

Rep. Stephanie Murphy Legislative Accomplishments



First Session of the 117th Congress (2021)

Summary

- In the 117th Congress to date, Rep. Murphy has introduced **17** standalone bills, spearheaded at least **22** measures that became law, and spearheaded an additional **11** measures that passed the House.
- Rep. Murphy was re-appointed to the House Ways and Means Committee, the only Florida Democrat on the Committee; appointed to the House Armed Services Committee, where she was chosen as the vice-chair of the Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations; named to the bipartisan Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol; selected as Chief Deputy Whip; and chosen to co-lead the Blue Dog Coalition for the second consecutive Congress.

Legislative Achievements

- Rep. Murphy helped secure congressional passage of three major provisions in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), enacted into law in March 2021, which responded to the health and economic crises caused by COVID-19.
 - First, Rep. Murphy led the bipartisan effort to include the employee retention tax credit (ERTC), which provides financial support to businesses who retain or rehire workers, in the March 2020 CARES Act. She then led the successful effort to expand the ERTC, and extend it through June 30, in the December 2020 Consolidated Appropriations Act. Rep. Murphy secured a provision in ARPA extending the ERTC through the end of 2021. According to estimates, this provision will help businesses retain or rehire 13 million workers, rather than lay them off.

- Second, ARPA makes major improvements to the child tax credit (CTC), which will help about 4.5 million Florida families, and the earned income tax credit (EITC), which will help about 1.6 million Florida workers. Rep. Murphy helped lead the effort to treat the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico fairly under both credits on a permanent basis, a historic achievement.
- Third, ARPA enhances the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC), which will help millions of Florida families afford child care during the pandemic. The ARPA language substantially mirrors language from a bipartisan bill that Rep. Murphy introduced in 2019, H.R. 1696, the Promoting Affordable Childcare for Everyone (PACE) Act.
- Congress approved the Fiscal Year 2022 omnibus appropriations bill, containing funding for nine projects submitted by Rep. Murphy, totaling nearly \$5 million, to improve public safety, education, housing, public health, and the environment in Central Florida. Rep. Murphy's projects include funding to:
 - restore the Little Wekiva River,
 - bolster an opioid treatment program in Seminole County,
 - help the Orlando Police Department purchase body cameras,
 - enable a health clinic to purchase a mammogram machine,
 - help Sanford residents living in affordable housing,
 - enable Seminole State College to buy state-of-the-art equipment and computer software to prepare students for careers as first responders, paramedic, and respiratory therapists; and
 - support various initiatives led by Orange County Public Schools, the University of Central Florida, and the City of Oviedo.
- Congress approved the Fiscal Year 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which includes numerous provisions spearheaded by Rep. Murphy.
 - A provision requiring the Secretary of Defense to swiftly brief key Members of Congress if the Secretary determines with high confidence that a foreign government is seeking to kill or severely injure U.S. servicemembers, either directly or indirectly through proxy forces. Once notified, Congress will be in a position to take action to deter and respond to such aggression. The text of this provision was drawn from Murphy's bipartisan bill, the DEFEND Act.
 - A provision, drawn from bipartisan legislation introduced by Murphy, requiring the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, to prepare a report that identifies efforts by the Government of the People's Republic of China to expand its presence and influence in Latin America and the Caribbean through diplomatic, military, and economic means, and describes the implications of such efforts for U.S. national security interests.
 - Two provisions to strengthen the alliance between the United States and Israel:

- An amendment submitted with Congressmen Joe Wilson, R-S.C., and Brad Schneider, D-Ill., which would require the creation of a United States-Israel Operations-Technology Working Group.
- Language requiring the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict, in coordination with the commander of U.S. Special Operations Command, to brief Congress on all current and planned collaborative activities between U.S. and Israeli special operations forces.
- A provision requiring the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict, in coordination with the commander of U.S. Special Operations Command, to provide a report on the current and projected force posture, capabilities, and activities of special operations forces in Latin America and the Caribbean, and how they advance U.S. national security objectives and address evolving threats from state and non-state actors emanating from this critical region.
- A provision authorizing \$5.2 million to enable U.S. Naval Special Warfare Command to purchase advanced combat diving equipment, some of which is manufactured by a small business in Murphy's Orlando-area district.
- A provision requiring the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict to prepare a long-term strategy for U.S. special operations forces to recruit and retain individuals who are proficient in critical foreign languages. This is especially important as special operators focus more of their attention on great power competition with nations like China, Russia, and Iran.
- Rep. Murphy co-led the successful effort to secure \$3.8 million for Orlando in 2021 to prevent and respond to terrorist attacks, pursuant to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). Between 2014 and 2017, Orlando was excluded from UASI funding. Rep. Murphy and her central Florida colleagues secured changes to the UASI formula, which made Orlando eligible. Orlando received \$1.5 million in 2018, \$3.25 million in 2019, and \$3.5 million in 2020.
- Rep. Murphy led the successful effort to persuade the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to designate the sharp increase in manatee deaths in Florida as an Unusual Mortality Event (UME). This designation authorizes the federal government to reimburse the government of Florida and non-profit organizations for costs they incur to investigate the causes of the die-off and to take immediate steps to rescue and rehabilitate sick or starving manatees.
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced the start of the "Great Red Snapper Count" in the South Atlantic as a result of bipartisan efforts by Rep. Murphy and Rep. John Rutherford (R-FL), who together secured \$3.3 million in appropriations to fund a 30-month study to determine the red snapper population in the South Atlantic, hopefully leading to a longer fishing season and an economic boost to Florida communities.

- Rep. Murphy introduced—and secured House passage of—two measures related to H.R. 1, For the People Act of 2021. H.R. 1 would establish a system that matches small dollar donations made by individuals to House candidates. The matching funds come from an assessment paid on federal fines, penalties, and settlements in connection with the commission of certain tax crimes and corporate malfeasance. Rep. Murphy co-led a successful amendment confirming that no taxpayer funds may be used as matching funds. In addition, Rep. Murphy filed a bill, H. Res. 177, that was adopted by the House alongside H.R.1. It authorizes a House candidate or member to file a statement with the House Clerk indicating whether they intend to participate in this matching system. Murphy then advised the Clerk that she would not participate in this system, stating: “While I strongly support the goal of this system, . . . I cannot in good conscience agree to fund my campaign through a process—however well-intentioned—that I voted to create.”
- In July 2021, the House passed H.R. 3684, the INVEST in America Act, which contains over \$28 million in funding for eight transportation projects in central Florida submitted by Rep. Murphy to ease traffic congestion, promote safety, increase economic activity, increase tourism, and create good-paying jobs.
- In March 2022, the House passed the legislation, dubbed “SECURE Act 2.0,” to help Americans prepare for retirement. It includes a provision drawn from a bipartisan bill authored by Rep. Murphy, H.R. 2933. Under law, if you have a traditional IRA or an employer-sponsored retirement plan like a 401k, you have to begin withdrawing money from your retirement account—or pay a costly penalty—by the required minimum distribution (“RMD”) age. In 2019, Congress passed Rep. Murphy’s bipartisan bill to increase the RMD from 70½ to 72. The Rep. Murphy-authored provision in the SECURE Act 2.0 increases the RMD age from 72 to 75 gradually over the next decade, giving seniors greater freedom and flexibility to prepare for a financially secure retirement.