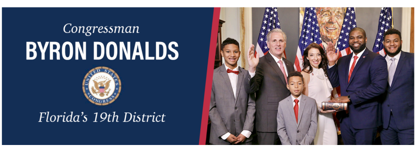


For Immediate Release
November 20, 2023

Contact: Harrison Fields
(202) 225-2536

Weekly Wrap-Up with Congressman Byron Donalds November 20, 2023

Last week, my office was hard at work on Capitol Hill, proposing legislation on behalf of the American people and holding radical Democrats accountable. Thank you to the various Florida officials who stopped by our office. I had the pleasure of meeting with Florida Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Shawn Hamilton, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Executive Director Roger Young, as well as key Everglades stakeholders.

On the legislative front, I co-led H.R. 6340 – The Improving Housing Outcomes for Veterans Act, alongside Rep. Josh Harder (D-CA). This solutions-based, bipartisan bill targets the epidemic of veteran homelessness by working to reduce delays and streamline communication between HUD and the VA. The struggle for far too many of our brave servicemen and women doesn't stop once they leave the battlefield. Those willing to put their lives on the line to protect and defend this great country must not be forgotten, especially in their hour of need. That's why I'm proud to support this bipartisan legislation which helps ensure our government is working for those who fought for it.

Also on the legislative front, I signed-onto two financial services-focused letters to demand action on behalf of the American people. The first letter urges the Treasury Department to revise the proposed implementation of its unworkable digital asset tax reporting requirements and included bipartisan support. If finalized, the proposed regulations' overly broad and insufficient definitions, as well as its unreasonably short comment period threaten to prevent a large swath of the digital asset ecosystem from continuing to exist in the United States. The second letter demands answers from the Federal Reserve, FDIC, and OCC regarding the proposed rule for the implementation of the Basel III Endgame international regulatory framework. This could mean less access to mortgages for hardworking American families.

Regarding oversight, there were two main developments that occurred last week. The House Oversight and Accountability Committee investigation into Biden family corruption is continuing to deepen. The committee has now called for a seventh additional transcribed interview from the Biden family and their associates– Kevin Morris. For those keeping track, over the past two weeks, the committee has now formally issued seven subpoenas and seven transcribed interview requests of the Biden family and their associates. Most importantly, on Friday, Speaker Mike Johnson committed to keeping his promise and releasing the US Capitol security footage of January 6, 2021. Some footage has already been released to the public and the Speaker has committed to releasing further installments of this footage over the next weeks.

In-district, my office conducted a Bonita Springs roundtable for local veterans living in our Southwest Florida community. The event included open panel discussion regarding benefits, mental health, legislative updates, and resources. Please note, next Tuesday and next Wednesday, my office will be hosting mobile office hours in Fort Myers in addition to our permanent Naples and Cape Coral offices. If you need help with a federal agency, please stop by the Lee County Sheriff's Community Outreach Office and members of my team will be able to assist you.

As your Congressman, you have my commitment to work on your behalf and restore order and proper governance to The People's House.

From our team to yours: Happy Thanksgiving! Have a wonderful holiday with the ones you love.

Legislative Updates

Donalds And Harder Propose Bipartisan Solution For Homeless Veterans

WASHINGTON – Representatives Byron Donalds (R-FL) and Josh Harder (D-CA) recently introduced, H.R. 6340 – The Improving Housing Outcomes for Veterans Act. This solutions-based, bipartisan bill targets the epidemic of veteran homelessness by working to reduce delays and streamline communication between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

"The struggle for far too many of our brave servicemen and women doesn't stop once they leave the battlefield. Those willing to put their lives on the line to protect and defend this great country must not be forgotten, especially in their hour of need. That's why I'm proud to support this bipartisan legislation which helps ensure our government is working for those who fought for it." **– Rep. Donalds**

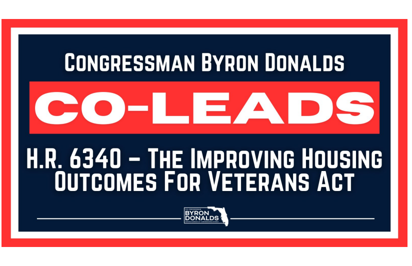
"It is an absolute tragedy and dereliction of duty that we have veterans sleeping on the streets in San Joaquin County. If you fought for our country overseas, you should never have to fight to survive here at home. My bill tells federal agencies to get their acts together, coordinate resources, and get this fixed now." **– Rep. Harder**

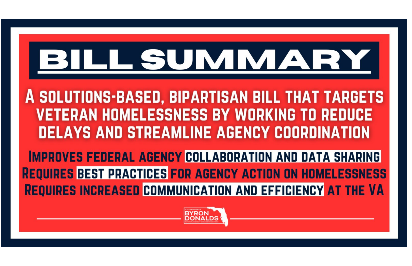
Background:

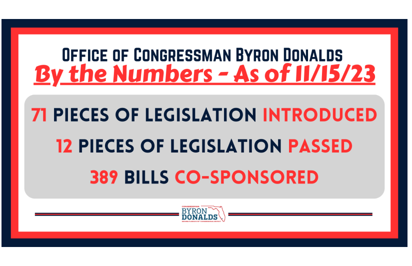
- Improves coordination and data sharing between HUD and VA to better serve homeless veterans.
- Requires the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to provide medical center staff and homelessness service providers with best practices for collaboration on activities under HUD's Coordinated Entry program.
- Requires the VHA to communicate with VA employees who have a role in homelessness assistance programs to ensure the best outcomes possible.

More:

Sierra Sun Times Exclusive HERE.







Donalds Joins Bipartisan Financial Services Committee Letter To The Treasury Department

WASHINGTON – Congressman Byron Donalds (R-FL) joined the Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, Patrick McHenry (NC-10), Congressman Ritchie Torres (NY-15), and a bipartisan group of lawmakers in sending a letter to the United States Department of the Treasury (Treasury) urging the agency to revise its proposed implementation of unworkable digital asset tax reporting requirements as enacted in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

The letter was signed by several of the bipartisan cosponsors of the Keep Innovation in America Act, including Congressman Warren Davidson (OH-08), Congressman Eric Swalwell (CA-14), Majority Whip Tom Emmer (MN-06), Congressman Wiley Nickel (NC-13), Congressman French Hill (AR-02), and Congresswoman Erin Houchin (IN-09).

If finalized, the proposed regulations' overly broad definition of a digital asset "Broker," insufficient definition of a "Digital Asset," and unreasonably short comment period threaten to prevent a large swath of the digital asset ecosystem from continuing to exist in the United States.

Read the full letter here.

Read key excerpts from the letter below:

"We write to you today to express our continued concern with the Department of the Treasury's ('Treasury') treatment of digital assets for tax reporting purposes. While we appreciate Treasury's efforts, the August 25, 2023, proposed regulations (proposed regulations) would inhibit innovation and harm the digital asset ecosystem if finalized in its current form.

"As we have communicated previously, the tax reporting requirements on digital asset market participants in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (the 'IIJA') are unworkable as written and fail to consider factors that are inherent to the digital asset ecosystem. The proposed regulations do not remedy our previously stated concerns. The breadth of the proposed regulations and the unworkable definitions raise serious concerns for the digital asset ecosystem. Treasury must address the following concerns to ensure the United States has a workable tax reporting framework for digital assets.

"The definition of 'Broker' remains too broad and would capture entities that do not possess traditional characteristics of a broker.

"In the proposed regulations, Treasury defines 'broker' to include persons who provide 'facilitative services that [directly or indirectly] effectuate the sales of digital assets by customers.' This definition captures a significant portion of the entities within the digital asset ecosystem, including decentralized finance ('DeFi') exchanges.

…

"The definition of 'Digital Asset' fails to consider or differentiate the uses or attributes of different types of digital assets. "In addition to expanded definition of 'broker,' the proposed regulation includes a definition for 'digital asset' that will limit the use of certain digital assets. Specifically, Treasury's proposed regulations define 'digital asset' as 'a digital representation of value that is recorded on a cryptographically secured distributed ledger (or similar technology)' and explicitly includes 'those referred to as stablecoins or [nonfungible tokens] ('NFTs').'

…

"The comment period and implementation timeframe for the proposal is unreasonably short. "We are concerned with the expedited time frame for both the comment period and implementation phase. The shortened timeframe limits the amount of feedback and the ability to make changes to the final rule. It further strains market participants who will need additional time to come into compliance.

…

"We appreciate your attention to our concerns. This proposal, as currently written, will prevent a large swath of the digital asset ecosystem from continuing to exist in the United States. We urge you to reevaluate the proposed regulations and adjust them accordingly to ensure there is a workable tax reporting framework in place for the digital asset ecosystem."

Donalds Joins Financial Services Committee Letter To Ensure Access To Mortgages For Hardworking Americans

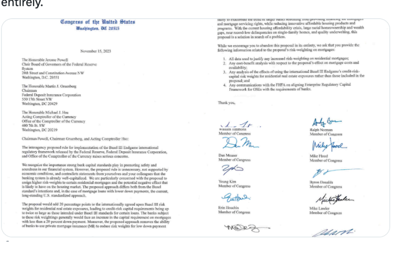
The proposed rule for implementation of the Basel III Endgame int'l regulatory framework released by the Federal Reserve, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), and Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), raises serious concerns.

This could mean less access to mortgages for hardworking American families.

We must demand answers. Thank you Rep. Fitzgerald for leading this effort.

Rep. Scott Fitzgerald
@RepFitzgerald

The capital requirements proposal from the Fed, FDIC, & OCC means less access to mortgages for working families. @RepAndyBarr & I led a letter asking for answers and for the agencies to abandon this proposal entirely.

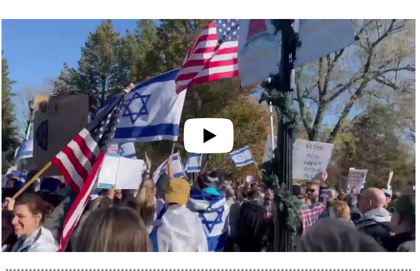


The Difference Between The Protests Is Clear

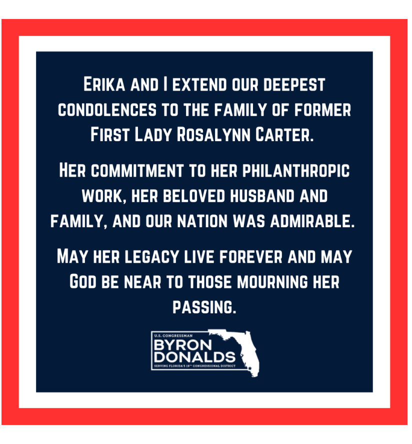
On Wednesday night, anti-Israel activists engaged in a violent protest injuring 6 police officers and sending the United States Capitol complex into lockdown.

On Tuesday, nearly 300,000 people flooded Capitol Hill to peacefully advocate against anti-Semitism, for Israel, and to bring home the hostages.

The difference is clear.



Donalds Extends Condolences To The Family Of President Carter



Oversight Committee Subpoenas Seven & Requests Seven Additional Transcribed Interviews As Biden Investigation Deepens

The House Oversight Committee has formally subpoena'd to testify in depositions over the next few weeks:

- Hunter Biden
- James Biden
- Rob Walker
- Eric Schwerin
- Marvyn Yan
- Georges Berges
- Elizabeth Naftali

The committee has also requested transcribed interviews from:

- Sara Biden
- Hallie Biden
- Elizabeth Secundy
- Melissa Cohen
- Tony Bobulinski
- A Former Representative From Americore Holdings, LLC
- Kevin Morris

Oversight Committee
@GOPoversight

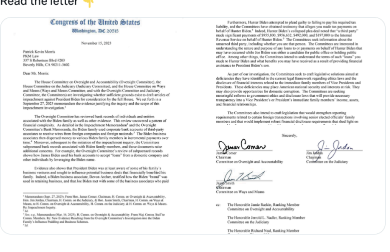
🚨 BREAKING 🚨

We are calling on Kevin Morris to appear for a transcribed interview.

Kevin Morris is a Hollywood lawyer and Democrat donor who reportedly lent millions of dollars to Hunter Biden to help him pay back taxes and pay off his legal bills and China debt.

@JudiciaryGOP
@WaysandMeansGOP

Read the letter 👇



Speaker Johnson To Release The January 6th Tapes

Speaker Mike Johnson has kept his promise and is releasing the January 6th tapes.

See the first portion of the newly released footage for yourself HERE.

cha.house.gov
CHA Subcommittee Reading Room
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration

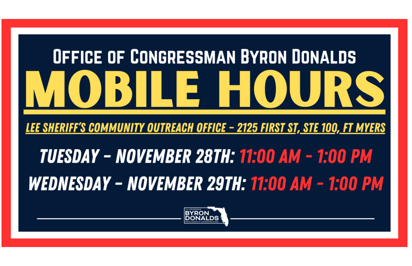
Community Updates

Donalds Office To Hold Mobile Hours In Fort Myers

Need help with a federal agency?

On November 28 and November 29, my district offices are holding mobile hours for FL-19 constituents at the Lee County Sheriff's Community Outreach Office: 2125 First Street, Suite 100, Fort Myers.

- Tuesday, November 28th – 11:00AM - 1:00PM
- Wednesday, November 29th – 11:00AM - 1:00PM



Donalds Meets With Everglades Stakeholders On Capitol Hill

Last Tuesday morning, I met with Everglades stakeholders on Capitol Hill.

We discussed restoration in the Western Everglades, high-water conditions in the Central Everglades, & proposed wilderness designations in Big Cypress National Preserve.

Thank you to all of those who joined us.

Team Donalds Tours Valerie's House in Fort Myers

Based in Fort Myers, Valerie's House is the first & only grief support center in Southwest Florida focused solely on helping children.

Last Thursday, my team spent National Children's Grief Awareness Day meeting with Valerie's House staff, touring the facility & discussing initiatives.

Team Donalds Holds Roundtable For Local Veterans

Last week, my office hosted a veteran roundtable in Bonita Springs.

The event included open panel discussion regarding benefits, mental health, legislative updates & resources.

Thank you to all who joined us including Rose–one of the only female marines who served in Vietnam.

Team Donalds Attends Annual Turkey Drive In Fort Myers

Last Thursday, my team attended the Salvation Army Annual Turkey Drive in Fort Myers.

Thank you to all of the good samaritans who generously lined-up to donate turkeys so that families in need throughout our Southwest Florida community will be able to properly celebrate Thanksgiving.

An Update On The Reconstruction Of The Iconic Naples Pier

Great to see progress being made on the reconstruction of our iconic Naples Pier. Features of the new pier will include:

- Enhanced ADA accessibility
- 16 additional benches
- New shaded areas
- Wider stairs
- A higher end-structure for fishermen
- Deeper & taller concrete beams

Naples Daily News
@ndn

Rebuilding the Naples Pier: Architect renderings of new design reveal changes

If You Encounter Manatees In Distress Please Call FWC's Wildlife Hotline

November is a critical time for boaters to look out for manatees as they migrate towards our Southwest Florida coastline.

Unfortunately, Lee County leads our state in manatee deaths and officials are considering re-classifying them as endangered.

If you see injured, distressed, sick or dead manatees call FWC's Wildlife Hotline: (888) 404-3922

WGCU Public Media
@wgcu

As manatees embark on their seasonal migration, we must do our part to ensure their safety. Read more: bit.ly/40GUHcE

✍️ Tom Bayles/WGCU
📸 @myfwc

(Environmental reporting for WGCU is funded in part by @VoLoFoundation.)

In The Media – Print Media

California Congressman Josh Harder Introduces Bipartisan Bill To Combat Veteran Homelessness

Byron Donalds, Josh Harder Team Up On The Improving Housing Outcomes For Veterans Act

Sunshine State Delegation Rallies Behind John Rutherford's Proposal To Stop Drilling Off Florida Coast Through 2032

Florida Republicans Want Answers From Pete Buttigieg On DOT's Use Of Nation's Airports To House Illegal Immigrants"

Rep. Donalds To Newsmax: Biden, Obrador Ignoring Border Reality

Rep. Donalds To Newsmax: Mayorkas 'Terrible' At Job

In The Media – Digital Media

ICYMI: Rep. Donalds Joined Newsline on Newsmax

Watch my full interview *HERE* or click below:

ICYMI: Rep. Donalds Joined The Balance With Eric Bolling on Newsmax

Watch my full interview *HERE* or click below:

Serving the hardworking men and women of Florida's 19th Congressional District is my distinct honor and privilege. It's time Washington works for our community's values, and I will always strive to ensure your government is working for you every day.

Sincerely,

Byron L. Donalds
Member of Congress

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