
PETE P. GALLEGO

PROFILE

A native of Alpine and graduate of Sul Ross State University, Pete Gallego is a trained mediator with over 25 years of public service and both legal and legislative experience. Licensed to practice law in Texas since 1986, he holds a *Juris Doctor* degree from The University of Texas School of Law (1985) and a Bachelor's degree from Sul Ross (1982). Gallego has tried numerous civil and criminal cases during his career as a prosecutor and insurance defense attorney.

Gallego comes from a local family of high achievers. His parents were the first in their families to attend college and receive degrees. One of his sisters was the first Latin/x graduate of Alpine High School to become a licensed attorney and the other to finish medical school and become a licensed physician.

In 1990, Gallego also became the first Latin/x elected to the Texas House from District 74, a district containing much of the US/Mexico border. He is also the only non-Bexar County resident elected to represent Congressional District 23 since the inclusion of Bexar County to District 23 in 1980. He remains the only rural Far West Texan ever elected to serve in the US Congress.

A leader, mentor and skilled fundraiser who can implement goals and provide strategic direction, Pete Gallego is accustomed to creating consensus, building and maintaining networks, and navigating complex state/federal law and procedure. His unique background would allow Sul Ross to increase its profile, expand its reach and build its success.

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

PRACTICING ATTORNEY, ALPINE, TX – 1988-2012, 2015-2018, 2020-

Felony prosecutor, insurance defense attorney while affiliated with several law firms, and now a plaintiff's attorney. Handled personal injury litigation and general issues related to governmental and business entities.

MEMBER, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, TEXAS ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOUNDATION, AUSTIN, TX – 1996 -

Previously known as the Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation, the Texas Access to Justice Foundation is the leading funder of legal aid in Texas and is committed to the vision that all Texans will have equal access to justice, regardless of their income. The

Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created by the Supreme Court of Texas and responsible for investing a multimillion dollar portfolio used to fund organizations providing free civil legal assistance (such as protection from domestic violence and assistance with housing issues) to more than 150,000 low-income Texans per year.

**MEMBER, WESTERN HEMISPHERE DRUG POLICY COMMISSION,
WASHINGTON, DC – 2018 -**

Appointed by now Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi (D - CA) to the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission (WHDPC), a bipartisan, independent entity created by Congress to evaluate US counternarcotics policies in Latin America and the Caribbean and provide concrete, actionable recommendations for improvement. The goal is to identify - on a bipartisan basis - programs that work well and should be sustained or strengthened, find ways to reduce illicit drug supply, and assist in addressing the damage and violence associated with drug trafficking and abuse.

**PART-TIME FACULTY; SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY, ALPINE, TX – SUMMER
2015; SPRING 2016; AND SUMMER 2017**

Part-time instructor in political science responsible for courses on state and federal government as well as politics and ethics. Helped students understand the intricacies of governmental processes and the relationship between government, politics, and ethics and our nation's concepts of justice, fairness and morality.

**MEMBER OF CONGRESS, 23RD DISTRICT OF TEXAS, UNITED STATES HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, DC – 2013-2014**

Represented the Texas' largest geographic and only consistent battleground congressional district which covers over two-thirds of the Texas-Mexico border and nearly 24% of the land area of Texas. Served on the House Armed Services Committee and the subcommittees on Readiness and Tactical Air and Land Forces. In addition, served on the House Agriculture Committee and the subcommittees on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management and Livestock, Rural Development, and Credit. Focused on military and veterans' issues, as well as border security and trade issues and rural needs.

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 74, TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
AUSTIN, TX – 1991-2012**

Represented Texas' largest geographic state House seat. Carried numerous pieces of groundbreaking legislation and served as chair of several committees. First and only person elected to lead the House Democratic Caucus as a freshman legislator. Chaired the Mexican-American Legislative Caucus a record-setting four terms. Served five times on the House/Senate conference committee on the state appropriations bill. Named to *Texas Monthly's* Ten Best Legislators list and named finalist for Texan of the Year by the *Dallas Morning News*.

EDUCATION

<i>Juris Doctor</i>	The University of Texas at Austin School of Law, Austin, Texas (1985)
Bachelor of Arts	Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas (1982); Political Science major/English minor

LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

Attorney at Law	Licensed by the State Bar of Texas (1986)
Mediator	Completed training required by the Texas Alternative Dispute Resolution Act; Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution, The University of Texas at Austin School of Law (2006)

SAMPLING OF HONORS, AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Pete P. Gallego Center, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas (2001) - Venue for special events and athletic competitions; provides seating for 3,900 persons when used for graduation, assembly and concerts, or 3,200 permanent armchair seats for competitions, basketball and other sports events.

Pete Gallego Elementary School, Eagle Pass Independent School District, Eagle Pass, Texas (1997) - Elementary school educating children from 1st through 6th grades. Construction approved by voters in a bond election held in May, 1997.

Distinguished Alumni Award, Sul Ross State University (1997) - Recipient of the highest honor the University and Alumni Association can bestow upon an alumnus in recognition of the accomplishments and contributions of notable graduates.

Hall of Honor, Outstanding Booster, Sul Ross State University (1996) - Lauded for distinguished service to, outstanding support of, and contributions to Sul Ross State University Athletics.

Ohtli Award, Government of the Republic of Mexico, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (2006) - Award given annually by the Government of Mexico to an individual who has aided, empowered, or positively impacted the lives of Mexican Americans or of Mexicans living in the United States

President (1999) and Chairman (2000), Texas Lyceum Association - First ethnic minority elected to lead the Texas Lyceum, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, statewide leadership organization focused on identifying the state's next generation of leaders and providing a forum for civil discourse on important policy issues facing our state.

Finalist, Texan of the Year, Dallas Morning News (2011) - Lauded for "tactical brilliance, political savvy and an evangelist's zeal" in guiding major criminal justice reforms dealing with wrongful convictions and other matters through the Texas Legislature.

Henry Toll Fellowship, Council of State Governments (1996) - Was one of 48 of the nation's top state leaders from all three branches of government chosen for the nation's premier state government leadership development program.

Chair, House Democratic Caucus, Texas House of Representatives, Austin, Texas (1991-2001) - First freshman member and ethnic minority to lead the Texas House Democratic Caucus composed of all Democratic members of the Texas House; developed legislative strategies on major pieces of legislation, provided amendments and talking points, and determined Democratic legislative priorities.

Chair, Mexican American Legislative Caucus, Texas House of Representatives, Austin, Texas (2001-2009) - Unanimously elected a record-setting four terms to lead the oldest and largest Latino legislative caucus in the United States.

Founding Chair, Board of Hispanic Caucus Chairs (2008-2012) - Organized Latino legislative leaders from Texas, California, New York, Illinois, Arizona, Florida, Colorado, Kansas and Michigan to create the Board of Hispanic Caucus Chairs (BHCC), an organization comprised of the elected chairs of Latino caucuses in each state legislature and dedicated to providing training and assistance to Latino legislative leaders and coordination on public policy issues common to the Latino community.

Member, Board of Directors, National Association of Latino Elected Officials (2003-2010) and National Association of Latino Elected Officials Education Fund (2010-2013) - Leadership organization of and non-profit foundation for the nation's more than 6,000 Latino elected and appointed officials that brings together Hispanics and Latinos of all national origins, groups, political affiliations, and levels of government.

Texas Access to Justice Hero Award (2010), Texas Access to Justice Foundation - Inaugural recipient of the award given for efforts to improve access to justice for Texans who qualify for legal aid.

Patient Advocacy Award, Texas Association of Family Physicians (2014) - Award given for championing the rights of patients and their individual health care providers over the rights of health insurance companies.

PARTIAL LISTING OF SUCCESSFUL LEGISLATION AUTHORED,
JOINT AUTHORED, SPONSORED OR JOINT SPONSORED IN
THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

Official statutory designation and establishment of the Sul Ross Rio Grande College (SB 875) (1995) - Designating the Sul Ross campuses in Uvalde, Del Rio, and Eagle Pass as the Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College and deleting references in law to what was previously known as the "Uvalde Study Center."

Adding a representative of Sul Ross State University to the statutory membership of the state electronic data base advisory committee (HB 326) (1993) - Allowing the president of Sul Ross to join the presidents of UT-Austin, Texas A&M, UT-El Paso, UT-San Antonio, Texas Tech, the University of Houston and other universities in designating a member of the state electronic data base committee.

Protecting McDonald Observatory and West Texas' dark skies (HB 916) (1999) - Setting standards for state-funded outdoor lighting in order to reduce light pollution and restricting the use of state funds to purchase, repair, or replace outdoor lighting fixtures that fail to meet these standards.

Protecting McDonald Observatory and West Texas' dark skies - Round Two (HB 2857) (2011) - Regulating outdoor lighting and limiting light pollution within 57 miles of McDonald Observatory.

Authorizing the creation of Big Bend National Park license plates (HB 2519) (1997) - Authorizing specially designed license plates honoring Big Bend National Park, the oldest, largest, and most popular national park in Texas.

Authorizing the creation of the Big Bend Regional Hospital District (HB 1900) (1991) - Authorizing the combination of hospital districts in Brewster and Presidio counties and creating the Big Bend Regional Hospital District.

Setting conflict of interest criteria and four-year terms for directors of the Big Bend Regional Hospital District (HB 3772) (1999) - Prohibiting a member of the district's board of directors from being an employee of the district, a party to a contract with the district to perform services for compensation, or a physician with staff privileges at a district facility and establishing four year terms for members of the board of directors.

Authorizing the Big Bend Regional Hospital District to dispose of property (HB 83) (2001) - Authorizing the board of directors of the hospital district to sell or otherwise dispose of property, facilities, or equipment, including making contributions to charitable organizations if the contributions serve a public purpose.

Authorizing creation of the Brewster County Underground Water Conservation District (HB 787) (2001) - Authorizing local protection and regulation of underground water in Brewster County.

Authorizing a county hotel/motel tax in Brewster County (HB 3043) (1997) - Authorizing Brewster County to establish a hotel/motel tax at the same rate as a municipality's hotel/motel tax rate for hotels and motels outside the city limits of a municipality, setting the rate at three percent, and requiring that a minimum of one-third of the revenue raised be spent in the unincorporated areas of the county.

Authorizing an increase in the county hotel/motel tax in Brewster County (HB 4781) (2009) - Providing for Brewster County to establish a hotel/motel tax at the same rate as a municipality's hotel/motel tax rate for hotels and motels outside the city limits of a municipality and setting the rate at seven percent.

Authorizing creation of the Lajitas Utility District No. 1 of Brewster County (HB 3804) (2011) - Authorizing creation of a special district to assist in the development of various utility services in Lajitas, Texas.

Fighting colonias in Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Kinney, Presidio, and Terrell counties (HB 3479) (2009) - Allowing county clerks in small counties along the border to send filing instruments to county attorneys for review and determination as to whether the instruments meet platting requirements.

Authorizing creation of the Culberson County Underground Water Conservation District (SB 1942) (1997) - Authorizing local protection and regulation of underground water in Culberson County.

Authorizing the Culberson County Hospital District to dispose of property (HB 1586) (2001) - Authorizing the board of directors of the hospital district to sell or otherwise dispose of property, facilities, or equipment, including making contributions to charitable organizations if the contributions serve a public purpose.

Authorizing creation of the Jeff Davis County Underground Water Conservation District (HB 2866) (1993) - Authorizing local protection and regulation of underground water in Jeff Davis County.

Enhancing the authority of the Jeff Davis County Underground Water Conservation District (HB 2300) (2003) - Enhancing the authority of the Jeff Davis County Underground Water Conservation District to regulate spacing of wells and pumping volumes and to set both production and transportation fees.

Allowing Jeff Davis and Terrell counties to participate in grant programs (HB 3076) (2011) - Allowing counties with no incorporated territory to participate in state or federal assistance programs providing grants, loans, or other assistance to municipalities.

Authorizing creation of the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District (HB 3243) (2001) - Authorizing local protection and regulation of groundwater in Kinney County.

Authorizing the Kinney County Commissioners' Court to set traffic regulations on Fort Clark Springs (HB 1703) (1999) - Allowing a county commissioners court to extend traffic rules that apply to a county road to a private subdivision if requested by a majority of the property owners residing in the subdivision.

Changing the bonding authority and taxing authority of the Hospital District of Maverick County (HB 2724) (1991) - Updating and clarifying the taxing authority and bonding authority of the Hospital District of Maverick County.

Authorizing Maverick County to impose a sales tax to pay for landfill and criminal detention center operations (SB 821) (1995) - Allowing Maverick County an optional and additional source of desperately revenue to avoid bankruptcy or default due to certain obligations.

Changing the name of the Maverick County Hospital District and updating its enabling legislation to dispose of property (HB 3771) (1999) - Authorizing the Maverick County Hospital District enabling legislation originally passed in 1965, giving it appropriate authority to deliver services, and changing the name of the district.

Authorizing the Maverick County Hospital District to dispose of property (HB 521) (2001) - Authorizing the board of directors of the hospital district to sell or otherwise dispose of property, facilities, or equipment, including making contributions to charitable organizations if the contributions serve a public purpose.

Clarifying voter eligibility of certain individuals receiving services from Maverick County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1 (HB 372) (2001) - Allowing individuals receiving services from the Maverick County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1 to participate in board elections.

Authorizing creation of a Public Defender's office in Maverick, Dimmit and Zavala counties (HB 2727) (1991) - Authorizing creation of a public defender's office in the 293rd and 365th judicial districts, long before public defenders' offices were in vogue.

Authorizing creation of the Middle Pecos Groundwater Conservation District (HB 1258) (2001) - Authorizing local protection and regulation of ground water in Pecos County.

Encouraging participation in Middle Pecos Groundwater Conservation District elections (SB 564) (2011) - Changing the election date for directors of the Middle Pecos Groundwater Conservation District from May to November of each even-numbered year.

Authorizing creation of the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District (HB 2817) (1993) - Authorizing local protection and regulation of underground water in Presidio County.

Encouraging participation in Real-Edwards Conservation and Reclamation District elections (HB 2074) (2003) - Changing the election date for directors of the Real-Edwards Conservation and Reclamation District from May to November of each even-numbered year.

Validating a hotel/motel tax election in Reeves County (HB 3797) (2011) - Confirming the creation of, and election on, a project to finance the restoration and renovation of a Reeves County venue facility.

Allowing Terrell County to build a county park using sales and use tax revenue (HB 1166) (2007) - Allowing Terrell County to develop a parks and recreation system under the law governing sports and community venue projects.

Authorizing Creation of the Terrell County Underground Water Conservation District (HB 2859) (2011) - Authorizing local protection and regulation of underground water in Terrell County.

Making Uvalde County rivers safe (HB 218) (2011) - Prohibiting possession of glass containers within the boundaries of certain state-owned riverbeds in Uvalde County, creating a safer environment for recreational users and protecting wildlife habitat.

Allowing Uvalde County the ability to keep local rivers clean (HB 218) (2011) - Allowing Uvalde County to use a portion of its hotel/motel tax revenue to pick up trash and litter in state-owned rivers and riverbeds located in the county.

Authorizing the board of directors of the Val Verde County Hospital District to enter into certain contracts (HB 2728) (1991) - Authorizing the board of directors of the Val Verde Hospital District to contract for management and consulting services.

Changing the terms of and certain election procedures for the board of directors of the Val Verde County Hospital District (HB 1266) (1991) - Changing the terms of office of directors and certain procedures for election to the board of directors of the Val Verde County Hospital District.

Changing the requirements for write-in candidacies and increasing the Val Verde County Hospital District's contracting authority (HB 2696) (1997) - Changing the requirements for write-in candidacies for election to the board of directors of the hospital district and increasing the boards contracting authority.

Changing the requirements for write-in candidacies and increasing the Val Verde County Hospital District's contracting authority (HB 1374) (1999) - Changing the requirements for write-in candidacies for election to the board of directors of the hospital district and increasing the boards contracting authority.

Authorizing the Val Verde County Hospital District to dispose of property (HB 1788) (2001) - Authorizing the board of directors of the hospital district to sell or otherwise dispose of property, facilities, or equipment, including making contributions to charitable organizations if the contributions serve a public purpose.

Modernizing the contracting authority of the Val Verde County Hospital District (HB 1496) (2011) - Modernizing contracting requirements and increasing efficiency in local procurement of goods and services.

Authorizing Val Verde County to establish a hotel/motel tax (HB 2832) (1997) - Allowing Val Verde County to establish a county hotel occupancy tax and allocating 75 percent of the tax revenue for tourism and the remaining 25 percent for general revenue purposes or general governmental operations of the county.

Authorizing an increase in the county hotel/motel tax in Val Verde County (HB 3076) (2011) - Allowing Val Verde County to take advantage of its location and national recreation area to raise its hotel/motel tax rate.

Protecting Lake Amistad in Val Verde County (HB 3475) (2007) - Allows Val Verde County to better serve and protect Amistad Lake and the Amistad National Recreation Area from pollution by allowing it to acquire, construct, or operate a water supply system or sewage system and own or operate a utility in the area.

Creating a Rio Grande watermaster advisory committee and a watermaster fund (SB 1406) (1997) - Giving local water rights holders along the Rio Grande a formal mechanism to express their concerns and ideas on how water rights are handled.

Allowing student organizations at Sul Ross and other universities to raise money tax-free (HB 82) (2001) - Providing a tax exemption for the first \$5,000 of total receipts raised by qualified college or university student organizations. Previously, student organizations were taxed on all income generated through fundraising activities regardless of size, university enrollment, or revenues generated.

Providing for the issuance of tuition revenue bonds for certain public universities including \$27 million for the Texas State University System (HB 2058) (1993) - Authorizing issuance of tuition revenue bonds and providing for flexibility in repayment of bonds by using revenue from any component to be used in repayment of the debt. Includes an allocation for the renovation of Lawrence Hall.

Providing for the issuance of tuition revenue bonds for certain public universities including \$105,398,106 for the Texas State University System (HB 658) (2001) -

Authorizing issuance of tuition revenue bonds and providing for flexibility in repayment of bonds by using revenue from any component to be used in repayment of the debt. Of the total, \$15,175,000 was allocated to Sul Ross to renovate the current Turner Range Center and Warnock Science Building in addition to other renovations.

Creating the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program (HB 1341) (1999) -

Creating the nation's premier historic courthouse preservation program. Allowed the renovation and preservation of historic courthouses in Maverick, Val Verde, Presidio, Jeff Davis and Hudspeth counties as well as other historic courthouses throughout the state.

Requiring electronic filing of campaign contribution and expenditure reports (HB 2611) (1999) -

Requiring candidates for statewide office, districts offices filled by voters of more than one county, for state legislative seats, and for the State Board of Education, as well as political committees, to file campaign finance reports electronically.

Avoiding deadlocked votes on state boards and commissions (HJR 29) (1999) -

Amending the Texas Constitution to allow state boards and commissions to be composed of an odd number of three or more members who would serve six-year terms, with one-third, or as near to one-third as possible, being appointed or elected every two years.

Authorizing the Texas Supreme Court to travel outside of Austin (SJR 19) (1997) -

Amending the Texas Constitution to allow the Supreme Court to sit in any location in Texas to hear oral arguments and transact business in order to further educate the bench, the bar, and the public.

Authorizing the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to accept electronic filings in capital cases (HB 4314) (2009) -

Allowing the Court of Criminal Appeals to provide a more expedient method of filing appeals in death penalty cases after the Court refused a condemned man's plea for a 20-minute extension beyond the court's usual 5:00 p.m. closing time.

Modernizing and enlarging the Texas Judicial Council (HB 2297) (1997) -

Changing the membership and governance structure of the Texas Judicial Council first established in 1929. Providing for the appointment of six public members in addition to members of the judicial and legislative branches of state government.

Enhancing the authority of the Texas Judicial Council (HB 2297) (1997) -

Requiring the Texas Judicial Council to prescribe procedures, definitions of terms, and forms for supplying statistics and other information pertaining to the amount and character of the civil and criminal business transacted by the courts of Texas.

Authorizing appellate courts to hear oral arguments using teleconferencing technology (HB 784) (1997) - Allowing the Supreme Court of Texas, the Court of Criminal Appeals and all other courts of appeal to hold oral arguments using teleconferencing technology.

Authorizing appellate courts to raise fees (HB 785) (1997) - Bringing fees collected by courts of appeal more in line with those collected by the Texas Supreme Court and state district courts.

Creating programs to help increase the diversity and efficiency of the judiciary and promoting transparency (SB 1417) (1997) - Establishing the Judicial Committee on Information Technology (JCIT), a judicial law clerk recruitment program under the Office of Court Administration (OCA) and also requiring the compiling and publishing of a census of attorneys employed by the courts of Texas, including demographic data and the clearance/disposition rate at each state court level.

Promoting increased efficiency of the judiciary through teleconferencing technology (HB 3418) (1999) - Authorizing payment of expenses incurred by the use of teleconferencing technology from funds designated for the transfer of cases and providing that use of teleconferencing to hear oral arguments is at the discretion of the chief justice or presiding judge of the respective court.

Providing additional training for the judiciary and court personnel (SB 1187) (1999) - Providing for a court fee of \$2.00 in most criminal cases to be deposited the Judicial and Court Personnel Training Fund and used for the continuing legal education of judges and court personnel.

Allowing the Office of Court Administration to apply for and receive grants and other help for judicial programs (HB 791) (1997) - Authorizing the Office of Court Administration to request, accept, and administer gifts, grants, and donations to carry out the statutory purposes of the office.

Revising the Texas Commission on Judicial Conduct (SB 303) (2001) - Making the Judicial Conduct Commission's proceedings more even-handed and fair as well as providing for additional transparency in the complaint process.

Standardizing recusals and disqualification of municipal judges (HB 3475) (2011) - Created a uniform and statewide procedure for the disqualification and recusal of municipal judges hearing criminal cases.

Saving lives while combatting college hazing (HB 3474) (2011) - Allowing leniency for a minor who requests emergency medical assistance in response to a possible alcohol overdose if the minor was the first person to request emergency help, remained on the scene until the medical assistance arrived and cooperated with medical assistance and law enforcement.

Minimizing wrongful criminal convictions (HB 215) (2011) - Major criminal justice reform standardizing eyewitness identification procedures statewide to minimize mistaken eyewitness identification and wrongful criminal convictions.

Creating and expanding the state DNA database (HB 1188) (1999) - Requiring creation of a DNA record for persons convicted of, or adjudicated as having engaged in murder, aggravated assault, burglary, or an offense on conviction of which registration as a sex offender is required.

Preserving DNA evidence (SB 3) (2001) - Establishing procedures for the preservation of evidence containing DNA and for post-conviction DNA testing.

Limiting civil forfeitures in criminal cases (SB 316) (2011) - Restricting civil forfeitures in criminal cases, establishing accountability procedures, and limiting authorized uses for appropriately seized assets.

Creating efficiency in local probation/parole departments forfeitures in criminal cases (HB 3691) (2011) - Allowing district judges from different judicial districts in different counties to create a shared community supervision and corrections department.

Reorganizing the duties of the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles (HB 1649) (2001) - Changing the internal organization of the Board to provide transparency and allowing some inmates who had their parole revoked to receive credit toward their sentences for time spent on parole.

Constitutional amendment and legislation broadening the use of the crime victims fund and auxiliary crime victims fund (SJR 33/SB 987) (1997) - Amending the Texas Constitution and providing enabling legislation to allow revenue in certain dedicated funds to be used for grants to provide victim-related services and assistance or for the purpose of assisting victims of mass violence.

Enabling legislation for the Texas Crime Victims' Bill of Rights (SB 1407) (1991) - Creating the statutory framework for implementing the constitutional amendment creating the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights in the Texas Constitution.

Allowing crime victims' to make statements in open court (HB 520) (1991) - Landmark legislation allowing a crime victim, close relative of a deceased victim or guardian of a crime victim to make a statement to the defendant in open court before a defendant is sentenced.

Allowing the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund (CVCF) to be used to provide legal services to crime victims or their families (HB 3324) (1999) - Allowing the CVCF to be used to support private Texas nonprofit corporations that provide victim-related civil legal services directly to crime victims or their immediate family members.

Allowing victims of domestic violence to receive assistance for relocation and housing rental expenses (HB 3255) (1999) - Permitting victims of domestic violence to receive one-time compensation from the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund of up to \$1,800 for housing rental expenses and up to \$2,000 for relocation expenses, including rental deposit, utility connections, moving expenses, vehicle mileage expenses, and for transportation, lodging, and meals for out-of-state moves.

Allowing victims of sexual assault to receive assistance for relocation and housing rental expenses (HB 519) (2001) - Permitting victims of sexual assault to receive one-time compensation from the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund of up to \$1,800 for housing rental expenses and up to \$2,000 for relocation expenses, including rental deposit, utility connections, moving expenses, vehicle mileage expenses, and for transportation, lodging, and meals for out-of-state moves.

Increasing limits on amount of compensation received by victims of crime (SB 1202) (2001) - Raising the maximum amount awarded to crime victims for extraordinary pecuniary losses from \$50,000 to \$75,000 if the personal injury is catastrophic and results in total and permanent disability to the victim.

Opening access to the crime victims' fund for families of murder victims killed before 1980 but only recently identified (SB 808) (2009) - Allowing additional time for certain crime victim families to request compensation from the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund.

Establishing new procedures for the trial of certain capital cases and providing procedures for the granting of new trials (HB 798) (1993) - Providing for new sentencing procedures in capital felony cases for offenses committed before September 1, 1991, as well as for the reformation of a sentence or an award of a new trial in a capital felony case.

Providing legal representation and compensation for counsel for certain persons charged with capital felonies (SB 440) (1995) - Providing for the appointment and compensation of attorneys (for the first time) in death penalty cases.

Providing additional time for filing and reviewing writs of habeas corpus in capital cases (SB 1728) (1997) - Clarifying a filing deadline for individuals sentenced to death who are seeking a habeas corpus review and providing prosecutors and trial courts increased time and opportunity to more fully review a habeas writ application.

Streamlining procedures for appeals in capital felony cases and reimbursing local counties for appellate expenses (HB 1516) (1999) - Providing for more authority at the trial court level over habeas appeals, providing new procedures for seeking an extension to apply for a writ of habeas corpus or for filing a late writ, and requiring the state to reimburse a county for compensation of counsel up to \$25,000.

Creating an Office of Capital Writs to assist in legal representation during the appeals process for certain persons convicted of capital felonies (SB 1091) (2009) -

Establishing a statewide office to provide legal representation to indigent defendants sentenced to death.

Refining legal representation requirements and compensation for counsel for certain persons charged with capital felonies (HB 1646) (2011) -

Providing compensation for attorneys who represent indigent inmates in the rare cases where there is sufficient evidence to justify allowing an inmate to file a subsequent application for habeas corpus.

Setting minimum standards for attorneys representing indigent defendants in capital cases (HB 2058) (2009) -

Ensuring higher quality representation by and greater specialization of attorneys representing indigent defendants in death penalty appeal cases.

Reforming Texas' indigent defense system (HB 1754) (2011) -

Reorganizing the powers and duties of agencies and entities providing representation to indigent defendants in criminal cases and reorganizing the funding sources for indigent defense.

Early identification of criminal defendants who may have mental illness or mental retardation (SB 1557) (2009) -

Establishing a procedure for sheriffs to notify judicial officers that a criminal defendant may have mental impairment so that appropriate testing is done and the impairment considered in punishing the defendant.

Determining whether a defendant sentenced to death is incompetent for purposes of execution (HB 245) (1999) -

Requiring that a person sentenced to death be ruled incompetent for execution if it is found that the defendant does not understand that he or she is to be executed, the reason he or she is to be executed, and that the execution is imminent.

Disallowing uncorroborated "snitch" testimony in criminal cases (SB 1681) (2009) -

Prohibiting criminal convictions based on testimony from a person who was imprisoned or confined in the same correctional facility as the defendant unless the testimony is corroborated by other evidence.

Prohibiting mandatory releases on parole of certain inmates incarcerated in the Texas Department of a Criminal Justice (HB 1433) (1995) -

Prohibiting the automatic release on parole of certain prisoners, ensuring that the most dangerous felons are not eligible for automatic release, and giving parole panels discretion over the process so that the most violent, serious offenders are not automatically set free.

Classifying federal offenses as delinquent conduct for purposes of state law (HB 1754) (2011) -

Expanding the definition of "delinquent conduct" of a minor to include violations of federal law.

Assisting rural counties with extraordinary costs of prosecution (HB 424) (1999) -

Requiring criminal offenders statewide to pay a fee (\$5 for felony offenders and \$1 for misdemeanor offenders) to be distributed to small counties burdened by the costs of a high profile or exceedingly expensive criminal case.

Supplementing the salaries of county prosecutors (HB 804) (1999) -

Allowing county attorneys to receive payments from the state to supplement their county salaries for the prosecution of criminal cases on behalf of the state.

Helping local prosecutors (SB 1379) (1995) -

Allows local prosecutors to request assistance from and to deputize Assistant Attorneys General as local prosecutors in complicated or specialized cases.

Providing a professional prosecutor for the 83rd Judicial District (HB 1015) (2001) -

Designating the district attorney for Brewster, Jeff Davis, Pecos, and Presidio counties as a professional prosecutor, increasing their salary, and prohibiting the district attorney from having a private civil practice.

Allowing the 394th Judicial District Judge to serve as a visiting judge in urban areas (HB 78) (2001) -

Allowing the district judge serving Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis and Presidio counties to also hear cases in urban areas to help reduce backlogs.

Providing for the appointment of an acting county judge (SB 691) (1995) -

Allowing the commissioners court of a county to appoint a temporary constitutional county judge when a sitting constitutional county judge has been suspended by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

Changing the proceedings in the removal of a county officer (HB 2731) (1991) -

Amending the procedures used in removing a county officer.

Rejecting crimes of hate (SB 587) (2001) -

Strengthening Texas law on crimes motivated by bias or prejudice and providing other civil and criminal remedies for and protections against hateful acts.

Finding criminal defendants on the run (SB 2438) (2009) -

Requiring sheriffs to report certain warrant information to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) to facilitate the location of defendants who have fled the state and alert out-of-state officers making a stop that a person has failed to appear in a criminal case in Texas.

Giving justice and municipal courts more flexibility to handle juvenile cases (HB 688) (1999) -

Clarifying and increasing the jurisdiction and authority of a justice or municipal court over a child and the parent, managing conservator, or guardian of the child.

Protecting the personal information of law enforcement and other public servants (SB 1068) (2009) - Allowing personal information, such as telephone numbers and home addresses, of current and former peace officers or government employees to be redacted from public information without the need for requesting an opinion from the attorney general.

Protecting law enforcement officers by making it difficult for felons to possess body armor (HB 84) (2001) - Prohibiting convicted felons from possessing body armor which, in criminal hands, poses a direct threat to law enforcement and the public.

Creating the Star of Texas award and designating September 11th as Texas First Responders Day (HB 1937) (2003) - Created the Star of Texas award for peace officers, firefighters, and emergency medical first responders killed or sustaining serious or fatal injuries in the line of duty and designating September 11th as Texas First Responders Day.

Broadening eligibility for the Star of Texas awards (HB 1977) (2005) - Authorizing the presentation of the Star of Texas Award to all peace officers, firefighters, and emergency medical first responders killed or sustaining serious or fatal injuries in the line of duty.

Making federal employees eligible for the Star of Texas awards (HB 1164) (2007) - Authorizing the Star of Texas Award to be awarded to federal law enforcement officers or special agents who are assisting state or local law enforcement agencies and killed or sustain serious or fatal injuries while providing that assistance.

Protecting victims of sexual assault (HB 645) (2011) - Allowing victims of sexual assault to receive a protective order without requiring them to show a threat of further harm by the alleged offender.

Protecting the addresses of crime victims (HB 4464) (2009) - Allowing a judgment to reflect the name and address of a person or agency accepting or forwarding restitution to a victim instead of the name and address of the victim.

Protecting victims of domestic violence (HB 2066) (2009) - Enhancing punishment in domestic violence cases where a victim of domestic violence has been subjected to strangulation.

Protecting child victims of sexual or assaultive offenses (HB 3751) (2009) - Requiring magistrates to issue a "no contact" order as a condition of bond for a defendant charged with offenses against a child younger than fourteen years of age or to deny bond under certain conditions.

Protecting children from internet-based sexual exploitation (HB 3746) (2011) - Creating a dedicated revenue source to combat internet-based sexual exploitation of kids and setting forth procedures allowing flexibility in locating and prosecuting child predators.

Protecting victims of child pornography (SB 595) (2009) - Prohibiting criminal defendants charged with possession or distribution of child pornography from retaining copies of evidence used against them, including the child pornography itself.

"Sexting" involving minor defendants (SB 407) (2011) - Distinguishing adult "sexting" cases from those involving minors and allowing additional flexibility in punishment of children.

Consolidating oversight and administration of sexual assault prevention and crisis services in one place (HB 2561) (1997) - Consolidating and moving responsibility for the oversight and administration of Texas sexual assault prevention and crisis services into the Office of the Attorney General.

Setting standards for sexual assault trainings and certification of sexual assault nurse examiners (HB 1989) (2011) - Requiring the Attorney General to set standards for the renewal of sexual assault training program certifications and sexual assault nurse examiners certifications.

Fighting human trafficking (HB 3000) (2011) - Creating the offense of "continuous human trafficking" of persons and enhancing penalties for those who engage in conduct constituting human trafficking two or more times within 30 days.

Increasing the penalty for terroristic threats (HB 11) (2003) - Adding murder in the course of a terroristic threat to the list of offenses constituting capital murder and upgrading the category of offense for certain false reports and hoaxes.

Making it possible for small economically disadvantaged counties to participate in state grant programs (HB 3682) (1999) - Authorizing state agencies to waive or adjust the amount of local matching funds required for economically disadvantaged counties to participate in state grant or other programs.

Funding for local solid waste projects and planning (HB 3072) (1995) - Dedicating half of the revenue derived from solid waste fees to local and regional solid waste projects.

Expanding uses of the Development Corporation Act to include spaceports and other facilities (HB 3029) (1999) - Expanding uses of the Development Corporation Act to include spaceports and educational facilities as well as other as projects promoting new and expanded business development, job creation and retention, or job training.

Creating a spaceport fund (SB 813) (2001) - Establishing the spaceport trust fund to provide for the development of spaceport-related infrastructure.

Encouraging development of private space travel (SB 115) (2011) - Promoting the development of a commercial space flight industry in Texas by granting liability protection to space flight entities in the absence of a finding of gross negligence. (Jeff Bezos/ Blue Origin, LLC)

Respecting a grieving family (HB 718) (2011) - Prohibiting picketing or other disruption at a funeral service from three hours before the service begins until three hours after the service is completed.

Assisting foster parents (HB 3137) (2009) - Requiring the Department of Family and Protective Services to develop and provide foster parents with a statement regarding their rights and responsibilities and those of the agency.

Helping children and families in need (HB 806) (2009) - Mandating that health insurance plans provide coverage for persons in need of certain prosthetic devices, orthotic devices, and related services.

Respecting our elderly (HB 52) (2007) - Increasing the personal needs allowance for certain Medicaid recipients who are residents of long-term care facilities.

Acknowledging our active duty personnel and veterans (HB 1080) (2011) - Allowing active duty military personnel and honorably discharged veterans an exemption from the live firing portion of a hunter education course.

Helping persons with disabilities to achieve maximum personal independence (HB 1691) (2001) - Strengthening the duties and responsibilities of the Texas Council on Purchasing from People with Disabilities.

Extending workmen's compensation coverage to persons volunteering in a disaster or a scheduled emergency response training (HB 2706) (1999) - Entitling a person not otherwise covered by workers' compensation insurance who performs volunteer services for the state in a disaster or a scheduled emergency response training and who is acting under the direction of an officer or employee of the state to medical benefits for an injury sustained by the person in the course of his or her volunteer service.

Allowing binational health insurance plans (HB 2498) (2001) - Allowing a health maintenance organization (HMO) to offer a plan serving people within 62 miles of the international border by using exclusively physicians, providers, and other HMOs in Mexico.

Protecting organ donors (HB 80) (2001) - Clarifying the law that organ donors may not be held liable except in the case of an act or omission that is intentional, willfully or wantonly negligent, or done with conscious indifference or reckless disregard.

Allowing public hospitals to have private medical peer review committees in the same manner as private hospitals (HB 747) (1999) - Treating the governing bodies of hospital districts, hospital authorities, or public hospitals, as medical peer review committees for the purpose of evaluating the competence of a physician or the quality of medical and health care services.

Protecting freedom of the press (HB 670) (2009) - Protecting the right of a journalist to gather and communicate news by protecting compelled disclosure of sources and information by a journalist.

Standardizing venue in law suits against governmental entities in smaller counties (HB 785) (1997) - Providing mandatory venue in the local county for all lawsuits against a governmental agency located in county of less than 100,000 people.

Getting our share of low-income housing funds (SB 1112) (1999) - Requiring all funds administered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs from the Housing Trust Fund, HOME program, or Low Income Housing Tax Credit program be allocated to the comptroller's 11 uniform state service regions through a formula.

Raising additional revenue for public schools (HB 2477) (1995) - Allowing the School Land Board to lease oil, gas, and minerals owned by the state directly to an owner of the soil on the condition that the owner of the soil waive certain of his or her rights and duties such as the right to receive bonuses, rentals, royalties, or other certain other benefits that normally accrue to the lessor.

Helping small rural school districts with declining enrollment (HB 328) (2001) - Requiring that school districts with declining enrollment of two percent or more in average daily attendance (ADA) be funded based on 98 percent of the preceding year's actual ADA.

Giving small school districts flexibility in determining school board membership (HB 328) (2001) - Authorizing school districts in counties of under 10,000 to provide that no fewer than 50 percent of its trustees be elected from single member trustee districts, with the remainder of the trustees elected at large.

Prohibiting the use of discriminatory private athletic facilities by public school districts (SB 800) (1993) - Remediating a situation wherein Latino members of high school golf teams were not allowed to enter the premises of Ozona's Country Club during a school-sponsored golfing event.

Giving parents notice of their children's unsatisfactory performance in school (SB 858) (1999) - Requiring school districts to notify a parent or legal guardian, in writing, of a student's performance in a foundation curriculum subject at least once every three weeks or during the fourth week of a nine-week grading period if the student's performance is consistently unsatisfactory.

Ending social promotions in extended year school programs (HB 836) (1997) - Requiring public school students enrolled in extended year programs to meet the appropriate academic achievement or demonstrated proficiency standards in addition to achieving a 90 percent attendance requirement.

Saving roads while encouraging economic development (SB 886) (2001) - Updating statutes restricting commercial vehicle size and weight to reflect current practices and standardize penalties used to recover more of the costs of road damage repairs.

Raising speed limits and traveling more efficiently (HB 299) (2001) - Authorizing an increase in the speed limit in certain counties to 75 miles per hour on Interstate 10 and certain other state highways.

Raising speed limits and traveling more efficiently - Round Two (HB 2257) (2005) - Authorizing an increase in the speed limit in certain counties to 80 miles per hour on Interstate 10 and to 75 miles per hour on certain other state highways.

Limiting the authority of a railroad company to obstruct a railroad crossing (HB 2922) (1999) - Increasing the range of fines for permitting a train to obstruct a street, railroad crossing, or public highway and holding the railroad company itself responsible instead of the employees of the railroad company.

Extending the renewal period of state licenses, permits, and identification cards (HB 1200) (1997) - Extending the renewal period for Texas driver's licenses, permits and identification cards issued by the Department of Public Safety from four years to six years after the license, permit, or identification card is issued.

Ensuring the integrity of state issued identification cards (HB 2257) (2005) - Requiring the Department of Public Safety to use image comparison technology to authenticate the facial image and thumbprints or fingerprints provided by an applicant for a personal identification certificate, driver's license, or commercial driver's license or permit.

Growing the sick leave pool for all state employees (HB 569) (2001) - Making it easier for state employees to contribute to the sick leave pool by removing the requirement that a state employee receive approval from the sick leave pool administrator before being allowed to make a contribution of sick leave.

Authorizing certain employees of the Texas Department of Public Safety to be paid bimonthly (HB 569) (2001) - Authorizing line employees of the Texas Department of Public Safety to be paid twice monthly.

Allowing all county employees access to payroll deductions (SB 134) (2001) - Allowing any county employee to request a payroll deduction for payment to a credit union, payment of membership dues in a labor union or employee's association, payment of fees for parking in a county-owned facility, or payment to a charitable organization.

Incentivizing young lawyers to provide basic civil legal services to the poor (HB 2323) (2001) - Creating a loan repayment assistance program for attorneys employed by non-profit, tax-exempt organizations that provide legal services to indigent individuals.

Raising money to provide basic civil legal services to the poor (HB 462) (2003) -

Requiring nonresident attorneys to pay a \$250 fee to participate in Texas court proceedings. Revenue raised is used to provide basic legal services to those in need.

Reauthorizing the State Bar of Texas (HB 599) (2003) -

Continuing the existence of the State Bar of Texas and adding that all attorneys pay a mandatory added fee of \$65 to provide basic legal services to those in need.

Reauthorizing the Texas Board of Law Examiners (SB 266) (2003) -

Continuing the existence of the Board of Law Examiners and setting the requirements for taking the examination to become a licensed attorney.

Reauthorizing the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (SB 286) (2003) -

Continuing the existence of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, streamlining the board's procedures, and reducing the size of the board.

Providing more transparency in the investment of public funds (SB 971) (2001) -

Requiring the online posting of the management of all state investment funds administered by or under a contract with any entity of state government except the Texas Workers' Compensation Insurance Fund.

Solving cash flow issues at the Texas Department of Health (HB 3244) (2001) -

Allowing the Department of Health to transfer funds from different tobacco settlement accounts in order to supplement the medical services (EMS) and trauma care fund used to make grants to local projects, including volunteer and rural service providers.

Abolishing the General Services Commission and establishing a more efficient way to handle purchasing and other basic governmental functions (SB 311) (2001) -

Abolishing a large agency in favor of smaller, more manageable, responsive, and task-oriented agencies and providing for more efficient and cost-effective provision of services.

Appointment of conservator for state entities found to be grossly mismanaged (HB 81) (1999) -

Allowing the governor to appoint a single conservator to run and rehabilitate a state agency, state institution of higher education, or a local community college in instances of gross mismanagement.

Fighting fires and home fire fatalities (HB 2935) (2007) -

Requiring that any cigarettes sold or offered for sale in Texas be tested, regulated, and certified as slow-burn cigarettes specially made to reduce their propensity to burn when left unattended.

Requiring local notice of construction of correctional or rehabilitative facilities (HB 1331) (2003) -

Requiring government entities or private vendors operating under a governmental contract to give local notice of proposals to build a correctional or rehabilitative facility within 1,000 feet of a residential area, a primary or secondary school, a public park, or a place of worship.

Providing optional short-term auto liability insurance for out-of-state or foreign visitors (SB 693) (2001) - Allowing the commissioner of insurance to establish a system of short-term auto liability insurance to provide coverage for non-Texas residents who are operating a motor vehicle in Texas.

Protecting consumers and safeguarding residential real estate investments (HB 2207) (2007) - Prohibiting certain real estate scams by requiring that buyers receive notice of liens before entering into a sale of residential real property that does not have a title insurance policy or where all recorded liens will not be paid within 30 days after transfer of title.

Changing the requirements for how many justices of the peace and constables smaller counties must have (HJR 71) (1999) - Amending the Texas Constitution to revise the county population brackets and the number of precincts that smaller counties must provide for justices of the peace and constables.

Changing eligibility requirements for service on an appraisal review board based on county populations (HB 79) (1999) - Loosening restrictions on appraisal review board (ARB) membership in smaller counties and prohibiting service by anyone who has ever appeared before the ARB for compensation or anyone who has served on the ARB for all or part of three previous terms on any ARB regardless of a county's size.

Helping small counties build civic centers (HB 1189) (1999) - Allowing counties with only one municipality the right to establish a civic center authority in the same manner as counties with more than one municipality.

Helping rural counties and cities launch economic development corporations (HB 1543) (1999) - Removing burdensome requirements on memberships on the board of an economic development corporation in cities of under 20,000 and allowing individuals who reside outside the city limits but inside of the county to serve on the corporation's governing board.

Prohibiting asbestos in public buildings (HB 1927) (2001) - Prohibiting the installation or reinstallation of materials that contain asbestos in public buildings.

Allowing certain Department of Parks and Wildlife employees to accept tips (HB 2685) (2005) - Allowing employees of the state park division whose primary job duty is to serve food or beverages, such as employees at Indian Lodge in the Davis Mountains State Park, to accept tips as a salary supplement under certain conditions.

Preserving caves and caverns (HB 3502) (2007) - Preserving our natural heritage by increasing the penalties for defacement, vandalism, and the sale of cave formations from protected caves.

Proudly flying the Texas flag and welcoming visitors to Texas (HB 4465) (2009) -

Requiring the Texas Department of Transportation to erect and maintain Texas flags at all official ports of entry along the Texas/Mexico border and to erect "Welcome to Texas" signs on highways entering Texas.

PARTIAL LISTING OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION AUTHORED OR
COAUTHORED AND AMENDMENTS OFFERED
IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

Amendment - Enhancing opportunities for veterans in the field of manufacturing

(HR 803) (2013) - Amendment to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act accelerating job training skills for veterans in state and local plans to assist American veterans in obtaining better job opportunities in the field of advanced manufacturing. Adopted by voice vote.

Amendment - Supporting veterans' employment (HR 2216) (2013) - Amendment adding funding of \$5 million within the General Operating Expenses account of the Veterans Benefits Administration for veterans employment. Amendment was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 (H.R. 3547). Adopted by voice vote.

Amendment - Providing spending flexibility for the Department of Transportation (DOT) with respect to emergency response and security issues (HR 2610) (2013) -

Amendment striking the words "not to exceed" in reference to the available funding amounts for the Office of Intelligence, Security, and Emergency Response in order to provide spending flexibility for DOT with respect to emergency response and security issues. Amendment include in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 (H.R. 3547). Adopted by role call vote - 317 to 92 (Roll no. 419).

Amendment - Retraining veterans and retired members of the intelligence

community in cybersecurity (HR 4681) (2014) - Amendment requiring the Director of National Intelligence in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and Secretary of Homeland Security, to submit recommendations to Congress for retraining veterans and retired members of the intelligence community for jobs in the civilian cybersecurity industry. Adopted by voice vote.

Amendment - Increasing funding for the Rural Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Assistance Program (HR 4660) (2014) -

Amendment increasing funding for the Rural Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Assistance Program by \$2.5 million. Adopted by voice vote.

Bill - Improving veterans access to health care in rural areas (HR 1134) (2013) -

Directing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a grant program and pilot program designed to improve the delivery of health care to veterans residing in rural areas. Introduced.

Bill - Helping small and medium sized businesses export their products (HR 1420)

(2013) - American Export Promotion Act of 2013. Authorizing appropriations for the Manufacturing and Services unit of the International Trade Administration at the Department of Commerce for the Market Development Cooperator Program and prioritizing assistance to small- and medium-sized U.S. businesses. Introduced.

Bill - Solving a taxation issue for members of the US Border Patrol (HR 2755) (2013) -

Border Security Tax Relief Act of 2013. Amending the Internal Revenue Code to: (1) exclude from gross income, for income tax purposes, compensation received by a U.S. Border Patrol agent as administratively uncontrollable overtime pay (premium pay); (2) exempting such overtime pay from withholding of tax requirements; and (3) allowing a taxpayer to elect to include such overtime pay as earned income for purposes of the earned income tax credit. Introduced.

Bill - Rewarding those who guard our nation (HR 3214) (2013) -

Preserve our National Security Act. Making appropriations for pay and allowances to (1) members of the Armed Forces, including reserve component (2) employees of agencies that are part of the National Intelligence Program, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) (3) civilian personnel and contractors of the Department of Defense (DOD) and (4) and other employees who are providing support or benefits to veterans or support to US national security interests related to military, intelligence services, and securing and staffing borders and ports of entry. Introduced.

Bill - Prohibiting the payment of salaries to Members of the Congress of the United States during a government shutdown (HR 3215) (2013) -

Shutdown Pay for Members of Congress Act of 2013. Prohibiting payment of salaries to Members of the Congress of the United States during a government shutdown. Introduced.

Bill - Prioritizing the payment of certain debts in the event of a government default on its debts (HR 3296) (2013) -

Pay America First Act. Prioritizing payments to the Social Security and Medicare trust funds, trust funds providing veterans benefits, funds used to assist Americans during natural disasters, and all obligations to the Department of Defense, including civilian and uniformed personnel, military active pay and military retirement benefits, and military benefits to their families in the event of a government default on its debts. Introduced.

Bill - Helping businesses who employ individuals receiving tips (HR 5341) (2014) -

Prohibiting the Secretary of the Treasury from applying Internal Revenue Service Revenue Ruling 2012-18 (or any similar guidance) for purposes of determining whether any payment made before January 1, 2015, is a tip as opposed to a service charge, and prevented the employer from being charged a tax on the employee's tips. Introduced.

Bill - Taking care of veterans needing medical services (HR 5054) (2014) - Veterans' Whistleblower and Patient Protection Act of 2014. Establishing an Office of Whistleblower and Patient Protection within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and requiring establishment of a dedicated Internet website and toll-free telephone number for any individual to file a complaint regarding safety of a patient at a VA medical facility or an alleged prohibited personnel practice committed by a VA officer or employee. Co-sponsored.

Bill - Preventing hunger and taking care of kids (HR 5012) (2014) - Summer Meals Act of 2014. Amending the National School Lunch Act by broadening the definition of "areas in which poor economic conditions exist" to include more areas and to allow more kids to qualify for free or reduced price school meals under the school lunch and breakfast programs. Co-sponsored.

Bill - Ending military suicides (HR 4504) (2014) - DoD Suicide Tracking Act of 2014. Requiring the Secretary of Defense (DOD) to prescribe, and the Secretaries of the military departments and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau and the adjutants general to implement a standard method for collecting, reporting, and assessing suicide data and suicide-attempt data involving members of the Armed Forces, National Guard and reserves. Co-sponsored.

Bill - Restoring the Voting Rights Act (HR 3899) (2014) - Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2014. Amending the Voting Rights Act of 1965 in compliance with a US Supreme Court decision with respect to the requirement that a federal court retain jurisdiction for an appropriate period of time to prevent commencement of new devices to deny or abridge the right to vote. Expanded the types of violations triggering the authority of a court to retain jurisdiction to include certain violations of the Act as well as violations of any federal voting rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or membership in a language minority group. Co-sponsored.

Bill - Helping military families (HR 4818) (2014) - Military Spouse Career Advancement Act. Requiring the Secretary of Defense (DOD) to establish programs to provide education and training opportunities for military spouses to expand employment and portable career opportunities. Co-sponsored.

Bill - Reconstructing health care for military veterans and their families (HR 4841) (2014) - Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014. Improving the scheduling system for health care appointments; providing for training and hiring of health care staff particularly in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities and in areas experiencing the greatest shortages; improving access to care from non-VA providers by requiring hospital care and medical services to be furnished to veterans through contracts with specified non-VA facilities if a veterans has been unable to schedule an appointment at a VA medical facility within the VA's wait-time goals and the veteran has opted for non-VA care or services, resides more than 40 miles from a VA medical facility; or resides in a state without a VA medical facility that provides hospital care, emergency medical services, and surgical care and is more than 20 miles

from such a facility; improving veterans' access to telemedicine and other health care through the use of VA mobile vet centers; and expanding eligibility for counseling and treatment for sexual trauma to veterans who were on inactive duty training when they experienced sexual assault or harassment. Co-sponsored.

Constitutional Amendment - Proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States (HJ Res 4) (2013) - Constitutional Amendment prohibiting total outlays for a fiscal year (except those for repayment of debt principal) from exceeding total receipts for that fiscal year (except those derived from borrowing) unless Congress, by a three-fifths roll call vote of each chamber, authorizes a specific excess of outlays over receipts; and directing the President to submit a balanced budget to Congress annually. Co-sponsored.