



UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN

# TRACEY MANN

PROUDLY REPRESENTING THE 1ST DISTRICT OF KANSAS

**ANNUAL REPORT 2021** 







# LETTER FROM REP. MANN

To my fellow Kansans,

The opportunity to serve you and represent your interests in Washington D.C. during this past year has been one of the great privileges of my life. I strive to be a servant leader, to remember that your interests and your struggles in the Big First are my interests, and my struggles. When I'm sitting in my office in the nation's capital, I draw on my faith, my family, and my Kansas forebears like Bob Dole and Dwight Eisenhower for inspiration. I strive to represent this legacy well, and I am accountable to you, my constituents, on that point. Kansans are a strong breed; they work hard, they pray hard, they band together, sacrifice for one another, and they understand that America's heartbeat lies in families and communities like their own. I was blessed to bear witness to this Kansas spirit at the town halls that we hosted in each of our district's 63 counties, all of which I visited this past year.

The people of the Big First have shaped my perspective on what it means to live in America. In my district, livelihoods hang in the balance of whether it rains or not. Parents are willing to drive for an hour just to take their kids to school or football practice. Whole communities thrive or suffer based on oil and gas prices. This is where my passion for agriculture and conservative Kansas values comes from — my Kansas friends, family, ancestors, and mentors. I did not come to congress to be a caretaker in the slow demise of America, I came to fight and work to make it stronger.

In this annual report, you will learn about some of the ways that I am standing up for your rights and pushing back against big government socialism while striving to protect your values and way of life. I love my district, my state, and my country, and I'd like to tell you about some initiatives that we have been tackling since last January that fall under those three categories.

### My DISTRICT

I serve on the House Agriculture Committee and the Veterans' Affairs Committee, both of which are particularly important to me given the makeup of my district. The Big First is the breadbasket of this country; we are the largest beef-producing district in the nation, and we are the home to more than 60,000 farms, ranches, and agriculture businesses. In terms of the Agriculture Committee, my top three priorities are to protect and strengthen crop insurance, to stop regulatory

overreach, and to promote trade and export markets for farmers and ranchers. I am so grateful to sit on this committee, as it relates directly to my passion for the Big First, and to what I believe makes us stand out as unique within, and essential to our republic.

We also have a strong military and veteran presence in the Big First, and I am ready to fight for policies that strengthen that community and ensure that veterans can support themselves and their families. The House Veterans' Affairs Committee has been hard at work. We have stood with four Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee. We have stood in support of veteran peer counselors and added to the resources of the national suicide hotline, and we have sent two bills to the Senate that would have a dramatic impact on the lives of veterans. Supporting our brave troops must continue even after they take off the uniform.

### My State

Bob Dole, with whom I met just a few weeks before he died, told me that he believed in what he called "The Kansas Approach," the markers of which he identified as honesty, hard work, respect for your roots, common sense, service, simplicity, and genuine, thoughtful care for people. These are the Kansas conservative values that I find myself reminding people in Washington, D.C. about so often.

We need to lower taxes if people in the Big First, and in the Midwest at large, are going to prosper. Low tax rates allow the private sector to thrive, and they create a better environment for small businesses and entrepreneurs. President Biden's tax proposals will shrink the middle class and obstruct upward mobility, which is the bedrock of the American Dream. The proposed tax hikes include raising taxes on small businesses, capital gains, and ending the stepped-up basis. These proposals will make it more difficult to pass down family farms, hurt anyone with a 401K or retirement account, and will make America's tax rates higher than those of Communist China. Instead of lowering taxes, this administration's policies are creating inflation, which is a tax on everyone.

### My Country

Wasteful government spending and legislative overreach are completely out of control, and this administration is leading the charge on backwards, leftist, harmful policies that my Republican colleagues and I are doing our best to thwart in an

effort to protect the American people. Vaccine mandates are a great example of this administration's misguided policies that waste time and taxpayer dollars instead of fixing real problems like the weakened supply chain and rampant inflation.

Vaccine mandates are bad for America. Anyone who wants to get a vaccine should be able to get one, but it is not the government's place to tell people what to put into their bodies. Sadly, this administration's bad policies don't stop with vaccine mandates.

President Biden's immigration policies, or lack thereof, have created a border crisis. On inauguration day, President Biden sent the Citizenship Act to Capitol Hill wherein he promised citizenship to 11 million immigrants, placed a 100-day moratorium on deportations, rescinded existing policies that controlled the flow of migrants and gave normal order to legal immigration, and halted the construction of the border wall. As a result, the daily average of unaccompanied minors crossing the border has skyrocketed, immigration facilities are well over capacity, and communities on the border are at risk. This is human heartbreak, and Congress must recognize a legal pathway to citizenship while also securing our borders.

I am pro-life because of my faith, my children, and my understanding of the dignity of every human soul. Rather than stand in awe of the miracle of life inside a mother's womb, some of our country's leaders would rather support policies that devalue and eliminate the lives of these innocent children. For decades, these elected leaders have spent more time protecting sea turtle eggs and the lesser prairie chicken than unborn babies – human beings. I believe that life begins at conception. I believe that every life matters. I support adoptions, foster care, and crisis pregnancy centers that work tirelessly to care for mothers and their babies. Abortion has desensitized our nation, and I pray that we wake up soon and realize the horrors that we have visited upon our country's most vulnerable people – the unborn. It is time to stop using taxpayer dollars to fund abortion services and focus on lifesaving resources that value the lives of both mothers and children. The right to life is self-evident, it's crystal clear, and I will fight to protect it at all costs.

I am pro-second amendment because it is a load-bearing wall in our system of rights in this country; if the second amendment gets weakened, or removed, other rights will crumble alongside it. The U.S. Constitution grants Americans the right to bear arms. This is a foundational right in our country upon which we must never infringe, and it's part of what makes us great. The recent background check legislation that liberals forced across the House Floor did little to prevent

criminals from accessing firearms and made it more difficult for law-abiding citizens to exercise their Second Amendment rights. It is important to seek resolutions that protect the innocent from criminals while upholding the rights of law-abiding gun owners.

### A Brighter Future

The American experiment began because people were fed up with living under the edicts of kings – that's why, as my first order of business in Congress, I introduced the MANN (More Accountability is Necessary Now) Acts, which aim to curb the gross misuse of the executive order. The Mann Acts are six pieces of legislation that promote accountability and transparency insofar as they require the executive branch to notify the American public and Congress of their intent to issue any new (or revoke any existing) executive order pertaining to: (1) agriculture, food, and the livelihood of American farmers, ranchers, and producers; (2) energy; (3) America's natural resources and the environment; (4) pro-life provisions including the Hyde Amendment and the right to life guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution; (5) the rights of law-abiding Americans to own, carry, and use firearms and the right to bear arms guaranteed by the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution; and (6) immigration into the United States. This is just a small step towards holding our government accountable.

I know that our brightest days are yet to come, and I have been working hard to help usher them in. I've sponsored 15 bills and cosponsored 248. I've cast 995 votes on the House Floor, delivered 42 floor speeches, and written 189 legislative letters, most of which have been addressed to President Biden. My office has solved over 1,000 constituent cases. I am bringing the Kansas work ethic to Capitol Hill for you, for your children, for the health of my district and my state, and for the future of this country. From the bottom of my heart, I am truly honored to serve you and represent your interests in Washington, D.C. I hope that this annual report will answer any questions that you may have about my priorities and my work on your behalf this past year. God bless you Kansans, and God bless America.

Tracey Mann

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### **CONGRESSMAN TRACEY MANN MAIDEN SPEECH**

117TH CONGRESS | MIDDLE OF IT ALL

**FEBRUARY 4, 2021** 

Madam Speaker - I am humbled to deliver my first speech on the House Floor today and discuss the future of our great Nation.

I grew up on the farm south of Quinter, Kansas that my parents and brother still operate. The house my parents live in, and the house I grew up in, is the same house my great, great grandfather ordered from a Montgomery Ward Catalogue in the early 1900s. Growing up there meant I spent thousands of hours on a tractor working in fields and on horseback doctoring cattle in the family feed yard. Those hours turned into love of country and lessons about the value of hard work.

My Kansas roots run deep and my desire to serve our country is wider than a country mile. I came to Congress to advocate for agriculture and our conservative Kansas values. Kansans are good people who carry a pioneering spirit with them, the same way those who settled my state did over 160 years ago. The people of Kansas 1, the Big First, know each other, look out for each other, and sacrifice for each other. The District is home to more than 60,000 farms and is made up of farmers, ranchers, feed lot managers, nutritionists, ethanol producers, ag lenders, and agribusiness owners who feed, fuel, and clothe the world. As Congress becomes increasingly more urban, the distance from farm to fork has never been greater, and the Big First depends on strong voices for agriculture in Congress – and that is why I am honored to serve on the House Agriculture Committee.

At the very top center of the Big First sits Lebanon – a seemingly ordinary small town. About 2 and a half miles northwest of Lebanon is the exact middle of the contiguous 48 states. A few months ago, a group of us met in Lebanon and prayed for our nation and that God's Will would be done and that our future would be bright.

There is something about being in the middle of the country where farmers pray for rain, parents drive thirty miles both ways just to take their kids to school, and communities shrink and grow with oil and gas prices that gives you greater perspective. To really be in the middle of it all, though, we must demand results.

I have received many calls from family farmers in the Big First gravely concerned with President Biden's executive order restricting travel from countries like South Africa — where many of our legal farm workers come from during harvest. And I'll tell you, if an issue matters to a Kansan, it matters to me. I worked with a number of my colleagues here to issue a letter to President Biden asking that he exempt essential workers like those in agriculture from his travel ban. Soon after, we were told The President would grant the

exemption. But to me, an exemption to an overreaching executive order is not enough. After watching President Biden issue 25 executive orders in his first ten days as President – more than the last 7 presidents combined during their first 10 days, I decided I could no longer sit idle and watch executive orders dictate the direction of our country, with no input from Congress. The Executive Branch was NOT created to legislate – Congress was.

We're now up to 42 executive orders from the Biden White House. That's why earlier this week I introduced the More Accountability is Necessary Now Acts — six pieces of legislation promoting accountability and transparency to the administration's future executive orders. The MANN Acts require that the executive branch notify the American public and Congress of its intent to issue any new executive orders pertaining to agriculture; energy; the environment; pro-life provisions; the Second Amendment; and immigration.

The short-term impact of legislation like this would be to hold our elected leaders more accountable. But, for the long-term, we must never forget that America is the greatest and most noble experiment that has ever been endeavored. When our Founding Fathers used the 3 words "By Their CREATOR" 245 years ago, they unleashed freedom on humanity because for the first time in history, people stood up and declared that freedoms do not flow from a king, or government, but from God. The power of that truth can never be stomped out because it rings loudly in the hearts and minds of Americans from coast to coast and certainly in the Big First, which in many ways is the pilot light of America. In my district, the basic values of faith, family, and freedom are alive and well. It's our responsibility to never let that light go out.

I believe that when we get into the middle of issues, roll up our sleeves, get to work, and do the heavy lifting, we gain better perspectives and better results. Being in the middle of it all, instead of being stapled to our desks in Washington, D.C. makes us all better and is good for America. Get in the middle of it. Stand face to face and engage. Spend time to think, pray, and reflect like I did that day in the exact center of the country. I promise, you will gain a better understanding of where we need to go as a nation.

I did not come to congress to be a caretaker in the slow demise of America – I ran so I could fight and work to make it stronger. That's what I intend to do while believing our brightest days are yet to come.

I yield back the balance of my time.

### **TOWNHALL MEETINGS**

As a member of Congress, I value the opportunity to sit down and talk with my constituents. One of my top priorities during my first year in office was to host a townhall in every county in the First District. My team and I visited all 63 counties in the First District this past summer, making 29 stops in August alone. I enjoyed hearing from Kansans across the Big First and learning how I can better represent your interests in Congress.

Barton County	Gray County
Chase County	Greeley County
heyenne County	Hamilton County
Cloud County	Hodgeman Count
Clay County	Jewell County
Clark County	Kearny County
Decatur County	Lane County
ickinson County	Lincoln County
Ellis County	Logan County
Ilsworth County	Lyon County
Finney County	Marion County
Ford County	Marshall County
Geary County	McPherson Count
Gove County	Meade County
Graham County	Mitchell County
Grant County	Morris County
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Morton County
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Osborne County
Ottawa County
Pawnee County
Phillips County
Pottawatomie Count
Rawlins County
Republic County
Reno County
Rice County
Riley County
Rooks County
Rush County
Russell County

Saline County
Seward County
Scott County
Sheridan County
Sherman County
Smith County
Stanton County
Stevens County
Thomas County
Trego County
Wabaunsee County
Wallace County
Washington County
Wichita County

### Tele-Townhalls

I also made sure to stay connected with constituents while I was in Washington, D.C. through tele-townhalls. In November, I hosted a veterans' tele-townhall with special guests Rep. Marianette Miller-Meeks from Iowa, and Rep. August Pflueger from Texas, both of whom served in the U.S. Military. It was a pleasure talking with them about their time in the military and discussing how Congress can best serve our nation's heroes. As a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and a strong ally of our U.S. military service members, I'm dedicated to giving our veterans the highest quality of support and resources.





As a fifth-generation Kansan, born and raised on my family farm just south of Quinter, Kansas, I'm honored to serve on the House Agriculture Committee in the 117th Congress. This position allows me to advocate for farmers, ranchers, feed lot managers, nutritionists, ethanol producers, ag lenders, and agribusiness owners of the Big First who feed, fuel, and clothe the world.

Agriculture is not just about the industry, it's about a lifestyle and the basic values that are crucial to our country: faith, caring for your neighbor, and working hard. I will fight to protect these values and advocate for policies that will support our producers and grow our country's food supply and self-sufficiency.

During my time on the House Agriculture Committee, I have prioritized stopping regulatory overreach, strengthening crop insurance, and promoting trade and export markets for farmers and ranchers. During my first year in congress, I:

- Introduced the No Land Grab Act, blocking President Biden's 30x30 executive order to conserve 30 percent of all U.S. land by 2030 and ensuring Kansans keep their private property.
- Cosponsored the Cattle Contract Library which would address more transparency, fairness, and healthy competition in the cattle market as cattle producers across the country face challenging market dynamics, including historically wide gaps between wholesale beef prices and fed cattle prices.
- Introduced legislation to retain stepped-up basis in future tax measures and cosponsored legislation to repeal the Estate Tax.
- Cosponsored the Year-Round Fuel Choice Act to allow year-round sale of E-15 fuel.
- Cosponsored the Broadband Internet Connections for Rural America Act, providing \$43 billion for critical broadband infrastructure in rural America.

In 2023, the House Agriculture Committee will need to reauthorize the Farm Bill. I am eager to continue my work with you to ensure that legislation protects and strengthens crop insurance, considers the next generation of farmers and ranchers who will access land and farm our ground, and maintains strong, transparent livestock policy. Again, I am beyond proud to represent the Big First District of Kansas and support farmers, ranchers, producers, and rural economies in Congress.





**41**Bills Sponsored
Pertaining to Agriculture

# House Veterans' Affairs Committee

This year, I was blessed to represent the more than 41,000 veterans from the Big First District who took the oath to support and defend our country. I have always been a strong supporter of the men and women of our armed services, and I believe that our support and gratitude does not end once they take off the uniform.

I was honored to serve on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee because advancing policies on behalf of veterans in our district and across this nation topped my list of priorities in Congress this year. As a member of that committee, I find myself in a unique position to advocate for policies that strengthen veterans' access to helpful resources, and to pass meaningful bills.

I was also selected to serve as the Ranking Member of the House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations this year. This subcommittee provides an overview on both programs and operations of the Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as other federal agencies that pertain to and affect veterans. As Ranking Member, I have the responsibility of not just crafting and overseeing legislation for veterans, but also making sure to stand against bills that fail to serve the interests of those who have served.

In this role, I have stood in support of veteran peer counselors and added to the resources of the national suicide hotline. I have also sent two bills to the Senate that would have a dramatic impact on the lives of veterans. The Affordable Housing for Homeless Veterans Act reauthorizes a program to curb veteran homelessness, and The VA equal Employment Opportunity Counselor Modernization Act would enable the VA's Office of Resolution Management, Diversity, and Inclusion to place additional counselors in regional offices around the country. I look forward to the Senate taking action on these bills, and more in 2022.

As we look to 2022, I look forward to continuing to advance policies that will make our district a place where future veterans will want to live and raise their families.





Bills Cosponsored Pertaining to Veterans



# LEGISLATIVE YEAR IN REVIEW

# SPONSORED LEGISLATION COSPONSORED LEGISLATION SPEECHES ON THE HOUSE FLOOR VOTES ON THE HOUSE FLOOR VOTES ON THE HOUSE FLOOR OVERSIGHT LETTERS HOUSE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND BUSINESS MEETINGS HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE HEARINGS & BUSINESS MEETINGS 32

#### HIGHLIGHTS

**Sponsored Legislation** 

### H.R. 5391, Stop Vaccine Mandates Act

This bill would prevent the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) from implementing a vaccine mandate on private businesses as OSHA neither has the authority nor the capacity to strong-arm private businesses.

### H.R. 5846, Truckers Responding at National Shipping Ports Overcoming Retail Turmoil Act

This bill would require the Secretary of Transportation to relieve congested ports during either a national state of emergency, or when ports are congested by 50% or more by issuing federal grants from unused COVID-19 relief dollars to allow motor carriers to take goods from a port of entry to a destination point. It would also waive more stringent state operating standards.

### H.R. 6145, Community Bank Relief Act

This bill would extend flexibility to small banks by maintaining an 8.5% Community Bank Leverage Ratio (CBLR) through 2024 after trillions of dollars of government stimulus flooded the economy and ballooned community bank balance sheets. This temporary relief would ensure that community banks can continue to serve Main Street businesses. My legislation is endorsed by American Bankers Association, Kansas Bankers Association and all 50 state bankers associations, Independent Community Bankers of America, and Community Bankers Association of Kansas.

### H.R. 1758, Home Defense and Competitive Shooting Act

This bill would eliminate the prohibition on the transportation of short-barreled rifles in interstate commerce and preempt state or local laws imposing licensing requirements such as fingerprints and chief law enforcement officer signatures on short-barreled rifles. I will stand up against any efforts to diminish or weaken the rights guaranteed to us by the Second Amendment. The National Rifle Association and Gun Owners of America endorsed my legislation.

# H.Res. 205, Honoring Army Chaplain Emil J. Kapaun and H.R. 2044, designating the Post Office in Herington as the Captain Emil J. Kapaun Post Office Building

These bills would recognize the life and legacy of Father and Captain Emil J. Kapaun, whose remains were identified and brought back to his hometown of Pilsen, Kansas in the Big First District after being posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor; and name the post office in Herington as the "Captain Emil J. Kapaun Post Office Building".

### **Cosponsored Legislation**

#### H.R. 5586, Prohibiting IRS Financial Surveillance Act

The Biden administration unveiled a proposal that would give the IRS unprecedented access to American's bank accounts. The new directive, which was originally included in the partisan reconciliation package, would force financial institutions to report on every deposit and withdrawal from accounts containing \$600 or more, and accounts with more than \$600 worth of annual transactions. Not only would this proposal impose hefty compliance costs on small banks and credit unions, but it would also make the federal government an even bigger part of our everyday lives, which would erode our freedom and personal liberty in the process. The government has no business monitoring the financial transactions of law-abiding citizens.

### **Legislation Defending Israel**

The United States has always been, and must continue to be, a staunch supporter of Israel – the only democracy in the Middle East. I cosponsored 4 bills to ensure that we continue to be stalwart supporters of Israel's security and stability, including legislation that would codify President Trump's work to establish the Abraham Accords between Israel, middle eastern nations, and the United States. I also voted to restore the \$1 billion in funding for Israel's Iron Dome defense system that was unceremoniously stripped by liberals following the lead of the far-left members of their party. America must be clear: we stand with Israel.

### **Legislation Supporting Telehealth**

Upon the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, when governments issued stay-at-home orders, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services waived key barriers to telehealth use, enabling providers to offer audio-only telehealth services and ensuring that originating site requirements were removed. This added flexibility helped expand the use of telehealth and increased access to care for Kansans living in rural areas. Unfortunately, these telehealth flexibilities will only last through the COVID-19 public health emergency, which will eventually lapse. Because I have seen the benefits of telehealth for many Kansans in the Big First, I have cosponsored 6 pieces of legislation which maintain telehealth flexibilities after the public health emergency ends, and expand the use of telehealth services. Removing telehealth restrictions is one way to ensure that Kansans, especially those living in rural communities, can have convenient access to health care options.

#### **Sent Oversight Letters**

# Letter to President Biden regarding his policy to pay \$1 billion to illegal immigrants

The Biden Administration's immigration policies have been nothing short of a total disaster. In October, amid reports that people who illegally crossed the border in 2018 might be receiving \$450,000 from the federal government, I sent a letter to the Biden Administration urging them to reconsider this unconstitutional and awful policy. While immigration has been a bedrock of the United States since its founding, we should not create policy that encourages individuals to illegally enter our country.

# Letters to President Biden urging him to reconsider his bad energy policies

I sent 7 letters to the Biden Administration urging them to reconsider shortsighted policies ranging from bans on new oil and gas permits on Federal lands to halting the Keystone XL Pipeline, and from new tax hikes on the oil and gas industry to altogether banning crude oil exports.

# Letters to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the potential listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act

I was alarmed and disappointed to see the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service release a plan to list the lesser prairie chicken under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as threatened in the northern population and endangered in the southern population. The potential ESA listing flies in the face of years spent and millions invested in voluntary conservation and goes against the clear data that the population has increased under those efforts. My letters to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requested that they extend the public comment period for the suggested listing and reconsider listing the birds as threatened or endangered altogether.

#### Votes

Voted for the right to life 20 times on the Floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, including 12 votes to protect taxpayers from funding abortions or abortion services in major spending bills.

I believe that life begins at conception, and I will fight to protect life from birth to natural death. I support adoptions, foster care, and crisis pregnancy centers that work tirelessly to care for mothers and their babies. Devaluing the life of unborn children has desensitized America, and it's time to stop using taxpayer dollars to fund abortions and instead focus on life-saving resources that value both the mother and the child.

# Voted against Biden's \$1.9, \$1.2, and \$3.5 trillion social spending sprees.

Since March 2020, Congress has spent \$6.6 trillion above normally appropriated amounts. To put that figure into perspective, the federal government spent just \$4.5 trillion during the entire World War II effort. With spending of that magnitude, it should come as no surprise that our national debt is climbing at breakneck speeds and Americans are experiencing the highest level of inflation in over 40 years. Congress must act now to reign in government waste because this Administration's policies reflect a willful ignorance to the looming crisis. We cannot continue to mortgage the future of our children and grandchildren — Washington must take meaningful action to end its spending addiction.

# Voted to repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) Against Iraq Resolution of 2002.

Working for the Big First means representing Big First values, like responsibility. It is Congress' constitutional authority to make decisions on matters of war and peace. Congress has the constitutional responsibility to end outdated approvals made nearly 20 years ago, and ensure the executive branch doesn't use outdated authorizations for military action that the legislative branch never intended to authorize.

# **MANUFACTURING TOUR**

During my first year as the representative for the Big First District, I've had the privilege of meeting hardworking Kansans who built successful businesses that are now vital parts of their communities and our state's economy. In October, I hosted a manufacturing tour across the district where I visited small businesses that produce and sell products like highway signs, car accessories, fiber optic broadband, cables and components, and industrial valves. From CEOs to employees in the warehouse, these Kansas-grown businesses work tirelessly to create high quality products. I was inspired to hear how these companies strive to serve their customers, which moved me to reflect on the American dream and the blessing of living in the United States. As we discussed the issues facing their organizations, I found a consistent pattern: vendor costs are rising, labor is hard to come by, and a weakened supply chain is slowing everything down. I saw firsthand the negative effects of the poor economic policies coming from the President's Administration. As a member of Congress, it is vital to hear how policies coming from Washington D.C are affecting Big First constituents and local businesses. I will continue to be a champion for our small businesses and manufacturers by supporting policies that will help them flourish.

- 1. Vortex Solids & Bulk Handling Components in Salina. Their products focus on innovative technologies and are used by more than 20,000 companies nationwide.
- **2. Exline Inc in Salina.** A family-owned business, the industrial manufacturing and repair company has been in the Exline family for 5 generations.
- 3. Norfolk Iron and Metal in Emporia. Norfolk is one of the largest carbon steel providers in the United States and has 16 locations across the country.
- **4. Hopkins Manufacturing Corporation.** Founded in Emporia, Kansas in 1953, the company now has multiple locations in Kansas and across the country.
- **5. Plastics Extrusion Machinery in McPherson, also known as PEM.** PEM is an industry-leading provider of innovative downstream equipment to the PVC pipe and custom profile industries.
- **6. Ideatek fiber internet in Buhler.** Daniel Friesen, Co-founder and Chief Innovation Officer, started the company in his parent's basement in 1999 when he was in high school. In 2020, Ideatek deployed fiber service across 17 counties in Kansas.
- 7. Lowen Sign Company in Hutchinson. Lowen Sign Co. is the leading manufacturer of professional signage for the real estate and home building markets in the U.S.
- 8. Central Plastics Inc. in McPherson. Founded in 1968, this family-owned business produces high-quality custom extrusions.





# REMEMBERING SENATOR BOB DOLE



America has lost a statesman, a noble war hero, and a service-minded Kansan who never forgot where he came from. Senator Bob Dole died peacefully at the age of 98, having left his district, state, and country better for his many contributions over 79 years of public life.

In WW2, Bob Dole was struck in the back and nearly killed by a German shell just months before the war ended. He was expected to die, but he lived. He was told that he would never recover from his injuries (which included paralysis from the neck down), but his unquenchable

spirit carried him through. He simply refused to take "no" for an answer and chose to fight for his life and recovery, the scars of which he carried with him for the rest of his life. He was awarded two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star for his military service.



Before he became a United States Senator, Bob Dole was the congressman representing our Big First

District of Kansas. After serving in the House of Representatives for eight years, Kansans sent him to the United States Senate where he served for 27 years, acted as the majority leader twice, and became his party's nominee to the highest office in the land in 1996. It's inspiring and humbling to stand on the shoulders of such greatness from Russell, Kansas.

I was blessed to spend some time with Senator Dole a few weeks before his passing. His love for Kansas and its people was on full display in his excited curiosity about our plans for the Big First. He was a thoughtful, committed, and energetic champion for our nation and our way of life in rural Kansas. He always treated others with respect and kindness – especially his fellow veterans as he attended nearly every Honor Flight that came to D.C.

I left our time together feeling inspired and commissioned; Sen. Dole made it clear that we must never forget where we come from. His legacy will echo into the future, and his patriotic spirit serves as a benchmark for anyone who believes that our brightest days are yet to come.

### **CARRYING ON SENATOR DOLE'S LEGACY**

Earlier this year, I was proud to offer an appropriations request for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program. The program is named, in part, after Senator Dole to honor his work towards eliminating childhood hunger. The McGovern-Dole Program aims to address childhood hunger, improve literacy, train teachers, and make the world a better place for young people across the globe. I look forward to its continued success, carrying on Senator Dole's passion to help others.

### Naming the Robert J. Dole Memorial Post Office

I introduced a bill to name the post office in Russell, Kansas after Robert J. Dole. Senator Dole stayed true to his roots in rural Kansas and held fast to its core values of faith, family, and freedom. He knew, deep down, that the heartbeat of our

Nation lies in places like his hometown of Russell, KS, which he proudly proclaimed.

Naming a post office after one of Kansas' favorite sons, in his hometown, is a small but meaningful way to pay tribute to this Kansas giant and American hero. I look forward to this bill's swift passage commemorating the life of Senator Dole.



Rep. Mann, Rep. LaTurner (KS-02), and Rep. Davids (KS-03) paying respects to Sen. Dole during his Lying in State ceremony at the U.S. Capitol on Thursday, December 8, 2021.

# FFA Caucus

# CONSRESSIONAL FFA CAUCUS

I'm excited to have established the first-ever, bipartisan Congressional FFA Caucus with my colleague, Congressman Panetta from California. The Congressional FFA Caucus is an informal group in Congress designed to raise the profile of agricultural education, and the next generation of leaders. We're committed to building relationships between FFA and Congress on issues that matter.

The future is making strong demands. By the year 2030, the global population is expected to surpass 8 billion people. Now more than ever, we need young people with the foresight, creativity, and skills necessary to meet the challenges of delivering food, fiber, and fuel to the world. As a former FFA chapter president at Quinter High School and proud FFA alumnus, I know first-hand that the National FFA Organization, state FFA associations, and local FFA chapters across the country give students the tools and resources that they need to tackle those problems head on.

The National FFA Organization is a congressionally-chartered, school-based, national youth leadership organization of more than 735,000 student members in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Virgin Islands. National FFA is preparing the next generation of agricultural leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs that will change the world. The Congressional FFA Caucus provides a unique opportunity for Congress to reach across the aisle as we advocate for strong career and technical education legislation, maintain a youth perspective in agriculture and nutrition policy, and work to strengthen relationships between Congress and agricultural education teachers, FFA members, and other leaders in food and agriculture.







# THE SOUTHERN BORDER



This year, the security concerns of everyday Americans went unheard in Washington, as our nation's immigration crisis devolved into total chaos. In January, President Biden halted the construction of our nation's border wall even though the funds to build it were appropriated by Congress and construction was well underway. The halting of construction disregards the stated needs of our brave border patrol agents for a shortsighted political move that effectively encouraged people around the world to come to the United States illegally.

By March, it was clear that the early spikes in border apprehensions were not just part of the normal spikes tied to cooler months. In October, it was reported that U.S. Customs and Border Protection apprehended 164,303¹ illegal immigrants at our southern border. This staggering number is a 128% increase from the previous October, and the highest number of apprehensions for October in recorded history.

The Biden administration's policies, or lack thereof, have failed to fix this humanitarian crisis. As the Big First's Congressman, I have worked to right these wrongs. I visited the southern border in Texas to witness the crisis that President Biden's open-door policies have created. What I saw was nothing short of heartbreak. Whether it was scared children, overcrowded facilities, overwhelmed CBP agents, or human and drug trafficking committed by Mexican cartels, it was clear to me that we need to take action. To combat this humanitarian crisis, I cosponsored legislation that would require the Secretary of Homeland Security to finish building the wall along our southern border; I sent letters to the Biden Administration urging them to put an end to these open-door policies and reinstate law and order; and I sent a letter with Congressmen Estes and LaTurner to Governor Laura Kelly, urging her to send Kansas resources to Texas and Arizona to help secure the border.

As we look to 2022, we must end these disastrous, no-consequence-policies, secure our border through a physical barrier, enhanced technology, and patrol agents, and we must adhere to, or modernize our country's immigration system.

1] https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters

### **AFGHANISTAN**

In September, we saw Afghanistan fall to the Taliban. For twenty years, Afghans enjoyed freedoms secured to them, in part, by the United States. As Afghans' rights disappeared before our eyes, we saw a human tragedy authored by a terrorist organization and an American president who reduced his administration to pleading with them to govern responsibly.

After President Biden withdrew our forces, I led a probe demanding that the Biden Administration turn over all internal documents and communications related to their plans to provide the Taliban with cash assets in exchange for the safe passage of Americans. We should not be incentivizing the Taliban to take hostages under any circumstance. I also sent a letter to Administrator Samantha Powers at the U.S. Agency for International Development asking them to explain to Congress how they plan to continue developing the agriculture sector of the rural Afghan people now that the mission in the nation has ended. I cosponsored legislation that would require both President Biden and the Secretary of State to release further Afghanistan documentation and legislation that would posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal to the 13 U.S. troops killed in the heinous attack during the rushed evacuation.

It has been more than 100 days since President Biden's botched withdrawal, American citizens and allies are still trapped behind enemy lines, and our national security is compromised by the threat of a terrorist regime. We must get every American home and ensure that we are not presently at the risk of a Taliban attack.

# **ABOUT THE BIG FIRST DISTRICT**

In the Big First District of Kansas, you will find the farmers, ranchers, feed lot managers, nutritionists, ethanol producers, ag lenders, and agribusiness owners who feed, fuel, and clothe the world. The District contains 60,000 farms, 76 hospitals, and 83,600 miles of roads. It is the 11th largest district in the country, comprising 63 of the 105 counties in Kansas, and 41,000 U.S. military veterans, our country's bravest men and women, call the district home.

### PUBLIC FIGURES & LEADERS FROM THE BIG FIRST



ROBERT J DOLE

RUSSELL, KS



WALTER P CHRYSLER

WAMEGO, ELLIS, KS



ISAAC GOODNOW

MANHATTAN, KS



William Allen WHITE

EMPORIA, KS



PRESIDENT DWIGHT D EISENHOWER

ABILENE, KS

### STATE UNIVERSITIES





**EMPORIA STATE** 



FORT HAYS STATE



In cattle and calves' production

Largest agriculture production district in the country

In grains, oilseeds, dry seeds, and dry beans



Agriculture is the largest economic driver in Kansas with nearly a 70-billion-dollar impact.

87.5% of Kansas is farmland (crops and rangeland) at nearly 46 million acres.



Kansas exports agricultural products to over 96 countries around the world.

# **CONSTITUENT SERVICES**

My offices provide various services to assist you. From help with a federal agency to student learning opportunities – we are ready and eager to serve you.

### **How We Can Help You:**

- Learning More About Pending Legislation
- Navigating a Federal Agency
- Resolving a Federal Tax Matter
- Expediting a Passport
- Military Academy Nominations
- Applying for Student Internships in Washington D.C.
- Visiting Our Nation's Capitol and Other Washington Landmarks



### **Internships and Military Academy Services**

My first job in Congress was interning for then Kansas Representative Jerry Moran while I was a student at Kansas State University. It is a privilege to provide that same opportunity to the next generation of leaders by offering internships in my Congressional offices. Our interns learn about the inner workings of a congressional office, communicate with constituents, assist with writing and dispersing correspondence, and help ensure that our offices run smoothly. Interns are a vital part of a congressional office. If you, or a student you know, are interested in learning more about our internship program, visit my website or contact my Washington D.C. office at 202-225-2715.

In November of this year, I had the honor of hosting my first Military Academy Nomination selection in Abilene, KS – the boyhood hometown of five-star U.S. Army General, President Dwight D. Eisenhower. It was a special privilege to have Mary Eisenhower, granddaughter of President Eisenhower, on the committee. The students reflected the best of Kansas, and I was particularly inspired and encouraged by their aspirations to serve our country. To learn more about the Military Academy Nomination process, visit my website or contact my Manhattan office at 785-370-7277.

### **Congressional Art Competition**

Each spring, the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives sponsor a nation-wide high school arts competition. The winner for the Big First last year was Mena Mann from Chapman High School, who was selected by a select committee of artists. Mena's piece was on display in the U.S. Capitol for one year. If you, or a student you know, would like more information regarding the competition and how to enter, please go to Mann. House. Gov and select "Art Competition" under the Services drop-down menu.



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1000 + Constituent Cases



Townhalls Hosted Across the District, One in Each County.



PROUDLY REPRESENTING THE LST DISTRICT OF KANSAS

### **OFFICE INFORMATION**

Please don't hesitate to reach out to my offices. We are here to serve you!

Washington, D.C. Office 522 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 Phone: (202) 225-2715

Manhattan, KS Office 121 South 4th Street, Suite 205 Manhattan, KS 66502 Phone: (785) 370-7277

Dodge City, KS Office 100 Military Avenue, Suite 203 Dodge City, KS 67801 Phone: (620) 682-7340

### **MEET OUR STAFF**

Washington, D.C. Office
Chief of Staff — Brandon Harder
Legislative Director - Riley Pagett
Legislative Assistant, Veterans' Affairs — Mitch Baker
Legislative Assistant — Cale Beam
Scheduler — Emily Woods
Press Secretary — Michaela Todd
Communications Advisor — Brendan Welsh
Staff Assistant, LC — Tyler Coats

Manhattan, KS Office
District Director – Reid Petty
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Staff Aides - Abby Goins, Kinsey Griffith, Aria Knedler,
Grace Vogel

Dodge City, KS Office Constituent Services Director – Martha Ruiz-Mendoza

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