

## Rep. Stephanie Murphy Legislative Accomplishments

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### 116<sup>th</sup> Congress (2019-2020)

#### Summary

- In the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, Rep. Murphy introduced **21** standalone bills, spearheaded at least **28** measures that became law and an additional **9** measures that passed the House.

#### Measures that Became Law (28)

1. Measure to provide emergency family and medical leave to American workers affected by COVID-19. Rep. Murphy's bipartisan bill ultimately led to enactment of a law that provided up to 10 weeks of paid family and medical leave for workers who cannot work because they must care for a child whose school or child care facility has been closed due to coronavirus concerns—marking the first time Congress ever enacted a federal-sponsored family and medical leave program. [Rep. Murphy introduced H.R. 6198, the Emergency Paid Leave Act; became law in modified form as part of H.R. 6201, Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127)].
2. Measure to establish an Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC), a refundable tax credit that businesses can claim if they retain workers in active or furloughed status. Rep. Murphy was the first Member of Congress to propose use of the ERTC as a mechanism to encourage businesses to retain workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, so they can remain on payroll and continue their employer-sponsored health insurance. [Rep. Murphy's proposal was included in the House-passed H.R. 6379, Take Responsibility for Workers and Families Act, and ultimately in H.R. 748, CARES Act (P.L. 116-136)].
3. Measure to help part-time workers save for retirement. Requires employers who offer 401(k) retirement plans to their employees to make those plans available to part-time employees. This

will help these workers prepare for retirement, especially women, who are more likely than men to work part-time. There are over one million part-time workers in FL. [Rep. Murphy introduced H.R. 1874; included in H.R. 1994, the SECURE Act of 2019; became law as part of H.R. 1865, Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (P.L. 116-94)].

4. Measure to address harmful algae blooms (HABs), which are particularly problematic in Florida and can be detrimental to human health, water quality, recreation and tourism, and the broader economy. The measure increases funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to research ways to reduce HABs, and provides NOAA with \$1 million to sponsor a much-needed study on the economic impacts of HABs, both nationally and in hard-hit states like Florida. A better understanding of economic impacts will likely drive federal and state policymakers to enact additional measures to combat HABs. [Provision included in H.R. 1158, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (P.L. 116-93)].
5. Measure to provide a total of \$25 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to sponsor independent research into ways to reduce gun violence. In her first term in office, Rep. Murphy helped lead the successful effort to repeal the longstanding ban on federally-sponsored research in this area, known as the Dickey amendment, and she has now helped secure funding to conduct this research. [Provision included in H.R.1865, Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (P.L. 116-94)].
6. Measure to provide enhanced funding for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to make a variety of grants to state and local governments, colleges, and K-12 schools to address mental health challenges and prevent suicide among younger Americans. As chair of Future Forum, Rep. Murphy led this effort, which is particularly important given the relatively low level of funding that the State of Florida provides for this purpose. [Provision included in H.R. 1865, Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (P.L. 116-94)].
7. Measure to provide \$425 million for the U.S. Election Assistance Commission to make grants to help state and local governments secure their election infrastructure from foreign interference, the most funding ever provided for this purpose. The Rep. Murphy-led Blue Dog Coalition led the successful initiative to get congressional leaders to provide this enhanced election security funding. [Provision included in H.R. 1158, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (P.L. 116-93)].
8. Measure, authored by Rep. Murphy and Rep. Jenniffer González-Colon (R-PR) to combat drug trafficking and related violence in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Florida. The language directs the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to prepare and publish an updated Caribbean Border Counternarcotics Strategy, which will establish a whole-of-government plan to disrupt drug trafficking organizations that use Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands as an illicit transit route into Florida and other states along the eastern seaboard. [Provision included in H.R. 1158, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (P.L. 116-93)].

9. Measure to provide an unprecedented level of funding for the U.S. Department of Education to make grants to local school districts to improve English-language instruction programs. This funding increase could help pave the way for passage of a bill—H.R. 4943, the ELEVATE Act—that Rep. Murphy introduced with Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) to amend the current grant formula to ensure that Spanish-speaking students who relocate from Puerto Rico to a state are fully counted in that state’s funding allocation, which is not currently the case. [Provision included in H.R. 1865, Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (P.L. 116-94)].
10. Measure, called the Prevention and Oversight of Intelligence Sharing with Enemies Act (POISE Act), requiring Congress to be notified when a member of the executive branch, including the President, discloses sensitive information to an adversary foreign government (North Korea, Iran, China, Russia, Cuba) outside of established intelligence channels. This will deter imprudent disclosures of top-secret information and enable Congress to conduct damage control in the event of a disclosure. This measure stems from a 2017 incident in which President Trump disclosed highly-sensitive information, entrusted to the U.S. by Israel, to senior Russian officials during a White House meeting. [Rep. Murphy introduced H.R. 3476; included in H.R. 3494, Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020; included in S. 1790, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (P.L. 116-92)].
11. Measure to provide an unprecedented \$30 million to fund USAID and State Department efforts to bolster democracy, support independent media, promote human rights and the rule of law, and highlight the moral and policy failures of the despotic Maduro regime in Venezuela, all of which serve to advance U.S. national security interests. [Provision included in H.R. 1865, Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (P.L. 116-94)].
12. Measure to strengthen the modeling, simulation and training (MS&T) community in Orlando by robustly funding three important Department of Defense accounts that make investments in simulation technology to help military servicemembers train for their missions. As co-chair of the Modeling & Simulation Caucus in Congress, Rep. Murphy led the effort to preserve funding for these accounts, which the Administration and the Senate had proposed to cut. [Provision included in H.R. 1158, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (P.L. 116-93)].
13. Measure to increase funding for the U.S. Secret Service, within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, to combat credit card “skimming,” which is the installation of electronic devices, typically at gas station pumps or ATM machines, that steal encoded information from debit and credit cards. Orlando is one the cities where credit card skimming is most prevalent. [Provision included in H.R. 1158, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (P.L. 116-93)].
14. Measure to combat the national security threat posed by a foreign adversary’s use of deep fake technology, which is the digital falsification of images, video, and audio to portray an individual as having done or said something they didn’t do or say. Requires the Director of National Intelligence to provide Congress with a comprehensive strategy to deter and respond to the use of deep fake technology by foreign nations or individuals intended to harm the United States. This is the first federal measure on deep fake technology ever to become law. [Rep. Murphy floor amendment included in H.R. 3494, Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal

Years 2018, 2019, and 2020; included in S. 1790, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (P.L. 116-92)].

15. Measure to address the threat posed to the U.S. and Israel by Iran’s military and political presence in Syria. Requires the Director of National Intelligence to craft a comprehensive strategy to prevent Iran, its terrorist proxy Hezbollah, and other Iranian-supported Shia militias from using Syria as a platform to attack Israel, threaten American forces in Syria, and further destabilize the region. [Rep. Murphy floor amendment included in H.R. 3494, Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020; included in S. 1790, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (P.L. 116-92)].
16. Measure to authorize federal agencies to use expedited procedures to hire younger Americans, which will encourage more young Americans to choose fulfilling careers in public service and improve the effectiveness of our government so it can better serve the American people. [Rep. Murphy floor amendment ultimately included in S. 1790, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020].
17. Measure directing the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to study PTSD among first responders working in fields like law enforcement, fire services, and emergency medical services, since the nature and extent of this problem is understudied and the most effective treatment options are poorly-understood. [Provision included in committee report accompanying H.R. 2740, Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill 2020; retained in H.R. 1865, Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (P.L. 116-94)].
18. Measure directing the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to prioritize research on deadly childhood cancers. [Provision included in committee report accompanying H.R. 2740, Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill 2020; retained in H.R. 1865, Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (P.L. 116-94)].
19. Measure expressing the House of Representatives’ support for designating April 13th as “National Borinqueneers Day” in honor of the 65th Infantry Regiment, a U.S. Army unit that consisted mostly of soldiers from Puerto Rico. The Regiment distinguished itself for bravery during the Korean War and other conflicts, overcame discrimination against Hispanic soldiers, and earned the Congressional Gold Medal on April 13, 2016. [Rep. Murphy floor amendment with Rep. Jenniffer González-Colon (R-PR), included in the joint explanatory statement accompanying H.R. 6395, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021].
20. Measure introduced with Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), called the Combat Online Predators Act, to deter and appropriately punish stalking and cyberstalking of children by increasing potential criminal penalties for convicted adult offenders. [Rep. Murphy and Rep. Fitzpatrick introduced H.R. 570; included in House-passed version of H.R. 1585, Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019; identical Senate version, S. 134, becomes law].

21. Measure to authorize the President to posthumously award the Medal of Honor to Oviedo native Alwyn C. Cashe for acts of valor during Operation Iraqi Freedom. [Rep. Murphy introduced H.R. 8276; [passed House; passed Senate; signed into law by the President].
22. Measure requiring the Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress an assessment of the political, economic, health, and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, and to describe the different ways in which that crisis could undermine U.S. national security and regional stability. [Rep. Murphy floor amendment included in H.R. 6395, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021; converted into briefing in joint explanatory statement accompanying conference report].
23. Measure authorizing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a feasibility study to determine whether to fund an ecosystem restoration project that would restore the natural flow of the St. Johns River and lead to improved water quality in Lake Jesup, located in Seminole County. [Provision included in H.R. 133, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260)].
24. Measure to extend and expand the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) included in the CARES Act as a result of Rep. Murphy's efforts. This expansion would help 13 million workers remain on payroll and tethered to their jobs. [Rep. Murphy introduced H.R. 6776, the JOBS Credit Act, which was included in modified form in H.R. 133, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260)].
25. Measure providing \$1.8 million to NOAA to continue efforts to assess the population of reef fish (namely, red snapper) in the South Atlantic, so that government decisions about catch limits and the length of the red snapper recreational fishing season in federal waters in the South Atlantic are based on the best available science. [Murphy-led provision, with Rep. John Rutherford (R-FL), included in H.R. 133, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260)].
26. Measure increasing, by \$5 million, the main Department of Defense account that funds the Army's efforts to prepare its soldiers for combat through the use of modeling and simulation technology. [Rep. Murphy floor amendment included in H.R. 133, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260)].
27. Measure increasing funding for efforts by the State Department, working with Venezuelan partners, to promote fair and transparent elections, uphold human rights, strengthen civil society, defend the rule of law, and support independent media in Venezuela. The original bill had funded these efforts at \$30 million, and the Murphy-led amendment increased that to \$33 million, an unprecedented amount. [Murphy floor amendment included in H.R. 133, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260)].
28. Measure to enable K-12 educators to take a federal tax deduction, up to \$250 per year, if they purchase PPE, air purifiers, disinfectant, and other items to make their classrooms and schools safe and to prevent the spread of COVID-19. [Rep. Murphy introduced H.R. 8520, Supporting

Educators During COVID–19 Act, which was included in H.R. 133, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260)].

29. Measure to authorize states and territories who have mistakenly paid Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits to individuals to waive repayment if the individual was not at fault for the overpayment and if repayment would cause economic hardship to the individual. [Rep. Murphy and Rep. Herrera Beutler (R-WA) introduced H.R. 8812, Relief for Working Families Act of 2020, which was included in H.R. 133, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260)].

### **Measures that Passed the House (9)**

1. Measure, called the PACE Act, that would make child care more affordable for working families. Enhances two provisions in federal tax code that help families pay for child care expenses: the child and dependent care tax credit (CDCTC) and the income exclusion for child and dependent care. [Rep. Murphy introduced H.R. 1696; modified version of bill was included in the House-passed H.R. 7327, Child Care for Economic Recovery Act]
2. Measure providing \$1 million for the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine to examine the possible emotional and behavioral effects on students and staff of active shooter drills, lockdown drills, and other firearm violence prevention activities in K-12 schools. The report would identify best practices that can be adopted to minimize these negative impacts. [Murphy-led provision included in H.R. 7617, the House-passed six-bill Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2021].
3. Measure increasing funding for the VA’s telehealth program by \$1.5 million, part of an effort by Rep. Murphy to bring an ATLAS facility to her Central Florida district. ATLAS is a new VA program that enables veterans who lack a stable internet connection to obtain telehealth care at a convenient location in their communities. This is especially important during the COVID pandemic, since veterans may not be able to travel to the VA hospital in Lake Nona or the VA clinic in Lake Baldwin. By retrofitting Walmart stores, American Legion posts, or VFW facilities with private rooms that offer secure high-speed internet access, veterans can access VA health care in their communities. [Murphy floor amendment included in H.R. 7608, the House-passed four-bill Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2021].
4. Measure requiring the U.S. Department of Defense to swiftly brief Congress on the feasibility, benefits, and costs of extending TRICARE Prime to military retirees—veterans who served on active duty for at least 20 years—residing in Puerto Rico. TRICARE is the health care program of the Department of Defense, and TRICARE Prime is a managed care option that is available to retirees in nearly every state, but not in Puerto Rico or the other territories. This is the source of longstanding frustration on the part of veterans in Puerto Rico. [Rep. Murphy floor amendment with Rep. Jenniffer González-Colon (R-PR), included in H.R. 6395, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021].
5. Measure, called the Modernizing Agricultural and Manufacturing Bonds Act (MAMBA), to amend the federal tax code’s provisions regarding private activity bonds (PABs). PABs are tax-exempt securities issued by or on behalf of a local or state government in order to attract

financing for private projects that have a public purpose, such as Brightline. MAMBA would help modern manufacturing firms and first-time farmers use PABs to obtain the capital they need to expand their businesses, invest in new equipment, and hire more workers. [Rep. Murphy introduced H.R. 5422, MAMBA, which passed the House as part of H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act].

6. Measure directing the U.S. Department of Transportation to implement recommendations from a May 2020 report prepared by the USDOT Office of Inspector General at the request of Rep. Murphy and other Members. The report examined the Federal Highway Administration's oversight of the I-4 Ultimate project and identified gaps where FHWA guidance did not sufficiently require the implementation of a holistic risk management process to evaluate, address and mitigate potential risks before those issues develop into negative outcomes such as project delays, cost overruns and worker deaths. The measure would require the Inspector General's recommendations to be implemented in connection with future highway projects in Florida and nationwide. [Rep. Murphy floor amendment to H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act].
7. Measure urging the U.S. Postal Service, which is in the process of replacing its aging delivery vehicle fleet, to take all reasonable steps to ensure that its vehicles are equipped with climate control units to protect the health and safety of its mail carriers, especially those working in areas of the country that are subject to extreme temperatures. This measure was put forward in response to a heat-related death of a USPS worker in California and to reports of USPS drivers in Florida suffering from heat stress, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. [Rep. Murphy floor amendment to H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act].
8. Measure urging the U.S. Department of Transportation to utilize modeling and simulation technology to analyze federally-funded highway and public transit projects in order to ensure the proposed projects will increase transportation capacity and safety, alleviate congestion, and reduce travel time and environmental impact. [Rep. Murphy floor amendment with Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA) to H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act].
9. Measure, called the BRIDGE for Workers Act, that provides states with flexibility to use annual federal grants from the Department of Labor to help more unemployed workers get the training and resources they need to re-join the workforce so they can support their families and again experience the dignity that comes with a job. [Rep. Murphy introduced H.R. 1759; passed House in standalone form on April 9, 2019].