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Stay in touch!









Dear Neighbor,

It is hard to believe that this year and this Congress are coming to a close. The 117th Congress was one of the most productive Congresses in American history, and I am honored and proud to have brought your voice, your ideas, and your priorities to Washington.

This year, Congress passed important legislation that President signed into law, among them the *Inflation Reduction Act*, to lower inflation, lower the cost of prescription drugs for people on Medicare, and implement smart energy policy to reduce emissions and fight climate change; the *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act*, the largest federal gun safety legislation in decades, enacted after the tragic shooting at Robb Elementary in Uvalde; and the *Respect for Marriage Act*, a bipartisan bill that guarantees the federal rights, benefits and obligations of marriages in the federal code for codifies protections for same-sex and interracial marriages and repeals the

discriminatory *Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)*. In working to provide critical support to our region, I advocated for legislation to authorize the Coastal Texas Study, which passed both the House and Senate this December in connection with the *National Defense Authorization Act*, and obtained funding for projects important to our community. I was glad to vote for these critical pieces of legislation and so many more that are of great importance to our community and our country.

In addition to passing legislation, I have worked with local and state leaders to deliver for our community. I am delighted to share some of the highlights of the work that our team and I have done for you this year. We have a team committed to serving our constituents in every way we can, working for us in Washington and in Houston. I am deeply grateful to our staff and proud of the work we have done together that is reflected in these pages.

I am honored and proud to represent you, and I am here to help you. Please share your thoughts or ask for assistance at any time. You can do so through my <u>website</u>, by sending me a letter or <u>email</u>, or by calling my office. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

misterau



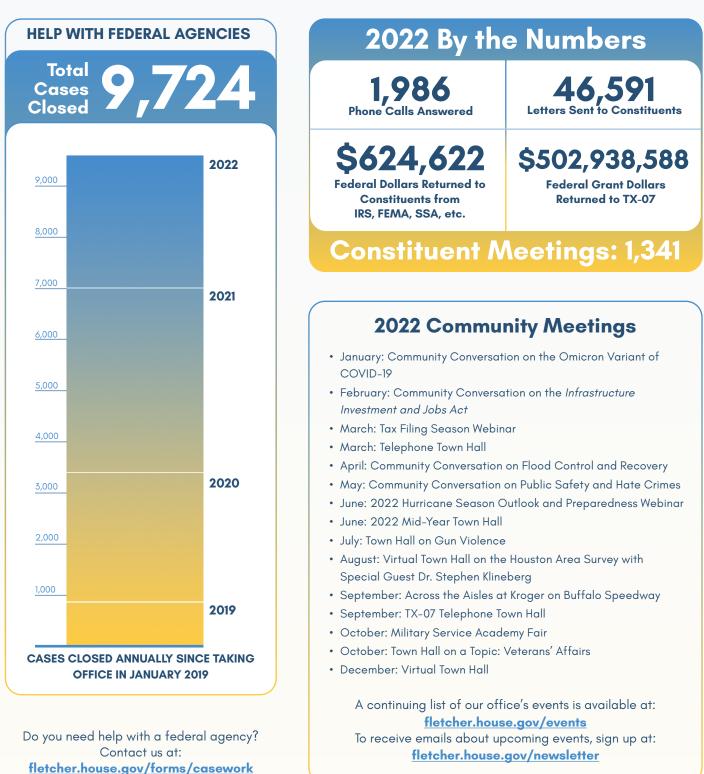
A NOTE ON THE NEW TX-07

Reconfigured following the 2020 Census and redistricting process, Texas' Seventh Congressional District will be composed of some new areas beginning in 2023, including much of Southwest Houston in Harris and Fort Bend counties.

Although district lines may have changed, my commitment to improving the lives of people across our community and our country has not. With these geographic changes, however, we will relocate our Houston District Office and open a second office in Fort Bend County. Details to come!

HOUSTON

Working with, and for, our community is my priority. It is a privilege for me and for our district team to be able to serve our neighbors. We are glad to receive your calls and questions, and we are dedicated to helping people in our district in every way we can.



CONSTITUENT CASEWORK SUCCESS STORIES

Our district has a team of constituent advocates who can assist TX-07 residents in resolving issues before federal agencies. I am so proud of their excellent work and want to be sure you know that we can assist you to resolve issues with federal agencies, including the Social Security Administration, the Small Business Administration, and more. My team has helped close more than 9,500 cases on behalf of TX-07 residents. Here are some of the stories our neighbors have shared.

I needed help communicating with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for my naturalization case that was outside of normal processing times. I reached out to Congresswoman Fletcher's Office, and they were able to inquire about my case with the agency. I was contacted by USCIS shortly afterward for my naturalization interview. Today, I am proud to call myself a U.S. Citizen. Thank you, Lizzie Fletcher!



Onur



I contacted Congresswoman Fletcher's Office regarding the renewal of my passport. Although I sent in the renewal request months before my trip and expedited it, it was still "in process" on their site and I was leaving for my first international trip in two weeks. Fatimah in Congresswoman Fletcher's Office was communicative, kind, empathetic, and gave me constant updates. She immediately calmed me, and even though there were no guarantees, I knew I was being taken care of in the best way. My passport came in eight days before my trip and Fatimah notified me with the good news of its approval before the actual passport office! Thank you, Fatimah, for everything!

Loubel

Read these and more stories from constituents helped at <u>fletcher.house.gov/casework-success</u>

Do you need help with a federal agency? Contact us at: <u>fletcher.house.gov/forms/casework</u>

ACROSS THE AISLES

This year, I was able to get back to visit with constituents through Across the Aisles, my program to talk to neighbors throughout TX-07 at area Kroger stores. I appreciate the opportunity to meet with residents from our district, discuss the services our office provides, and talk about issues important to the community. I am always so grateful to hear from members of our community about the issues they care about, and look forward to more in the new year.



WASHINGTON

Through work with my colleagues in committee and caucuses and with our Texas delegation, my priority—and my job—is to bring the voice of our district to Washington, D.C.









COMMITTEES

House Committee on Energy and Commerce

- Health Subcommittee
- Communications & Technology Subcommittee
- Consumer Protection & Commerce Subcommittee
- House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology • Environment Subcommittee

Hearings help committees obtain testimony from people with subject matter expertise. Markups are where committees review, debate, amend, and vote on whether to send legislation to the full House for a vote. You can learn more about our schedule by clicking on the committees above. I have also made some highlights of my work available on YouTube, which you can view here.







CAUCUSES

Partial List

- New Democrat Coalition
 - Trade Task Force, Co-Chair
- Natural Gas Caucus, Co-Chair
- Friends of Belgium Caucus, Co-Chair
- Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) Pro-Choice Caucus
- Black Maternal Health Caucus
- Congressional Sindh Caucus
- Energy Export Caucus
- Equality Caucus
- Gun Violence Prevention Task Force

- Offshore Wind Caucus
- Oil and Gas Caucus
- PORTS Caucus
- Postal Preservation Caucus
- Small Business Caucus
- Task Force for Combating Antisemitism
- Voting Rights Caucus

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

This year, I introduced nine bills to address issues of critical importance to our community—from protecting reproductive rights, to building coastal infrastructure, to promoting public safety, to investing in flood resilience projects, to funding federal health studies, to supporting our European allies, to investing in carbon emission reduction research—and co-sponsored many more. Learn more about my legislation, co-sponsorships, and votes by clicking <u>here</u>, and see below for highlights.



Along the Texas Gulf Coast, we know all too well the catastrophic impacts of flooding and disasters. It is crucial for us to invest in coastal protection projects and provide a more permanent funding source for them.

The *Reinvesting in Shoreline Economies and Ecosystems (RISEE) Act* will help protect coastal communities by creating a new stream of funding for coastal infrastructure and flood resiliency projects and incentivize new clean energy projects.

The Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* is a dangerous precedent that jeopardizes the health and equality of people across this country. State lawmakers in Texas and beyond have now threatened to interfere with the constitutional right of Americans to travel freely with the U.S. for the purpose of obtaining reproductive health care. Congress has the power and responsibility to protect these fundamental rights guaranteed to all citizens, which is why I introduced this bill protecting the right to travel.

PASSED BY THE HOUSE THE ENSURING WOMEN'S RIGHT TO REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM ACT

That is why I introduced the *Ensuring Women's Right to Reproductive Freedom Act*, which reaffirms the right to travel and prohibits interference with the provision of, access to, or assistance with abortion across state lines.

AMERICAN GAS

EXPEDITING U.S. LNG EXPORTS TO NATO ALLIES

In February, Russia launched its unprovoked war against Ukraine that continues to have devastating consequences for the people of Ukraine and the world. The United States took unified action with our allied partners in sanctioning Russian and providing support for Ukraine.

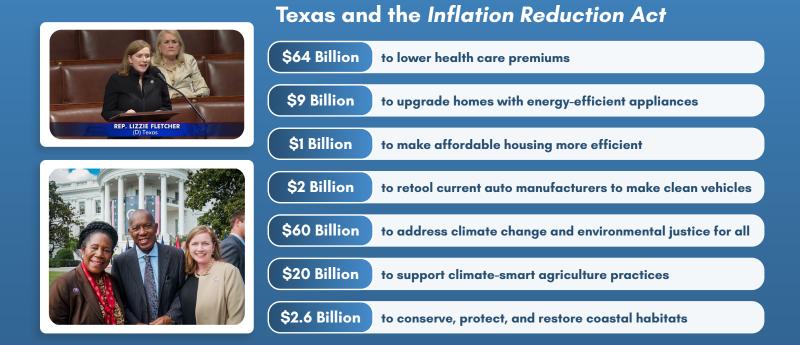
To help secure Europe's energy supply and lessen reliance on Russian energy, the *American Gas for Allies Act* would allow American liquified natural gas to receive expedited approval for export from the United States to NATO countries. This will help our country respond to Russia's invasion in a meaningful way while promoting American energy.

PFAS chemicals can accumulate in the body for long periods of time and have been linked to adverse health outcomes. The *Federal PFAS Research Evaluation Act* would implement a federal study on PFAS exposure and toxicity to allow us to better understand the health and environmental hazards PFAS chemicals pose to our communities.



THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT

THE LARGEST INVESTMENT IN CLIMATE AND ENERGY IN OUR COUNTRY'S HISTORY



The Inflation Reduction Act:

HEALTH CARE

- Provides \$64 billion to extend enhanced tax credits for the Affordable Care Act until 2025, lowering health care premiums for millions of Americans.
- Allows 3 million Americans to gain health insurance, improving upon the all-time low uninsured rate of 8 percent.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICING

- Allows Medicare to negotiate the price of prescription drugs, making them more affordable for the more than 63 million Medicare beneficiaries.
- Caps the cost of insulin at \$35 per month, protecting 3.3 million Medicare beneficiaries with diabetes from predatory price gouging.
- Caps Medicare patients' out-of-pocket costs at \$2,000 per year, with the option to break that amount into affordable monthly payments.

ENERGY & CLIMATE

- Investing in domestic energy production and manufacturing, while reducing carbon emissions;
- Imposing a fee on greenhouse gas emissions while establishing a grant program that creates a pathway to compliance for operators subject to the fee to deploy emission reduction technologies, evening out the playing field and allowing smaller operators access to capital.
- Raising the value of the 45Q tax credit for carbon sequestration from \$50 to \$85 per metric ton of stored CO2, which will help deploy more carbon management technologies and lead to greater emissions reductions.

ECONOMY

• Fights inflation by reducing deficit spending by more than \$300 billion in the next ten years and nearly \$2 trillion in the next twenty years.

2022 LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES

- The **Respect for Marriage Act**, to protect and enshrine marriage equality for same-sex and interracial couples in federal law. President Biden signed it into law on December 13, 2022.
- The Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act, the most significant legislation to expand benefits and care to toxic-exposed veterans in more than 30 years. President Biden signed it into law on August 18, 2022.
- The **Water Resources Development Act of 2022**, to authorize several water resource projects that benefit our district, including the Coastal Texas Study. It passed the House on December 8, 2022.
- The **Protecting Our Kids Act**, a comprehensive package of common-sense gun safety legislation supported by the American people to end gun violence and save lives. It passed the House on June 8, 2022.
- The **CHIPS and Science Act**, a historic investment to surge the production of domestic semiconductors, bolster U.S. supply chains, and secure American scientific leadership. President Biden signed it into law on August 9, 2022.
- The **Hazard Eligibility and Local Projects (HELP) Act**, my bill to allow certain eligible disaster mitigation projects to begin without the risk of losing potential federal funds. It passed out of both the House and the Senate this fall and is now on its way to the president's desk.
- The **AUTO For Veterans Act**, my bill expanding the eligibility for disabled veterans to obtain vehicles modified for their disabilities. It passed the House and the Senate this fall and is now on its way to the President's desk.

COMMUNITY FUNDED PROJECTS

In 2021, the House Appropriations Committee announced that it would once again consider appropriating funds for projects Members identified in their communities and requested through a transparent process. In March, Congress passed the Funding for the People Act of 2022, which included \$13 million for seven community projects I requested (which you can read about <u>here</u>). At the end of this year, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, which included all 15 of the projects I requested on behalf of our community, totaling \$31.1 million for TX-07 priorities, including:

- **\$9,886,000 for Harris County Flood Control District** to work with the Cities of Southside Place and West University Place to improve Poor Farm Ditch to construct a new water conveyance channel and avoid a failure of the existing channel
- **\$5,000,000 for Houston METRO** to improve the Westheimer BOOST bus route, an east-west crosstown bus route with the highest ridership in the METRO system and in all of Texas. Improvements will consist of bus stop enhancements, new bus shelters, improved passenger information, easier boarding platforms, and safe all-door access.
- \$3,000,000 for the Southwest Houston Redevelopment Authority to improve intersections on Hillcroft Avenue between Westpark Drive and Harwin Drive. The proposed project will improve the intersections' safety for all users, rehabilitate failing pavement, improve stormwater conveyance, enhance sidewalks, and improve signalization.
- \$2,500,000 for the City of West University Place to replace Milton Street waterlines, replacing approximately 2,400 linear feet of pre-1939 cast-iron water distribution lines, which, due to age, have exceeded their lifespan. Failure of these distribution lines would disrupt the water supply to the City of West University Place.
- **\$2,400,000 for the City of Bellaire** to replace water and wastewater line infrastructure that has reached the end of its 30 to 50-year useful service life. The majority of these lines are cast-iron waterlines that are 50 years or older.
- **\$2,000,347 for the Houston Public Library (HPL)** system to support digital literacy for Houston area children with the Youth Digi-Lit Project, with funds primarily intended to increase HPL's digital book and educational video collections and associated technologies like tablets and laptops.
- **\$1,431,174 for a Harris County Public Health** pilot program to address significant health inequities and improve Black maternal and child health.

For more details on these and the other community projects Congress has funded at my request, click here.



STAY IN TOUCH!

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Central Houston, TX Office Stay tuned! (713) 353-8680

Sugar Land, TX Office Stay tuned!



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