August 6, 2020

Continuing Our Fight Against COVID

Dear Friends,

In the months since COVID-19 infections emerged in the United States, we have experienced public health and economic challenges the likes that few of us have ever experienced. Today, with nearly 160,000 COVID-related deaths across the nation, thousands of new cases reported daily, and an economy experiencing record contraction, it is more important than ever that Congress takes bold action to help the American people.

On May 15, the House passed the Heroes Act to build on previous relief legislation and provide additional help during this tough time. The comprehensive bill included another round of stimulus payments that would reach even more families, a Heroes Fund to properly compensate essential workers on the front lines of the pandemic, additional enhanced unemployment benefits for workers in dire need, aid for states and municipalities wrestling with mounting deficits, and support for robust testing to contain the spread of the virus.

Save The Date

PPP DEADLINE SATURDAY

The deadline for applications for businesses interested in COVID-19 relief from the Small Business Administration’s Paycheck Protection Program is this Saturday, August 8.

Did You Know...?

RESTORE RI

The State of Rhode Island has made small business relief available with grants of up to $15,000 through the Restore Rhode Island Program. The aid is possible thanks to the CARES Act, which provided over $1.25 billion in federal funding to Rhode Island.

FAST FACT

July 26th marked the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Rep. Langevin penned an op-ed with Senator Tammy Duckworth in Newsweek to underscore how far we’ve come, and
Almost three months later, federal unemployment benefits have expired, and the Heroes Act is still being held up by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. Instead of allowing a vote on this comprehensive bill, he unveiled a proposal last week that fails to meet the needs of families and businesses during this unprecedented crisis. The package would extend unemployment benefits at drastically lower levels for 30 million Americans struggling to make ends meet, including roughly 100,000 Rhode Islanders who have seen their weekly incomes drop significantly as bills come due.

Leader McConnell’s proposal to reduce federal unemployment aid, ignore the sacrifices of frontline workers by omitting hazard pay, and dismiss struggling states’ fiscal crunches is a disservice to those who are frantically wondering how they will get through another day in the middle of this pandemic.

Americans need to be assured Congress will fulfill our responsibility to protect them. I’ll continue to fight tirelessly so that we come to an agreement that does more than the bare minimum. We cannot be timid in our response.

To stay up to date on my latest efforts to help help Rhode Islanders, please visit my website and follow me on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Instagram.

Sincerely,

Jim Langevin

Facing the Child Care Crisis
The COVID-19 pandemic created massive disruptions in child care and has made it even tougher for hardworking parents to access quality services. The House recently passed the Child Care Is Essential Act and the Child Care for Economic Recovery Act to make help available for parents, providers on the brink of closure, and childcare workers whose jobs are on the line.

In Other News

ADA AT 30
Rep. Langevin and Jay Ruderman made the case in The New York Daily News that people with disabilities are one of the country’s greatest untapped resources.

BOLSTERING CYBERSECURITY
Rep. Langevin has led several bipartisan efforts to pass Cyberspace Solarium Commission recommendations in the House.

MAKING CYBER DETERRENCE STICK

SNAPPY ANSWERS TO CYBER QUESTIONS

CONGRESSIONAL CYBER OVERSIGHT
Rep. Langevin underscored that Congressional oversight is essential to prevent and confront malicious cyber actors targeting Americans and our interests.

$71 MILLION FOR RI HOSPITALS
Rep. Langevin joined RI’s Congressional delegation to announce more than $71 million in CARES Act funding to help five local hospitals.
Funding the Government

One of my responsibilities as a lawmaker is to fund the federal government in a manner that empowers Rhode Islanders and the American people. Recently, the House passed H.R. 7608 and H.R. 7617, which comprise 10 of our annual spending bills and include strong support for our service members and veterans, investments in education and job training, boosts for manufacturing at Quonset Point, and provisions to strengthen our cybersecurity.

IMPROVING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Rep. Langevin announced that the House's version of the Water Resources Development Act authorized key projects that will preserve natural resources and protect families and businesses in Rhode Island.