



ANNUAL REPORT

2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Year in Review.....	1
Legislative Accomplishments.....	3
Legislative Highlights.....	5
In the District.....	11
Awards & Honors.....	13



Dear Friends,

In 2021, we strived to build back better and recover from an economic crisis and public health emergency that has shaken our country to its core and impacted people around the globe. I held firm in the fight for comprehensive bills to lift up working families reduce poverty, make vital investments to combat climate change and rebuild our crumbling infrastructure. Despite challenges, I sought to ensure that through my work in Congress, the American people will feel transformative change for years to come.

As your member of Congress, I recommitted myself to advancing legislation that meets this moment by empowering working people and families.

This year, I drafted bills to provide free community college to all Americans, promote diplomacy and peacebuilding and take necessary steps to save our one precious Earth.

In my District Office, my staff continued to work diligently to connect thousands of Michiganders to federal and state agencies that could offer relief during the pandemic and connected Afghan refugees seeking asylum in the United States to resources.

Perhaps my proudest moment this year, and throughout my tenure in Congress, was welcoming home journalist and Huntington Woods native Danny Fenster after he was released from Insein Prison in Burma after nearly six months of unjust detention. I worked day in, day out to **#BringDannyHome** and appreciate deeply the huge number of people who reached out to support the Fenster family and our efforts to free Danny.



Danny is home!



It's truly the honor of my life to represent Macomb and Oakland Counties in Congress. I'm in awe of how resilient our communities are and how we tackle challenges head on. All year, community leaders and advocates who are fighting alongside me continually inspired me to make our country more just and equitable. The fight continues, and I won't give up until everyone has access to health care; good jobs are plentiful; workers can form unions without interference; our elders can retire in dignity; every kid has access to a great preschool, public education and job training or college; and we transform our economy to stop the overheating of our planet.

In solidarity,



Constituent Dollars Recovered



Measures Authored



Constituent Cases Resolved



LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This year, I **drafted 30 bills and cosponsored 310 pieces of legislation** offered by my colleagues. I've made it my top priority to amend legislation to ensure bills we pass in the House improve the standard of living for Macomb and Oakland County residents as much as possible, and **12 of my amendments passed the House of Representatives** including expanding protections for people who need to express breastmilk at work and helping domestic violence survivors prosecute their cases.

DELIVERING RESULTS

I am incredibly proud to have **two pieces of legislation signed into law this year by President Joe Biden**: my bill to **place a moratorium on the unsafe incineration of PFAS** by the Department of Defense and my Library Stabilization Fund Act – **the single largest increase in funding for libraries in our nation's history!**

BILLS DRAFTED

11

Bills to uplift American workers and feed our families:

- America's Energy Worker Opportunity Act
- Building a Better WIC Act
- College Athlete Right to Organize Act
- Coronavirus Unemployment Benefits Tax Act
- Jumpstart Our Businesses By Supporting Students (JOBS) Act
- Keeping Workers Safe Act
- Long-Term Unemployment Elimination Act
- Retirees Sustainable Investment Opportunities Act
- Secure And Fair Elections for (SAFE) Workers Act
- Strengthening Training and Accessibility for New and Diverse Apprenticeships through Relevant and Dependable Standards (STANDARDS) Act
- Sustainable Investment Policies Act

3

Bills to promote peace and prosperity abroad:

- Enhancing North Korea Humanitarian Assistance Act
- Resolution to condemn the February 1 Burma coup
- Two-State Solution Act

2

Bills to improve our public health system and make life-saving medicine more affordable:

- Coronavirus Containment Corps Act
- STOP Games Act

5

Bills to educate our nation's students and support our public schools and institutions:

- America's College Promise Act
- Build America's Libraries Act
- Library Stabilization Fund Act
- Get Toxic Substances Out of Schools Act
- Resolution to declare the week of April 5 through April 9 National Assistant Principals Week

5

Bills to tackle the climate crisis and save our environment:

- BUILD GREEN Act
- Buy Green Act
- EV Freedom Act
- National Institutes of Clean Energy (NICE) Act
- PFAS Safe Disposal Act

2

Bills to fight for civil and human rights at home:

- Deferred Removal for Iraqi Nationals, Including Minorities Act
- Equality for Married Taxpayers Act

2

Bills to protect our democracy and strengthen political oversight:

- BEST Ambassadors Act
- Transparency in Corporate Political Spending Act

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS



American Rescue Plan

In late February, I voted to pass President Biden's American Rescue Plan to deliver long-awaited, comprehensive COVID-19 relief to the American people. The American Rescue Plan marked a turning point away from the public health and economic devastation of 2020 by providing funds to contain the virus, return children safely to the classroom, send lifesaving vaccines to the people, put dollars into families pockets and get Americans back to work.

This bold recovery package also expanded the Child Tax Credit to offer increased support to American families. The benefit was made fully refundable for 2021 and the annual amount increased from the current \$2,000 per child to \$3,000 per child (\$3,600 for a child under age 6).

Prior to the tax credit being fully refundable, 27 million American children did not receive the full value of the \$2,000 tax credit, as their parents did not earn enough money. Because of President Biden's American Rescue Plan, those families are now able to access to these critical resources. **Here in the Ninth District, 114,000 qualifying children benefitted from this program and 69,000 payments were sent to parents totaling \$174.2 million.** I hosted many events on social media to make parents aware of these payments and to push to make this tax cut permanent.

Build Back Better Act

After months of intense debate, I'm proud that the Build Back Better Act passed the House of Representatives on November 19. **My fellow progressive members of Congress and I stuck together and held the line with unity and strength to fight for a human infrastructure package that does justice to the American people and the planet.** The Build Back Better Act puts working families first, reduces poverty, increases funding for workforce training programs, allocates the largest-ever federal investment in housing and makes the biggest investments this country has ever made to combat climate change.



I fought on the Education and Labor Committee to ensure **the vast majority of families pay no more than seven percent of their income on childcare and to provide universal pre-K for three- and four-year-olds.** I held a roundtable with local parents and providers to talk about how truly transformative this package will be. The Build Back Better Act will also **strengthen protections for workers' safety and ability to form a union and bargain collectively by instituting meaningful fines for unfair labor practices and violations of workforce safety.**

CREATE
GOOD JOBS

SAVE THE
PLANET

ACHIEVE
PEACE

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS



Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

For too long, Michigan workers have been left behind and our families have suffered the disastrous consequences of a shrinking middle class, unsafe drinking water and the climate crisis. That's why I supported the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Enacted into law in November, this bill modernizes our infrastructure and creates millions of good-paying, union jobs that cannot be outsourced and will make a real impact for communities across Macomb and Oakland Counties as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have pushed for investments in electric vehicle charging infrastructure and thanks to those efforts, **\$110 million is coming to our state to create good-paying jobs building out a network of chargers along our highway corridors.**

I helped get this bill signed into law because it will replace our lead water lines, with **\$1.3 billion coming to the state to improve water infrastructure**, and ensure that Michigan contractors receiving our state's expected **\$7.3 billion in federal highway aid and \$563 million for bridge replacement and repairs** pay construction workers a fair, prevailing wage so that local labor markets and workers won't be undercut. I enjoyed hosting a roundtable with Communication Workers of America about the **\$100 million investment coming to the state to upgrade our broadband technology.**

America's College Promise Act

I reintroduced the America's College Promise Act to provide free community college to all because **the inaccessibility of education today prevents too many students in Macomb and Oakland Counties from realizing their full potential and earning a living wage.**

As the cost of higher education continues to soar and the student debt crisis worsens, I believe strongly that we need policy solutions that empower working Americans. The America's College Promise Act will make good on the American promise of a high-quality education by removing financial barriers that have kept working Americans from pursuing their education and professional development.



This year, I welcomed First Lady Dr. Jill Biden and Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, who come from the world of education and understand the importance of community colleges, to the Ninth District to talk about tackling the cost of higher education with investments from my bill.

The fight for equitable education continues as we have a truly historic moment ahead of us to deliver real, tangible improvements to the lives of working families.

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS



Gun Violence

The tragic shooting at Oxford High School near my home in Oakland County was the deadliest school shooting in our country since 2018, when our children rose up after the Stoneman Douglas High School massacre in Parkland, Florida and asked us to take action to prevent such horrific violence.

As a member of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, I recognize the need to address gun violence as the public health emergency it is. I am a proud, early cosponsor of H.R. 748 which would establish a framework for the storage of firearms on residential premises. The Oxford shooting demonstrates the imperative to implement robust safe storage across the country and here in Michigan.

I'm also an early cosponsor of the Federal Extreme Risk Protection Order Act, known as the "Red Flag Law," to allow family members and law enforcement to obtain an order to temporarily remove access to firearms for those who are deemed a danger to themselves or to others by a federal court. If this becomes law, school administrators could alert law enforcement when they see warning signs like they did in Oxford.

I continue to send my deepest condolences to the families and friends of the victims, and the entire Oxford, Michigan community. Hana St. Juliana, Tate Myre, Madisyn Baldwin and Justin Shilling should still be here with us today, learning alongside their fellow Wildcats. As Michiganders continue to mourn, please be assured I am committed to the fight against gun violence in our nation, and I will support meaningful policies that prioritize the health and safety of our communities, families and children.



Two-State Solution Act

Earlier this year, we witnessed horrific violence erupt between Israel and Gaza, killing and injuring hundreds, destroying homes and critical infrastructure, and worsening Gaza’s humanitarian crisis. This war, sadly, was the latest in a cycle of violence that has now continued for decades and followed a U.S. presidency that pushed peace even further out of reach. **I introduced the Two-State Solution Act to bring us closer to achieving a two-state solution that can both ensure Israel’s survival as a democratic state and a national home for the Jewish people and fulfill the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people for a state of their own.**

House Haiti Caucus

In May, I founded the House Haiti Caucus to organize our efforts in the House in pursuit of a more just U.S. foreign policy that — as we would expect of the policies of our own government — puts the needs and aspirations of the Haitian people first. Over just the past few months, Haiti has battled crises of governance and a presidential assassination, a devastating hurricane and earthquake, migration and COVID-19 vaccine inequities. This is followed by decades of U.S. interventions in Haiti that have undermined the people while propping up the interests of the elite few. **Alongside the caucus’ co-chairs, I have uplifted and listened to the Haitian voices on the ground working to shape a true democratic future for Haiti.**



IN THE DISTRICT



Connections to the district – from constituent calls and letters, meetings with city and county leaders, calls with educators and superintendents and the return of in-person events as vaccines became available – inform my work every single day in Congress. I conducted tele-town halls and coffee hours across geographic, ethnic and faith communities and **mailed 107,870 response letters to constituents who contacted my office.**

Casework

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued and constituents leaned on my office for assistance, my staff continued to handle large volumes of casework. My office aided Macomb and Oakland County residents in accessing funding for businesses through the Small Business Administration, helping veterans receive benefits they earned in service to our country, securing tax refunds delayed due to the pandemic, getting pandemic-related unemployment assistance, receiving passports, ensuring timely mail delivery and even helped Afghan refugees receive Social Security cards as they arrived in the U.S. after the end of the Afghanistan War in September. **By leveraging strong relationships with federal, state and local officials in Michigan, my office was able to recover \$2,071,175 in constituent savings and resolve 951 cases.**

"You have an exceptional team. We are so impressed with how quickly we received his passport. We can't thank you enough. We will now be able to take our 19-month-old on the trip with us and spend Thanksgiving together without having to separate." - Danielle, Berkley

Community Project Funding

This year I had the great pleasure of **working with our community leaders to propose six local projects to the Appropriations Committee for funding consideration -- and every one made it into the committee's bills!** This win for the Ninth District reflects the strength of the projects put forward by our community leaders and their ingenuity in finding new ways create community and opportunity. Importantly, many of these projects would serve our constituents most impacted by the pandemic in historically under-resourced neighborhoods as we work to build back better. The FY22 Appropriations Bills have passed the House and await action in the Senate.



#MLKYC

In January, I launched the inaugural Ninth District MLK Jr. Day Youth Conference (#MLKYC), inviting Ninth District high school students to understand, honor and build on the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy as a driver of systemic change.

The goal was for student participants to leave this virtual experience with a greater sense of Dr. King's work to transform entrenched power structures and his philosophy and strategy of nonviolent direct action, inspired to exemplify the values of the civil rights movement in their own lives and activism. Students from across Oakland and Macomb Counties participated and attended a kickoff celebration with Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist.

AWARDS & HONORS

This year, I was honored to be recognized by three organizations for work on behalf of my constituents:

K-12 Alliance of Michigan

The K-12 Alliance of Michigan honored me with the **2021 Champion for Public Education Award during their advocacy week in May for my work on the Education and Labor Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.**

My first thought on accepting this award? I missed my mom. She would be so proud. She was such a champion for public education and for addressing children's mental health issues. The pandemic has shown more clearly than ever the need for students to have a healthy, safe space to learn and for teachers to be valued as the essential public servants they are. Throughout this year worked to continue my mother's legacy and offer solutions to the long-existing inequality in our education system and to meet these challenges head on with investments in our schools.

Peace Action of Michigan

Peace Action of Michigan honored me with its Peacebuilder Award for my work to promote peace and security at home and abroad. **As a lifelong activist against nuclear proliferation and for peace, human rights and environmental justice, I feel so blessed to have the opportunity to advance these causes in Congress.** My work has spanned writing legislation, providing oversight of U.S. foreign policy as a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and using my platform to speak out against injustice, whether in China, Burma, Yemen, Egypt, Haiti – or right here at home.

I know it will be impossible to achieve peace and tackle our #1 security threat of climate change with a military-first approach. To be sure, we need to maintain by far the strongest military in the world. **But having a Pentagon budget bigger than the next 10 countries combined prevents us from meeting human needs at home and reduces resources for diplomacy, which must play a bigger role in shaping our policy. That's why I consistently vote against excessive military spending.**

As someone who believes that peace is possible if we work hard to achieve it, I feel tremendously lucky to be able to do this work and to be in relationship with such a passionate group of advocates.



Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council

The Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council Gala inducted me into their Innovators Hall of Fame this September for **my work creating a Green Jobs Program and other clean energy initiatives as Michigan's Chief Workforce Officer, as a green energy entrepreneur, and as a member of Congress to create good-paying jobs and increase federal investments in our transition to green energy.** It was a wonderful evening reconnecting with so many energy leaders – and such an honor.

I can't wait to see what next year will bring, and I look forward to your active engagement on my work in Washington and in the Ninth District.



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MICHIGAN'S 9TH DISTRICT