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ANNUAL REPORT  
Congressman Ross Spano



A MESSAGE FROM

# Congressman Ross Spano

*I can't thank you enough for a wonderful first year. As someone who was born and raised in this community, it's an honor to represent District 15.*

*This year, I've met with veterans during roundtables and townhalls to learn more about how I can better fight for those who fought for us. I've also had the privilege of visiting various small businesses who serve as the backbone of our district. I've stopped by local schools and colleges to meet our future generation, and I've met with seniors to discuss lowering prescription drug costs and their quality of care.*

*This district means everything to me. I am committed to doing whatever I can to not only ensure that this is a community we can confidently hand down to our children and grandchildren, but to also make you proud.*

*Thank you for this opportunity! The best is yet to come in 2020.*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Spano', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

# *It's a pleasure serving you...*

My mission from day one has been to provide **honest, principled, and conservative representation** to Florida's 15th Congressional District, and to provide **exemplary, compassionate assistance in response to every constituent inquiry**. Here's how we've performed so far:

- **24,138** Emails Answered
- **1,607** Letters Sent
- **1,099** Calls Returned
- **8** Town Halls
- Spoke at **28** district events
- Visited **66** sites during my small business tour
- Met with **over 350 constituents** in my D.C. office & in the district



- **300 Tours** at the U.S. Capitol for residents and friends of Florida 15
- Hosted over **1600 constituents** at the D.C. office
- Helped over **500 constituents** resolve issues with the Dept. of Defense, Social Security Administration, United States Postal Service, etc.

# Highlights

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## TRANSPORTATION

- Secured \$19 million grants for runway improvements at Lakeland Linder Airport
- Demanded improved oversight of disaster recovery process (H.R. 1984)



## HEALTHCARE

- Support covering & protecting those with pre-existing conditions (H.R. 692)
- Introduced legislation to protect patients from surprise medical bills (H.R. 4223)
- Support lowering prescription drug prices & consumer transparency (H.R. 19)



## PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE

- Introduced the HOPE Act – to prevent prosecution of trafficking victims (H.R. 5080)
- Introduced legislation to prevent convicted pedophiles from receiving taxpayer funded pensions (H.R. 3816)



## MILITARY & VETERANS

- Introduced legislation to improve healthcare for early National Guard and Reserve retirees (H.R. 5169)
- Extended the 'Boots to Business' program to provide entrepreneurship training to veterans and active members of our military. (H.R. 3537)



## SENIORS

- Support seniors not being taxed on their Social Security benefits (H.R. 3971)
- Help seniors cut through Medicare red tape by streamlining prior authorization requirements (H.R. 3107)



## ECONOMY

- Supported President Trump in passing of the USMCA trade deal (H.R. 5430)
- Support making tax cuts permanent for individuals and families

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# Legislative

## Bills Introduced

- ✓ **Deadline Enforcement Act (H.R. 1178)**

This bill would end future government shutdowns by providing for an automatic continuing appropriation with additional procedures to incentivize Members to pass the regular appropriations bills on time.
- ✓ **No Pensions for Pedophiles Act (H.R. 3816)**

This bill would ensure that taxpayers are not responsible for continuing to pay the pensions for individuals convicted of federal crimes related to the sexual abuse of children.
- ✓ **Protecting Patients from Surprise Medical Bills Act (H.R. 4223)**

This bill would outlaw balance billing for all emergency services, and for any non-emergency services, provided by an out-of-network provider at an in-network hospital where the patient was given no opportunity to select an in-network provider.
- ✓ **HOPE for Victims of Human Trafficking Act (H.R. 5169)**

The bill makes it easier for victims of human trafficking to qualify for the affirmative defense of coercion for certain offenses committed while they were being trafficked.
- ✓ **TRICARE Fairness for National Guard and Reserve Retirees Act (H.R. 5169)**

Generally aligns the age for TRICARE health care benefits with the age at which retired National Guard and Reserve personnel begin receiving their retired pay.
- ✓ **Protecting Abortion Survivors (H.R. 962)**

Establishes care requirements a practitioner must exercise in the event a child is born alive following an abortion or attempted abortion



# Constituent Services

## How can I help?

### ✓ **Veteran Issues**

Help with compensation claims, VA health care, GI Bill benefits, military records, and obtaining earned military medals.

### ✓ **Tax Questions**

My office can make an inquiry regarding open cases with the IRS and about obtaining needed tax forms.

### ✓ **Social Security**

My staff can make an inquiry to check status of your social security benefits.

### ✓ **Immigration / Passport Issues**

We can help expedite your passport application (fee applies), we can also check status of green card application.

### ✓ **Other Federal Programs**

My office may be able to help resolve problems or get information you need. We're always happy to help!



*One of the most memorable casework requests my office received and resolved satisfactorily in 2019 involved a local veteran who was having an issue obtaining a VA medical appointment. After my office got involved, our local hero received access to the medical care he needed. Cutting through the red-tape of the federal government is what our local staff is here to help you do!*



The Congressional Art Competition is an opportunity to recognize and encourage the artistic talent in the nation, as well as in our congressional district. The contest is open to all high school students in the District. The over-all winner of our district's competition will be displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol.



The honor of attending a service academy comes with the obligation and commitment to serve in the military for a minimum of five years upon graduation. Members of Congress may nominate candidates for appointment to four of the five U.S. service academies.

More information at: [SPANO.HOUSE.GOV](http://SPANO.HOUSE.GOV)

# Committee Work

## Small Business Committee

During the first session of the 116th Congress, the Small Business Committee has held a total of **61 hearings** -- 25 full committee hearings & 36 subcommittee hearings.



**18 bills** were passed by the committee. **24 small business bills** were passed in the House, & **3 were signed into law.**

## Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

The Transportation & Infrastructure Committee was busy & productive in 2019. The committee held **47 hearings, 5 roundtables, 7 markups**, & passed **27 bills** in the House.



**We love hearing from you!**

**You can write me a letter at**

224 Cannon HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515

**or follow me on social media**



RepRossSpano



RepRossSpano



RepSpanoFL15