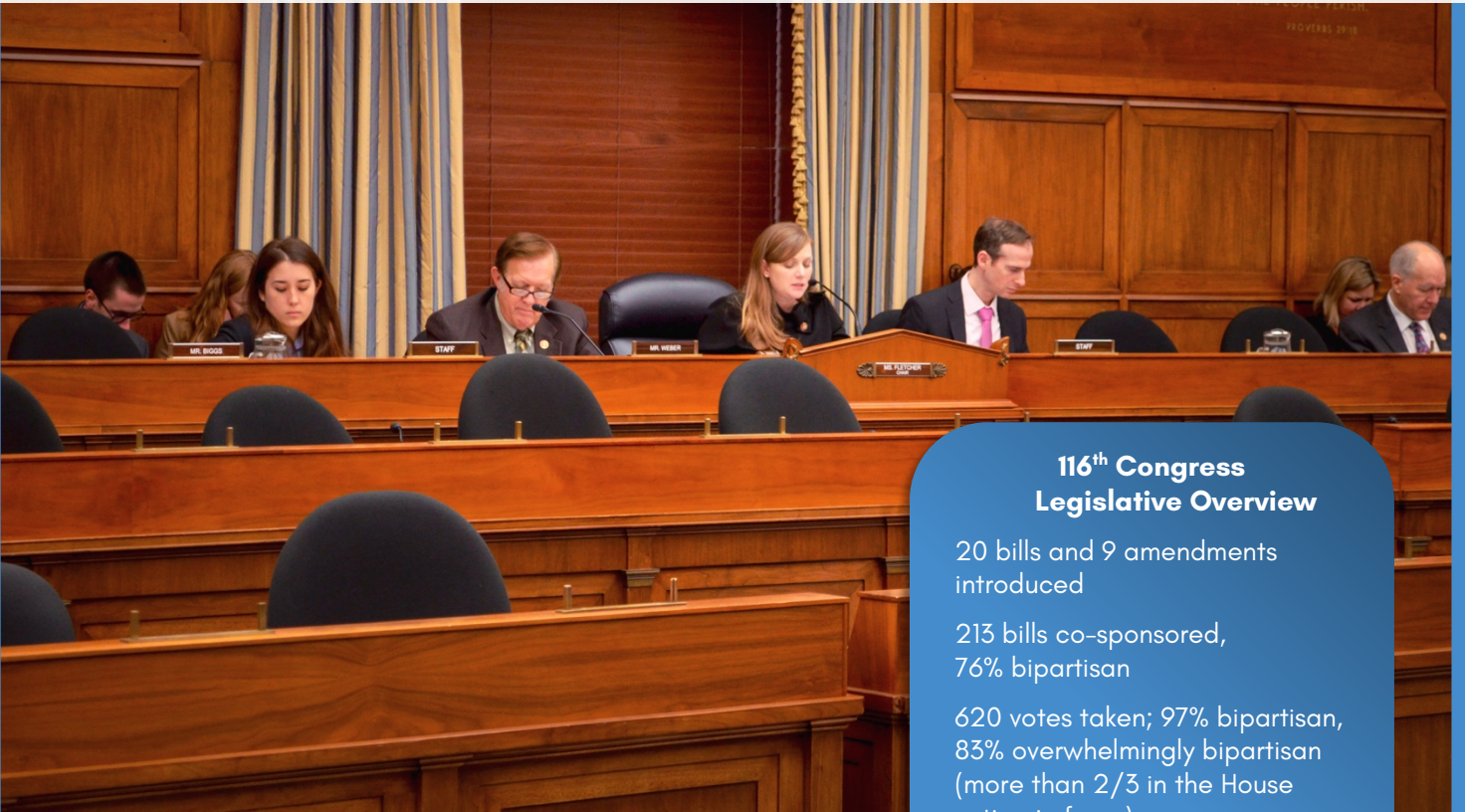
I am honored to represent you, and I am here for you. Please do not hesitate to call me to share your thoughts or ask for assistance. You can share your thoughts on my website, send me an email, or call my office any time.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lizzie Fletcher".



WORKING IN WASHINGTON



116th Congress Legislative Overview

20 bills and 9 amendments introduced

213 bills co-sponsored,
76% bipartisan

620 votes taken; 97% bipartisan,
83% overwhelmingly bipartisan
(more than 2/3 in the House
voting in favor)

Committees

House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

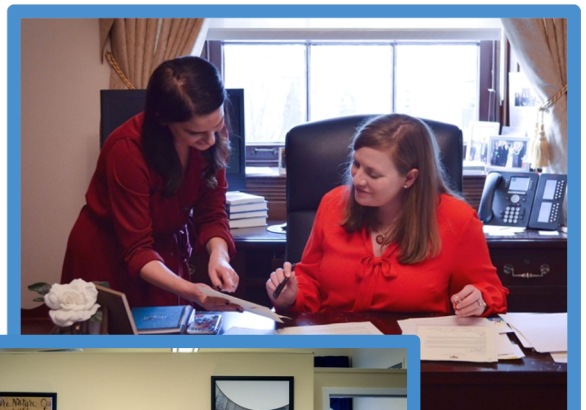
- Vice Chair, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management
- Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials
- Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment

House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

- Chair, Subcommittee on Energy
- Subcommittee on Environment

Caucus and Task Force Membership (partial list)

- New Democrat Coalition
 - Co-Chair, Trade Task Force
 - Co-Chair, Health Care Task Force
- Co-Chair, Bipartisan Natural Gas Caucus
- Asian Pacific American Caucus
- Black Maternal Health Caucus
- Equality Caucus
- Gun Violence Prevention Task Force
- PORTS Caucus
- Oil and Gas Caucus
- PFAS Task Force
- Pro-Choice Caucus
- Task Force for Combatting Anti-Semitism



WORKING FOR CONSTITUENTS



CONGRESS
TO DATE:

\$113,550,429

MONEY RETURNED TO TX-07
IN FEDERAL GRANTS

60,745

RESPONSES TO CALLS,
LETTERS, AND EMAILS

1,815

MEETINGS WITH
CONSTITUENTS

CASEWORK: 2019 vs. 2020 TO DATE

In addition to a normal casework load of 669 cases, the office also closed 754 COVID-19 related cases.

825

Closed Cases:
2019 (Full year)



1,423

Closed Cases:
2020 (Jan-June)

IN OUR COMMUNITY

(This section highlights events that took place this year before our office implemented precautionary measures in response to COVID-19.)

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ON HEALTH CARE: MEMORIAL



CONSTITUENT SERVICES POP-UPS



ACROSS THE AISLES: COPPERFIELD



TX-07 TOWN HALL: JERSEY VILLAGE

RESPONDING TO COVID-19

CONSTITUENT SERVICES

BY THE NUMBERS

TX-07 casework numbers increased by 113% as a result of COVID-19.

140

Closed Cases:
Obtaining Economic
Impact Payment

243

Closed Cases:
Small Business
(PPP/EIDL)

53

Closed Cases:
U.S. Citizens
Returned Home

318

Closed Cases:
Unemployment Claims
with TWC

1,907

Phone Calls
(Not Including
Casework)

9

Telephone Town Halls
and Small Business
Webinars

As our community responds to the pandemic, our priority remains the health and safety of our neighbors.

As soon as it became clear that the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) would have a dramatic impact on our community, much of the TX-07 team in both the Houston and the Washington, D.C. office redirected their efforts to responding to the pandemic while working remotely.

Staff whose regular job it is to focus on community outreach and office management turned into specialists in helping district residents obtain their Economic Impact Payments from the Internal Revenue Service; on how to navigate the application process for the Economic Injury Disaster Loans and Paycheck Protection Program loan programs to ensure small businesses in the district could receive support provided by Congressional stimulus packages; and on how to file unemployment claims with the Texas Workforce Commission.

Our team helped several dozen TX-07 U.S. citizens return home after they were stranded abroad when airlines and airports closed. Hundreds of constituents affected by COVID-19 have sought help, and we were glad to help.

We hosted telephone town halls focused on the COVID-19 pandemic with Dr. Peter Hotez, Director of Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development and Dean of Baylor College of Medicine School of Tropical Medicine, Dr. Umair Shah, Executive Director of Harris County Public Health Department, State Representative Armando Walle of Harris County's COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery, and Marvin Odum of the City of Houston's COVID-19 Recovery and Relief, and small business webinars with Houston District Small Business Administration representatives.

Resources

Our office has prepared guides to help find information and resources specific to our community here in Texas' Seventh Congressional District, which are updated with new information as it becomes available:

- [COVID-19 Community Resource Guide](#)
- [COVID-19 Community Resources Webpage](#)
- [Small Business Resource Guide](#)

RESPONDING TO COVID-19

LEGISLATION

We are facing a crisis unlike any we have experienced in our lifetimes and in our country's history. The magnitude of the crisis calls for an unprecedented response. Congresswoman Fletcher has worked with her House of Representatives colleagues to enact forward-looking, common-sense legislation.

- In early March, Congress passed the bipartisan **Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act**, H.R. 6074, an emergency response funding package totaling \$8.3 billion, including \$3 billion to develop treatments and a coronavirus vaccine; \$2.2 billion in public health funding for prevention, preparedness, and response measures, including nearly a billion dollars to help state and local health systems; to protect public health by allowing Medicare providers to extend telemedicine services to seniors; to protect against price gouging; and to support small businesses affected by the epidemic.
- Congress passed the bipartisan **Families First Coronavirus Response Act**, H.R. 6201, to bolster the federal government's response to the pandemic and address its impacts on Americans' health and economic security by providing free coronavirus testing for everyone who needs a test, including the uninsured; increasing funding for Medicaid to support local health systems; providing emergency paid sick leave to millions of workers and reimbursing small businesses for providing leave; enhancing unemployment insurance; and strengthen nutrition programs, including SNAP, student meals, seniors' meals, and food banks.
- Congress passed the bipartisan **Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act**, S. 3548, to provide meaningful relief for health care providers on the front lines of this crisis, hospitals and health care systems, individuals, businesses, and our first responders on the frontlines of this crisis. Among other provisions, the bill includes:
 - Direct payments to American families of up to \$1,200 for adults (\$2,400 for couples), and \$500 per child under the age of 17 based on income;
 - \$260 billion for unemployment insurance, including reforms that make the program more expansive and inclusive;
 - \$377 billion to provide immediate relief for small businesses and non-profits, making payroll, rent, mortgage, and utility costs eligible for SBA loan forgiveness;
 - \$150 billion fund for the country's health system, which will be available to hospitals and providers most affected by COVID-19 to invest in personal protective equipment, testing supplies, increased workforce, and more; and
 - \$150 billion to state and local governments to help pay for new expenses related to COVID-19 response, including an estimated \$11 billion in funding to Texas.

RESPONDING TO COVID-19

LEGISLATION

The House of Representatives passed H.R. 6800, **The Heroes Act**, to address the continued public health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill is now before the Senate for consideration. It includes:

- \$75 billion for the testing, tracing, and treatment of COVID-19;
- funds state and local governments and the pay of health care workers, police, fire, emergency medical personnel, sanitation workers, teachers and other vital workers;
- provides a second round of direct payments of up to \$6,000 per household and includes additional dependents;
- extends weekly \$600 federal unemployment payments through January 2021;
- supports small businesses by strengthening the Paycheck Protection Program, extending relevant deadlines for use of the funds and repayment of the loans, reaching underserved communities and including nonprofit organizations, and adding grant funding to the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program;
- and provides common-sense protections for Americans, including:
 - a special enrollment period in the ACA exchanges for those without insurance;
 - \$175 billion to assist renters and homeowners make monthly rent, mortgage, and utility payments;
 - an increase to the maximum SNAP benefit, and OSHA requirements to ensure workplaces develop science-based infection control plans; and
 - works to ensure safe elections, an accurate Census, and preserve the Postal Service.

The Heroes Act includes Congresswoman Fletcher's Protecting the Paycheck Protection Program Act of 2020 and her bill to protect Medicaid funding for hospitals by postponing the Trump Administration's Medicaid Fiscal Accountability Regulation for two years.



Congresswoman Fletcher introduced Houston's Dr. Peter Hotez, Director of Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development and Dean of Baylor College of Medicine School of Tropical Medicine, at a hearing before the Science, Space, & Technology Committee hearing on March 5, 2020.

2020 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS



- The United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA), which Congresswoman Fletcher actively worked to advance in her role as New Democrat Coalition Trade Task Force Co–Chair, was signed into law this year.
- Congress passed S. 457, the *President George H.W. Bush and First Spouse Barbara Bush Coin Act*. Congresswoman Fletcher co–sponsored the House companion bill, H.R. 1173. This bill has been signed into law.
- After the House passed Congresswoman Fletcher’s bill, H.R. 2548, the *Hazard Eligibility and Local Projects Act* late last year, legislation that would expedite the beginning of disaster mitigation projects by cutting red tape and streamlining FEMA’s hazard mitigation grant program, Senator Thom Thillis of North Carolina introduced it in the Senate.
- The House passed H.R. 535, the *PFAS Action Act of 2019*, a package that includes Congresswoman Fletcher’s bill to protect first responders and the environment from PFAS chemicals in firefighting foam. The *PFAS Action Act* is comprehensive legislation to regulate PFAS chemicals, clean up contamination, and protect public health.
- The House passed H.R. 4044, the *Protect and Restore America’s Estuaries Act*, which reauthorizes and increases funding for the National Estuary Program (NEP) to protect the water quality and ecological integrity of estuaries across the country, including Galveston Bay. It passed 355–62 in the House and now awaits action in the Senate.
- The House passed H.R. 7120, the *George Floyd Justice in Policing Act*, which Congresswoman Fletcher has co–sponsored. The bill will create stronger systems of transparency and accountability in policing across the country to safeguard every American’s right to safety and justice.
- The House passed H.R. 2, the *INVEST in America Act*, a robust and bold investment to update and restore our nation’s infrastructure. Congresswoman Fletcher introduced amendments important to TX–07 constituents, including:
 - An amendment to expand federal support for natural gas and propane as alternative fuels in the Alternative Fuel Corridors Grant Program, for which she secured bipartisan support;
 - An amendment to establish federal corrosion planning and inspection protocols for bridges, which will help strengthen and maintain safety—and ensure fewer bridge closures and traffic delays due to underlying corrosion;
 - An amendment to allow storm–prone regions to apply for federal funding to build underground utilities, an important resiliency measure; and
 - An amendment to ensure high–speed rail projects, like the Texas high–speed train project, can more easily be financed, which she worked on with Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson and Congressman Colin Allred.
- Congresswoman Fletcher introduced H.R. 6580, to appropriate \$3 billion for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) during the energy downturn. This is a bipartisan, bicameral bill introduced with Senator John Hoeven of North Dakota.
- Congresswoman Fletcher is an original cosponsor of H.R. 7232, introduced to establish Juneteenth a federal holiday.
- Congresswoman Fletcher was an original cosponsor on the bipartisan H.R. 5994, the *Built to Last Act*, which seeks to bolster America’s infrastructure and systems against the risks of climate change.
- Congresswoman Fletcher introduced a bipartisan amendment to provide \$45 million in Hurricane Harvey relief funds as part of supplemental disaster legislation with Congressman Dan Crenshaw, which passed the House by a voice vote.



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