



2021

ANNUAL REPORT

U.S. Congressman

**DUTCH
RUPPERSBERGER**



Proudly serving Maryland's 2nd District

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INTRODUCTION



Masked up and ready: Congressman Ruppensberger is sworn into the 117th Congress on January 4, 2021.

Like the lives of most Americans, the office and service of Congressman C.A. Dutch Ruppensberger continued to be dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic and economic fallout during 2021. Congressman Ruppensberger and his team remained laser-focused on helping Second District families and businesses weather the storm, above all else. Team Dutch helped Marylanders access aid including unemployment benefits and stimulus checks, while guiding small businesses through the

application process for critical grants and loans. Congressman Ruppensberger hosted his third telephone town hall of the pandemic, this one focused on the safety, efficacy, and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines. In March, he voted in support of a \$1.9 trillion relief bill called the American Rescue Plan that provided stimulus checks for families, money to help schools reopen, and billions for vaccine development and distribution. It was the first relief bill signed by President Joe Biden.

Meanwhile, Team Dutch continued to tackle the more routine needs of constituents, such as seniors who needed help navigating Social Security and Medicare, veterans who couldn't access their benefits, struggling families facing foreclosure or eviction, and postal customers with missing mail. Team Dutch was there for each constituent—2,948 of them—who contacted us for assistance this year.

And, despite the volume and gravity of needs back at home and partisan hostilities, Team Dutch managed to notch significant legislative victories on Capitol Hill. As a member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, Congressman Ruppensberger worked to secure hundreds of millions of dollars in resources for Maryland and the Second District in the still-pending budget bills for the 2022 fiscal year. He submitted funding requests for nine community projects under a revamped process formerly known as earmarks. He authored legislation that will reduce the cycle of violence in communities like Baltimore and championed solutions to increasingly aggressive cybersecurity threats, especially at the state and local level.

Through it all, Congressman Ruppensberger maintained his trademark common sense, pragmatic approach. He looks forward to providing the citizens of the Second District with best-in-the-nation constituent service and responsive legislative troubleshooting in 2022.

PROVIDING EXCEPTIONAL CONSTITUENT SERVICE

Congressman Ruppertsberger got into politics for one reason—to help people—and has always prized himself on his constituent service operation. He believes his casework team is among the best in the nation. While working tirelessly to help constituents continue to weather the COVID-19 pandemic, Team Dutch continued to conduct the day-to-day business of helping seniors navigate Social Security and Medicare, connecting veterans to their benefits, assisting families facing foreclosure, and much more.



32,170

CONSTITUENT EMAILS, LETTERS, AND CALLS RESPONDED TO



2,948

TOTAL CASES OPENED ON BEHALF OF MD-02 CONSTITUENTS



82%

FAVORABLE OUTCOME OF CASES CLOSED



\$1,860,833

TAX DOLLARS RECOVERED FOR CONSTITUENTS



CRUSADING FOR CHANGE AT THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

Unacceptable mail delays and poor customer service from the U.S. Postal Service continued to plague Second District constituents for the duration of 2021. Congressman Ruppertsberger and his team opened inquiries for 1,170 constituents with U.S. Postal Service (USPS)-related complaints—many of which did not receive their paychecks, medications and other critical deliveries, sometimes for weeks at a time.

Although USPS is an independent agency under the Executive Branch—it receives no tax dollars and Congress has no jurisdiction—Congressman Ruppertsberger continues to do everything he can to restore mail delivery to the level his constituents expect and deserve. He made surprise visits to post offices throughout the district, engaged in biweekly calls with local USPS leadership, held press conferences, and demanded the resignation of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy.



USPS Audit Of Baltimore-Area Post Offices Details Mail Delayed By Months, Inaccurate Reporting



| November 9, 2021

In May, Congressman Ruppertsberger requested an independent audit from the USPS Office of the Inspector General of the most problematic post offices in the district: Dundalk, Essex, Loch Raven, Middle River, Parkville and Rosedale. Auditors completed their review in November and found mail service standards in the Baltimore-area are significantly below national averages. In fact, it has the second highest number of missing mail inquiries in the country, with more than three times the national average. Among other key findings:

- Four of seven product categories never met their service target during the 92-week audit period;
- Although management blamed delays on staffing shortages exacerbated by COVID-19 leave, issues pre-dated the pandemic;
- Management is not reporting delayed mail accurately—on some days, local branches weren't reporting any delayed mail at all;
- 42 percent of packages sampled were improperly scanned, which means customers can't track their packages.

Local USPS leadership has concurred with each of the audit's findings and have promised corrective plans on each of seven specific recommendations. Congressman Ruppertsberger will be aggressively following-up regarding implementation. Meanwhile, a separate audit initiated by the Inspector General of the Processing and Distribution Center in downtown Baltimore was concluded in December with additional findings and recommendations that will help alleviate more widespread mail issues.

Congressman Ruppertsberger remains hopeful that the right steps are being taken to improve the USPS both at the national level and in Maryland.

HELPING THE SECOND DISTRICT CONTINUE TO WEATHER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Congressman Ruppertsberger and his team continued to work tirelessly to assist Second District constituents during the resurgent COVID-19 pandemic.

After passing five separate relief bills the preceding year, 2021 was punctuated by the sweeping \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan, signed into law on March 11, 2021. The bill built on many of the programs and measures begun under previous legislation, including more stimulus checks, expanded unemployment benefits, and help for small business.

Highlights included:

- ◆ \$20 billion to continue vaccine development, manufacturing, purchasing, and distribution;
- ◆ \$350 billion for state and local governments;
- ◆ \$210 billion to help schools, colleges, and childcare centers open safely, stay open and make up for lost learning time;
- ◆ Stimulus checks of \$1,400 per person for most Americans;
- ◆ \$300 weekly federal supplement for unemployment benefits;
- ◆ An extension of a 15 percent increase in food stamp benefits;
- ◆ More than \$51 billion for small businesses;
- ◆ \$50 billion in housing, rent, and homelessness resources.

‘Help is on the way’: Federal stimulus is coming to assist Maryland restaurants



| March 25, 2021



THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN IN MARYLAND

In all, the American Rescue Plan netted more than \$11.9 billion in federal funding for Maryland, including:

\$3.7 BILLION

FOR THE STATE OF MARYLAND UNDER THE STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS ALLOCATION

\$1.17 BILLION

FOR MARYLAND COUNTIES UNDER THE STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS ALLOCATION

\$619 MILLION

TO PROTECT MARYLAND'S ENVIRONMENT AND KEEP COMMERCE MOVING

\$1.9 BILLION

FOR K-12 EDUCATION

\$543.8 MILLION

FOR COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, AND THEIR STUDENTS

\$727 MILLION

TO HELP FAMILIES PURCHASE FOOD WHILE SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED

includes some funding provided under the CARES Act

\$11 MILLION

FOR HEAD START PROGRAMS

\$515 MILLION

FOR CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

\$474,461

TO SUPPORT MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES

THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN IN MARYLAND

\$98 MILLION

FOR AIRPORTS

\$142.6 MILLION

FOR VACCINE DISTRIBUTION AND
TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTERS

\$36 MILLION

FOR GENERAL PANDEMIC RESPONSE

\$43 MILLION

FOR RURAL HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

\$561 MILLION

FOR RESTAURANTS UNDER THE
RESTAURANT REVITALIZATION FUND

\$158 MILLION

FOR ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT
VENUES UNDER THE SHUTTERED
VENUE OPERATORS GRANT PROGRAM

\$1.2 MILLION

FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESCUE
DEPARTMENTS ACROSS THE
BALTIMORE REGION

\$68 MILLION

FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
TO PROVIDE HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS
ASSISTANCE

\$796,000

TO EXPAND ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH
SERVICES AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER
TREATMENT PROGRAMS

\$55.4 MILLION

TO EXPAND ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH
SERVICES AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER
TREATMENT PROGRAMS

COVID CASEWORK IN 2021



8,235

**CONSTITUENTS WHO PARTICIPATED
IN TELE-TOWNHALLS**



\$23,683,023*

**UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS RECOVERED
FOR MD-02 FAMILIES**

**approximate using averages*



1,697

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT REFERRALS



133

STIMULUS CHECK INQUIRIES MADE

CONSTITUENT SPOTLIGHT



Congressman Ruppertsberger poses with constituent Christine Mattis-Myrie and her husband, Monty, in their Randallstown restaurant.

In September, Congressman Ruppertsberger visited Myrie's Island Kitchen in Randallstown to highlight the impact the American Rescue Plan had on small businesses throughout the district. Restaurant owner Christine Mattis-Myrie received a grant worth more than \$60,000 from the bill's Restaurant Revitalization Fund, which she used to pay her rent and employees.

"We were surviving day by day. When the grant came in, we were saved by the bell. The grant was a lifesaver. We were able to pay Comcast. We were able to pay bills. We were able to pay our staff. Without our grant and the loans we got, we would not have survived."

— Christine Mattis-Myrie

FIGHTING FOR THE SECOND DISTRICT ON CAPITOL HILL

Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger spent much of his time in Washington, working with colleagues from both sides of the aisle to get results for Maryland and the nation. Legislative work this year was again dominated by efforts to end the COVID-19 pandemic and rebuild our economy including the American Rescue Plan, the Build Back Better Act, and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Congressman Ruppersberger also helped the House pass critical appropriations bills out of committee, advance pro-democracy reforms and supported legislation responding to the January 6 insurrection, including a vote to again impeach then-President Donald Trump.

THE BIPARTISAN SOLUTION TO CYCLICAL VIOLENCE ACT OF 2021

Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger again introduced his bipartisan bill to address the revolving door of violent crime across our nation, including in cities like Baltimore. The Bipartisan Solution to Cyclical Violence Act of 2021 was modeled off a highly successful program at the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center, where 20 percent of patients are victims of violence. These patients receive a bedside assessment, counseling, and wide range of support that could include groceries, bus money, substance abuse treatment, job training and affordable housing guidance. Patients have shown an 83 percent decrease in re-hospitalization due to intentional violent injury, a 75 percent reduction in criminal activity, and an 82 percent increase in employment.

Congressman Ruppersberger's bill provides \$10 million in federal grants to hospitals that want to expand or create programs like Shock Trauma's.



3
SPONSORED
BILLS

2
BIPARTISAN
SPONSORED BILLS

169
BIPARTISAN
COSPONSORED
BILLS

255
COSPONSORED
BILLS

448
NUMBER OF
VOTES CAST

98.2%
VOTE
ATTENDANCE
RECORD

This bill helps victims of violent injury before they become repeat victims or even perpetrators themselves. In doing so, we end the cycle and keep money in the American taxpayer's pocket. This legislation is also vital to our efforts to shift social work away from police and first responders and back to the experts in mental health, substance abuse, homelessness, unemployment, and other areas that often afflict victims of violent crime.

The bill was included in the Build Back Better Act, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives on November 19, 2021 and is pending in the U.S. Senate.

STATE AND LOCAL CYBERSECURITY IMPROVEMENT ACT

As a former Baltimore County Executive, Congressman Ruppertsberger knows firsthand the countless challenges state and local governments face. Hackers are increasingly targeting these entities, as we learned from a devastating ransomware attack against Baltimore City in 2019 that suspended critical services and cost the city more than \$10 million. More recently, hackers targeted Baltimore County Public Schools, who have been relying on a digital learning system throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite the increased threat, close to half of state and local governments across the country do not have a dedicated cybersecurity budget line item. That's why Congressman Ruppertsberger wrote the bipartisan State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act, which establishes a grant program to provide states with the resources to address vulnerabilities and address cybersecurity threats. The bill was absorbed into the \$1.9 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which included \$1 billion for the new program and was signed into law November 15, 2021.

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES ACT

As a founder and Chairman of the bipartisan House Municipal Finance Caucus, Congressman Ruppertsberger has long championed the tools used by state and local governments to pay for community improvements, drawing from his experience in local government. Congressman Ruppertsberger once again introduced legislation to enable governments to refinance outstanding bonds for projects such as new roads, schools, hospitals, and fire stations, reducing their borrowing costs and freeing up resources for other community improvements.

The legislation reverses changes made under the tax reform law of 2017, restoring the tax-exemption for advance refunding bonds, which are often used

by municipalities to pay off another, outstanding bond. The change enables governments to take advantage of lower interest rates, similar to homeowners refinancing their mortgages. The use of tax-exempt advance refunding bonds saves taxpayers an estimated \$2.35 billion a year and is now more important than ever as our state and local governments continue to recover from the COVID-19 crisis.

The bill was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee, where it remains under consideration.

H.RES.335

This legislation designates the month of May as Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (EDS) Awareness Month and was inspired by an aide who suffers from this potentially-fatal, genetic disease that currently has a few treatment options and no cure. Congressman Ruppertsberger's resolution builds on a wave of recent attention to EDS, thanks to celebrities and public figures sharing their own experiences with the genetic disorder.

EDS largely remains a mystery not only to patients but many doctors, making accurate diagnoses and management nearly impossible. Congressman Ruppertsberger hopes his bill will not only raise awareness of this debilitating disease, but reduce discrimination towards patients suffering from EDS and inspire research toward a cure.

H.Res. 335 was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce for consideration.



Paula Dixon
@thepauladixon

Replying to @Call_Me_Dutch

Wow! As someone who was finally diagnosed with EDS 11 years ago, I could not be happier about this! When I was diagnosed (before many docs knew anything about EDS), the rate was 1/20,000. Now it's 1/2500. It's not happening more - it's simply more awareness. Thank you!!

11:59 AM · Apr 28, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone



This historic and transformative legislation will bring down costs that have held too many Maryland families back for decades by cutting taxes and making childcare, healthcare, and housing more affordable. It will open the doors for so many people who have been shut out of an economy that has long benefited those at the top, while ensuring our new economy is environmentally sustainable. We accomplish all this by simply requiring major corporations and the ultra-rich—some who have gone years without paying a dime in income taxes while making fortunes on the backs of middle-class workers—to pay their fair share."

**CONGRESSMAN DUTCH
RUPPERSBERGER**

PASSING TRANSFORMATIVE LEGISLATION TO CREATE JOBS, LOWER TAXES AND EVERYDAY COSTS

Congressman Ruppensberger has always encouraged family, friends, and constituents to "turn negative thoughts into positive actions." The COVID-19 pandemic has provided the country with an opportunity to do just that: to not just survive a grueling, once-in-a-generation pandemic, but "build back better."

In November, Dutch joined 219 of his House colleagues in passing the "Build Back Better Act," to create jobs, cut taxes for most Americans, and lower costs of everyday needs ranging from healthcare to childcare. The bill, which remains pending in the Senate, also makes the largest investment to combat climate change in history.

The bill is undeniably expensive, approaching \$2 trillion in new spending. But over time—with new tax revenues and enforcement measures—the bill pays for itself and even reduces the deficit by more than \$100 billion over the first decade.

Among its provisions:

- ♦ Capping childcare expenses for most families at 7 percent of their income;
- ♦ Providing universal pre-school for all three and four year-olds;
- ♦ Providing all Americans with at least four weeks in paid family and medical leave;
- ♦ Extending the child tax credit;
- ♦ Increasing the cap on the state and local income tax deduction—which is claimed by Marylanders more than any other state in the country;
- ♦ Investing \$20 billion in workforce development funding for apprenticeship programs as well as career and technical training;
- ♦ Expanding Medicare to include hearing care and hearing aids;

- ◆ Providing \$2.5 billion for various violence intervention initiatives including hospital-based programs, a measure long championed by Congressman Ruppertsberger
- ◆ Lowering healthcare costs by finally enabling Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices and preventing Big Pharma from price gouging;
- ◆ Capping insulin prices for diabetics;
- ◆ Expanding Obamacare to make insurance more affordable for Americans who buy it on their own;
- ◆ Making the largest effort to combat climate change in American history, investing \$555 billion over the next decade in green tax credits and American-made clean energy technology.



Congressman Ruppertsberger meets a young constituent outside the Head Start center in Baltimore's Cherry Hill in April. The Build Back Better Act would extend the expanded child tax credit included in the American Rescue Plan, which helped spur the largest one-year reduction in child poverty history.

CHAMPIONING MASSIVE INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE

Congressman Ruppertsberger has always said that investing in infrastructure has always been the best way to stimulate the economy and create jobs. This year, he proudly voted in support of the largest federal investment in public transit ever, the largest federal investment in passenger rail since the creation of Amtrak, the single largest dedicated bridge investment since the construction of the interstate highway system, and the largest investment in clean drinking water and waste water infrastructure in American history. H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (which was signed into law in November) will infuse \$500 billion in new funding into the country's aging physical infrastructure.

Congressman Ruppertsberger joined President Biden at the Port of Baltimore to tout the bill's \$2.25 billion investment in ports around the country, helping to make our supply chains more resilient and creating quality jobs for Marylanders.



Congressman Ruppertsberger speaks ahead of President Joe Biden at the Port of Baltimore on November 15, 2021.

Maryland will be awarded a total of nearly \$7.4 billion dollars from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Among the benefits to Maryland, the state is expected to receive:

\$4.1B
TO IMPROVE
HIGHWAYS

\$238M
FOR THE
CHESAPEAKE BAY

\$409M
FOR BRIDGE
REPLACEMENT AND
REPAIRS

\$100M
FOR GREATER
BROADCAST
ACCESS

\$63M
FOR THE
EXPANSION OF
AN ELECTRIC
VEHICLE CHARGING
NETWORK

\$844M
TO IMPROVE WATER
INFRASTRUCTURE
AND PROVIDE
CLEAN DRINKING
WATER

\$1.7B
FOR PUBLIC
TRANSIT

\$158M
FOR AIRPORTS

Funds from the bill were already flowing to Maryland by year's end for the 2022 fiscal year, including \$31.5 million for airports, \$796 million for roads and bridges and \$144 million to modernize water infrastructure across the state.

Maryland stands to gain significantly from infrastructure deal



| November 9, 2021

SECURING MARYLAND'S SHARE OF THE PIE

Congressman Roppersberger continues to serve on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, which is responsible for allocating hundreds of millions of federal dollars each year. He sits on the Defense, Homeland Security, and the Commerce, Justice, and Science subcommittees.

Congressman Roppersberger works hard to leverage his role as an Appropriator to ensure Maryland and the Second District gets its fair share of the pie and 2021 was no different. He successfully championed hundreds of million of dollars for Maryland in the 12 appropriations bills that passed at the committee level.

In July, the House passed a seven-bill "minibus" that combined the appropriations bills that fund federal departments including Agriculture, Energy and Water Development, Financial Services and General Government, Interior and Environment, Labor, Health and Human Services and Education, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development. The House also passed the Legislative Branch and the State and Foreign Operations appropriations bills individually.

Unfortunately, the Senate did not consider any appropriations bills for the 2022 fiscal year and the government remains funded through a Continuing Resolution until February 18, 2022.



Congressman Roppersberger attended many appropriations hearings remotely in 2021.

APPROPRIATIONS SPOTLIGHT

Revitalizing blighted neighborhoods in Baltimore City

Congressman Roppersberger has long believed that revitalizing vacant housing in Baltimore City is key to catalyzing change in crime-ridden communities. In 2021, he successfully fought to double funding for the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative in the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development

appropriations bill, meaning twice as many distressed neighborhoods can be improved through the program. Baltimore has already received a grant through the program to transform the Perkins, Somerset, and Old Town developments, razing the existing public housing and moving residents into safe, affordable housing in a new, larger, and sustainable mixed-income community zone with a new school, parks and job opportunities.

A SAMPLING OF SUCCESS



\$90.5 MILLION
FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY



\$558 MILLION
FOR PROJECTS SUPPORTING
MARYLAND'S MILITARY ECONOMY
including projects at Fort Meade, the National
Security Agency, and Bethesda Naval Hospital



\$122 MILLION
FOR GRANTS TO HELP STATE AND LOCAL
LAW ENFORCEMENT REDUCE THEIR DNA
EVIDENCE AND RAPEKIT BACKLOGS
which exist throughout the
Baltimore region



\$25.3 MILLION
TO DREDGE AND MAINTAIN THE
BALTIMORE HARBOR AND CHANNELS
which is imperative to keeping the Port of
Baltimore competitive



\$200 MILLION
FOR NASA'S DRAGONFLY PROGRAM
which is led by the Johns Hopkins
Applied Physics Laboratory in
Howard County



\$300 MILLION
FOR THE PORT INFRASTRUCTURE
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
a competitive grant program that
benefits the Port of Baltimore



\$1.2 BILLION
FOR GRANTS TO IMPROVE AMTRAK RAIL
SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE
NORTHEAST CORRIDOR

DELIVERING FOR MARYLAND COMMUNITIES

This year marked the return of community project funding—formerly known as earmarks—which enabled Members of Congress to submit requests for specific projects in their community in each of the 12 appropriations bills for 2022. Only state and local governments or eligible nonprofits are eligible to receive funding under the new process, which has been significantly reformed to promote transparency and accountability. Members are limited to 10 requests, which are carefully vetted by the Committee on Appropriations.

In all, 2,887 projects were submitted by members of the House of Representatives in 2021.

Congressman Ruppertsberger submitted nine requests, all of which were approved by the Committee. The requests are pending while the appropriations bills remain under consideration in the House of Representatives.



Congressman Ruppertsberger tours the MedStar "clinic on wheels," for which he submitted a community project funding request for the 2022 fiscal year.

COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING

\$1.9 MILLION

FOR THE COALITION FOR NATIONAL TRAUMA RESEARCH

to create a repository of data from research studies for use by trauma centers such as the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center and Johns Hopkins Hospital

\$497,000

FOR A VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM

at University of Maryland Shock Trauma

\$250,000

FOR A WORLD-CLASS SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND HERITAGE CENTER

known as Discovery Center at Water's Edge in Harford County's Belcamp

\$2.3 MILLION

TO EXPAND TELEHEALTH SERVICES
in Baltimore City's senior centers

\$600,000

FOR A VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM

at LifeBridge Health's new Center for Hope

\$750,000

FOR LIVING CLASSROOMS FOUNDATION

to expand the anti-violence Safe Streets program in Baltimore's McElderry Park and Belair-Edison neighborhoods

\$2 MILLION

TO EXPAND A 911 DIVERSION PILOT PROGRAM

in Baltimore City

\$525,000

FOR THE HARFORD COUNTY-BASED ASHLEY ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTER

\$875,000

TO EXPAND MEDSTAR HARBOR HOSPITAL'S MOBILE HEALTH CLINIC

that serves communities in Baltimore City and Anne Arundel County

DEFENDING DEMOCRACY AND PAUSING SOCIAL MEDIA

On January 6, 2021, Congressman Ruppertsberger and a handful of staffers were barricaded inside their Rayburn Building office while insurrectionists stormed the U.S. Capitol in an assault the Congressman would later categorize as domestic terrorism. The day will go down as one of the darkest in American history, as rioters attempted to stop the U.S. Senate from conducting its constitutional duty to count electoral votes for a duly elected president.

In April, Congressman Ruppertsberger voted to impeach then-President Donald Trump for his role in this attack. He also voted to form a bipartisan select committee to investigate the January 6 attack. The committee's work has resulted in contempt charges of two of the former President's top lieutenants so far and its work remains ongoing.

But the assault on democracy that marked 2021 went beyond January 6. This year, states including Florida, Texas, Georgia, Iowa and more have passed increasingly aggressive restrictions on the right to vote to dilute the voice of minorities. Congressman Ruppertsberger proudly voted in support of legislation named for civil rights legend and former Representative John Lewis that prevents states from changing their election laws without federal oversight. He also voted to advance H.R. 1—the For the People Act—which expands ballot access, ends partisan gerrymandering and reduces the influence

of corporations and lobbyists in Washington. In December, the House also passed the Protecting Our Democracy Act to curtail a President's abuse of power.

In the months following January 6, it became evident that social media played an outsized role in the organization of the rioters and, more generally, in the dissention splitting our country apart. Whistleblowers provided further evidence that Facebook and Instagram placed a higher value on content that is toxic, including the company's own research. Congressman Ruppertsberger believes the company has not done enough to combat disinformation, whether it be anti-vaccination posts or posts about voter fraud, and the negative effect its sites have on the mental health of teens.

In October, Congressman Ruppertsberger announced his decision to disable his Facebook and Instagram accounts until reforms—required by both the company and Congress—are in place.



U.S. Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger of Maryland deactivates Facebook account to protest business model that 'sows division'

THE BALTIMORE SUN | October 27, 2021

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Ruppersberger.house.gov



[@Call_Me_Dutch](https://twitter.com/Call_Me_Dutch)

U.S. Congressman

DUTCH
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Proudly serving Maryland's 2nd District