

DISTRICT UPDATE

Dan is Working to Connect Americans Stranded in Israel with the State Department

With many American citizens still stranded in Israel, Dan and our team are doing all they can to provide members of our community with as much updated guidance for returning home as we can. If you or a family member are attempting to return to the United States from Israel, please fill out the Privacy Release Form at <https://digitalprf.house.gov/AddressAuthentication?id=ny10> to reach out to our office, and we will provide you with next steps to get in touch with the Department of State.

UPCOMING: Virtual Service Academy Night with Dan

Dan is currently welcoming applications from high school seniors in NY-10 who are seeking a Congressional nomination for the U.S. Air Force Academy, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, the U.S. Military Academy, and the U.S. Naval Academy (The U.S. Coast Guard Academy does not require congressional nominations). Students who are appointed to a Service Academy receive a free undergraduate degree at one of these historic and prestigious institutions. Service academies are tuition-free and include full room and board. After graduation, students receive a commission as a military officer and commit to at least five years of military service.

Students and their family members are welcome to attend a Virtual Service Academy Night with Dan and representatives from these Service Academies to learn more and ask questions about the application and selection process.

This will be hosted via Zoom on Wednesday, October 18, 6:30-8:30 PM.

Dan Denounces Extremist Efforts to Ban Books

On Banned Books Week, Dan joined Congressman Jamie Raskin in introducing a resolution expressing concern about recent attacks on the First Amendment as extremists around the country engage on a nationwide crusade to ban books from public school libraries. According to the American Library Association's [Office of Intellectual Freedom](#), in 2022, over 2,500 books were banned or challenged in the United States.

The resolution:

1. Expresses concern about the spreading problem of book banning and the proliferating threats to freedom of expression in the United States;
2. Reaffirms the commitment of the United States to supporting the freedom of expression of writers that is protected under the First Amendment and the freedom of all individuals in the United States to read books without government censorship;
3. Calls on local governments and school districts to follow best practice guidelines when addressing challenges to books; and
4. Calls on local governments and school districts to protect the rights of students to learn and the ability of educators and librarians to teach, including by providing students with the opportunity to read a wide array of books reflecting the full breadth and diversity of viewpoints and perspectives.

Dan Fights to Remove Barriers to Work Authorization for Incoming Migrants

Dan joined Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Congressman Adriano Espaillat, and other Democratic members of the New York Congressional Delegation in sending a letter urging that the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services waive the \$410 filing fee for the Application for Employment Authorization for parolees - that is, immigrants who have lawfully come to the U.S. via one of several humanitarian parole programs. This will help reduce the monetary barriers that prevent many newly arrived migrants from obtaining safe and legal work.

Dan Convenes a Townhall on Combating the Rise in Antisemitic and Anti-Asian Hate Crimes

Dan brought together representatives from the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Bureau of Investigations, and the New York Police Department for a townhall discussion on how to combat the growing rate of hate crimes targeting Jewish and Asian communities. The Anti-Defamation League's 2022 Audit of Antisemitic Incidents found a 36 percent increase in antisemitic activity compared to 2021 with New York having the most incidents of any state in the country. Anti-Asian hate crimes have also increased exponentially in recent years with rates in New York City increasing by over 340 percent.

Earlier this year, Dan delivered a speech on the House floor highlighting the alarming rise and normalization of antisemitism around the country and urged members of Congress to come together to fight hate. To combat rising ignorance of the Holocaust, Dan cosponsored the Holocaust Education and Antisemitism Lessons (HEAL) Act to improve and expand Holocaust education for future generations.

Dan Fights to Establish a Right to Legal Counsel in Immigration Proceedings

Dan joined Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Congresswoman Norma Torres in introducing the 'Fairness to Freedom Act' to establish the right to legal representation for individuals facing removal from the United States who are unable to afford it themselves.

The 'Fairness to Freedom Act' would establish a legal right to representation in removal proceedings for those who cannot afford to pay for a lawyer. The bill would also establish the Office of Immigration Representation to ensure high-quality, universal representation, and require the government to facilitate representation for those currently held in detention.

Currently, individuals unable to afford representation in immigration proceedings must represent themselves. Over one million people, including both adults and children, are currently facing deportation in immigration court without legal representation, while many more are removed without representation in summary proceedings that take place outside of the courtroom.

Dan Convenes Townhall on World Trade Center Health Program's New 9/11 Youth Research Cohort

Dan hosted the World Trade Center Health Program's (WTCHP) Dr. Joan Reibman and 9/11 Environmental Action's Director Kimberly Flynn for an information and community feedback session on the WTCHP's new 9/11 Youth Research Cohort. The Youth Research Cohort was created by the [2023 Federal Spending Bill](#) to study the long-term health of individuals who were aged 21 years or younger—including those in utero—at the time of the 9/11 attacks and were exposed to the toxins released in the aftermath of the attacks on Ground Zero.

Dan Fights to Protect Funding for Vital Childcare Programs

Dan joined Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and Minority Whip Katherine Clark in introducing the 'Child Care Stabilization Act.' This legislation would extend vital federal child care stabilization funding – which was provided by the American Rescue Plan and expired on October 1 – and ensure that child care providers can keep their doors open and continue serving children and families in every part of the country.

Dan Submits Letter of Support for Reconnecting Communities Grant to Support Communities

As the New York City Department of Transportation and New York State Department of Transportation submit their application to US DOT, Dan joined his colleagues Leader Hakeem Jeffries and Representative Nydia Velazquez in submitting a letter of support to the US DOT for the application. The City and State are embarking on a request to receive federal funds to support the northern and south communities along the BQE. In the 10th Congressional District, those communities include Cobble Hill, Red Hook, and Sunset Park. The application, if granted, would launch a community engagement plan with community members to create design concepts for neighborhood improvements along the corridor. Dan believes we need to develop a vision for the highway's future in a way that addresses climate goals. This is an opportunity to engage in community-led visioning efforts such as the creation of a network along the waterfront that connects neighborhoods to each other and to parks with upland connector streets, ultimately being essential for a corridor wide reimagination of the BQE and surrounding areas.

Dan Pushes to Ban Ghost Guns

Dan joined Senator Richard Blumenthal and Congressman Adriano Espaillat in introducing the Ghost Guns and Untraceable Firearms Act. The bill would ban the sale of “ghost guns” – unserialized and untraceable firearms that can be bought online and easily assembled at home without having to pass a background check.

The Ghost Guns and Untraceable Firearms Act would permanently define the core building blocks of ghost guns – unfinished frames and receivers – as firearms, requiring manufacturers and distributors to obtain licensing, put serial numbers on unassembled gun parts, and require purchasers to undergo the same background checks as those buying preassembled weapons. The use of ghost guns across the country has been dramatically increasing. According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the number of ghost guns recovered and traced by law enforcement went from 1,629 in 2016 to 19,273 in 2021 – a more than 1,000 percent increase.

Amongst other measures, the Ghost Guns and Untraceable Firearms Act would require online sellers, as well as gun kit manufacturers and distributors to comply with the same federal regulations that govern the production and distribution of completed firearms.

Dan Fights to Protect the Right to Medication Abortion Nationwide

Dan joined Senator Tina Smith and Congresswoman Cori Bush in introducing the ‘Protecting Access to Medication Abortion Act.’ This legislation would protect the right to obtain medication abortion through telehealth and certified pharmacies – which include mail-order pharmacies. Medication abortion stands on the frontlines of the fight to protect abortion access nationwide in a post *Roe v. Wade* environment.

Dan Fights for NYCHA Tenants Left Out of Federal Rental Assistance Programs

Dan joined Congressman Ritchie Torres and fellow members of the New York Congressional Delegation in sending a letter to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Marcia Fudge requesting that HUD allow public housing tenants to benefit from rental assistance programs included in the American Rescue Plan that they have been unjustly excluded from. To date, tens of thousands of NYCHA residents have fallen behind on rental payments collectively owing half a billion dollars in rent arrears.

The American Rescue Plan allocated \$5 billion for the HOME-ARP Program to reduce homelessness and housing insecurity “by assisting individuals or households who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or otherwise vulnerable by providing housing, tenant-based rental assistance, supportive services, and temporary shelter.” Despite the urgent need for HOME-ARP funds in New York, HUD has yet to grant NYCHA approval to access the funds vital to securely housing their tenants.

Dan Pushes to Roll Back Trump-Era Restrictions on Middle-Class Tax Deductions

Dan joined Senator Bob Casey, Congressman Brendan Boyle, and Congressman Donald Norcross in introducing the ‘Tax Fairness for Workers Act’ to restore middle-class tax deductions, including deductions for job search expenses, travel expenses, out-of-pocket cost of uniforms and tools, and union dues. This legislation would reverse a provision in the 2017 Trump tax reform package that stripped workers of their ability to deduct common expenses incurred as a result of their work.

Dan Works to Expand Access to Food Assistance Programs for Families with Sick Children

Dan joined Congresswoman Shontel Brown in introducing the ‘SNAP Access for Medically Vulnerable Children Act’, which would allow families with chronically sick children to deduct their chronically ill child’s medical expenses when calculating their family’s benefit amount from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The current deduction limitation often leaves families with chronically ill children struggling to pay for basic necessities.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program income calculation is used to determine monthly benefit amounts for individuals or families receiving assistance. Current legislation governing SNAP policy doesn’t allow families to deduct expenses related to caring for chronically ill children but allows deductions for disabled or elderly family members.

Dan and Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez Lead Members of Congress in Demanding Comprehensive Flood Protection for New York

Dan and Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez led twelve Members of Congress from New York and New Jersey in sending a bi-partisan letter to the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) expressing concern that the Corps plan to address flood risk insufficiently protects New York and New Jersey against multiple varieties of flooding. The upcoming plan fails to address tidal and river flooding, heavy rainfall, groundwater emergence, erosion, and sea level rise. Their plan also does not comply with the Water Resources Development Acts (WRDA) of 2020 and 2022 or President Biden's Justice40 Initiative.

In the letter, the Members list actions that they would like USACE to take to better protect millions of residents in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area from flooding:

1. Promptly issue implementation guidance on applicable directives in 2020 and 2022 WRDA legislation;
2. Factor that guidance into the current draft environmental impact study to conduct additional analyses and develop additional alternatives;
3. Ensure that disadvantaged communities are properly protected; and
4. Issue a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for public review and comment before reaching the Agency Decision Milestone.

Passport Backlog

The U.S. Passport Agency is facing a huge surge in passport applications as many Americans resume international travel and work to replace passports that expired over the last few years. This flood of applications has created a backlog, and processing times are increasing. This has also increased the demand for in-person appointments at passport agencies, making it very difficult to secure one. If you have travel scheduled in Winter 2023 or Spring 2024, please apply for your passport renewal now.

Current processing times are 7-9 weeks for expedited processing and 10-13 weeks for routine service. This means you should count on being without a passport for 3-4 months, as you will have to mail in your old passport with your renewal application. It is likely processing times will continue to increase. You can find the current processing times and everything you need to know about submitting a passport application or renewal at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html/>

Travel tips

- Before you book international travel find your passport, make sure it is undamaged, not expired and remains valid long enough to be eligible for your trip.
- Check that your passport remains valid long enough to be eligible for where you would like to travel. Many countries require that your passport be valid for 3 or 6 months from your departure date. This is called passport validity. Check online to see what the required passport validity is for the country you would like to travel too.
- Child passports are only valid for 5 years so don't forget to check their passports as well.
- Consider paying for expedited shipping and processing if you do need to apply for a new passport. This will help get your passport to the agency more quickly and once it is approved it will be shipped back within 1-2 days.
- If you are 2 weeks out from your trip and you have not received your passport, reach out to our office. If you wait until the last day or two to reach out there is a lot less we can do than if you give us the full two weeks.
- Be advised that passport agencies do not take walk in appointments. You must have a scheduled appointment. If you go to the Hudson Street location, our office will not be able to get you in the door.