



The Comstock CONNECTION

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CONGRESSWOMAN BARBARA COMSTOCK'S 10TH DISTRICT NEWSPAPER • MARCH 1, 2016

Congress Passes Major Tax Relief Legislation

In December we passed significant tax reform legislation that was signed into law which included **\$600 billion in tax relief** for American families and small businesses. As April 15th rapidly approaches and Americans prepare to file their taxes, this legislation will help bring more certainty to our complicated tax code so that our businesses and families may prosper. It has always been a priority of mine to support policies that lower taxes on our businesses and hard-working families. The *Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act*, or the PATH Act, accomplishes this goal by reauthorizing and making permanent a number of significant tax reform provisions.

Provisions Made Permanent

- The Research and Development (R&D) Tax Credit that will create jobs and spur growth of our economy, particularly the tech, defense and healthcare economies of the 10th District;
- Code Section 179 Expensing, which helps businesses invest in new equipment and property;
- The State and Local Sales Tax Deduction;
- Numerous Charitable Tax Deductions;
- Deductions for teacher classroom expenses;
- The American Opportunity Tax Credit, which is a credit for qualified education expenses paid by college students;
- Changes to the Earned Income

- Tax Credit (reducing marriage penalties and assisting families with three or more children);
- Expansions of the Child Tax Credit;
- Parity in Commuter Tax Benefits, which raises revenues to the Treasury while easing traffic congestion; and
- The Employer Wage Credit for active duty military, including expansion for all employers.

Other Significant Tax Provision Extensions

- A five-year extension of Bonus Depreciation provisions for businesses to use against the depreciation of equipment (50% for 2015-2017, 40% in 2018, 30% in 2019); and
- A two-year extension for Mortgage

Debt Forgiveness provisions.

The Research and Development Tax Credit, which I cosponsored, was a top priority to help our technology, medical and defense businesses. In order to make long-term decisions and significant investments to support breakthrough research and development, certainty is needed in the tax code. As we travel around the high technology corridor in Virginia's 10th Congressional District, we have met with many businesses both large and small that use the Research and Development Tax Credit to expand their operations and create more jobs. By making this important tax credit permanent, these technolo-

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Barbara Comstock
 M.C.
 PRSRT STD CR—RTSORT

Congress of the United States
 House of Representatives
 Washington, D.C. 20515
 Official Business

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Educating Our Children on the Dangers of Heroin



Rep. Comstock at the opening of the DEA traveling museum in Leesburg. Rep. Comstock discussed what Congress is doing to combat heroin addiction.

One of the best ways to combat the heroin problem that is affecting our community is to educate our young people about the very real dangers of drugs like heroin. Heroin is one

of the most addictive drugs because it attacks the central nervous system causing the user to want more. Today's heroin is extremely pure and more potent than it has been in the past. According to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), 46,000 people in the United States died from drug overdoses in 2013 and more than half can be traced to prescription painkillers and heroin.

As part of the Heroin Operations Team (HOT) initiative, Loudoun County Sheriff Mike Chapman has brought the DEA's traveling museum "Drugs: Costs and Consequences," to our region. I joined Sheriff Chapman, representatives from the DEA, and other

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10th District Student Opportunities

High School Congressional Arts Competition

Each spring, a nation-wide high school arts competition is sponsored by the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. The Artistic Discovery Contest is an opportunity to recognize and encourage the artistic talent in our nation, as well as in Virginia's 10th Congressional District. As a member of the Congressional Arts Caucus in Congress, I know the importance these artistic endeavors have to our youth as they pursue higher education in life.

Last year, our Congressional Art Competition had over 180 submissions from students throughout the 10th District. We will have an independent, five person panel judge each piece of art to determine Best in Show and the winners in the following categories: Collage, Computer Generated, Drawing, Mixed Media, Painting, Photography, and Print. The different categories will highlight the diversity of artistic talent in our District. At the culmination of this year's competition, we invite the students, their teachers, and their parents to a reception to honor and showcase their creativity at the George Washington University Virginia Science and Technology Campus. Runners up will be able to have their entries displayed in our office on Capitol Hill and the overall winner will have his or her piece of art displayed in the United States Capitol to be enjoyed by visitors, staff, and Members of Congress for the next year. For more information you can visit our website at Comstock.House.Gov and go to the Services section.

2016 Military Academy Day

We look forward to holding our annual 10th Congressional District Military Academy Day on Saturday, April 2nd. Each year, students apply to the various military service academies and our Academy Day gives students the opportunity to learn more about each military service academy and the different experiences they can offer. Academy Day brings in representatives from all of the service academies — Army, Navy, Air Force, Merchant Marine and Coast Guard — as well as representatives from the Marine Corps ROTC program, the Virginia Army National Guard, Virginia Military Institute, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, the American Legion, Randolph-Macon Academy, and the Citadel. America's military is the greatest and most well-trained in the world and I look forward to meeting the students who aspire to be leaders in these prestigious institutions.

What: 10th Congressional District Academy Day

When: Sat., April 2, 10AM-1PM

Where: Loudoun County Public School Board Administration Building, 21000 Education Court Ashburn, VA 20148

10th Congressional District Young Women Leadership Program

We are excited to launch the 2nd Annual 10th Congressional District Young Women Leadership Program. This program provides young women currently enrolled in middle school and high school with the opportunity to meet and interact with women who hold leadership roles and have built successful careers in govern-



Rep. Comstock with participants of her Inaugural 10th Congressional District Young Women Leadership Program last summer.

ment, business, medicine, media relations, and other professions. Through this unique program participants can engage with their peers and special guests in candid, roundtable discussions while sharing insights, advice, and stories. Participants will also learn about career opportunities in various fields, learn about the legislative process, develop their leadership skills, identify their strengths, and practice effective communication with others to inspire their educational and career goals. A special guest or a panel of special guests will be invited to participate in each program. The program is scheduled to begin in June and will continue through the end of August. Applicants will be selected on the quality of the application, their willingness to commit to this program, as well as their desire to

build their own young professional network. For more information, visit Comstock.House.Gov and go to the Services section to apply.

Congressional Internship Opportunities

Congresswoman Comstock is currently accepting full and part-time intern applications for the spring session in the Capitol Hill and District offices. Interns will be tasked with a variety of responsibilities and will work closely with legislative staff to research legislation, aid constituents, and help with the office's day-to-day operation. Internships are highly competitive and our office receives many applications, so please apply early. If you have specific questions regarding internships, please call our office or visit Comstock.House.Gov and go to the Services section.



Rep. Comstock during a tour of the United States Capitol with her Capitol Hill and District office interns thanking them for their hard work and assistance.

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Cybersecurity: A 21st Century War



Rep. Comstock following a tour of the Raytheon CODE Center and a legislative discussion on cutting-edge cyber technology critical to our nation.

The United States is under attack. Every day cyber criminals, “hacktivists”, and state-sponsored cyber terrorists are attempting to gain access to the valuable and sensitive information of Americans, American companies, and the government. This is a 21st Century war, and one of the greatest challenges our country faces today.

Last year, more than 178 million records on Americans were exposed in cyberattacks. The breach of the

Office of Personnel Management alone exposed the personal information of more than 21 million Americans. The attack hit close to home in more ways than one, as I was one of the millions of current and former federal employees who had their personal information compromised.

The OPM breach highlighted how vulnerable our nation’s most sensitive systems and information are to attack. It also made it clear that the time has come for every manager and every employee in both gov-

ernment and the private sector to make cybersecurity a top priority in their daily work, and for leaders to be held accountable for negligent failures to protect information.

It is my privilege to be in a position to help find solutions to this challenge as chair of the Research & Technology Subcommittee of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee and to serve in a district where so many of my constituents are the talented people who work on cyber issues at both large and small businesses including start-ups who are on the cutting edge of this essential 21st Century industry. Since I became chair of the subcommittee last year, we have held five hearings on cybersecurity with some of the foremost cyber experts in the private sector, academia and the government.

With the input of these innovative cyber experts, I believe that there are some key steps we can take to improve cybersecurity across the private and public sectors:

1. There must be a healthy partnership between the public and private sectors to share information and best practices;

2. A focus on “cyber hygiene”, which is day-to-day maintenance and monitoring of devices and IT systems using widely accepted cybersecurity best practices;

3. We should not only focus resources on defending against cyberattacks, we must also bolster our ability to detect vulnerabilities, and limit the damage of a breach;

4. We must continue to upgrade cybersecurity forensics so that we may quickly identify the perpetrators of these attacks and successfully prosecute them;

5. More research and development is needed on new technology for preventing and responding to cyberattacks, particularly in identity authentication;

6. We must do more to educate and train a cybersecurity workforce, as demand for professionals is expected to rise to 6 million by 2019, with a projected shortfall of 1.5 million; and

7. Leaders in government and the private sector must create a culture that ensures everyone considers cybersecurity a high priority.

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Human Trafficking Legislation Passes in Transportation Committee

I teamed up with Congresswoman Dina Titus (D-NV) in February and introduced H.R. 4430, the *Secure Our Skies (SOS) Act*. The SOS Act will require airline industry employees to get the proper training to recognize and report human trafficking. Sara Nelson, President of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, said the legislation “... can save lives with 100,000 trained eyes in the skies.” They are the eyes and ears in this constant battle, and this legislation will give them the tools to save the most vulnerable in our society and fight this terrible scourge. Law enforcement experts and those battling human traffickers on many fronts have detailed how traffickers use the airline industry to traffic people both domestically and

globally. The SOS Act is the type of common sense legislation that will help combat human trafficking because it uses the power of those in the airline industry as a force multiplier.

When the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee — a committee on which I serve — was doing its work on the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization legislation, the committee incorporated elements from the SOS Act. By incorporating key human trafficking legislation into the FAA reauthorization bill, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has recognized that the airline industry is on the front lines of spotting human traffickers. I will continue to work with my colleagues in a bipartisan fashion to prevent these heinous acts.



Rep. Comstock during a recent Transportation and Infrastructure markup on FAA reauthorization which included human trafficking legislation.

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local and state officials to open this important museum in January.

The museum is interactive and shows the process in which these drugs are produced and the global negative impact of drugs and their trafficking. As you move on, the exhibit showcases the science of addiction and how drugs affect the brain, the body, and a person's overall health. At the end of the exhibit you see the faces of those who have been impacted by the tragedies of addiction.

To educate young people, Loudoun County Public Schools will be using the DEA museum as part of their curriculum this year to expose children to the dangers of drug abuse. This spring, I will join Sheriff Mike Chapman and officials from the DEA in a forum that will bring both parents and children together to discuss addiction at the DEA museum. The DEA museum is open from 10AM to 5PM Tuesday through Saturday at 750 Miller Drive SE Suite F-1 in Leesburg.

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gy firms and other businesses may continue to be the driving force behind creating 21st Century jobs in our region.

Another important provision that will help small businesses and give them tax relief is making permanent Section 179 of the tax code. Section 179 covers the expensing of capital investment and machinery,

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There are a number of companies and organizations implementing new cybersecurity practices that can be a guide for best practices. John Wood, the CEO of Telos Corporation, an Ashburn based cybersecurity company, who also serves on the Commonwealth of Virginia Cyber Security Commission, recently testified before my subcommittee on the steps his company takes to prevent cyber intrusions and promote security. John also testified that, "these practices must be embraced in the boardroom and by management so that a culture of cybersecurity is created throughout the organization." They are also working

Advocating for Human Rights with Congressman Wolf

In February we attended a powerful presentation on human rights issues conducted by my predecessor, Congressman Frank Wolf, at a Workforce Ministries lunch held on the AOL campus. Since Workforce Ministries began their Purposeful Leadership Speaker Series, they have had over 40 speakers with thousands of attendees. Workforce Ministries seeks to hear from those individuals who meld their faith and their work to help others and Congressman Wolf has been a role model.

After 34 years in Congress, Congressman Wolf began his next chapter as a Distinguished Senior Fellow at the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative where he will continue his work on human rights throughout the world. The 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative seeks to advocate for a world that values religious freedom as a fundamental right for all, especially the most vulnerable around the world.

Congressman Wolf spoke of House Concurrent Resolution 75, which I have cosponsored, that expresses the sense of Congress that those who commit or support atrocities against Christians and other ethnic and religious minorities — including Yezidis, Turkmen, Sabea-Mandean, Kaka'e, and Kurds — and who target them specifically for ethnic or religious reasons are committing "war crimes," "crimes against humanity," and "genocide." According to a report from the United



Rep. Comstock with former Rep. Wolf at a forum where they discussed human rights legislation.

States Holocaust Museum's Simon-Skjoldt Center for the Prevention of Genocide, hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced because of ISIS and thousands have been killed. The European Union has declared that the murder of Christians and other religious minorities by ISIS is genocide and this is not something that can or should be ignored.

I look forward to continuing to work with Congressman Wolf on these important human rights issues.

which affects many businesses in our region. In order to have a pro-growth economy, businesses need every cent to expand. By making Section 179 permanent, they are encouraged to reinvest in their business in a way that will help them grow and create even more jobs for the American people.

Families also need to be able to plan long-term as well. The PATH

Act helps hard-working families and individuals in our district by reducing the marriage penalty, and increasing tax credits for parents with three or more children. In addition, this tax reform package makes permanent the Child Tax Credit provisions for lower wage workers and helps with qualified college-related expenses for our students.

This is just the beginning for tax

reform efforts. We will continue to modernize our tax code. Passage of this important reform package in December set the stage for Congress to take on a much larger overhaul of the tax code that will lower rates, broaden the tax base, and make America competitive again in an ever-increasing global economy.

towards building a future cybersecurity workforce in Loudoun County, including a five-year partnership with George Washington University's Science and Technology Campus in Loudoun as well as a partnership with the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts to implement 63 STEM Classroom Residency Sessions in schools throughout the county to promote STEM careers at the K-12 level.

Other examples of what technology firms are doing in the 10th District include the opening of a Cyber Fusion Center in Ashburn that will bring together all of their global cyber defense teams into a new, state-of-the-art facility for rapid detection of new

threats and information sharing with private and government partners; and launching a Cyber Career Connection program, partnering with non-profit organizations to educate and train underserved populations to become cybersecurity professionals, including a program in the National Capital Region to train military veterans for careers in cybersecurity.

The Federal government lags behind the private sector in cybersecurity. Last year, audits revealed that 19 of 24 major federal agencies failed to meet the basic cybersecurity standards mandated by law — OPM still does not even have a complete inventory of servers, databases and network devices in

its system. I will continue to push for making sure that if federal officials neglect their duties, or are not the right people for the job, they are held accountable so that proper leadership is in place to not just meet, but anticipate and beat the next cyber threat.

I will continue to support policies in Congress that unleash technological innovation, foster healthy public-private partnerships, and build a stronger national security apparatus. Cybersecurity must be a top priority in every government agency from the top Cabinet official on down. We need an aggressive, nimble, and flexible strategy to anticipate and stop cyberattacks to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.