

— CONGRESSWOMAN —
LORI TRAHAN
PROUDLY REPRESENTING  MASSACHUSETTS' 3RD DISTRICT



YEAR IN REVIEW: 2021

Dear Neighbor,

Since my very first day in office, one thing has consistently driven my work: improving the lives of everyone who calls our district and our Commonwealth home. Over the past year, that same mission has continued to guide my work in Washington and in our community.

Last year, I wrote that serving as your representative had been the honor of a lifetime. As 2021 comes to an end, I remain deeply grateful for the trust you've placed in me to make your voice heard in Washington. Over the past twelve months, we've successfully worked to provide billions in coronavirus relief for working families and small businesses in the Third District; secured unprecedented federal investments to repair our roads, bridges, and water systems; expanded access to quality health care and affordable child care; advanced critical policies to finally combat climate change; and much more.

However, we're far from finished. There's much more work ahead to build on the remarkable progress we made this year. I look forward to continuing our strong partnership with President Biden to deliver for families like yours as we emerge from this pandemic and build back better than ever before. And as we deliver this progress, I look forward to hearing your feedback, your thoughts, and your priorities.

I hope that you'll take a moment to review this report, and join me in reflecting on all we've achieved together. Please don't ever hesitate to contact my office to share your thoughts or ask for help. I hope you enjoy this holiday season, and I look forward to keeping in touch in the new year!



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



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YEAR IN REVIEW

Excellent constituent service is top priority for my team and me. In a year full of unprecedented challenges, we've worked to assist constituents with every issue – big or small – to ensure they're able to take advantage of the significant relief offered by the transformative federal COVID-19 relief programs established this year.

From expediting small business relief to helping working families access Child Tax Credit payments to assisting veterans, seniors, and those with disabilities with receiving the benefits they're owed, 2021 has offered countless opportunities for our team to focus on our top priority: **servicing you and every person across the Third District.**

2021 by the numbers:



10

Bills introduced



340+

Events, constituent and organization meetings, town halls, and visits in the district



\$276,000,000+

Secured for small businesses across MA-3



35,000+

Constituent phone calls and emails answered



1,632

Constituent requests for assistance closed



\$3,100,000+

Delivered in IRS, Veterans & Social Security payments owed to constituents

BIPARTISANSHIP AT WORK



60%

of all bills we've introduced have a Republican co-lead.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

Early in the year, the American Rescue Plan sent a clear message to families here in Massachusetts and across the nation that help was on the way. I was proud to vote for this historic package, which helped working families keep a roof over their heads and put food on the table, made vaccines accessible to tens of millions of Americans, ensured small businesses and restaurants could keep their doors open, helped children safely return to the classroom, and shortened our road to economic recovery.

Supporting working families. The American Rescue Plan bolstered working families in their pandemic recovery by providing survival checks and food assistance, expanding the transformative Child Tax Credit, reopening schools, and increasing access to quality, affordable child care.

Providing relief to workers. As our economy struggled under the weight of a global pandemic, the American Rescue Plan provided relief to workers by extending access to unemployment benefits, strengthening workplace protections, and expanding access to quality health care. The law also provided federal funding to state and local governments to help them keep first responders, frontline health care workers, and other essential workers on the job.

Combating the coronavirus. While providing pandemic relief, the American Rescue Plan also worked to combat the coronavirus by funding a national COVID-19 vaccination program, scaling up testing, training, and mitigation, and strengthening our pandemic supply chain so health care workers had the equipment they needed to do their jobs safely.

Buoying small businesses and nonprofits. Recognizing that small businesses and nonprofits were some of the organizations hit hardest by the pandemic, the American Rescue Plan supported them through increased Paycheck Protection Program funding and expanded eligibility, as well as the creation of the Restaurant Revitalization Fund and the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant program.

We delivered over

\$146 MILLION

for Community Health Centers to help ensure that no one who wants to be vaccinated is left behind!

REBUILDING MASSACHUSETTS

For far too long, Washington's inaction has forced communities across the Third District to foot the bill for critical infrastructure upgrades. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act changes that. This important package, which I proudly voted for and President Biden signed into law, will improve the daily lives of every single Massachusetts resident and create millions of family-sustaining jobs nationwide.

Here's how:

Rebuilding roads and bridges. Across our district, our roads and bridges are in desperate need of repair.

- ✓ The Commonwealth is slated to receive at least \$4.2 billion for road improvements and another \$1.1 billion for bridge replacements and repairs over the next five years.
- ✓ These investments will address the 472 bridges and nearly 1,200 miles of highway in Massachusetts that are currently in poor condition, as well as reducing commute times, which have risen nearly 11% over the past decade.

Improving public transportation. Many Third District residents rely on public transit to commute to work and school. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests in much-needed upgrades to our public transportation sector, improvements that will benefit every resident.

- ✓ Massachusetts will receive at least \$2.5 billion to improve public transit options. This investment will be used to repair and upgrade bus and rail fleets, make stations more accessible, replace older buses with clean, zero emission vehicles, and train transit workers to maintain and operate new vehicles. This is key for the Commonwealth, where more than 1 in every 5 transit vehicles are outdated.

High-speed Internet. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown just how critical high-speed Internet connectivity is to participating in modern society.

- ✓ At least 137,000 Bay Staters currently lack high-speed Internet access across the Commonwealth.
- ✓ Massachusetts is set to receive at least \$100 million to help expand broadband coverage and prevent families from ever having to sit in a library or fast food parking lot to get online again.
- ✓ Additionally, the infrastructure package creates a new Affordable Connectivity Benefit to help more low-income families access the internet. In the Commonwealth, 1,340,000 people – or 1 in 5 individuals – will be eligible for assistance through the benefit.

Massachusetts will receive more than

\$9 BILLION

from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
over the next five years!

CLEANING UP OUR WATERWAYS

From stopping sewage overflows to cleaning up PFAS “forever” chemical contaminations, it’s more important than ever that we work to clean up our waterways, protecting Third District gems like the Merrimack River and ensuring every resident has access to clean, safe drinking water.

Investing in water infrastructure. For Third District communities along the Merrimack River and beyond, water infrastructure is key. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will make bold investments in our waterways, with more than \$1.1 billion coming to Massachusetts for long overdue repairs to our water systems.

Putting an end to PFAS contaminations. In the Third District, residents in communities like Acton, Ayer, Chelmsford, Hudson, Littleton, and Sudbury are exposed to dangerous PFAS contaminations. That’s why I helped introduce the PFAS Action Act of 2021, bipartisan legislation to clean up PFAS contaminations, help families who have been exposed to the dangerous chemicals, and prevent future exposures. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law includes \$10 billion specifically to clean up PFAS contaminations. The House also passed a provision I co-authored to protect firefighters from PFAS by investing in equipment and foam that does not include PFAS substances.

Federal funding to clean up our rivers. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law contains \$1.4 billion to finally stop sewage overflows that have plagued communities along the Merrimack River for years. To build on that progress, the House passed key portions of my bipartisan legislation – the Stop Sewage Overflow Act – as part of the Build Back Better Act, which includes robust federal funding to further prevent sewage discharges and at my request, prioritizes funding for underserved communities like Lowell, Lawrence, Methuen, and Haverhill.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will deliver at least

\$1.1 BILLION

over the next five years to improve water infrastructure in communities across the Commonwealth!

BUILD BACK BETTER

The millions of good-paying jobs generated by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law only work if people are able to return to work. The Build Back Better Act meets the urgent needs of Massachusetts families by creating jobs, cutting taxes, and lowering costs. Together, these historic pieces of legislation will ensure that no one is left behind as we defeat COVID-19 and rebuild our economy.

Here's how:

Quality, affordable, and accessible health care. The Build Back Better Act will ensure that Massachusetts residents never have to choose between their health and their ability to make ends meet.

- ✔ Closes the Medicaid coverage gap to help millions of Americans gain health insurance
- ✔ Expands Medicare to help older adults afford hearing care
- ✔ Prioritizes children's and maternal health by permanently extending the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Reduced prescription drug prices. The Build Back Better Act will help families in the Commonwealth struggling with the soaring costs of lifesaving medications.

- ✔ Gives Medicare the power to negotiate pricing for some of the most commonly used prescription drugs and passes those savings onto all Americans
- ✔ Ensures that no one ever has to pay more than \$35 per month for insulin
- ✔ Caps out-of-pocket costs for seniors, especially those with serious health conditions like cancer, multiple sclerosis, and arthritis
- ✔ Puts an end to runaway price increases caused by Big Pharma companies upping their drug prices to boost profits



Congresswoman Trahan reads to children during a visit to Little Sprouts Early Education & Child Care in Methuen, where she highlighted the historic child care investments included in the Build Back Better Act.

BUILD BACK BETTER

Child care and early education. The lack of affordable child care and early education options has emerged as a major strain for working parents, especially working mothers, to return to the workforce in full. The Build Back Better Act will expand access to quality, affordable child care and early education.

- ✔ Limits child care costs to no more than 7% of income for families earning up to 250% of state median income – about \$313,300 for a Massachusetts family of four – enabling the Commonwealth to provide care for 367,530 young children.
- ✔ Establishes universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds, expanding access to free, publicly funded preschool to more than 139,529 children
- ✔ Extends the American Rescue Plan’s wildly successful expanded Child Tax Credit through 2022, building on the 141,000 Third District children who have already benefited from the program

Combating climate change. The Build Back Better Act will combat the growing threat of climate change and invest in clean energy in the Third District.

- ✔ Establishes a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to invest in nonprofit, state, and local climate finance institutions that support the rapid deployment of low- and zero-emission technologies, including zero-emission vehicle supply equipment
- ✔ Allocates \$2.9 billion to create a 21st Century energy grid capable of ensuring the reliable delivery of clean energy throughout the United States
- ✔ Sets the United States on course to meet its climate targets – a 50-52% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2030 – while creating good-paying union jobs, growing domestic industries, and advancing environmental justice

The Build Back Better Act’s historic investments in affordable health care, cheaper prescription drugs, accessible child care, and bold action to address the climate crisis will improve the lives of families across the Third District.

We’ve delivered

\$204 MILLION

in monthly Child Tax Credit payments to more than 84,000 Third District families!

SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES

Small businesses across the Third District are the hearts of our communities — but they're also some of the organizations hit hardest by the pandemic. Getting them the support they needed to keep their doors open and workers on payroll has been a top priority of mine. I supported the creation of multiple programs to address the unique needs of businesses here in the Commonwealth.

Providing immediate relief. As soon as COVID-19 struck, it became clear that immediate relief was needed for small businesses that were devastated by pandemic regulations required to keep communities safe. Early this year, I voted to pass the American Rescue Plan, which provided relief for small businesses by increasing Paycheck Protection Program funding, funding grants through the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, and investing in small business financing through state government programs. In March, I supported passage of the Paycheck Protection Program Extension Act, which extended the highly successful PPP program and enabled small businesses to continue accessing much-needed financial relief.

Revitalizing our local restaurants. Restaurants across the Third District have been hit hard by the pandemic. That's why I was such a strong supporter of the American Rescue Plan, which also created a \$28 billion Restaurant Revitalization Fund to offer assistance to restaurants and bars with 20 or fewer locations struggling with pandemic-related challenges. The Fund also worked to support the most vulnerable in our community by prioritizing applications from restaurants owned and operated by women, veterans, and socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

Bolstering shuttered venues. The pandemic devastated small businesses across the Third District, but especially local theaters and concert venues, who weren't able to adapt as easily to coronavirus safety measures. I was proud to deliver over \$4.1 million through the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant program, which was created by the American Rescue Plan, for theaters and venues in the Third District, keeping doors open and employees paid.

Prioritizing small businesses and their workers. Apprenticeship programs help workers strengthen skills and increase marketability, all while preventing them from taking on more debt or having to leave the workforce to go back to school. While working families struggled financially during the pandemic, registered apprenticeship opportunities were even more critical to getting people back to work and our economy back on track. When the House passed the bipartisan National Apprenticeship Act of 2021, it included my bill to ensure that small businesses and their workers were able to reap the rewards of these highly lucrative apprenticeships.

We secured over **\$276 million** to support small businesses in their pandemic recovery!

TACKLING THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Over the past decade, Massachusetts has experienced fourteen extreme weather events, costing up to \$5 billion in physical damages alone. We must urgently work to combat the climate crisis to protect our planet for generations to come.

Bold climate action. We must take bold steps to combat the growing threat of climate change and finally invest in clean energy solutions. That's why I was proud to vote for the Build Back Better Act, the largest effort to combat climate change in American history. This package will set us on course to meet our national climate targets while creating good-paying union jobs, growing domestic industries, and advancing environmental justice.

Rebuilding our infrastructure. Understanding the threats posed by the climate crisis, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law — which the House passed and President Biden signed into law — makes bold investments in Third District infrastructure. Specifically, the package invests \$7.5 billion to build the first-ever national network of electric vehicle chargers, \$5 billion for zero emission and clean buses, and \$50 billion to make America's infrastructure more resilient to the impacts of climate change and cyber-attacks.

Protecting Third District families. Methane is responsible for a quarter of climate warming. After the previous administration gutted clear air rules designed to protect Americans' health and prevent further climate damage, I voted for S.J. Res. 14, legislation that restored methane pollution standards critical in the fight against climate change.

Delivering real results. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law also allocated \$3.5 billion to weatherize homes and buildings, an important initiative designed to reduce families' utilities bills by keeping houses warmer during the winter and cooler during the summer. I joined U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm to see the real results of these federal investments in Massachusetts' infrastructure. Together, we visited a home that had recently undergone weatherization efficiency upgrades.



Congresswoman Trahan joins with Department of Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm and local leaders to witness the ways the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will benefit the Commonwealth.

STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Across the country, women's rights are under attack and *Roe v. Wade* hangs in the balance. At the same time, millions of women — especially women of color — continue to face barriers to success. The work to achieve full equality for all women, everywhere, continues.

Protecting women's health. No one can be more trusted to make the best health decisions for themselves than women. I cosponsored the Women's Health Protection Act, which protects abortion access by creating a statutory right for health care providers to provide abortion care and a corresponding right for patients to receive care free from medically unnecessary restrictions that impede reproductive care.

Closing the gender wage gap. For too long, women have worked overtime for a fraction of the pay that men make. In fact, full-time working women still earn only 82 cents, on average, for every dollar their male counterparts earn, and the wage gap is even larger for women of color. I voted for the Paycheck Fairness Act to ensure equal pay for equal work by closing the gender wage gap and empowering women in the workplace.

Empowering survivors. Domestic violence is a pervasive issue only made worse by the coronavirus pandemic. That's why I helped pass the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2021, bipartisan legislation to reauthorize and make vital improvements to the landmark Violence Against Women Act of 1994, including investments in prevention, protection, and support for victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Supporting women through pandemic recovery. The coronavirus pandemic has forced millions of women out of the workforce entirely, including nearly a million mothers. Through investments in child care, elder and family care, and paid family and medical leave, the American Rescue Plan and Build Back Better Act — both of which I proudly supported — work to support women and mothers through their pandemic recovery and help them get back into the workforce.

Defending pregnant workers. Workers in nearly half of the states around the country continue to be fired, denied basic accommodations, or denied employment in the first place simply because of their pregnancy. As someone who worked full time while pregnant with both of my daughters, I could not imagine having to choose between my job security and a healthy pregnancy. I supported passage of the Pregnant Workers' Fairness Act so no one ever has to.

COMBATING THE OPIOID CRISIS

The opioid epidemic is a public health crisis that has devastated too many families in the Third District and beyond — and it has only been made worse by the coronavirus pandemic. Putting an end to this crisis continues to be a top priority of mine.

Leading the charge to find a solution. Congress has an obligation to act and must take a holistic approach to ending the crisis that has taken far too many lives already. I led the reintroduction of the Medication Access and Training Expansion Act, bipartisan legislation to implement a standard for substance use disorder training that requires prescribers of highly-addictive medications to have baseline knowledge in evidence-based addiction prevention and treatment.

Expanding awareness. Drug overdose deaths have reached record highs during the pandemic. I led a bipartisan group of 21 of my colleagues in pushing the federal government to recognize and support the goals of Overdose Awareness Day — a day held in remembrance of the lives lost to overdoses. Thanks to our advocacy, President Biden proclaimed August 29 through September 4, 2021 to be Overdose Awareness Week.

Supporting local efforts to end the epidemic. Organizations across the Commonwealth work tirelessly to provide direct support to those suffering with substance use disorder in our communities. From The Bridge Club of Greater Lowell to UMass Chan Medical School, I'm proud to support these local efforts to finally end this devastating epidemic.

Joining with colleagues in Washington. The opioid epidemic is one that touches every district across our country. Over the past year, I joined with my colleagues on the Bipartisan Addiction and Mental Health Task Force to identify and advance meaningful solutions and enact policies to address the substance use disorder crisis, improve access to mental health care, and reduce overdose deaths.



Congresswoman Trahan speaks at the Hudson International Drug Overdose Awareness Day Vigil.

PRIORITIZING MENTAL HEALTH

Medical experts all agree that the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on the mental health of every American, especially our children and young adults. I'm proud to be a leading advocate for commonsense policies and actions that expand access to mental health care and address the root cause of suicides.

Supporting mental health in schools. As a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee's Health Subcommittee, I introduced the the *Youth Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Act*, legislation to support positive mental health promotion and suicide prevention programs in high schools. This legislation would provide federal funding to school districts to strengthen behavioral health awareness through planning and prevention efforts, public health campaign materials, and additional activities.

Championing necessary legislation. As a member of the Bipartisan Addiction and Mental Health Task Force, I helped craft the task force's legislative agenda, which includes policies that work to address America's mental health and addiction crises. This comprehensive package includes policies to improve prevention and increase access to treatments for substance use disorder and mental health issues, enhance a strong mental health workforce, bolster education and reduce stigma around addiction and mental health issues, and increase access to critical care for vulnerable populations.

Combating online dangers. Following the publication of a New York Times investigative report on a pro-suicide and self-harm website that disproportionately harms young people, I led a bipartisan group of members seeking to collaborate with the U.S. Department of Justice on solutions to remove the website and hold bad actors that created the platform accountable.

Securing critical funding. One of the many reasons I supported the American Rescue Plan was because it included substantial funding to strengthen access to mental health care and boost research efforts here in the Third District and across our nation. Specifically, the package included more than \$12 billion for various mental health care programs. Funding from that allocation has been working its way into communities across Massachusetts over the past few months.

If you or someone you know are having thoughts of suicide or self-harm, please contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by phone at 800-273-8255 (TALK) or online at www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

HOLDING BIG TECH ACCOUNTABLE

Technology giants like Facebook know the harms their platforms cause, especially to young people, but they continue to do nothing to protect users — consistently putting their own profits over people. We must hold these companies accountable to protect our children, our society, and our democracy.

Pushing for transparency. Digital platforms like Google and Facebook profit hand over fist from targeted ads while bad actors actively exploit their lack of transparency to harm consumers, including some of the most vulnerable in our communities. That's why I introduced the Social Media DATA Act, legislation that will require companies to share key data regarding the impact of ad targeting on consumers.

Protecting our children. When news broke of Facebook's plan to create an Instagram for kids under the age of 13, I teamed up with Senator Ed Markey to demand that these plans be abandoned. Facebook responded by putting a pause on its plans.

Demanding answers on dangerous practices. Tech giants' current practices introduce our children to social media far too early and include manipulative design features intended to keep them hooked. I grilled Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Google CEO Sundar Pichai about their companies' efforts to target children as their next frontier of growth.

Understanding the problem. Our children's screen time has increased by 50% during the coronavirus pandemic, and new research shows that one in four young people say they are on social media "almost constantly." I joined with my colleagues to reintroduce the Children and Media Research Advancement Act, bipartisan legislation that would direct the National Institutes of Health to lead a research program on technology and social media's effects on infants, children, and adolescents in core areas of development.

Addressing technology in the classroom. After a year and a half of overcoming remote learning challenges, the last thing students, parents, and educators need to worry about is education technology companies using data harvesting techniques to predict educational outcomes and target advertisements. I unveiled legislation to establish long overdue guardrails that protect students' privacy while also leaving room for innovation and data-driven evaluation.



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