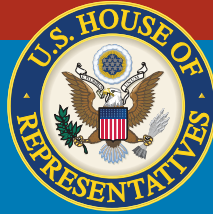




2023-2024

118TH CONGRESS IN REVIEW



CONGRESSWOMAN **CHRISSY HOULAHAN**

PROUDLY SERVING PENNSYLVANIA'S 6TH DISTRICT



More information about Representative Houlahan
can be found at houlahan.house.gov

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DELIVERING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Chrissy's priority is and always will be to use her voice and vote to help our community. Throughout her time in Congress, when constituents have brought her ideas or problems, Chrissy has led the charge to:



- **IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY AND TRANSPARENCY:** Chrissy committed to holding one town hall per month and she has done so, hosting 93 through the end of 2024, more town halls than any other member of the Pennsylvania delegation. These gatherings continue to be a good opportunity for Chrissy to hear directly from community members and for her to share updates on her work on their behalf.



- **RESOLVE CONSTITUENTS' ISSUES WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES:** One of the core functions of a member of Congress is helping constituents resolve issues with federal agencies, including the IRS, the VA, and the Social Security Administration. For example, if the IRS miscalculates your refund, you might never get what you're owed. Chrissy's entire district staff is focused on helping to solve these kinds of problems. By the end of her third term, at the end of 2024, Chrissy and her team closed 9,600 cases and delivered nearly \$58 million in delayed or denied funds owed to constituents. Chrissy has been recognized by the Congressional Management Foundation for having the best constituent services operation in the House.



- **BRING FEDERAL MONEY TO OUR DISTRICT:** In addition to helping local governments, nonprofits, and companies apply for federal grants and contracts, Chrissy is able to direct federal funding to local projects – an initiative called Community Project Funding. To make sure federal funds are going to the most worthy projects, Chrissy set up an independent, nonpartisan panel of community leaders to review applications for Community Project Funding and make recommendations to her. By the end of 2024, this process resulted in Chrissy securing an additional \$35 million for 36 local projects.



- **RESTORE PASSENGER RAIL TO READING, PHOENIXVILLE, AND POTTSTOWN:** After securing \$750,000 in Community Project Funding to bring commuter rail back to Reading, Chrissy successfully advocated for the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority to be one of only three projects in Pennsylvania included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act's Corridor Identification Program. Inclusion in this critical program means that passenger rail should return to Reading, Phoenixville, and Pottstown by the end of the decade.



- **KEEP JOBS IN CHESTER AND BERKS COUNTIES:** When Sikorsky announced plans to close their helicopter plant in Coatesville, Chrissy worked behind the scenes with local leaders to support the plant's ownership transition in 2023 to Piasecki Aircraft. In 2024, she and Piasecki announced expanded remanufacturing operations at the plant for the CH-46 helicopter. She also hosted U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Helen Tai and U.S. Labor Secretary Julie Su at the Cleveland Cliffs steel plant in Coatesville to discuss the importance of domestic manufacturing.



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- **BRING JOBS TO THE REGION:** Chrissy helped pass the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the CHIPS and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act which, according to the White House, created more than 550,000 new jobs and generated \$4.3 billion in private sector investment in Pennsylvania. With Chrissy's support, our region was selected as one of seven Hydrogen Hubs across the U.S., with an estimated \$750 million federal investment and 20,800 direct jobs. Our region was also selected as a Precision Medicine Tech Hub, with an estimated \$50-75 million federal investment and 20,475 jobs.



- **SAVE THE PHOENIXVILLE JROTC PROGRAM:** After learning that the Phoenixville Area High School Air Force JROTC Program was going to be cancelled, Chrissy worked to save it. She wrote a bill and got it signed into law that enables smaller programs with fewer students, like Phoenixville's, to continue.



- **SUPPORT STEM EDUCATION AND ECONOMY:** As an engineer and an entrepreneur, Chrissy knows first-hand that investments in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) drive today's economy – health care, clean energy, advanced manufacturing – and the future. She secured \$716,000 in Community Project Funding for West Chester University's I Want to STEM program. She's held town halls on STEM and workforce development and helped to pass the CHIPS and Science Act which supports our local microchip manufacturers. By supporting students and companies leading in these fields, we keep our nation competitive, secure, and ready to lead on the challenges of today and tomorrow.



- **RESPOND TO LOCAL DISASTERS:** Following the deadly explosion at the R.M. Palmer Chocolate Factory in Reading in 2023, Chrissy reviewed the federal investigatory reports which faulted old, corroded steam pipes for the disaster. She took action to reduce the chance of such a tragedy happening again. She wrote a bill, The Auldyl A Hazard Reduction and Community Safety Act, with her Berks County Republican colleague, Rep. Dan Meuser, that, when enacted, will remove dangerous older plastic pipe materials from high impact areas.



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- **HOLD AGENCIES ACCOUNTABLE:** Within a week of hearing about the unexpected and unexplained closure of the IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center in Reading, Chrissy contacted the IRS Commissioner for answers. As a result, the IRS provided an accelerated timeline for the office's reopening, first to three days a week and then five.



- **DELIVER FOR RURAL AND AGRICULTURE COMMUNITIES:** Chrissy hosted U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack in the district to discuss climate-smart agriculture and new conservation grant funding. She introduced the bipartisan Protecting Mushroom Farmers Act to provide crop insurance tailored to mushroom farmers like those in Kennett Square. Chrissy also introduced the Natural Climate Solutions Research and Extension Act to advance sustainable agriculture practices by unlocking federal funding for farmers to adopt practices that increase carbon storage and reduce greenhouse gas emission. She continued to build support for the Farm Workforce Modernization Act which helps farmers by reforming the visa for year-round agricultural jobs from one year to three.



- **FIGHT FOR AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE:** To highlight some of the new health benefits in the Inflation Reduction Act – including \$35 insulin and lower drug prices under Medicare – Chrissy hosted Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra in the district. They toured LCH Health and Community Services in Kennett, one of the community health centers in Chester County.



- **SUPPORT LOCAL VETERANS:** After years of persistent advocacy, Chrissy successfully secured a Silver Star medal for a constituent who served in the Vietnam War and saved the lives of others. The Silver Star is awarded for "gallantry in action" and is the third highest military combat decoration available.



REACHING ACROSS THE AISLE

Pennsylvania's 6th district is a "purple place," and Chrissy works hard to build relationships with colleagues from across the political spectrum to deliver for our community. In a time of divisive partisan politics, Chrissy is doing the hard work to promote civility and decency in our political discourse.

- With over 80 of Chrissy's legislative initiatives becoming law, all of which received support from Republicans, Chrissy continued her record as one of the most productive members of the House.
- Over 65% of the more than 1,000 votes Chrissy took in the past two years were bipartisan.
- Chrissy co-founded the **For Country Caucus**, a bipartisan group of veterans serving in Congress who are promoting public and national service as a career path. This group's ethos is rooted in integrity, civility, and courage. She's also the co-founder of the bipartisan **Women in STEM Caucus**, the bipartisan **Servicewomen and Women Veterans Caucus**, and the **Bipartisan Paid Leave Working Group**.
- As an engineer and a scientist, Chrissy understands the threat that climate change poses and is leading bipartisan efforts to make us more resilient. As co-chair of the bipartisan **Climate Solutions Caucus**, she is pursuing pragmatic solutions focused on economics, energy, and conservation among Members of Congress, global leaders, environmental organizations, and the private sector.
- Chrissy is a member of the **Problem Solvers Caucus**, a bipartisan group evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans, who recognize that the best solutions for our nation's most pressing problems will only come from working with those with whom you don't always agree.
- The Lugar Center ranks her as one of the most bipartisan members of the House.
- Chrissy knows that lasting progress requires bipartisanship. A majority of the bills that Chrissy has introduced have support from Republicans, including the Banning Oil Exports to Foreign Adversaries Act, a bill that had more than 70 cosponsors, including 16 Republicans.





LEADING ON NATIONAL ISSUES

Chrissy focuses her legislative efforts on issues on which she is uniquely qualified to help – due to her background or her committee assignments – and on what she calls the “In Real Life (IRL) Agenda,” issues which impact all of us, every day. Issues like education, health, and cost of living. She has led the charge to:



- **EXPAND PAID PARENTAL LEAVE:** Chrissy knows firsthand how important it is for parents to be able to spend time with their children following birth or adoption. That is why, in prior years, she worked behind the scenes and across the aisle to get paid parental leave for federal employees and members of the military signed into law. Building on that success, she formed a bipartisan task force to come up with realistic ways to expand parental leave to all Americans.



- **GROW SMALL BUSINESSES:** As an entrepreneur who started and grew organizations throughout her career, Chrissy knows how hard it is to be a small business owner. That's why she's working to remove the obstacles the federal government creates. For example, Chrissy's bipartisan **Small Business Contracting Transparency Act**, which passed the House, helps address the challenges that small business owners face in competing for federal small business contracts.



- **SUPPORT UKRAINE AGAINST RUSSIAN AGGRESSION:** As a member of the House Intelligence Committee, Chrissy knows the importance of stopping Vladimir Putin from conquering Ukraine. She has pushed for increased military support in the form of training, equipment, and weapons and has met directly with President Zelenskyy to reiterate our government's support.



- **PROTECT COMMUNITIES FROM EXTREME WEATHER:** Chrissy knows that the harmful effects of climate change are being felt now, and we need to take urgent action to protect our communities from extreme weather events. In 2023, in her role as co-chair of the Bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus, she attended COP 28, the United Nation's annual summit to address climate change, and supported implementation of the **Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act**, which deploys renewable energy sources and creates new jobs in the process. In 2024, Chrissy got seven initiatives signed into law which improve protections for critical energy infrastructure and servicemen and women from extreme weather events.



- **COMBAT THE FENTANYL CRISIS:** The number of deaths caused by fentanyl and other synthetic opioids is declining but narcotics trafficking remains one of the nation's top health and national security challenges. That is why Chrissy introduced the **Enhancing Intelligence Collection on Foreign Drug Traffickers Act** which gives the intelligence community increased powers to disrupt international drug smuggling networks. In 2024, her bill was signed into law.



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- **BRING DOWN COSTS:** As Chair of the New Democrat Coalition’s **Economic Growth and Fiscal Responsibility Task Force**, Chrissy tackled rising inflation and regional housing costs by co-authoring and working to implement the coalition’s 2022 Inflation Action Plan which Forbes called the “best inflation-fighting blueprint to come out of Congress yet.” Building on that work, she helped launch the Economic Opportunity Agenda in 2023 to continue lowering costs, fighting inflation, and growing the middle class.



- **ENDING THE WAR IN GAZA:** Following Hamas’s heinous attack on Israel and Israel’s violent response in Gaza, Chrissy called on the White House to use all available leverage with Israel to compel them to protect civilians, aid workers, and journalists. She urged the Israeli government to pursue Hamas in a way that complies with international law and to allow food and water to reach civilians, to end the humanitarian crisis. She called for a permanent ceasefire and the release of all hostages.



- **REDUCE OUR NATIONAL DEBT:** As a member of the **Bipartisan Fiscal Forum**, Chrissy helps to write and advocate for policy that responsibly tackles federal spending and our nation’s debt. She supported the bipartisan Fiscal Responsibility Act to prevent a devastating default on our nation’s debt. In recognition of her work, Chrissy received the 2024 Fiscal Hero Award from the non-partisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.



- **SUPPORT EDUCATION AND LEARNING:** As a former educator herself, Chrissy knows that a child’s early learning of language and numbers is the foundation for later success. To increase awareness of the many resources available to parents, she brought the Sesame Workshop and the Pennsylvania Department of Education to Reading for a town hall and resource fair. To help older learners more easily afford college, and to make jobs in the public sector more attractive to students, Chrissy led legislation to reform the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, to ensure that public servants are receiving the loan forgiveness promised to them.



SUPPORTING OUR WARFIGHTERS AND STRENGTHENING OUR NATIONAL SECURITY

As a third-generation veteran with experience doing business on a global scale, Chrissy knows the importance of supporting our military, veterans, and their families, as well as fighting for robust U.S. diplomatic leadership in the international community to protect our national security interests.



- Because of her background and expertise, Chrissy was appointed as Ranking Member, aka the Democratic leader, of the bipartisan **House Armed Service Committee's Quality of Life Panel**. Members spent 12 months meeting with military leaders and military families to develop solutions for problems of housing, childcare, health care, compensation, and spousal support. A final report detailing the panel's 31 recommendations formed the basis of the National Defense Authorization Act, which was signed into law in 2024.
- Low pay for junior enlisted servicemen and women had become a crisis so Chrissy successfully worked to pass the most significant pay raise in decades for servicemembers, with the biggest raise for the most junior. That was signed into law along with a cost of living allowance so those assigned to duty stations in the more expensive parts of the world can better afford groceries and gas.
- Having grown up in a military family herself, Chrissy understands the unique challenges facing families of servicemembers. That's why she successfully worked to fund overdue improvements to military housing, better childcare options for parents, and enhanced employment support services for military spouses.
- As a veteran herself, Chrissy knows that a strong military relies on dedicated, well-trained public servants. To help, Chrissy runs a successful **military academy nomination program** which assists promising high school students – 84 to date – in receiving an appointment and scholarship to one of our nation's military academies.
- Chrissy continued her work with the **For Country Caucus**, comprised of veterans from both sides of the aisle, and the **Service Women and Women Veteran's Caucus**, to support legislation that improves the lives of our servicemembers and ensure that the unique challenges faced by service women are not overlooked in legislative efforts. Her **MOMS Who Serve Act**, which creates the first-ever perinatal mental health program at the Department of Defense, was signed into law. She also introduced the first piece of legislation that examines the unique relationship military service has to menopause and women's midlife health.
- Chrissy was selected to serve on the **House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence**, which focuses on oversight of the U.S. Intelligence Community and its activities. Although much of the committee's work is classified, Chrissy has succeeded in improving intelligence sharing between the IC and the private sector and between agencies working in counternarcotics.
- As chair of the Bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus and member of the Armed Services Committee, Chrissy understands the danger posed by extreme weather. That is why she successfully fought for seven measures in the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act to safeguard energy infrastructure and ensure military personnel safety in the wake of extreme weather.
- This Congress, Chrissy has been a leader in strengthening our nation's border security and tackling cross-border crime. She serves on the bipartisan **Task Force to Counter Mexican Drug Cartels** and on the Democrats for Border Security Task Force. She helped pass bipartisan legislation, signed into law, to hire 22,000 more Border Patrol agents and spend \$283.5 million in new border security technology.



RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

While the work that Chrissy does in Washington, D.C. is, and has always been, about providing the best possible service to her community, she also received well-deserved recognition from national organizations for the quality and impact of her time in Congress.

- **2023 Legislative Action Award:** Presented by the Bipartisan Policy Center, this award acknowledges members' enduring commitment to bipartisanship and honors their willingness to bridge divides to find pragmatic solutions to the challenges confronting our nation.
- **2023 Outstanding Legislator of the Year Award:** The American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons recognizes Members who support oral health and hygiene, support providers nationwide, and champion solutions in Congress to make services more available.
- **2024 Fiscal Hero Award:** The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget awards this to policymakers working to improve the nation's fiscal situation, fix the budget process, and push party leaders to prioritize debt reduction.
- **2024 Federal Official of the Year Award:** Life Sciences PA, a statewide association representing the life sciences industry, recognizes leaders who help shape the life sciences community of Pennsylvania and support innovation in biotechnology in the region and beyond.
- **2024 Legislative Leader Award:** Presented by the Humane Society Legislative Fund, this award recognizes members of Congress who make substantial contributions in the effort to protect animals.
- **2024 Better Home for Heroes Congressional Hero:** Presented by the Better Homes for Heroes not-for-profit, this award recognizes leadership in improving the quality of life for our warfighters while highlighting the work that still needs to be done.
- **2024 FMC Statesmanship Award:** The Statesmanship Award is given by the Former Members of Congress Association to recognize outstanding service to our country and commitment to bipartisanship.
- **2024 Congressional Service Award:** Voices for National Service recognizes leaders for their commitment to building a culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility within America.
- **2024 Civil Leadership Award:** Presented by Blue Star Families, this award recognizes Chrissy's leadership on the House Armed Services Committee's Quality of Life Panel and her positive impact on the quality of life for our men and women in uniform.
- **2024 Support of Military Families Award:** Awarded by the National Military Family Association, this award also recognizes Chrissy's leadership on the House Armed Services Committee's Quality of Life Panel and her positive impact on the quality of life for our men and women in uniform.
- **2024 Yoram Palti Champion of Innovation Award:** Awarded by Novocure, a Pennsylvania health care innovation company, this award recognizes members who support legislation which improves patient access to innovative technologies and health care devices.
- **2024 Congressional Retail Crime Fighter:** Awarded by the National Retail Association, this award recognizes, members who understand the harmful effects of organized retail crime on retail businesses, workers, consumers, and communities and are trying to combat it.



LEGISLATION CHRISSY HAS INTRODUCED

IN ORDER OF DATE OF INTRODUCTION

H.R. 293 — Banning Oil Exports to Foreign Adversaries Act. This bipartisan bill would ban China, Russia, North Korea, Iran, any country under sanction by the United States Treasury, and any entity owned or controlled by one of those countries, from purchasing oil from our Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

H.R. 1403 — STEM RESTART Act. This bipartisan bill creates a national program to assist mid-career workers reentering the STEM workforce by awarding grants to small and medium-sized business for the purpose of establishing returnships and training for mid-career workers.

H.R. 1735 — Mathematical and Statistical Modeling Education Act. This bipartisan bill requires the National Science Foundation to award grants for research on ways to increase and improve mathematical and statistical modeling education in elementary and high schools.

H.R. 2949 — PSLF Payment Completion Fairness Act. This bipartisan bill would improve the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program by removing the requirement that, after making 120 payments, individuals need to remain employed in public service while the application for forgiveness works its way through the system.

H.R. 3056 — Research Advancing to Market Production (RAMP) for Innovators Act. This bipartisan bill helps entrepreneurs get federal funding to create new businesses by expediting the Small Business Innovation Research and Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) application processes, improving assistance services to these entrepreneurs, and making small businesses eligible for fast-tracked U.S. Patent Office services.

H.R. 3147 — Investing in American Defense Technologies Act. This bipartisan bill would establish a public-private investment program to help small businesses working in defense technology to bridge the “valley of death,” which occurs when a company doesn’t have the capital to wait while the Department of Defense evaluates the technology.

H.R. 3815 — Protecting Mushroom Farmers Act. This bipartisan bill would require the U.S. Department of Agriculture to figure out if mushroom farmers should be able to buy federally backed crop insurance tailored to their specific needs. Given the unique threats faced by mushroom farmers, this will help these family farmers get the best possible insurance so they can continue to thrive for years to come.

H.R. 3938 — Support UNFPA Funding Act. This bill authorizes annual contributions, for five years, to the United Nations Population Fund, the U.N. agency focused on sexual and reproductive health.

H.R. 4333 — Safeguarding the Homeland from the Threats Posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act. This bipartisan bill protects Americans from drone threats by allowing more federal agents to use counter-drone equipment, as well as authorizing, for the first time, select state and local police departments to do the same.

H.R. 4418 — Military Access to Reproductive Care and Health (MARCH) for Military Servicemembers Act. This bill repeals the restriction on utilizing Department of Defense funds and facilities for performing abortions.

H.R. 4670 — Small Business Contracting Transparency Act. This bipartisan bill makes sure the federal government delivers on its promise to support women-owned, veteran-owned, and economically disadvantaged small businesses by requiring the SBA to track and report who is winning contracts, and where mistakes are happening in its support programs.

H.R. 4682 — Mercury 13 Congressional Gold Medal Act. This bipartisan bill honors the trailblazing women of the Mercury 13, who paved the way for women at NASA, with a Congressional Gold Medal to be displayed in the National Air and Space Museum.

H.R. 5486 — Access to Donor Milk Act. This bipartisan bill increases federal support for nonprofit milk banks by allowing state agencies to use WIC funding to promote the benefits of donor milk, creating a federally-funded donor milk awareness program, and providing emergency funding for milk banks in the event of a spike in demand due to a nationwide shortage of infant formula.



LEGISLATION CHRISSY HAS INTRODUCED

H.R. 5638 — Aldyl A Hazard Reduction and Community Safety Act. This bipartisan bill was introduced in response to the deadly explosion at the R.M. Palmer chocolate factory in 2023. It addresses the dangers of aging plastic piping material, also known as “Aldyl A,” which has been linked to cracking and gas leaks. The bill requires this hazardous material to be identified and removed from high-risk areas nationwide to prevent future disasters and protect public safety.

H.R. 6524 — Federal Cybersecurity Workforce Expansion Act. This bill creates a cybersecurity apprenticeship program for servicemen and women transitioning out of the military. These apprenticeships would lead to a role within the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency or an employer doing similar work.

H.R. 6969 — Benjamin Franklin Statue Placement Act. This bipartisan bill recognizes Benjamin Franklin’s immeasurable impact on the founding of the nation by placing a statue of him in the U.S. Capitol Building along the public tour route prior to our nation’s 250th birthday in 2026.

H.R. 7087 — Maintaining our Obligation to Moms who Serve Act. This bill establishes a five-year, \$25 million pilot program to provide perinatal mental health programs for pregnant and postpartum servicewomen.

H.R. 7596 — Servicewomen and Veterans Menopause Research Act. This bill requires the Department of Defense, in coordination with the Department of Veterans Affairs, to study the impact of military service on menopause.

H.R. 7662 — Critical Minerals Security Act. This bipartisan bill requires the Department of the Interior to inventory the critical minerals in different countries — allies and adversaries alike — around the world. Having this data helps us better understand the risks to our own supply.

H.R. 7837 — Enhancing Intelligence Collection on Foreign Drug Traffickers Act. This bill updates the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) to add counternarcotics to the definition of foreign intelligence information, which enables the Intelligence Community to target foreign narco-traffickers and to coordinate with U.S. law enforcement to stop the flow of deadly narcotics, including fentanyl, into the United States.

H.R. 8353 — Preparing Election Administrators for AI Act. This bipartisan bill directs the Election Assistance Commission, in consultation with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, to develop voluntary guidelines on the use and risks of AI technologies in election administration, how AI can affect the sharing of accurate election information, and how election offices should respond.

H.R. 8479 — Unity through Service Act. This bipartisan bill establishes an Interagency Council on Service to coordinate and figure out ways to increase public participation in the military, national service, and government service.

H.R. 8633 — Stop Copay Overpay Act. This bill prohibits the Department of Defense from charging TRICARE members a co-payment for specialty care that is higher than a co-payment for primary care.

H.R. 8711 — USPHS Parity Act of 2024. This bill creates parity between the U.S. Public Health Service and the rest of the Armed Services in ensuring 12 weeks of parental leave.

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