



CONGRESSMAN  
**COLIN ALLRED**  
REPRESENTING THE 32ND DISTRICT OF TEXAS

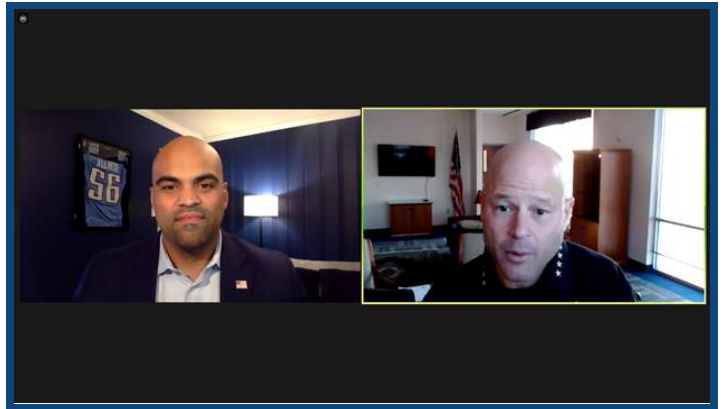
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# **117th Congress Six Month Report**

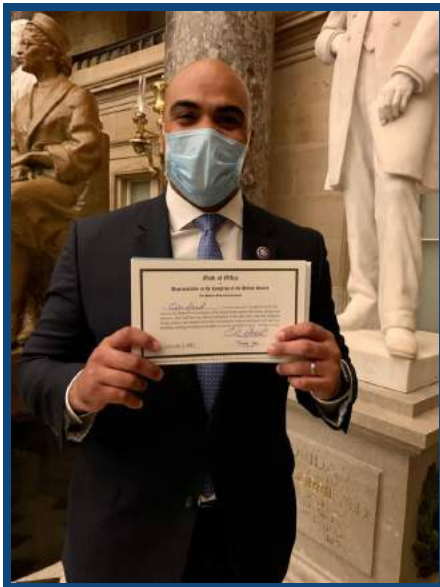
*Working for the 32nd  
Congressional District of Texas*



Rep. Allred with his son, Cameron, during his interview with CBS This Morning on his efforts to establish a national paid family leave policy in June 2021.



L to R: Allred attending President Biden's Joint Session speech and speaking to Dallas Police Chief Eddie Garcia in February 2021.



L to R: Allred attending President Biden's and Vice President Harris's inauguration with Rep. Lizzie Fletcher, Allred after he was sworn into the 117th Congress, and Allred after delivering donuts to Capitol Police officers after the January 6 insurrection.

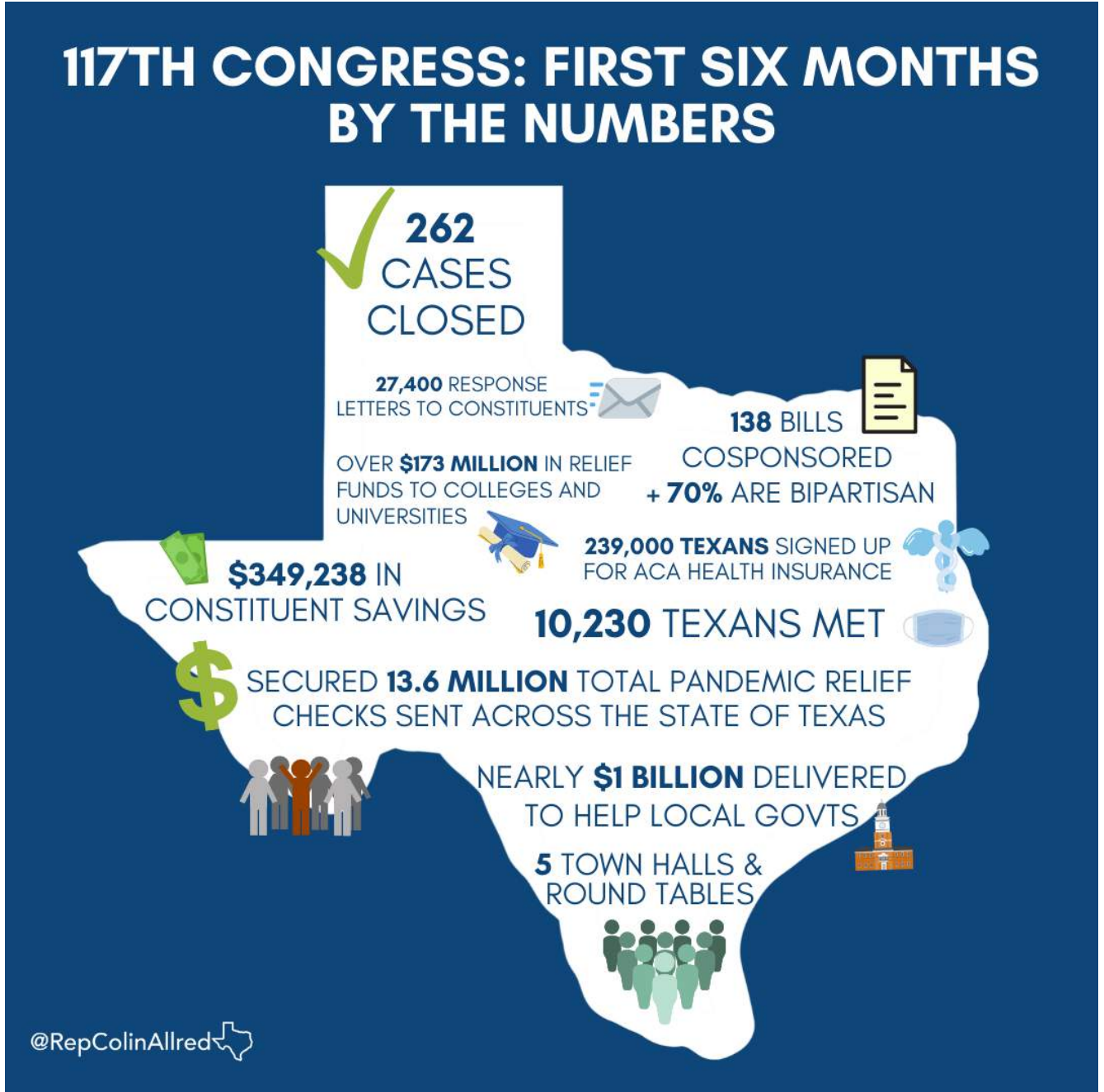
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# Rep. Allred is working for you

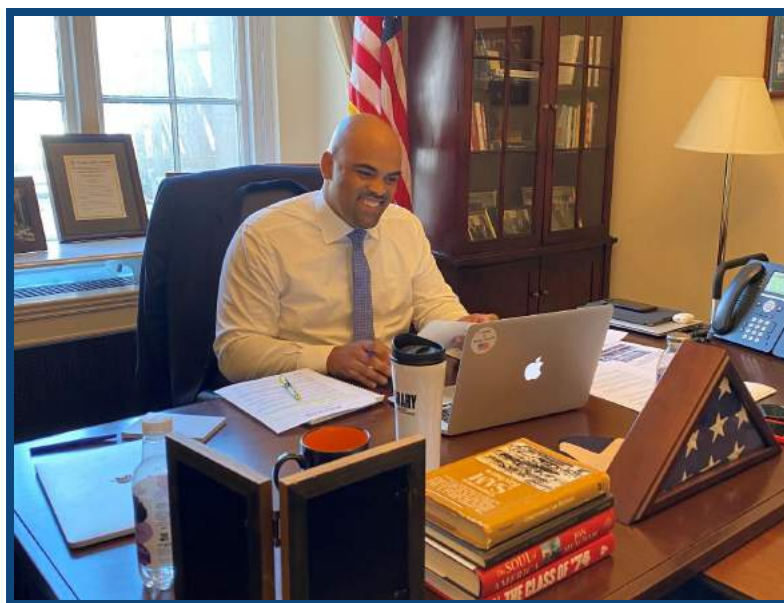
## 117TH CONGRESS: FIRST SIX MONTHS BY THE NUMBERS



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# COVID-19 Relief

*“The American Rescue Plan has made a real and immediate difference for folks struggling through no fault of their own, and is getting people back to work and kids back in school by distributing the vaccine efficiently and containing the spread of this virus, and making sure that the hardest hit businesses have what they need to weather this crisis and build back better.” - Rep. Colin Allred*



Allred before hosting a telephone town hall for constituents of the 32nd District with local officials and health experts in June 2021

**H.R.1319 - American Rescue Plan Act of 2021:** On March 10, 2021, the House passed a \$1.9 trillion stimulus bill in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This was signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021.

**H.R.1799 - PPP Extension Act of 2021:** On March 16, 2021, the House passed this bill to extend the Paycheck Protection Program, which was established to support small businesses in response to COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019), through June 30, 2021. This was signed into law by President Biden on March 30, 2021.

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### **Allred to Hold Small Business Town Hall**

Small business owners trying to navigate the terrain of COVID-related government loans and the pandemic economy have a chance to ask questions and get updates on available assistance Friday.

U.S. Rep. Colin Allred will have a virtual town hall at noon Jan. 29 for the small business community, and will be joined by a representative from the U.S. Small Business Administration, and representatives from the lending community. (People Newspapers, 1/28/21)

### **Dallas area members of US Congress tour COVID-19 vaccine site at Fair Park**

Lines of cars were busy filing into the community coronavirus vaccination center at Fair Park on Friday. Members of Congress from the Dallas area visited.

“This is incredible,” Representative Colin Allred said, as he watched cars moving through the tents.

Allred, along with Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson and Representative Marc Veasey took time to tour the site on Friday. They wanted to observe Dallas County and FEMA’s vaccine distribution efforts in action. (WFAA, 3/5/21)

### **Stimulus passes House, including expanded Child Tax Credit which could change the tide for child poverty**

“This pandemic has been especially hard on families with young children and they need help,” Rep. Colin Allred, D-Dallas, said in a statement. “I support these changes to the Child Tax Credit and believe they will make a real difference for families and kids — including lifting more than 4 million American kids out of poverty.” (Dallas Morning News, 3/5/21)

### **Allred Applauds House Passage of American Rescue Plan Act**

“North Texas families, workers, and small businesses have been hard hit by this pandemic and I’m glad that much-needed help will soon be on its way to our region,” said Allred. “The American Rescue Plan will make a real and immediate difference for folks struggling through no fault of their own, will get people back to work and kids back in school by distributing the vaccine efficiently and containing the spread of this virus, and will make sure that the hardest hit businesses have what they need to weather this crisis and build back better.” (Allred, 3/10/21)

### **Allred Visits Vaccination Clinic at Garland VA Medical Center**

Congressman Colin Allred (TX-32) visited the Garland VA Medical Center he helped create. It’s been open for about a year. The center vaccinated 500 veterans at the COVID-19 vaccine clinic today. Congressman Allred thanked workers for what they’ve done during the pandemic and for their continued care of North Texas veterans. (Fox 4, 3/20/21)

**North Texas restaurant owners can start applying for Restaurant Revitalization Fund Monday**

A new resource is now available for restaurants trying to recover financially from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Restaurant Revitalization Fund is a \$28.6 billion effort from the Small Business Administration and paid for by taxpayers to help food service owners.

Dallas Congressman Colin Allred, who voted for and co-sponsored similar measures, is encouraging North Texans to sign up. (Fox 4, 4/30/21)

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# Working with both parties to put North Texans First

*"I will always put North Texas first and do all I can to find areas of bipartisan agreement that help grow our economy to support our businesses and workers."- Rep. Colin Allred*



Allred was awarded the Jefferson-Hamilton Award for Bipartisanship by the U.S. Chamber of Congress.



Allred with members of the Dallas City Council in May 2021.

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**Allred Celebrates Signing of Bipartisan Legislation to Help Veterans Cut Through Red Tape**

Congressman Allred (TX-32) joined his bipartisan, bicameral colleagues, U.S. Senators Ron Wyden, D-Ore., and John Boozman, R-Ark., and U.S. Representatives Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., and Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen, R-American Samoa, in celebrating the passage of their legislation to let Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) work study students work in congressional offices. The bipartisan legislation was included in the veterans legislative package that was signed into law on January 5. (Allred, 1/19/21)

**Congressman Colin Allred on the bi-partisan bill to make the USPS profitable again**

"You know the U.S. Postal Service has been under requirement since 2007 to prefund their retirement benefits, for 75 years. It costs them around \$5 billion a year, and no other is required to do that. It's caused them to have real financial problems... so our bipartisan, bicameral bill would remove this requirement, allow them to pay for benefits as they go, and will allow the Postal Service to invest in operations and technology, and do a better job of delivering the mail...

This is the kind of common-sense bipartisan legislation that I came to Congress to try and introduce," said U.S. Rep. Colin Allred, D-Dallas. (WFAA, 2/6/21)

**Allred Votes to Protect LBGTO Americans From Discrimination as Equality Act Passes House with Bipartisan Support**

Congressman Colin Allred (TX-32), today voted for the Equality Act, which passed the House with bipartisan support. Allred is an original cosponsor of the bill which would codify civil rights protections for LGBTQ Americans in federal law.

"No American should be discriminated against because of who they are or who they love," said Allred. "The bipartisan Equality Act makes real progress towards ensuring that all LGBTQ Americans, no matter where they live, have protections under federal law." (Allred, 2/25/21)

**Allred Votes for Bipartisan Dream Act to Provide Certainty for Dreamers**

"The Dream and Promise Act is a common sense, bipartisan bill that will provide a pathway to citizenship for countless young people who have known no home other than Texas. Dreamers are service members, frontline workers, and community leaders, and this legislation will provide them with certainty, benefiting our state and economy. Going forward, I will continue to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle towards comprehensive reform to fix our broken immigration system." (Allred, 3/18/21)

**Texas lawmakers follow Alabama, Florida with push to help college football players get paid**

They argued that the patchwork of state laws could put students in a position to hire advisers to help them analyze which state laws are most beneficial financially for their playing careers. U.S. Rep. Colin Allred, a Dallas Democrat and former college football player, is among those to sign on as a co-sponsor of the bill.

“College sports is big business for everyone involved except the athletes who make it possible,” Allred said. “If they choose, student-athletes should be able to earn money from the use of their likeness the same way any other professional or amateur athlete can.” (Houston Chronicle, 4/28/21)

**Allred Earns U.S. Chamber Award for Bipartisan Work to Grow Economy with 96% Bipartisan Score**

Congressman Colin Allred (TX-32) received the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s Jefferson-Hamilton award for his bipartisan work in Congress to grow the economy, create jobs and support the business community. The Chamber gave Allred a 96% score for being among the most bipartisan members of the House and recognized his leadership in Congress. Last year, Allred received the Spirit of Enterprise Award from the U.S. Chamber noting his bipartisan work, including his work to pass the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement. (Allred, 6/17/21)

*“These awards recognize members of Congress who demonstrated a commitment to advancing bipartisan solutions that address our nation’s problems and move our economy forward. In a time of intense polarization and gridlock Congressman Allred’s record of working across the aisle is to be commended.”*

**-- U.S. Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Suzanne Clark.**

**Allred Votes to Repeal 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force**

“Earlier this month, I announced that 11 students from Texas’ 32nd Congressional District received appointments to our nation’s service academies; those young people, and countless others who are serving our nation, were not even born when this resolution was adopted,” said Allred. “I have long believed that Congress needs to reassert its power to declare war on behalf of the American people, so that no president, regardless of their party, could unilaterally send troops to war. Today’s vote was a long overdue step towards reclaiming some of that authority and I am glad the House passed it with bipartisan support.” (Allred, 6/17/21)

**Biden signs law making Juneteenth a federal holiday, marking end of slavery in Texas long after emancipation**

On Thursday, President Joe Biden signed a law declaring a national holiday for Juneteenth, the day long recognized as the official end of slavery in the United States...

Reps. Colin Allred of Dallas, Marc Veasey of Fort Worth and Al Green of Houston, Democrats, were among the many members of the Congressional Black Caucus at the bill signing. (Dallas Morning News, 6/17/21)

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L to R: Allred with U.S. Labor Secretary Marty Walsh at Semones Family YMCA in Dallas in June 2021, Allred with Ms. Opal Lee, the “Grandmother of Juneteenth” at bipartisan Juneteenth bill signing at the White House and Allred surveying damage to the Family Place in Dallas caused by the February winter storms.



Allred with Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm and UT-Dallas students in a virtual roundtable discussing STEM workforce programs in May 2021.

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# Key Legislation Passed

## Allred led bills:

**H.R. 1278, Know Your Polling Place Act:** This bill requires that voters be notified of changes in their polling place and ensure accommodations be made to voters that show up at the wrong polling place. This bill passed the House as an amendment to H.R. 1, the For the People Act.

**H.R. 1279, Shell Company Abuse Act:** This bill makes it a felony to use or create an American shell company to conceal illegal political spending by foreign nationals. This bill passed the House in H.R. 1, the For the People Act.

## Key bills passed by the full House:

**H.R.5, Equality Act:** On February 25, 2021, the House passed legislation to prohibit discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in areas including public accommodations and facilities, education, federal funding, employment, housing, credit, and the jury system. Specifically, the bill defines and includes sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity among the prohibited categories of discrimination or segregation.

**H.R.6, American Dream and Promise Act of 2021:** On February 25, 2021, the House passed legislation to provide certain aliens with a path to receive permanent resident status and contains other immigration-related provisions.

**H.R. 1, For the People Act of 2021:** On March 3, 2021, the House passed legislation to address voter access, election integrity and security, campaign finance, and ethics for the three branches of government.

**H.R.1280, George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021:** On March 3, 2021, the House passed legislation to address a wide range of policies and issues regarding policing practices and law enforcement accountability. It increases accountability for law enforcement misconduct, restricts the use of certain policing practices, enhances transparency and data collection, and establishes best practices and training requirements. The bill enhances existing enforcement mechanisms to remedy violations by law enforcement.

**H.R. 1319 - American Rescue Plan Act of 2021:** On March 10, 2021, the House passed a \$1.9 trillion stimulus bill in response to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. **This was signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021.**

**H.R. 8, Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021:** On March 11, 2021, the House passed legislation to establish new background check requirements for firearm transfers between private parties (i.e., unlicensed individuals). Specifically, it prohibits a firearm transfer between private parties unless a licensed gun dealer, manufacturer, or importer first takes possession of the firearm to conduct a background check. The bill passed with bipartisan support.

**H.R. 1799, PPP Extension Act of 2021:** On March 16, 2021, the House passed this bill to extend the Paycheck Protection Program, which was established to support small businesses in response to COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019), through June 30, 2021. **This was signed into law by President Biden on March 30, 2021.**

**H.R. 1620, Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2021:** On March 17, 2021, the House passed legislation to modify and reauthorizes through FY2026 programs and activities under the Violence Against Women Act that seek to prevent and respond to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

**H.R. 1085, To award three congressional gold medals to the United States Capitol Police and those who protected the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021:** On March 17, 2021, the House passed legislation to award three Congressional Gold Medals to the U.S. Capitol Police (USCP) and other law enforcement agencies that protected the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. The bill passed with bipartisan support.

**H.R. 7, Paycheck Fairness Act:** On April 15, 2021, the House passed legislation to address wage discrimination on the basis of sex, which is defined to include pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics.

**H.R. 1065, Pregnant Workers Fairness Act:** On May 5, 2021, the House passed legislation to prohibit employment practices that discriminate against making reasonable accommodations for qualified employees affected by pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions. The bill passed with bipartisan support.

**S. 475, Juneteenth National Independence Day Act:** On June 16, 2021, the House passed bipartisan legislation to establish Juneteenth National Independence Day, June 19, as a legal public holiday. **This bill was signed into law by President Biden on June 17, 2021.**

**H.R. 256 - To repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002:** On June 17, 2021, the House passed legislation to repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002. The bill passed with bipartisan support.

# Bills Sponsored

**H.R. 789, Aid and Attendance Support Act:** This bill increases the Department of Veterans Affairs benefit payments for disabled veterans by 25% to help cover expenses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**H.R. 1278, Know Your Polling Place Act:** This bill requires that voters be notified of changes in their polling place and ensure accommodations be made to voters that show up at the wrong polling place.

**H.R. 1279, Shell Company Abuse Act:** This bill makes it a felony to use or create an American shell company to conceal illegal political spending by foreign nationals.

**H.R. 1607, HACT Act:** This bill would allow private American entities to make claims in federal or state courts against foreign states that conduct or engage in cyberattacks against American entities.

**H.R. 2753, Veterans Claim Transparency Act:** This bill reinstates and codifies "the 48-hour rule" which allows a veteran's representative to review VA's preliminary determination of a veteran's benefits 48 hours before finalizing the benefit determination. This bipartisan bill was cosponsored by Rep. Rodney Davis (IL-13).

**H.R. 3651, RAPID ACT:** This bill streamlines and incentivizes investment in infrastructure through participation in the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program. This is a bipartisan bill cosponsored by Rep. Mike Gallagher (WI-08), with a companion bill in the Senate introduced by Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) and Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA).

**H.R. 3804, FY 2021 Major Medical Facility Authorization Act:** This bipartisan bill authorizes several Veterans Affairs construction projects funded in fiscal year 2021, including a spinal cord injury center in Dallas.

**H.R. 4032, The Open RAN Outreach Act:** This bipartisan bill directs the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to provide outreach and technical assistance to small communications network providers about the benefits of Open Radio Access Networks.

# Fighting to Lower Costs and Fix Our Health Care System

*“As someone who was raised by a single mother here in North Texas, I can imagine how stressful this time has been for many working families, compounded by so much uncertainty. But I hope that if you need health care, you can take advantage of the new Affordable Care Act provisions in the American Rescue Plan and worry about one less thing as we all work to end this pandemic.” - Rep. Colin Allred*



Allred with Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, Rep. Marc Veasey and Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins at the Fair Park Vaccination Hub in March 2021.



Allred and Labor Secretary Marty Walsh speaking with a family at a COVID-19 vaccine observation room at a Baylor, Scott and White vaccine clinic in June 2021.

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**Allred Applauds House Passage of American Rescue Plan Act**

“The American Rescue Plan also covers 100% of COBRA subsidies for folks who lost their jobs and are relying on this temporary plan to remain covered.

The American Families Plan will also extend the expanded health insurance tax credits in the American Rescue Plan. These credits are providing premium relief that is lowering health insurance costs by an average of \$50 per person per month for nine million people, and will enable four million uninsured people to gain coverage.” (Allred, 3/10/21)

**OP-ED: The American Rescue Plan expanded access to health care**

In a health crisis like this with so many losing their jobs, it was also critical that we made sure Americans could get access to quality, affordable health care. That’s why we included provisions in the American Rescue Plan that lower health care costs and increase access to give families peace of mind as we fight COVID-19.

Congress dramatically expanded subsidies to help millions of folks afford coverage and now, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the American Rescue Plan strengthens the Affordable Care Act and will help 1.3 million people without insurance finally get covered. (North Dallas Gazette, 4/15/21)

**COMMENTARY: Medicaid Expansion: Too Good of a Deal for Texas to Refuse**

These past few months have been some of the most critical in stemming the COVID-19 pandemic since it started. Millions of Texans are now fully vaccinated and we are steps closer to keeping our communities safer and healthier. The end of this pandemic is nearly in sight, but as we look back, we can see that this public health crisis has laid bare the many weaknesses and inequities of our health care system. And that’s why Texas should finally expand Medicaid and extend health coverage to 1.7 million Texans.

Though I was disappointed that the Texas House declined to include Medicaid expansion in its budget, there is so much momentum now to expand. There is now strong bipartisan support and with a majority of state House members backing a bipartisan expansion bill. We cannot let this opportunity pass us by. (Dallas Weekly, 5/6/21)

# Investing in Families, and Transportation Infrastructure

*“North Texas is rapidly growing and this bill will set the foundation for making the substantial investments we need to reduce congestion and create good-paying jobs. We need to make big, bold investments to fix and improve our infrastructure, whether it is our roads, bridges, railways or mass transit”- Rep. Colin Allred*



Allred with Labor Sec. Marty Walsh and Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson at a roundtable on paid family leave at the Dallas Regional Chamber.



Allred with Senator Tammy Duckworth and Dawn Hucklebridge of Paid Leave for All discussing the need for paid parental leave.

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**Allred and Bipartisan, Bicameral Colleagues Reintroduce Legislation to Help Sustain the U.S. Postal Service**

Today, Rep. Colin Allred (TX-32) joined his House colleagues Reps. Peter DeFazio (OR-04), Tom Reed (NY-23), Carolyn B. Maloney (NY-12), and Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-01), and Senators Steve Daines (R-MT) and Brian Schatz (D-HI) in re-introducing the USPS Fairness Act, bipartisan legislation to provide the United States Postal Service (USPS) much-needed financial relief by ending the agency's burdensome prefunding mandate on future retiree health benefits." (Allred, 2/2/21)

**Allred Applauds President Biden's Swift Approval of Major Disaster Declaration**

Rep. Colin Allred, D-Dallas, lauded the partial approval. "I'm grateful to President Biden for his swift approval of this declaration," he said. "While the worst of the weather is over, North Texas is still in a crisis and we'll need all hands on deck to rebuild homes and small businesses, and repair critical infrastructure damaged by this storm." (Dallas Morning News, 2/20/21)

**Texas Congressman Says ERCOT Ignored Warnings from Energy Company Ahead of Storm**

Did ERCOT, the Public Utility Commission and Railroad Commission ignore warnings from energy companies across the state about the severity of this winter storm? According to U.S. Rep. Colin Allred, D-Dallas, that's exactly what happened, and it led to the largest forced power outage in the nation's history.

Congressman Allred's assertion stems from a conversation with the CEO of Dallas area-based energy company Vistra who told him they sounded the alarms days before the storm. Vistra told Allred no one at ERCOT reacted with the urgency the energy company deemed necessary. (Spectrum News, 2/24/20)

**Rep. Colin Allred to Discuss Winter Storm Assistance in Telephone Town Hall**

U.S. Rep. Colin Allred (D-TX 32nd District) will host a telephone town hall on available assistance for North Texans affected by last month's winter storm. (NBC DFW, 3/10/20)

**OPINION- Rep. Allred: Paternity leave should be universal**

"Like most hardworking parents, I struggle to balance my work and family lives. Traveling back and forth from Dallas to Washington as a member of Congress puts a strain on my wife and family that is impossible to ignore. But one thing I won't compromise on is paternity leave." (Dallas Morning News, 3/27/21)

**The First Congressman to Take Parental Leave Is Ready to Fight for It**

If Colin Allred had been in Washington two weeks ago, he would have gone to the White House for the Congressional Black Caucus's meeting with the president. Instead, he was in his garage in Dallas, cradling his newborn, pedaling his exercise bike, and occasionally reading briefing memos from his staff on his phone. The representative from Texas was the first member of Congress to take

paternity leave, in 2019, when his first son was born. He's now the second member of Congress to take paternity leave: His second son was born at the end of March. (The Atlantic, 4/27/21)

***In Partnership with Newly Created Independent Committee of North Texans, Allred Announces Support for Community Project Funding***

Congressman Colin Allred (TX-32) today announced his support for 10 Community Project Funding submissions for the 32nd District of Texas that will be recommended to the House Appropriations Committee for fiscal year 2022. The recommendations come from a nonpartisan committee of North Texans that Allred formed to review projects in North Texas based on a set of criteria including job creation, economic development, and community support and oversight. (Allred, 4/29/21)

***Allred, Gallagher Introduce Bipartisan RAPID Act to Help Streamline Transportation Financing***

Congressman Colin Allred (D-TX-32) and Congressman Mike Gallagher (R-WI-08) today re-introduced the Revitalizing American Priorities for Infrastructure Development (RAPID) Act in the House. Both are members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The bill would incentivize investment in infrastructure through participation in the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA). The bill is similar to a bipartisan effort led by Allred and Gallagher in 2019 and it bolsters transparency for the public, applicants and Congress, as well as expedites projects that meet certain criteria. (Allred, 6/2/21)

***In Bipartisan Effort, Allred Works to Ensure Texas National Guard Has Adequate Resources to Serve Fast-Growing Population***

Congressman Colin Allred (TX-32) joined members of the Texas congressional delegation from both sides of the aisle in urging the Department of Defense to review how changing population demographics impact the needs of National Guard Bureaus. Allred and his colleagues asked that the Administration work with them to help Texas' National Guard keep pace with the needs of the state's growing population. (Allred, 6/3/21)

***Allred Fights for North Texas Priorities with Committee Passage of Surface Transportation Bill***

Today Congressman Colin Allred (TX-32), a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, supported the committee's bipartisan passage of the INVEST in America Act of 2021. The bill is a five-year reauthorization of surface transportation measures. Allred also secured funds for local projects including DART systems upgrades. (Allred, 6/10/21)

***U.S. labor secretary stumps for Biden's American Jobs Plan in swing through Dallas***

U.S. Labor Secretary Martin Walsh and Rep. Colin Allred met with business leaders and community organizers in Dallas on Thursday to tout the Biden administration's plans to shore up the nation's infrastructure and expand family leave benefits. (Dallas Morning News, 6/10/21)

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**Texas lawmaker leads the push for guaranteed paid parental leave: "We're gonna get it done"**

Parents like Colin Allred know babies are full-time jobs. In 2019 the former NFL linebacker turned U.S. congressman took two weeks off from Washington to be home with his newborn son Jordan in Dallas. It was the first paternity leave ever announced by a member of Congress... Earlier this year, when Allred's wife Aly gave birth to their second child, Cameron, he took another leave —this time for a month. "Two weeks wasn't long enough with the first one. For my wife, for me, for our son Jordan. I really felt like I needed longer," Allred said. (CBS This Morning, 6/18/21)

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# Serving our Veterans

*“Our veterans have made incredible sacrifices in serving our country. It is our duty to make sure that when they return home, they have the resources they need to transition back to civilian life.” - Rep. Colin Allred*



Allred visits the Garland VA Medical Center with Labor Secretary Marty Walsh in June 2021.



L to R: Allred visits the Dallas VA Spinal Cord Injury Center to join Mobius Mobility for their Operation Mobility tour in June 2021 and Allred talks with veterans at the Garland VA Medical Center’s vaccination clinic in March 2021.

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**Allred, Sen. Cortez Masto Introduce Bicameral Bill to Help Veterans and Caregivers Pay for Personal Protective Equipment**

Congressman Colin Allred (TX-32), a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, today introduced the Aid and Attendance Support Act. The bill will increase the amount paid to disabled veterans to assist with their daily activities by 25 percent to help cover COVID-19 related expenses, including purchasing personal protective equipment for themselves and their caregivers. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) introduced companion legislation in the Senate. (Allred, 2/4/21)

**95-Year-Old North Texas WWII Vet Still Fighting For His Benefits**

"We were happy to jump into this, because, unfortunately, this is not an uncommon situation," says Texas Congressman Collin Allred.

U.S. Rep. Allred emphatically says this is not the first time he's been down this road. "No, it's not."

Allred says he welcomes calls from veterans anytime, because the benefits process is confusing and frustrating, particularly for those who served in earlier wars.

When asked if the country needs to fix this problem, Allred says, "We do! We do!"

He tells CBS 11 he is now working on legislation that will cut through the red tape and speed it up.

"We're learning all the time of errors and problems. I think it's now on us to reach out to these veterans. These are not gifts. They're benefits that they've earned in service of our nation," says Allred." (CBS DFW, 4/3/21)

**Allred Introduces Bipartisan Bill to Reinstate 48-hour Rule and Help Veterans Get Accurate Benefits**

Congressman Colin Allred (TX-32), a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, introduced the bipartisan Veterans Claim Transparency Act. The bill reinstates and codifies "the 48-hour rule" which allows a veteran's representative to review VA's preliminary determination of a veteran's benefits 48 hours before finalizing the benefit determination. The VA moved to end the rule in 2020. The bill is co-sponsored by Congressman Rodney Davis (R-IL-13). (Allred, 4/22/21)

**Allred, Katko Introduce Bipartisan Legislation to Restore Veterans' Tax Benefits and Encourage Careers in Aviation**

Congressman Colin Allred (D-TX-32), a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, joined Congressman John Katko (R-NY-24) in introducing the William Becker Promoting Careers in Aviation for America's Veterans Act. This bipartisan legislation would provide relief to veterans who were retroactively denied tax benefits and forced to pay back taxes as a result of changing guidance from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). (Allred, 5/28/21)

**Bill introduced in Congress to fund VA facilities construction**

A bipartisan bill authorizing several Veterans Affairs construction projects funded in fiscal year 2021, including a spinal cord injury center in Dallas, Texas, has been introduced in Congress.

“Our veteran population is growing and in order to fulfill the promises we’ve made, we need serious and strategic investment. That’s why I am leading on this bill that will create jobs and expand care facilities for our veterans and it’s why I led the charge to secure the Garland VA Medical Center,” said Congressman Colin Allred (D-TX), who introduced the FY 2021 Major Medical Facility Authorization Act, H.R. 3804. (Connecting Vets, 6/15/21)

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# Working for the 32nd District

*“One of the most important parts of my job as your representative is helping North Texans resolve their issues with federal agencies. Navigating federal bureaucracies can be difficult, but my team and I are here to offer assistance. Whether you need help getting your tax refund, assistance in contacting the Department of Veterans Affairs, or help in obtaining your Social Security benefits, I am here to help cut red tape and make sure you get the answers you deserve.” - Rep. Colin Allred*



CBS DFW story on the late Ed Malouf, a WWII veteran Allred helped get VA benefits.

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### **WWII Veteran Ed Malouf from Dallas**

Ed is a veteran and Purple Heart recipient who served in both World War II and the Korean War. He was owed medical care benefits from the VA, but even with the help of attorneys in his family and after a litany of forms and appointments, he had been unable to receive them. After trying to resolve this problem with no luck for 19 months, Ed's family contacted Rep. Allred to request assistance.

Upon hearing about Ed's problem, Rep. Allred reached out to the VA to find out what was preventing Ed from receiving the benefits he was owed. Shortly after Rep. Allred's inquiry, the issue was resolved and Ed was able to access 100% of the benefits he was owed.

### **Kathy from Rowlett**

Kathy receives survivors' benefits from Social Security, and when her child turned 16, Kathy had to switch her benefits to exclude her child. Unbeknownst to her, the change somehow affected her Medicare enrollment, preventing it from beginning in November 2020 as it was supposed to. Kathy discovered this when she visited a doctor to have an MRI, and when she called Medicare, she was told that she did not have coverage, despite paying for it for the month of November. Although she was able to get her Medicare reinstated, it had February 2021 as the starting date, and Kathy was unable to reach the Social Security Administration (SSA) to get it backdated to the correct date of November 2020. That's when Kathy decided to reach out to Rep. Allred for help resolving the issue.

Rep. Allred immediately contacted the SSA to correct the problem. Within just a couple of days, the SSA responded, stating that Kathy's Medicare coverage had been incorrectly terminated, backdating it, and sending a new Medicare card to Kathy with the correct starting date.

### **Laura from Richardson**

Laura had filed an amended tax return with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for the 2018 filing period. With the amended return submitted, she was due a refund payment from the IRS, but after more than a year, she still hadn't received it. Frustrated by the long delay, Laura decided to contact Rep. Allred for help getting her refund.

Rep. Allred immediately reached out to the IRS to inquire about the situation with Laura's refund. Within just a few days of Rep. Allred's inquiry, Laura finally received her refund check of over \$2,500.

# Bills Cosponsored

**138 bills cosponsored, 71% of which are bipartisan**

**H.R. 1:** *For the People Act of 2021*

**H.R. 3:** *Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act*

**H.R. 5:** *Equality Act*

**H.R. 6:** *American Dream and Promise Act of 2021*

**H.R. 7:** *Paycheck Fairness Act*

**H.R. 8:** *Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021*

**H.R. 51:** *Washington, D.C. Admission Act*

**H.R. 151:** *Preventing Future Pandemics Act of 2021*

**H.R. 203:** *To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4020 Broadway Street in Houston, Texas, as the "Benny C. Martinez Post Office Building".*

**H.R. 224:** *To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5302 Galveston Road in Houston, Texas, as the "Vanessa Guillén Post Office Building".*

**H.R. 239:** *Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act*

**H.R. 259:** *End Diaper Need Act of 2021*

**H.R. 263:** *Big Cat Public Safety Act*

**H.R. 305:** *Officer Eugene Goodman Congressional Gold Medal Act*

**H.R. 340:** *Incentivizing Medicaid Expansion Act of 2021*

**H.R. 350:** *Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act of 2021*

**H.R. 369:** *Health Care Affordability Act of 2021*

**H.R. 391:** *Global Health Security Act of 2021*

**H.R. 392:** *FAIR Act*

**H.R. 402:** *CROOK Act*

**H.R. 461:** *Hong Kong Safe Harbor Act*

**H.R. 556:** *Global Health, Empowerment and Rights Act*

**H.R. 567:** *Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Program Act of 2021*

**H.R. 604:** *Reopen and Rebuild America's Schools Act of 2021*

**H.R. 695:** *USPS Fairness Act*

**H.R. 707:** *Ghost Army Congressional Gold Medal Act*

**H.R. 748:** *Ethan's Law*

**H.R. 852:** *United States-Israel PTSD Collaborative Research Act*

**H.R. 869:** *RISE Act of 2021*

**H.R. 903:** *Rights for the TSA Workforce Act of 2021*

**H.R. 921:** *Horse Transportation Safety Act of 2021*

**H.R. 959:** *Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021*

**H.R. 962:** *Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act*

**H.R. 963:** *FAIR Act*

**H.R. 1012:** *'Six Triple Eight' Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021*

**H.R. 1024:** *COVID-19 Supply Chain Resiliency Act of 2021*

**H.R. 1059:** *America Votes Act of 2021*

**H.R. 1065:** *Pregnant Workers Fairness Act*

**H.R. 1085:** *To award three congressional gold medals to the United States Capitol Police and those who protected the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.*

**H.R. 1115:** *Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act*

**H.R. 1155:** *Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act*

**H.R. 1201:** *International Human Rights Defense Act of 2021*

**H.R. 1228:** *Libya Stabilization Act*

**H.R. 1276:** *SAVE LIVES Act*

**H.R. 1280:** *George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021*

**H.R. 1282:** *Major Richard Star Act*

**H.R. 1297:** *Air America Act of 2021*

**H.R. 1320:** *Juneteenth National Independence Day Act*

**H.R. 1333:** *National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants Act*

**H.R. 1334:** *DISCLOSE Act of 2021*

**H.R. 1346:** *Hospitality and Commerce Job Recovery Act of 2021*

**H.R. 1348:** To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Freedom Riders, collectively, in recognition of their unique contribution to Civil Rights, which inspired a revolutionary movement for equality in interstate travel.

**H.R. 1349:** The COVID-19 Hospital and Health Provider Loan Conversion Act of 2021

**H.R. 1368:** Mental Health Justice Act of 2021

**H.R. 1378:** Do No Harm Act

**H.R. 1442:** PREPARED Act

**H.R. 1448:** Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers for Veterans Therapy Act

**H.R. 1456:** Peace Corps Reauthorization Act of 2021

**H.R. 1464:** Saudi Arabia Accountability for Gross Violations of Human Rights Act

**H.R. 1620:** Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2021

**H.R. 1648:** National Women's Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Act of 2021

**H.R. 1655:** Donald Payne Sr. Colorectal Cancer Detection Act of 2021

**H.R. 1661:** Girls LEAD Act

**H.R. 1664:** To authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

**H.R. 1670:** Abortion is Health Care Everywhere Act of 2021

**H.R. 1727:** Emmett Till and Will Brown Justice for Victims of Lynching Act of 2021

**H.R. 1808:** Assault Weapons Ban of 2021

**H.R. 1813:** FASTER Act

**H.R. 1878:** State Health Care Premium Reduction Act of 2021

**H.R. 1915:** Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2021

**H.R. 1916:** Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act

**H.R. 1948:** VA Employee Fairness Act of 2021

**H.R. 1964:** Payer State Transparency Act of 2021

**H.R. 2050:** Huntington's Disease Disability Insurance Access Act of 2021

**H.R. 2079:** Eliminating the Provider Relief Fund Tax Penalties Act of 2021

**H.R. 2085:** HEART Act of 2021

**H.R. 2118:** Securing America From Epidemics Act

**H.R. 2119:** Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act of 2021

**H.R. 2126:** Housing Supply and Affordability Act

**H.R. 2234:** EACH Act of 2021

**H.R. 2249:** Willie O'Ree Congressional Gold Medal Act

**H.R. 2337:** Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act of 2021

**H.R. 2723:** United States-Mexico Tourism Improvement Act of 2021

**H.R. 2748:** Israel Relations Normalization Act of 2021

**H.R. 2806:** Honoring All Veterans Act

**H.R. 2811:** Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act of 2021

**H.R. 2840:** Puppy Protection Act of 2021

**H.R. 2841:** Student Athlete Level Playing Field Act

**H.R. 2859:** Restoring Neighborhoods and Strengthening Communities Act

**H.R. 3001:** Vietnam Human Rights Act

**H.R. 3085:** ENACT Act of 2021

**H.R. 3095:** Fair and Open Skies Act

**H.R. 3173:** Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act of 2021

**H.R. 3183:** Metastatic Breast Cancer Access to Care Act

**H.R. 3261:** To repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution.

**H.R. 3283:** To repeal the joint resolution entitled "A joint resolution to promote peace and stability in the Middle East".

**H.R. 3294:** IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act

**H.R. 3355:** Save America's Forgotten Equines Act

**H.R. 3482:** National Center for the Advancement of Aviation Act of 2021

**H.R. 3498:** Documenting Adversarial Trade Aggression Act

**H.R. 3529:** SCORE Act

**H.R. 3537:** Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act

**H.R. 3577:** United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act

**H.R. 3597:** William Becker Promoting Careers in Aviation for America's Veterans Act

**H.R. 3630:** Lymphedema Treatment Act

**H.R. 3642:** Harlem Hellfighters Congressional Gold Medal Act

**H.R. 3685:** Hamas International Financing Prevention Act

**H.R. 3755:** Women's Health Protection Act

**H.R. 3791:** The FAIR Leave Act

**H.R. 3807:** Restaurant Revitalization Fund Replacement Act

**H.R. 3938:** Support UNFPA Funding Act  
**H.R. 3961:** COVER Now Act  
**H.R. 3967:** Honoring our PACT Act of 2021  
**H.R. 3985:** Allies Act of 2021  
**H.R. 4064:** The Preventing Election Subversion Act of 2021  
**H.R. 4104:** Vanessa Guillen Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act  
**H.R. 4173:** Tax Free Pell Grants Act  
**H.R. 4276:** Hong Kong People's Freedom and Choice Act  
**H.R. 4292:** COVID-19 and Pandemic Response Centers of Excellence Act  
**H.J.Res. 15:** Providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of certain defense articles and services.  
**H.J.Res. 16:** Providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed transfer to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Kingdom of Spain, and the Italian Republic of certain defense articles and services.  
**H.J.Res. 17:** Removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment.  
**H.Res. 14:** Censuring and condemning President Donald J. Trump for attempting to overturn the results of the November 2020 presidential election in the State of Georgia.  
**H.Res. 24:** Impeaching Donald John Trump, President of the United States, for high crimes and misdemeanors.  
**H.Res. 109:** Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of door delivery for all business and residential customers.  
**H.Res. 114:** Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of its 6-day mail delivery service.  
**H.Res. 117:** Supporting Coptic Christians in Egypt.  
**H.Res. 118:** Expressing support for the Iranian people's desire for a democratic, secular, and nonnuclear Republic of Iran and condemning violations of human rights and state-sponsored terrorism by the Iranian Government.

**H.Res. 119:** Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to restore service standards in effect as of July 1, 2012.  
**H.Res. 130:** Condemning the continued violation of rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong by the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.  
**H.Res. 186:** Calling for the immediate release of Trevor Reed, a United States citizen who was unjustly found guilty and sentenced to nine years in a Russian prison.  
**H.Res. 225:** Affirming the role of the United States in improving access to quality, inclusive public education and improved learning outcomes for children and adolescents, particularly for girls, in the poorest countries through the Global Partnership for Education.  
**H.Res. 242:** Raising awareness of the racial disparities in the impact of colorectal cancer on the Black community.  
**H.Res. 247:** Honoring the life and legacy of Congressman Ronald Wright and commending him for his devotion to the Nation and its ideals.  
**H.Res. 480:** Recognizing June 19, 2021, as this year's observance of the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day.  
**H.Res. 501:** Supporting the members of the 87th Texas Legislature who fought against the State's Senate Bill 7 with every tool they had.  
**H.Res. 517:** Original Slavery Remembrance Day Resolution of 2021

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