

As the year comes to a close and we start to celebrate the holiday season, I wanted to say thank you for your hard work serving our great city. It has been an exciting first year in office and I am honored to serve alongside you in my first year in office. Please note my offices will be closed between Friday, December 22 and Monday, January 1st 2024. Happy Holidays to each of you and your families, and I look forward to working with you again in the new year!



DISTRICT UPDATE

Congressman Dan Goldman Pushes to Revitalize America's Public Schools with 'Green New Deal for Public Schools'

Dan joined Senator Ed Markey and Congressman Jamaal Bowman in introducing the 'Green New Deal for Public Schools.' This landmark legislation would invest \$1.6 trillion in our public education system over 10 years to improve clean energy infrastructure, invest in schools serving low-income students, and provide schools with the resources to hire hundreds of thousands of educators, paraprofessionals, and staff, including counselors to support student mental health.

The 'Green New Deal for Public Schools' would:

- **Create an Office of Sustainable Schools** within the U.S. Department of Education to administer new grant programs in collaboration with the Department of Energy
- **Provide \$446 billion** in Climate Capital Facilities Grants and \$40 billion for a Climate Change Resiliency Program to upgrade every public school building in the country – starting with the highest-need districts – to create safe, healthy, zero-carbon, and accessible learning environments for students and staff
- **Invest \$250 billion** in Resource Block Grants for schools to –
 - Drastically reduce student-to-staff ratios, equipping schools to approach target ratios of 12:1 for grades K-8 and 15:1 for grades 9-12
 - Strengthen and diversify the educator pipeline
 - Better integrate local knowledge & community relationships in high-need schools
 - Develop and implement initiatives to support high quality teaching and learning, extracurricular and co-curricular activities, violence prevention, student mental health, and positive school climates.
- **Create an Educational Equity Planning Grants Pilot Program** funded at \$100 million to address historic school funding inequities within regions
- **Increase funding for Title I Part A and the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) Part B** by \$850 billion over ten years, including –
 - Quadrupling current funding for Title I Part A to reach \$74 billion annually to support schools and districts with students living in poverty
 - Tripling current funding for IDEA Part B to reach \$44 billion annually to support students with disabilities

Congressman Dan Goldman Calls on Biden Administration to Protect Palestinians in the United State from Deportation to War Zone

Dan joined Senator Dick Durbin, Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, and Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky in calling on the Biden Administration to authorize Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and/or Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for Palestinians in the United States. These designations would prevent Palestinian immigrants who are already in the United States from being sent to an active war zone in the Palestinian territories.

Congressman Dan Goldman Introduces Bill Package to Reduce Student Loan Debt Burden

Dan introduced a package of legislation to help combat the unaffordability crisis facing American higher education. The GRADUATE Act enacts a long overdue expansion of the Student Loan Interest Deduction for the first time since 2001, raising the deduction to \$10,000 – from the current \$2,500 - for qualifying borrowers and covering payments of the student loan principal for the first time.

The Codifying SAVE Plan Act enshrines the Biden Administration's historic student loan repayment plan into federal law, protecting the critical regulation from rollbacks by future presidential administrations. Both bills are cosponsored by Representatives Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC-AL), Betty McCollum (MN-04), Jasmine Crockett (TX-30), and Ro Khanna (CA-17).

The GRADUATE Act:

Would allow student loan borrowers to deduct their student loan payments (including accrued interest) from their taxable income. The amount they can deduct will depend on their gross taxable income level:

- Borrowers earning up to \$125,000 a year would be able to deduct their student loan payments (both payments to principal and accrued interest) up to \$10,000.
- The deduction phases out between incomes of \$125,001 per year and \$150,000 per year.
- For every child or dependent, borrowers can deduct an additional \$500.
- Like the current student loan interest deduction, payments for both public and private loans would be eligible.

The GRADUATE Act is supported by the National Education Association (NEA) and the American Federation of Teachers.

The Codifying SAVE Plan Act:

- This bill would codify the Biden Administration's new income-driven repayment plan, the SAVE Plan, into law, protecting this new policy from future presidential administrations.
- The SAVE Plan cuts undergraduate borrowers' monthly payments from 10 percent of their monthly income to 5 percent, and monthly payments would be \$0 for those earning under 225 percent of the poverty line.
- The SAVE Plan also ensures that the Department of Education does not charge any monthly interest not covered by a borrower's payment while they are on the SAVE plan.

The SAVE Plan Act is supported by The Institute for College Access & Success, the National Education Association (NEA), The Education Trust, the Young Invincibles, the American Federation of Teachers, and the National Urban League.

Congressman Dan Goldman Fights to Hold Gun Manufacturers Accountable by Preventing Distributors from Marketing to Children

Dan joined Senator Richard Blumenthal and Congresswoman Robin Kelly in introducing the 'Responsible Firearms Marketing Act,' which would direct the Federal Trade Commission to study the dangers of marketing and advertising practices utilized by the gun industry to target minors.

The 'Responsible Firearms Marketing Act' would direct the Federal Trade Commission to study the marketing and advertising practices of gun manufacturers, importers, and dealers, including those which might:

- Target individuals younger than 18 years of age
- Encourage the illegal use of a firearm
- Relate to the sale of semiautomatic assault weapons

Congressman Dan Goldman Fights to Curb Influence of Corporate Money in Government

Dan joined Congresswomen Pramila Jayapal to cosponsor the 'We the People Amendment', a Constitutional Amendment that would end corporate personhood, reverse the 2010 Citizens United Supreme Court decision, and take power away from corporations and special interests and put it back into the hands of the people.

Congressman Dan Goldman Works to Create Working Families Task Force to Raise Standard of Living for Working Families

Dan joined his colleagues to introduce the 'Working Families Task Force Act' which would establish a federal task force to improve the standard of living for working families in America. This legislation would require the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Education, Housing and Urban Development, Commerce, Treasury, Transportation, and Agriculture to establish an Interagency National Task Force on Working Families.

Congressman Dan Goldman Fights for Affordable High-Speed Internet for Low-Income New Yorkers

Dan joined fellow members of the New York Congressional Delegation to call for \$7 billion in funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) in the 2024 budget. The ACP provides financial assistance to low-income households that allows them to afford internet access as well as one-time subsidies for computers or tablets. Over 40 percent of households in New York's 10th Congressional District are eligible for the ACP. Without continued funding, millions of Americans will be cut off from internet access, jeopardizing their ability to work, learn, and connect with their community.

The Affordable Connectivity Program is critical to ensuring that NYCHA residents in particular have access to high-speed internet. Only 30 to 40 percent of NYCHA residents have access to the internet and this financial assistance is vital to bridging the digital divide.

Congressman Dan Goldman, Mike Thompson, and Joaquin Casto Introduce Bill to Disarm Cartels by Stopping Trafficking of American Guns Across Southern Border

Dan introduced the 'Disarming Cartels Act' with Congressman Mike Thompson and Congressman Joaquin Casto to curtail the trafficking of U.S.-made firearms and ammunition south-bound over the U.S.-Mexico border. Guns originating in the United States power human- and drug-trafficking efforts and other illicit activities by cartels and other transnational criminal organizations in Mexico and beyond. The 'Disarming Cartels Act' has also been co-sponsored by Representatives Dina Titus, Danny Davis, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Bennie Thompson, Lloyd Doggett, Glenn Ivey, Pat Ryan, and Jared Moskowitz.

Congressman Dan Goldman and Congressman Jamie Raskin Demand Elon Musk, X Leadership Enforce Platform Guidelines and Cease Profiting Off Surging Misinformation, Antisemitism and Violent Content

Dan and Congressman Jamie Raskin wrote a letter to 'X' (formerly Twitter) owner, Elon Musk, and Chief Executive Officer Linda Yaccarino demanding that X address failures in applying its anti-misinformation and anti-violence policies to Hamas terrorist propaganda and that X cease profiting off this content. The letter was signed by 25 additional members of Congress.

Following the October 7 terrorist attacks against Israel, analysts have documented surging graphic violent content and misinformation on the platform, including Hamas' terroristic propaganda videos. Much of this content violates X's platform policies, which prohibit "engaging in or promoting violent acts," and "recruiting, or providing or distributing services (such as media/propaganda) to further stated goals."

Congressman Dan Goldman Fights to End Immunity for Gun Manufacturers and Hold them Accountable for Contributing to the Gun Violence Epidemic

Dan joined Congressman Adam Schiff to introduce the 'Equal Justice for Victims of Gun Violence Act,' which would repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA). The PLCAA, passed by Congress in 2005, has protected gun manufacturers from lawsuits and undermined the admissibility of gun trace information in civil proceedings. Historically, firearms manufacturers, sellers, and interest groups have relied on provisions in the PLCAA to shield them from civil liability, leaving countless gun violence victims and survivors without a path to recourse through the justice system.

The 'Equal Justice for Victims of Gun Violence Act' would not only ensure that victims of gun violence have their day in court, but that negligent gun manufacturers are held liable when they disregard public safety, and that gun trace data can be accepted as evidence in court.

Passport Backlog (Updated)

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.
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