

— CONGRESSWOMAN —
LORI TRAHAN

PROUDLY REPRESENTING  MASSACHUSETTS' 3RD DISTRICT



2019-2020 TERM IN REVIEW

Dear Neighbor,

When I took office in January 2019, it was with the promise to you that the concerns of hardworking families across Massachusetts' Third District would always come first. Each day, that promise drives my work in the U.S. Capitol and in our community.

Serving as your representative for the last two years has been the honor of a lifetime. And your input has been instrumental in our successful efforts to enact legislation providing billions in coronavirus relief, keeping small businesses afloat, protecting our waterways and public lands, supporting our service members and military veterans, enhancing retirement savings opportunities, and more.

However, there is still much more work to be done. That's why I look forward to working with the incoming administration to push for additional much-needed pandemic relief, strengthen workers' rights, reform our government and campaign finance system, increase access to quality and affordable health care, lower prescription drug prices, protect our environment, put an end to the opioid crisis, and ensure that all children receive the education they need and deserve.

I hope that you will take a moment to review this report. It summarizes much of our work over the past two years. This year, in particular, has been like no other in our lifetime. So please join me in reflecting upon what we have achieved together and what remains to be done to meet the needs of Massachusetts families, workers, and small businesses as we continue to navigate this pandemic and beyond.

Please do not ever hesitate to contact my office to share an opinion or seek assistance with a federal agency. And I look forward to keeping in touch with you in the new year.



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



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TERM IN REVIEW

Providing excellent constituent service has been my top goal from the first day I took office. This year, in particular, has presented incredible challenges to the American people and demanded numerous interventions by my office when the federal bureaucracy simply has not acted swiftly enough.

Whether it has involved expediting small business relief, assisting veterans, seniors, and those with disabilities receive the benefits they are owed, alerting our community to federal grant opportunities (and offering support for federal grant applications), or simply helping to demystify the array of new programs established to fight the pandemic, 2020 has offered abundant chances to achieve my primary goal - **to serve you.**

Our first term by the numbers:



25

Pieces of legislation introduced



91

Public forums hosted



2,178

Constituent cases closed



3,677,932

Dollars saved for constituents



95,709

Constituent questions answered



945

Tours of small businesses, organizations and constituent meetings

CALLING FOR UNITY IN WASHINGTON

Nearly



50%

of all bills we have introduced have a republican co-lead.



REPORT CARD

UNITED STATES CONGRESS
CONGRESSWOMAN LORI TRAHAN
MASSACHUSETTS' THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Year: 2019-2020

Name of Organization	Grade
Alliance for Retired Americans	A+
Communications Workers of America	A+
Humane Society of the United States	A+
National Education Association	A+
Human Rights Campaign	A+
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People	A+
National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws	A+
NETWORK, A National Catholic Justice Society	A+
Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights	A+
End Citizens United	A+
National Parks Conservation Association	A+
League of Conservation Voters	A+

During this trying time, our communities need relief. I'm proud of our work to deliver essential support to our families, frontline workers, small businesses, and students.



Problem: At the beginning of the pandemic, our most vulnerable populations struggled greatly with access to COVID-19 testing.

Solution: I introduced the [Ensuring Free Coronavirus Testing For Seniors Act \(H.R. 6214\)](#), which promotes free COVID-19 testing for seniors who are covered through Medicare Advantage. I'm proud that this legislation cleared both chambers of Congress with bipartisan support and became law in late March.



Problem: During the early months of COVID-19, frontline health care and essential workers experienced a severe shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) due to a nationwide reliance on medical equipment made abroad.

Solution: I introduced the [Pandemic Production Act \(H.R. 6793\)](#), which ends the United States' dependence on a foreign supply chain of medical products, like masks and gowns, by supporting the restoration of America's manufacturing capability for these essential goods. This legislation will ensure that our health care and other essential workers have the equipment they need to do their jobs safely while also renewing our domestic manufacturing base.



Problem: Under the added financial burden of the pandemic, Americans were still expected to pay out of pocket for life-saving medical treatment to combat COVID-19.

Solution: I introduced the [Coverage for COVID-19 Treatment Act \(H.R. 6568\)](#), which requires that private insurers cover all treatment-related costs for COVID-19 with no-cost sharing for patients.



Problem: While masks have proved to be one of the best ways to reduce spread of COVID-19, many Americans do not have access to this indispensable tool.

Solution: Senator Bernie Sanders and I introduced the [Masks for All Act \(H.R. 7607\)](#), which would encourage American companies to manufacture and distribute high-quality, reusable masks to everyone in America.



Problem: Community Action Agencies across the Third District have been working to overcome the challenges presented by COVID-19 to continue providing critical services to low-income families.

Solution: I successfully secured an increase in federal funding for the main grant program that provides much needed investments in these agencies and have continued working to increase other funding avenues, including Head Start grants, that they are also eligible for.

Throughout the global pandemic, our community's needs have been the guiding light behind my fight to break through partisan gridlock in Washington. The evidence is clear: we must provide immediate relief to Massachusetts' families, workers, and small businesses. In particular, I have supported a number of coronavirus relief packages, including:

MARCH 4

Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act

Initiated development of therapeutics and vaccines, created a new low-interest loan program (EIDL) for small businesses, and invested in our medical supply chain and surge capacity.

MARCH 14

Families First Coronavirus Response Act

Provided paid leave, established free coronavirus testing, supported strong unemployment benefits, expanded food assistance for vulnerable children and families, protected frontline health workers, and provided additional funding to states for the ongoing economic consequences of the pandemic, among other provisions.

The package also included my legislation, to make testing for coronavirus (COVID-19) free for seniors who receive coverage through Medicare Advantage.

MARCH 27

CARES Act

Billions of dollars in relief to Massachusetts families, including stimulus checks for individuals and families, additional \$600 per week in unemployment benefits, Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans for small businesses, and vital support for our schools and transportation systems.

APRIL 23

Paycheck Protection and Health Care Enhancement Act

Expanded the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to support the Commonwealth's smallest businesses and their employees, and provided additional funding for state-wide testing, hospitals, and frontline workers.

MAY 15

HEROES Act

\$3 trillion in immediate relief to front line workers, additional financial assistance to working families, and enhanced oversight of nursing home facilities that have become hotbeds for the spread of COVID-19.

OCTOBER 1

HEROES Act 2.0

\$2.2 trillion in additional support for unemployment, economic impact payments (EIP), small businesses, airline industry workers, and additional funding for education and child care. Additionally, provided billions to testing efforts, treatment, and support to front line heroes, as well as state and local governments.

DECEMBER 21

Additional COVID-19 Relief Funding

\$900 billion in funding for vaccine distribution, direct payments, enhanced and extended unemployment benefits, food and rental assistance, small business relief, public K-12 education, and support for child care.

ORGANIZING IN WASHINGTON AND MASSACHUSETTS

Pandemic Preparedness Caucus

In August, I partnered with Representatives Troy Balderson (R-OH-12) and Cindy Axne (D-IA-03) to launch the bipartisan Pandemic Preparedness Caucus, a coalition of members looking to advance results-driven, bipartisan policy solutions to challenges presented by COVID-19 and future public health emergencies.

The Pandemic Preparedness Caucus focuses its efforts on how to strengthen America's response to the spread of COVID-19 domestically and how to better equip the United States in its fight against future pandemics. The Caucus is made up of members who are committed to addressing pandemic-related issues in a meaningful, bipartisan manner.



Veterans Advisory Council



The nation owes much more than simply gratitude to those who have served and sacrificed for our nation. I will always prioritize our veterans' health and wellbeing. To ensure that our veterans receive the highest degree of attention and expertise, I established a Veterans Advisory Council for our district.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, not a day goes by that I do not reflect on the bravery and sacrifices of our nation's servicemembers, and the wounds -- both visible and invisible -- they carry with them long after they return to civilian life.

Save Minor Leagues Task Force

In December of 2019 I joined Representatives David McKinley (R-WV-01), Max Rose (D-NY-11), and Mike Simpson (R-ID-02) to launch the Save Minor League Baseball Task Force.

Our bipartisan group advocates on behalf of minor league baseball clubs, like the Lowell Spinners, and recognizes the critical economic and cultural benefits they offer to the places they call home.



EDUCATION

Strengthening public K-12 education and making higher education more affordable.



Problem: Before the pandemic, school meals were a primary source of nutrition for children across America. The move to distance and hybrid learning combined with the economic downturn has caused many children to suffer from food insecurity.

Solution: I helped introduce the [Pandemic Child Hunger Act, \(H.R.7887\)](#), which would allow all students to temporarily be made eligible for free contactless school meals during the 2020-2021 school year and work with community partners to ensure no child goes hungry during the pandemic. We also are connecting our community to resources, posting active updates of school lunch pick-up sites across Massachusetts.



Problem: Students often receive confusing or conflicting information about financial aid as well as the cost of attendance at colleges and universities.

Solution: I introduced the [FACT Act \(H.R. 4343\)](#), which directs the Secretary of Education to develop requirements for financial aid offers and establish common terms and definitions to be used in all financial aid communications. This legislation ultimately empowers students to make decisions that are right for them and provide important information on college costs and financial aid in a quick and easy-to-read format.



Problem: Alongside traditional pathways to success, it is important to support cost-efficient technical education programs that set up graduates for quality jobs after graduation.

Solution: I successfully amended the [Higher Education Act \(H.R. 4371\)](#) in the House to strengthen the Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. Specifically, this change authorizes \$200 million in funding to foster greater cooperation and alignment between CTE programs, educational institutions, and employers.



Problem: With the added financial stress of the pandemic, college students and graduates are struggling to make their loan payments. While the CARES Act paused student loan payments for most federal student loan borrowers, 7.2 million people with Federal Family Education Loans (FFEL) were left behind.

Solution: I helped introduce the bipartisan [Equity in Student Loan Relief Act \(H.R. 6597\)](#), which closes this loophole by extending the same temporary relief from student loan payments to FFEL program borrowers.



Problem: A nationwide shortage of qualified teachers has worsened under the conditions of the pandemic: many teachers are leaving the profession due to added caretaking responsibilities, higher risk of illness, and a lack of resources.

Solution: I introduced the [Supporting Teachers with Residency Opportunities and New Grants \(STRONG\) Act \(H.R. 8468\)](#), which fast-tracks prospective teachers into the current workforce to provide additional support, either virtually or in-person, to our teachers as they grapple with the challenges of teaching during COVID-19 and beyond. This bill aims to address teacher shortages in our school districts and builds a stronger student to teacher pipeline for the next generation of educators.

Fighting for greater opportunities for workers and opposing attacks on their earned benefits.



Problem: Hardworking Americans need retirement saving solutions.

Solution: I introduced the [Small Employer Retirement Savings Auto-Enrollment Credit Act \(H.R. 1938\)](#), which provides tax incentives to small businesses – those with up to 100 employees – to encourage them to automatically enroll their workers in a retirement plan, such as a 401(k). This bill became law nearly a year ago and will help our workforce be ready for retirement.



Problem: Labor unions helped to build America's middle-class. But, over the years, those hostile to workers' collective bargaining rights have successfully made it even more difficult for employees to band together and form a union. And even in cases when a union is recognized, tactics, such as "offensive lockouts" can be deployed to gain unfair leverage over workers at the bargaining table.

Solution: I cosponsored the [Protecting Rights to Organize \(PRO\) Act \(H.R.2474\)](#), comprehensive legislation to restore workers' rights. And I authored an amendment to the bill which would prohibit offensive lockouts.



Problem: During the 2018-2019 government shutdown, 400,000 workers were deemed "essential" or "excepted service" and forced to continue working without pay or even receive unemployment compensation.

Solution: I introduced the [Fairness for Excepted Service Employees Act \(H.R. 4072\)](#), which requires that federal employees who are forced to work without pay during a government shutdown are eligible for unemployment compensation.



Problem: Nearly 7 million jobs could be permanently lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving many workers, especially new ones, in need of reliable pathways to quality employment.

Solution: I introduced [H.R.8317, an Act to encourage employer participation in the national apprenticeship system](#). The legislation authorizes the Department of Labor to provide grants to encourage participation in the national apprenticeship system by small- and medium-sized businesses and is now law under [H.R. 8294, the National Apprenticeship Act of 2020](#).



Congresswoman Trahan hosts a Facebook Live conversation focused on the challenges our teachers face during the COVID-19 pandemic. She was joined by 2016 National Teacher of the Year, Congresswoman Jahana Hayes (D-CT-05), and President of the American Federation of Teachers, Randi Weingarten.

This year marked the centennial of the 19th amendment which extended the right to vote to women, who had been denied that basic right since our country's founding despite comprising half our population. While we have come a long way since then, millions of women – especially women of color – still face insidious barriers that deny them full equality in their careers and private lives.



Problem: COVID-19 has pushed affordable, quality child care even further out of reach for too many families as the pandemic has shuttered providers around the nation.

Solution: I became an original cosponsor and voted in favor of the **Child Care is Essential Act (H.R. 7027)**, which grants necessary relief to child care providers and workers and promotes public health compliance for safer child care facilities.



Problem: Women continue to face scrutiny and discrimination in the workforce when it comes to pregnancy.

Solution: I supported passage of the **Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (H.R. 2694)**, which requires employers to provide reasonable accommodations for pregnant employees.



Problem: The gender pay gap continues to persist, causing women -- especially women of color -- to earn less than men.

Solution: I cosponsored the **Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 7)**, which would close the gender wage gap by giving workers more power to argue for fair compensation and hold noncompliant organizations accountable for wage discrimination.



Problem: Women continue to face repercussions when bringing forward sexual harassment or assault claims in the workplace.

Our Solution: I cosponsored the **BE HEARD in the Workplace Act (H.R. 2148)**, which extends the statute of limitations for filing a sexual harassment claim and prevents companies from requiring new employees to sign mandatory arbitration or nondisclosure agreements that could stifle disclosures about harassment on the job.



Problem: Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields of study and work have always been male-dominated. It's long past time to demolish barriers women face when entering or working in the STEM fields.

Solution: I cosponsored the **Combatting Sexual Harassment in Science Act of 2019 (H.R. 36)**, which addresses sexual harassment in STEM fields by supporting sexual harassment research and efforts to prevent and respond to sexual harassment.



Problem: Women have experienced an unprecedented degree of attacks on their reproductive health and rights, which have further compromised access to safe and affordable comprehensive health care and abortion care.

Solution: I cosponsored the **The EACH Woman Act** which would prevent federal, state, and local legislators from restricting or interfering with the decision of a private insurance health insurance plan or market to offer coverage for abortion care, including in the implementation of the **Affordable Care Act (ACA)**.

Bringing our servicemember and veteran concerns to the halls of Congress.



Problem: Too often, those in leadership positions have turned a blind eye to instances of sexual assault and harrasment.

Solution: I introduced the [Prevention of Sexual Assault in the Armed Services Act \(H.R. 3216\)](#), which creates a civilian advisory committee to advise the Department of Defense on sexual assault prevention and requires that victims be regularly informed on the status of their cases after they report an assault.



Problem: Servicemembers and their families should be ensured the basic right to vote.

Solution: I introduced the [Voting Residency Rights for Families of Deployed U.S. Servicemembers \(H.Amdt. 101\)](#) in accompaniment with the [For the People Act of 2019 \(H.R. 1\)](#) to extend the same voting residency protections already granted to deployed U.S. servicemembers to their spouses and voting age children.



Problem: Our troops are dying at an increasingly alarming rate due to an under-addressed mental health crisis.

Solution: I introduced the [Comprehensive Review of Military Suicide Act \(H.R.7474\)](#), which creates a multidisciplinary board composed of a unit-level commander, medical and mental health professionals, and representatives from military criminal investigative organizations to ensure that the Department of Defense has the information necessary to put an end to the servicemember suicide crisis.



Problem: Our servicemembers put their lives on the line every day to protect the freedoms we hold dear, and we must equip them with state-of-the-art equipment to keep them as safe as possible.

Solution: In the National Defense Authorization Act for 2020, I proposed [\\$30 million in funding increases for Massachusetts-based businesses](#) working hard to develop cutting-edge technology that will keep our servicemembers safe.

Congresswoman Trahan attends a Veteran's Day event in November 2019 to thank our veterans in person for the sacrifices they have made for our nation.



At home in Massachusetts and across the country, our coasts, forests, and farmlands continue to bear the brunt of extreme weather patterns and increasingly destructive natural disasters. It is more important than ever that we act to prevent further harm.



Problem: Rivers, streams, and waterways in Massachusetts are flooded with millions of gallons of untreated sewage and wastewater each year.

Solution: I introduced the bipartisan **Stop Sewage Overflow Act (H.R.2776)**, which drastically improves federal investment in states and municipalities for the planning, design, and construction of modernized sewage and wastewater infrastructure that prevents runoffs into our waterways.



Problem: The Nashua River, a precious and historical resource for the region, faced degradation for years.

Solution: I completed the work started by former Representative Niki Tsongas to enact legislation adding the Nashua River to the **National Wild and Scenic River System**. This designation will help preserve the river for generations to come.



Problem: Climate change is a civilizational threat that transcends borders.

Solution: I was an original cosponsor of the **Green New Deal (H.Res.109)** a resolution to address climate change and economic inequality and voted for the **Climate Action Now Act (H.R.9)** that would require the United States to remain in or rejoin the Paris Climate Accord.



Congresswoman Trahan tours a wastewater treatment facility along the Merrimack River with Congressman Chris Pappas (D-NH-01) and regional EPA Administrator Deb Szaro.



Across the Third District, I have met too many families affected by substance use disorder. Their stories have informed my bipartisan work to end the stigma that too often prevents those struggling from getting the treatment and care they need.



Problem: Many physicians are not required to undergo comprehensive training about the risks of prescribing opioids.

Solution: I introduced the [Safer Prescribing of Controlled Substances Act \(H.R. 2734\)](#), which requires all physicians who prescribe opioids to complete mandatory education on how to safely prescribe addictive opioids through courses in medical school, fulfilling their state licensure, or fulfilling specialty board requirements.



Problem: Physicians often follow irregular prescribing practices when it comes to opioid medication and treatment.

Solution: I introduced the [Medication Access and Training Expansion \(MATE\) Act \(H.R. 4974\)](#), which empowers doctors to break down stigma by giving them the tools to diagnose and treat substance use disorder. This legislation will significantly increase the number of medical practitioners with baseline knowledge on how to prevent, identify, treat, and manage patients with substance use disorder.



Problem: The misinformation surrounding addiction prevents us from starting much-needed conversations with our families and friends to address the opioid epidemic which continues to plague our communities.

Solution: Inspired by Cheryl Juairé, a resident of Marlborough and founder of Team Sharing Massachusetts, I co-led a bipartisan letter to President Trump urging him to lower flags on all public buildings to half-staff on August 31st each year in recognition of International Overdose Awareness Day.



Problem: The opioid crisis has transformed into a public health emergency, crippling the resources of our local and state governments while devastating pathways of accessible treatment.

Solution: I was an original cosponsor of the Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency [\(CARE\) Act \(H.R. 2569\)](#), which provides local and state governments with \$100 billion in federal funding to provide treatments, trainings, and advocacy support over ten years to combat the opioid epidemic.



Problem: Congress has an obligation to take care of the most vulnerable among us, like our senior citizens. They are our mothers and fathers; grandmothers and grandfathers; family and friends. Despite that, funding for the Older Americans Act (OAA) has not kept pace with the growth of the American population over the age of 60.

Solution: I introduced the [National Family Caregiver Support Program Cap Elimination Act of 2019 \(H.R. 4853\)](#) which removes a funding cap under the [Older Americans Act \(OAA\)](#) that unnecessarily limits critical aid for older relative caregivers, including grandparents who are serving in caregiving roles due to the opioid addiction epidemic. This bipartisan legislation became law through the Dignity in Aging Act.

Merrimack Valley Gas Explosions

On September 13, 2018, our community was devastated by a series of gas explosions which tragically took the life of Leonel Rondon and ignited dangerous fires in Lawrence, Andover, and North Andover.

The tragic and preventable Merrimack Valley gas explosions impacted thousands of families in the region, which is why I joined Senator Ed Markey (D-MA), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), and Representative Seth Moulton (D-MA-6) to introduce the **Leonel Rondon Pipeline Safety Act**. This legislation will ensure that no other community ever has to experience a tragedy like this by strengthening pipeline safety and increasing safety standards.

The Leonel Rondon Pipeline Safety Act became Law on December 28, 2020.



Top Right Image: Congresswoman Trahan attended the unveiling of Leonel A. Rondon Square in honor of Leonel's memory.

Bottom Right Image: Congresswoman Trahan and Senator Markey announced the Leonel Rondon Pipeline Safety Act in Lawrence, MA with Rondon's family.

Left Image: Congresswoman Trahan testified before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials to advocate for the passage of the Leonel Rondon Pipeline Safety Act.



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STAY CONNECTED WITH US



@REPLORITRAHAN

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