

# Legislative Update to Constituents

*from U.S. Representative Bill Posey*  
*Florida's 8<sup>th</sup> District*

Dear Friend,

I hope this update finds you and your family safe and healthy as we pull together as a nation to overcome challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Congress passed several bipartisan bills to fund initiatives to combat the virus and to provide broad economic relief to American families, workers and businesses in the near-term and to minimize long-term economic damage because of recent public policies to temporarily shut down economic activity and protect public health. Despite some flaws in this legislation – nothing in Washington is perfect – I believe the federal government needed to act to protect our nation, our families and our communities.

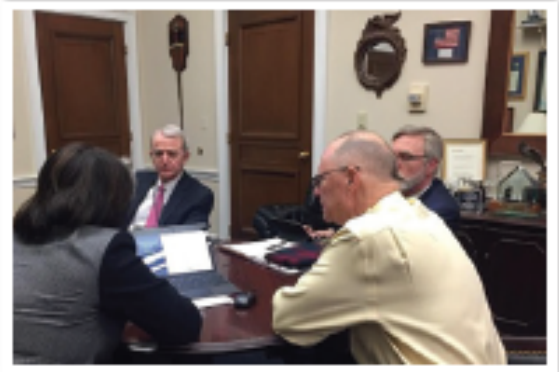
There's work that needs to be done to rebuild our nation in the months ahead, but Washington has been able to break the gridlock and advance solid bipartisan solutions. In fact, more than twenty of my legislative initiatives – most of them bipartisan – have been signed into law that benefit our district, support our economy, protect our freedom and hold Washington Accountable.

If I can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office. We're here to serve you!

Sincerely,



Bill Posey



Rep. Posey meets with the House Clerk to discuss implementing a new House rule he authored to make legislation easier for the public to read and understand.

## Don't be fooled by Social Security Scams

There are many ongoing robo-call scams claiming to be from a government agency like Social Security or the IRS. **Don't be fooled by these calls.** Hang up! Government agencies will not call you unless you have specific business before them.

If you are not sure about a call (or an email) you receive, hang up. Remember, do not give out money or personal information to callers (or email) you are not sure about. You can always call the agency directly or call my office and we will assist you. Government agencies like Social Security may call you in some very limited situations but will never:

- Threaten you
- Suspend your Social Security Number
- Demand immediate payment from you
- Require payment by cash, gift card, pre-paid debit card, or wire transfer
- Ask for gift card numbers over the phone or to wire or mail cash



Rep. Posey talks legislative issues with local veterans.

To report a Social Security scam, visit the Social Security Inspector General's website <https://oig.ssa.gov/>.

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# Rep. Posey is Working to Create Jobs, Resto

## Making Affordable Health Care a Priority

Making health care more affordable and improving access to medical care are important priorities for Rep. Posey. Posey's legislative initiatives include:

- ✓ Protecting those with Pre-existing Conditions
- ✓ Ending Surprise Medical Bills (H.R. 3502)
- ✓ Ending Dependence on China for Drugs (Authored H.R. 5927)
- ✓ Lowering Cost of Prescription Drugs (H.R. 1034 and H.R. 1035)
- ✓ Supporting affordable health care options with lower premiums and deductibles (H.R. 1398)
- ✓ Banning Drug Companies from keeping prices high to "game the system" (H.R. 2374)
- ✓ Opposing "Medicare for All" which bans private insurance, forces everyone into government-run health care and undermines Medicare

## Posey Legislation Supports American Space Launch Competitiveness



Rep. Posey talks space issues with KSC workers visiting Washington, DC.

The future of American space launch companies is threatened by increased subsidies from foreign governments. This harms American workers, U.S. companies and undermines our national security.

To combat this unfair trade practice and put American launch companies on a level playing field, Rep. Posey introduced the American Space Commerce Act, extending existing space launch tax incentives for ten years for companies that launch from American soil.

There are unfair practices coming from China, Russia, India and Europe, and Rep. Posey said that a strong domestic space launch industry is in our national security interest. "This bill assists our domestic space launch industry, keeps America first in space, enhances our national security and creates American space jobs."



Rep. Posey tours our southern border and is briefed on how dangerous and open parts of it have become.

## Working to Secure Our Nation's Borders

Rep. Posey believes it is the responsibility of the federal government to protect our nation, and that means securing our borders and maintaining operation control over them.

- ✓ Voted to support President Trump's ability to freeze travel from coronavirus-infected nations like China
- ✓ Introduced legislation to end the dangerous visa lottery system
- ✓ Voted to secure our borders with physical barriers, more personnel and new technology
- ✓ Co-authored legislation to end the policy of separating immigrant children from their parents

## Rep. Posey Visits Puerto Rico Following Destructive Earthquakes

Rep. Posey joined a small bipartisan Congressional Delegation to Puerto Rico to survey the damage caused by recent earthquakes. On December 28<sup>th</sup> Puerto Rico suffered a 4.4 magnitude earthquake, followed by a 6.4 magnitude quake on January 7<sup>th</sup> and a 6.0 magnitude earthquake another four days later.

Members of Congress were hosted by Puerto Rico's Resident Commissioner Jenniffer González-Colón (R-PR) and received briefings from FEMA, the U.S. Geological Survey, Puerto Rico's Seismic Network and Bureau of Emergency Management. Although Puerto Rico is bordered by four fault lines, these were the first major earthquakes in over 100 years. "It's encouraging that many friends and family on the mainland are providing assistance and want to do more," said Rep. Posey.

In Congress, Rep. Posey supported emergency aid to help Puerto Rico recover from the recent earthquakes and the damage that remains from Hurricanes Maria and Irma. The funding includes resources to repair infrastructure like roads and bridges, reopen schools and restore the power grid.



Rep. Posey is briefed by emergency response officials in Puerto Rico.

Read more about my record on other important issues at [www.posey.house.gov](http://www.posey.house.gov)

# re Our Lagoon, and Advance Local Priorities

## Rep. Posey's Bill Targets U.S. Dependence on Pharmaceuticals Produced in China

Earlier this year, Rep. Posey introduced bipartisan legislation to break America's dependence on pharmaceuticals produced overseas and protect Americans from contaminated foreign pharmaceuticals. Countries like China do not abide by our laws, putting at risk tens of millions of Americans who depend on life-saving medications.

Eighty percent of the drugs that Americans depend upon come from overseas countries, and China, whose pharmaceuticals have been subject to numerous recalls, is the largest manufacturer. In 2008 a Chinese-based pharmaceutical company pumped counterfeit blood-clot medication into our domestic markets resulting in the death of 81 Americans with another 785 severely injured. Federal officials, afraid of creating a shortage, allowed Chinese-made heparin to continue to enter the country without inspecting it because there were no other supply options.

Last year it was discovered that millions of Americans had been taking blood pressure medication tainted with a cancer-causing ingredient from China. The recent disruptions resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak only provide further evidence of the importance of reducing this threat to the health of the American people.



## Port Canaveral Secures Critical Infrastructure Grant from US DOT



The U.S. Department of Transportation recently awarded Port Canaveral a \$14 million infrastructure development grant in support of its efforts to modernize and expand its cargo operations. The grant funding will be used to redevelop Port Canaveral's North Cargo Berth 3 to accommodate larger ships simultaneously. Rep. Posey had actively supported the Port's grant application for the project, which, when completed, will help pave the way for future job creation and economic activity. "Port Canaveral has long been a vital component to the economy of the Space Coast and Central Florida," said Rep. Posey. Last year

Rep. Posey worked to authorize and help secure funding to replace the Indian River Bridge which is critical infrastructure to maintaining our space launch capability.

### HONORING OUR VETERANS

## Fallen Korean War Soldier Honored with Congressional Gold Medal Presentation in Titusville

Rep. Posey recently presented the Congressional Gold Medal Award (replica) posthumously to PVT Irvin O. Simmons (KIA), a fallen member of the U.S. Army's 65th Infantry Regiment (also known as the Borinqueneers) who died in the final hours of the Korean War. PVT Irvin Simmons' brother, Bobby Simmons, who is also a veteran of the Korean War, received the award on his behalf. The ceremony took place at the Disabled American Veterans Post #109 in Titusville.

Rep. Posey wrote the law to formally recognize the brave American soldiers of the 65th Infantry Regiment by presenting them with the highest civilian award that Congress can bestow, the Congressional Gold Medal. He said that the Borinqueneers participated in some of the fiercest battles of the Korean War and "awarding such a high honor is an appropriate way to show our gratitude to these heroes for their bravery, their service and their sacrifices."



Rep. Posey discusses veterans issues and thanks the Simmons Family for their service and sacrifices for our nation.

## Working to Protect Seniors in Retirement

Social Security and Medicare are contracts between seniors and the federal government, and those promises must be kept. Most senior citizens have planned their retirement based on the assurance of these benefits and it would be wrong to pull the rug out from under their feet.

- ✓ Passed into law bipartisan legislation simplifying tax filing for senior citizens (Public Law 115-123)
- ✓ Increasing access to Colorectal Cancer and Bone Density Screenings (H.R. 1570 and H.R. 2693)
- ✓ Providing cancer patients with affordable access to oral cancer drugs (H.R. 1730)
- ✓ Oppose "Medicare for All" that would end Medicare and put all Americans into a single government-run plan
- ✓ Voted to repeal the Obamacare Board (IPAB) empowered to decide what Medicare will and will not cover

This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.  
It is provided as a service to 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District constituents.

## Coronavirus Relief Bill Includes Posey's Provision to Protect NASA and Defense Contract Worker Jobs and Pay

Recently passed legislation to provide economic relief to American families, workers and businesses to help aid our nation through the coronavirus pandemic included a provision authored by Rep. Posey to protect NASA and Defense contract employees to ensure our nation's space and defense workforce and programs remain intact. Rep. Posey said contract workers at NASA and within the defense industry face severe financial hardship when they are restricted from reporting to work at the Space Center or their respective program locations – for many there's no telework option. "As we battle the coronavirus we don't want to risk losing our highly skilled workforce which ultimately could jeopardize our national security and critical space program investments. My provision keeps these workforces intact so that as we reopen they can go right back to work," he said.

### LAGOON UPDATE

## Legislation Takes Aim at Local PFAS Contamination

In December Rep. Posey supported House passage of the PFAS Action Act of 2019 (H.R. 535) which takes action on PFAS environmental contamination. PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a group of man-made chemicals manufactured and used in a variety of industries and can be found in a wide range of consumer products. PFAS has now been confirmed in the water of more than 1,400 communities, including nearly 300 military installations, and studies have linked PFAS to serious health problems, including cancer.

The PFAS Action Act will mobilize a muscular response to PFAS under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act — it accelerates drinking water regulations, and provides robust funding to address and remediate PFAS impacts. The legislation builds on progress made in this year's National Defense Authorization Act, which prohibited the use of PFAS containing firefighting foam on military bases. Last year Rep. Posey worked with residents and the Army Corps of Engineers to officially designate South Patrick Shores a Formerly Used Defense Site – a major step in remediation and fighting PFAS contamination.



Rep. Posey testifies before the House Appropriations Committee for strong funding for our National Estuary Program.

## Rep. Posey and his Staff Are Here to Serve Constituents

If you experience a problem dealing with a federal agency such as Social Security, Medicare, the IRS, Veterans Affairs or any other, Rep. Posey and his staff (pictured at right) stand ready to assist you.

Our office can also help in obtaining U.S. flags flown over the Capitol building, providing passes/tours of the Capitol and other information for Washington, D.C. visits, assisting eligible grant seekers in finding information on federal grants, making nominations to military academies, and with college students looking for internship opportunities in our Florida and Washington offices. If you need assistance, please feel free to contact our local office at 321-632-1776. We're here to serve you.



Rep. Posey's District Office Staff (L-R): Patricia Febro, David Jackson, Cheryl Moore, Rob Medina, Chelsea Greene and Patrick Gavin.

*"We would like to express our thanks to you all and all your staff who helped solve our problem with Social Security Administration. We were at wits end when we contacted your office. Please pass this message on to all your staff, thank you's don't come often enough." - Sebastian Constituent*

*"Thank you for getting involved with and solving my problem about Combat Related Special Compensation. What the Defense Finance and Accounting Service and the Department of the Army Human Resources Command had told me would take one year to resolve was fixed in about one month after your staff got involved."*

- Cocoa Beach Constituent