



Rep. Grace F. Napolitano

Proudly Representing California's 32nd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives: Azusa - Baldwin Park - Covina - Duarte - El Monte - Glendora - Industry - Irwindale - La Puente - La Verne - Monrovia - San Dimas - West Covina

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Napolitano Secures Millions for Local Water Projects, National Guard Youth Challenge Program & Mental Health

Passed the U.S. House on **June 19, H.R. 2740, the Labor, Health & Human Services; Education; Defense; State, Foreign Operations; and Energy & Water Development Appropriations Act of 2020**, included critical funding for the following priorities Napolitano requested for her district and the Southern California region:

- **Water Recycling and WaterSmart – \$123,600,000**
- **Water Replenishment District GRIP Water Recycling Project – \$4,200,000**
- **Dam Safety Upgrades at Whittier Narrows Dam – An amount to be determined later**
- **Los Angeles County Disposition of Flood Control Channels from the Army Corps of Engineers to the County – An amount to be determined later**

- **National Guard Youth Challenge Program (helps youth at risk of dropping out) – \$200,000,000**
- **Community Mental Health Services Block Grant – \$736,532,000**
- **National Institute of Mental Health – \$1,961,704,000**
- **Loan Repayment Program for Substance Use Disorder Treatment Workforce – \$25,000,000***

“From greater investment in clean water and dam safety to helping at-risk youth and expanding mental health services, this funding bill prioritizes the well-being of hard-working families in our region and across the nation,” Napolitano said.

Status: Awaiting consideration by the Senate.

*Source: House Committee on Appropriations

Local Manufacturing Spurs Job Creation Across the San Gabriel Valley

Napolitano visited the brand new facilities of two growing businesses in the 32nd District, to promote American manufacturing and to better understand the needs of local employers and employees:

May 30 – Outdoor Research

Joined El Monte Mayor Andre Quintero at the opening of Outdoor Research’s new facility. The Seattle-based recreational clothing manufacturer, which moved this spring to El Monte with the specific purpose of making military cold weather gloves, has already hired more than 100 employees and intends to hire additional workers as demand continues to grow.



Napolitano discusses the importance of job skills and training with employees at Outdoor Research’s new manufacturing facility in El Monte on May 30.

Napolitano is a cosponsor of **H.R. 2083, the Homeland Procurement Reform Act**, a bill to require to the maximum extent practicable that the Department of Homeland Security procure uniforms and protective equipment that are made in America.*

Status: Awaiting consideration by the Senate.

October 2 – Webasto Charging Systems

Joined Monrovia Mayor Tom Adams to meet with Webasto Charging Systems CEO John Thomas and many of the 111 local employees. The group also had a close-up look at the innovative electric vehicle charging solutions and car tops for convertibles being developed in the San Gabriel Valley and being used globally by top automakers.

*Source: House Committee on Homeland Security



Napolitano discusses tax legislation to boost local manufacturing at Webasto Charging Systems with CEO John Thomas (left) & Mayor Tom Adams (right).

Napolitano is a cosponsor of **H.R. 2042, the Electric CARS Act**, which would allow consumers to get a 30% credit on the purchase of an electric charger and allow consumers to get a \$2,500 to \$7,500 tax credit on the purchase of an electric vehicle.*

Status: Referred to House Ways and Means Committee

*Source: House Committee on Ways and Means

Route 66 Centennial Commission Act Passes U.S. House

Passed the U.S. House on **February 6, H.R. 66, the Route 66 Centennial Commission Act**, coauthored by Napolitano and Rodney Davis (R-IL-13), moved one step closer to becoming law.

“Cities in my district have begun to reinvest in Route 66, recognizing its historic significance and how it continues to provide transportation, economic, and community benefits to our region and American society today,” Napolitano said. “The federal government must be involved in these efforts as well.”

H.R. 66 creates a Commission to recommend improvements and activities to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Route 66 in 2026, passing the House with large bipartisan support by a vote of 399 to 22 and now awaits consideration by the Senate.

Route 66 is an integral part of the San Gabriel Valley’s culture & economy, and runs through the cities of La Verne, San Dimas, Glendora, Azusa, Duarte, and Monrovia in the 32nd District, known as Foothill Boulevard and Huntington Drive, and spans the U.S. from Chicago to Santa Monica.

Source: House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

New Legislation to Combat Homelessness in the Region

The San Gabriel Valley saw a 24% increase in homelessness between 2018 and 2019, which points to a serious shortage of temporary housing for those in need across the region. According to the 2019 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count Results, there were 4,479 individuals experiencing homelessness in the SGV, and of that number, 3,292 were living on the streets. After gathering input from local residents and local government officials, Napolitano introduced **H.R. 4936, the Bridge to End Homelessness Act**, which would establish a new competitive grant program through the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development. The new grant program created by H.R. 4936 requires:

- A local entity must identify property or land adjacent to a high-density homeless population to establish interim housing;
- The site must be furnished with on-site mental health, employment, substance use disorder, and wellness resources;
- The local entity must have a plan for targeted outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness within its jurisdiction.

“I applaud all the efforts by local residents as well as city, county



Napolitano discusses homelessness in the San Gabriel Riverbed at a forum with Duarte Police Department and city officials in the City of Duarte on September 3.

and state government officials,” Napolitano said. “The federal government needs to assist in combating this growing crisis in our region. Part of the solution includes increased housing and mental health services, and we must ensure the dignity and safety of all.”

To learn more, visit napolitano.house.gov/issues/homelessness.

Proudly Serving Our Region’s Veterans and Their Families



Napolitano speaks to local veterans at the opening of the San Gabriel Valley VA Clinic in Arcadia on August 23, which aims to serve the region’s 45,000 veterans.

8th Annual Veterans Forum

110 of the region’s veterans received direct assistance from the VA, with 32 exhibitors presenting information plus services available to San Gabriel Valley veterans and their families on **June 29** at the California National Guard Armory in Azusa. Thank you to everyone who made our annual forum another great success. Residents of the 32nd District—For assistance with VA claims, call El Monte District Office at 626-350-0150. National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Press 1 to connect to Veterans Hotline.

New VA Clinic Open in the San Gabriel Valley (Arcadia)

Congresswoman Napolitano worked jointly with Congresswoman Judy Chu and the VA for over 7 years to make the San Gabriel Valley Community Outpatient Clinic a reality for local veterans and their families. On **August 23** she attended the official opening of the Vet Clinic, to better serve medical needs of veterans in the Greater San Gabriel Valley and reduce the time required to access and receive care. Location: 7 West Foothill Blvd, Arcadia.

32nd District Women Warriors’ Advisory Committee

Napolitano formed the Committee as a way to connect women who have worn the uniform and their families, ensuring female veterans’ voices are heard and supported. More info: Call Hector Elizalde at 626-350-0150 or visit napolitano.house.gov/issues/veterans.

Fighting for Clean Water for the San Gabriel Valley and the Nation

Unanimously elected to serve as Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, Napolitano continues to fight for clean water for all, authoring legislation to boost job creation by advancing water recycling projects and providing cities readiness against drought cycles:

H.R. 1497, the Water Quality and Job Creation Act (Cosponsored with Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR-4))

- \$2.68 Billion in EPA grants & \$14 Billion in EPA loans for cities and local water agencies to construct water treatment/recycling projects.*

Status: Passed Transportation Committee on October 29

H.R. 1162, the Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act (Cosponsored with Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA-40))

- Increases funding for Title XVI water recycling grant program from \$50 Million to \$500 Million to help Southern CA water agencies construct and improve water recycling projects.*

Status: Referred to Natural Resources Committee

Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020 (To be introduced in January 2020)

- Sets policy and approves projects for the Army Corps of Engineers to improve flood control, add water supply, and create environmental restoration.

More info: napolitano.house.gov/issues/water.

Looking Ahead: Transportation Bill Reauthorization Coming in 2020

Napolitano, the highest-ranking Californian on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, looks to again deliver for the state as in **2015’s Transportation Bill (FAST Act)** when she secured \$26.3 Billion in federal funding.

“We need to improve the daily commute of our residents, students, and workers by investing in transit and highway improvements,” Napolitano said. “When workers have safer, faster, and more affordable options, they are more focused on the job and have more time at home.”

The Committee is scheduled to begin working on **FAST Act reauthorization** this winter.

Updates: napolitano.house.gov/issues/transportation.

Source: House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Mental Health Gaining Momentum in Congress

May 29 - Visit to School-Based Mental Health Programs

Napolitano led a visit with Rep. Nanette Diaz Barragán (D-CA-44), Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA-47), and LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger (Fifth District) and Director of Mental Health Dr. Jonathan Sherin, to 2 schools in La Puente which have implemented the successful Youth Suicide Prevention Program that began in 2001: Nueva Vista Continuation High School and Bassett High School. They heard stories directly from students, moving them all to tears. Teachers and school administrators praised the structure and effectiveness of the school-based youth suicide prevention program, while students shared testimony on how after sitting down with someone they trusted, their self-esteem rose, family relationships became stronger, and academic performances improved. The clinician also helps the family understand the child.

Mental Health Caucus – Led by founder and Co-Chair Napolitano and Co-Chair Rep. John Katko (R-NY-24), the Caucus currently has 105 members, the most in history! Since 2003, it has held briefings with military personnel, mental health providers, and Members of Congress and their staff on various mental health issues, including veterans, depression, children, and training sessions to recognize warning signs. Now comprised of 2 Task Forces: Suicide Prevention Task Force and Military Mental Health Task Force.

The Co-Chairs introduced **H.R. 1109, the Mental Health Services for Students Act**, to provide \$200 Million to fund on-site mental health services, like those administered in La Puente, in schools nationwide. The proposal educates on the warning signs and symptoms of mental illness and treats students so they can be referred directly to clinicians on-site in schools with the goal of helping students in need, promoting mental wellness, reducing stigma, and ensuring a brighter future for our youngsters. More info: mentalhealthcaucus-napolitano.house.gov.



Napolitano discusses the importance of funding for mental health services for all students with Federal and County government officials on May 29 in La Puente. From Left to Right: Supervisor Barger; Bassett Unified School District Board President Dolores Rivera; Bassett Unified School District Superintendent Debra French; Rep. Lowenthal; Dr. Jonathan Sherin; Rep. Barragán; Rep. Napolitano; Nueva Vista Principal Maria Herrera; and Dr. Luis Garcia of Pacific Clinics, the local non-profit which administers the Youth Suicide Prevention Program.

32nd Congressional District Mental Health Initiatives

• **Consortium** – Since 2006, a dedicated group of local mental health professionals and advocates meets quarterly with great speakers to discuss and also share mental health related information, advising Napolitano on public mental health policy and related issues. Topics include: youth, seniors, veterans, local and state health care resources. If interested, contact the Mental Health Liaison at 626-350-0150.

• **Task Force** – A group of prominent figures who volunteer their time to reduce the stigma against mental health and raise awareness for Napolitano's Mental Health Services for Students Act (H.R. 1109). Current members include: Metta World Peace, former NBA Player and current high school basketball coach; former NBA Player Larry Sanders; actor Arjay Smith; former NFL Wide Receiver Brandon Marshall and his wife Michi Marshall; World Boxing Cares Chair Jill Diamond; and First Lady of New York City, Chirlane McCray.

Immigration Update: U.S. House Passes Bills to Protect Dreamers; Ensure Mental Health Services for Individuals Detained at Border

Passed the U.S. House on **June 4, H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act**, would provide a pathway to citizenship for eligible Dreamers—nearly 9,000 living in the 32nd District – who were brought into the U.S. before age 18, who were continuously present in the U.S. for 4 years prior to the date of the bill's enactment. They would be provided conditional permanent resident status and would need to fulfill an education, employment, or military track to adjust to permanent resident status. H.R. 6 secures permanent residency for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) holders from several nations, including El Salvador, Nicaragua, Haiti, Honduras, and Liberia. After 5 years, those permanent residents would be eligible to apply to become citizens. TPS recipients on average have lived in the U.S. for 20 years; DED recipients have lived here and contributed to their communities since 2007.

Passed the U.S. House on **July 25, H.R. 3239, the Humanitarian Standards for Individuals in Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Custody Act**, would mandate initial mental health screenings when individuals are first detained at a CBP facility and require professional training for personnel to detect warning signs and symptoms of mental illness.

As an original cosponsor of both of these pieces of legislation, Napolitano was proud to cast her vote in favor of them on the House floor. **Status:** Both H.R. 6 & H.R. 3239 await consideration by the Senate. **Info:** napolitano.house.gov/issues/immigration.

2020 U.S. Census: Shape Your Future!

- **Your participation is critical!** It means \$ for your community for the next 10 years
- **Be sure to answer the questionnaire** – a low count would mean cuts to our schools, roads, social programs, hospitals, and city budgets
- **The Citizenship Question WILL NOT** be on the 2020 Census
- Your answers **will not** be shared with any other governmental departments or law enforcement agencies
- U.S. Census workers will be sending out mailers and knocking on doors in 2020 with Census questions
- Questions take less than 5 minutes and can be answered online, by phone, or by mail
- Please do your part and be counted! Shape your future!

For info on **jobs** with the U.S. Census Bureau:
2020census.gov/jobs



Updates from Congress

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PRSRT STD

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2019 Volunteers of the Year Honored



Constituents are honored for exemplary service at California's 32nd Volunteers of the Year event on June 1 in El Monte.

The 2019 Volunteers of the Year:

Mark Anthony – Julia McNeill Senior Center
Robert “Big Bob” Berdin – City of La Puente
Aranzasu Caballero – Duarte Area Resource Team
Jennifer Cazares – California Mental Health Connection
Medardo Del Rosario – St. John the Baptist Church
Dena Florez – Regional Chamber of Commerce
Larry R. Hartmann – City of Industry
Victor Hernandez – California Elementary School
Hank Jacobs – Foothill Unity Center, Inc.
James “Jim” Kesterson – City of La Verne
Jennifer “Jen” Kesterson – La Verne Fire Department
Hal Leavens – Monrovia Chamber of Commerce
Cecilia Roxana Lopez – Baldwin Park United Methodist Church
Gregory M. Oberon – Glendora Police Department
Joe A. Orosco – Baldwin Park Unified School District
Natalie Ortiz – City of La Verne
Phillip Ramirez – Covina Police Department
Lynette Rausch – El Monte/South El Monte Chamber of Commerce
Rudy Sanchez – Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Velasco, City of El Monte
John Watson – Monrovia Coordinating Council
Daniel Yrigoyen – City of Duarte Public Safety

June 1—Volunteers of the Year were honored for exemplary community service at an awards ceremony at the Grace T. Black Auditorium in El Monte. “Together, these 21 unsung heroes and heroines have provided over 270 years of volunteer work in their respective communities, saving cities and organizations countless hours and dollars,” Napolitano said. “This public tribute is our way to show our appreciation for their unselfishness and to thank those whose efforts might otherwise go unrecognized. We heartily congratulate all of these wonderful volunteers for their dedication to helping others.”

Supportive family members, friends, and colleagues also attended the ceremony, which featured a moving keynote speech by La Verne Police Department Chaplain, Pastor Kevin Yriarte.

“Your love for others forces you to look beyond the comfortable and the convenient to see the needs others may choose to ignore,” said Pastor Yriarte. Volunteers’ names were submitted by their organization or community group which felt their contributions deserved special recognition. Napolitano gave out the awards and thanked them personally.



Pastor Kevin Yriarte delivers words of appreciation and encouragement to local volunteers and supportive family members.

2019 Art Contest

May 7—Napolitano held an awards ceremony honoring the winners and all participants of the 2019 Congressional Art Competition at the Walker House in San Dimas. 76 art pieces from 13 high schools were submitted this year.

Nancy Hoang of Mountain View High School won first place with her colored pencil drawing, “Orange Fish.” Hoang’s work currently hangs alongside other 1st place pieces in the U.S. Capitol tunnel for visitors, Members of Congress, and staff to view all year; 2nd place, “xxxTentacion” hangs in the DC Office; and 3rd place, “The Eyes of the West” hangs in the El Monte District Office. Info: napolitano.house.gov/services/art-competition.



Top 3 Art Contest winners: From Left to Right: Christopher Gonzalez (2nd Place); Matthew Montoya (3rd Place); and Nancy Hoang (1st Place).

To receive email newsletter updates, visit: napolitano.house.gov/contact-me/newsletter or call 202-225-5256.