

marco  
**RUBIO**  
*US SENATOR for FLORIDA*

A portrait of Marco Rubio, a man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit, a red tie, and a white face mask. He is looking slightly to his right. The background is a dark blue gradient. On the left, there is a faint, light blue silhouette of the Florida State Capitol building. A light blue silhouette of the state of Florida is overlaid on the right side of the image, partially behind the text. A thick red horizontal band runs across the middle of the image, containing the text.

# FIGHTING FOR FLORIDA

**MID-TERM UPDATE: 2020**



# Table of Contents

## LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT: 2020

Welcome Letter.....	3
Coronavirus Response.....	6
Small Business Relief.....	6
Health and Safety.....	7
Assisting Constituents.....	7
Legislative Accomplishments.....	9
Landmark Laws.....	9
In Depth: New Laws (2020).....	11
Federal Judiciary.....	15
Constituent Services.....	15
By the Numbers.....	16
Constituents' Voices.....	16
Working Behind the Scenes.....	17
Strong Florida: Putting Floridians First.....	17
Strong America: Global Leadership.....	21
Strong Future: New American Century.....	25





# Welcome Letter

Dear Friends:



For many Americans, 2020 was among the most challenging years of their lives. Too many are mourning the loss of loved ones taken by the coronavirus. Others face jobs lost; their kids' education and extracurricular activities put on hold; communities and personal relationships crippled by social distancing; and many of our nation's most vital institutions destroyed by hyper-partisanship and radical ideologies that have no place in America.

The pain, the loss, and the hardships are real. The crisis of confidence and the sense of hopelessness are real as well, especially after an anti-American mob stormed the Capitol on January 6, 2021.

One of my highest priorities is to ensure that my staff and I stand with you as you and your family – and our nation – persevere through this difficult moment, and we remain available to help Floridians with any federal assistance they may need. No law will ever bring back those whom we've lost, but we can – and we must – begin the process of rebuilding our economy, reopening our communities, repairing the damage caused by the coronavirus, and restoring our national unity and civic pride.

Our work is cut out for us. Reversing course will take time, and it will require creativity that spans beyond the typical partisan divides in Washington.

The good news is that it can be done. As the effects of the coronavirus pandemic rippled across our economy last year, I worked across the aisle to create and pass the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) – an unprecedented and historic forgivable loan program managed by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) that was designed to keep employees on the payroll during the initial public health lockdown and smooth the way for the safe reopening of America's small businesses.

Not only did the PPP prove to be the most popular and bipartisan provision of the federal coronavirus response, it was also incredibly effective for the American people. More than 430,000 Florida small businesses received \$32 billion in forgivable loans, saving more than 3 million jobs. Nationwide, more than 5.2 million small businesses received more than \$525 billion in PPP loans, which kept tens of millions of Americans on payroll through the worst of the public health restrictions. It has been called "the single most effective fiscal policy ever undertaken by the United States Government."



# Welcome Letter

The work we did to design, pass, and implement PPP in a matter of weeks was without precedent. Rarely a day goes by when I do not hear from someone about how it saved his or her business, saved his or her job, or allowed the business to survive and maintain employees as others had to close. That type of policy result – real, meaningful impacts for my constituents on a daily basis – is the goal, and it is what I will continue to advance in 2021.

As we have waged our war against the coronavirus, we also secured important policy victories for Floridians and our nation's security in 2020.

On the environmental front, we have reached significant breakthroughs, including the commitment of historic funding to restore Florida's water infrastructure and ecosystem protection projects such as a record \$250 million funding request for Everglades restoration. We also made real progress in blocking any new oil and gas drilling off Florida's coasts. I am confident our state's unique and vulnerable coastal character will remain protected.

We are also taking steps to fundamentally restructure our relationship with the Chinese Communist Party, which has exploited our economic system for decades. While much work remains in terms of restoring jobs stolen by China, I have led the successful effort to crack down on the country's egregious human rights abuses. In June, the President signed my Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2020 into law. It was the first Uyghur-related piece of legislation in the world to be signed into law and empowers America to fight back against Beijing's grotesque treatment of ethnic minorities. It is yet another example that we are no longer going to ignore the Chinese Communist Party as it blatantly violates international norms.

And we continue to support our nation's veterans. Several years ago, I worked with my colleagues to protect whistleblowers and hold the Veterans Affairs Department accountable for its gross mismanagement and neglect. We passed legislation to help veterans re-entering the American workforce by making certain they have the skills needed to thrive in science- and math-based career paths. Our work on behalf of our nation's veterans and service members is far from finished, and I will always fight for them with the same commitment they have for America.

Throughout this year and next, I want to reaffirm my commitment to working on behalf of all Floridians.



# Welcome Letter

In 2020, our award-winning constituent services team helped more than 17,000 Floridians deal with everything from being stranded overseas due to the coronavirus lockdowns to navigating the agency process for veterans, immigrants, servicemembers, the unemployed, and the homeless.

Last year was tough – of that there is no doubt. But I remain confident brighter days are ahead for our nation and that our active efforts as an office and people will bring us closer to that horizon. “With this faith,” Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said in his ‘I Have a Dream’ speech, “we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood.”

I hope this report serves as a marker of what we have accomplished on behalf of Floridians in 2020, and over the last four years. As you read this, remember that my team and I work for you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Rubio', with a stylized, cursive script.

Marco Rubio





# Coronavirus Response

*Supporting small business is nothing new for Senator Marco Rubio, but that support took on a heightened importance when the coronavirus pandemic hit America. “Where you find humans in crisis, you also find humans willing to help. And we will devote the rest of this hour to those running towards the fire,” declared a CBS documentary on the coronavirus pandemic. “We begin with Marco Rubio. The Cuban-American Florida Republican Senator is a lead author of the Paycheck Protection Program, which is designed to be a lifeline for companies struggling amid the pandemic.”*

## Small Business Relief

*“Rubio went all-in on small-business program that has become the centerpiece of an economic-revival push.”*  
– Washington Post

Using his position as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Senator Rubio created the bipartisan Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). The former head of the Congressional Budget Office called it “the single most effective fiscal policy ever undertaken by the United States Government.”

The unprecedented and historic forgivable loan program, managed by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), was designed to keep employees on the payroll during the initial public health lockdown and smooth the way for the safe reopening of America’s small businesses.

The PPP became the most popular, bipartisan component of the federal coronavirus response – and the most effective.

“Almost immediately we had a meeting of the minds that we wanted to have money go out quickly,” said Senator Ben Cardin, the top Democrat on the Small Business Committee.

All told, more than 5.2 million small businesses received more than \$525 billion in PPP loans in 2020, which kept tens of millions of Americans on payroll through the worst of the public restrictions. An analysis by the Brookings Institution found the PPP “succeeded in its short-run goals, including helping smaller firms withstand sharp revenue declines during the shutdown and keeping workers connected to their employers.”



A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) analysis found that the PPP was “projected to quicken the pace of the recovery by limiting the number of business closures and preserving relationships between employees and employers.” The impacts are real according to the CBO, with the program expected to “increase real GDP by about 0.8 percent in 2020 and 0.3 percent in 2021.”

# Coronavirus Response

In Florida alone, more than 430,000 small businesses received \$32 billion in forgivable loans, saving more than 3 million jobs.

Thanks to Rubio, the Paycheck Protection Program re-opened in mid-January with \$284 billion available to small businesses for a second forgivable loan, with an emphasis on ensuring the hardest-hit small businesses and underserved communities receive assistance.

## Health and Safety

Six months before coronavirus came to America, Rubio's Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act (PAHPAI) of 2019 became law. In 2017, he identified a weakness in our nation's medical response capabilities stemming from a critical shortage of medical response personnel as part of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS).

Because of the new law, the Department of Health and Human Services was able to increase the number of NDMS personnel by nearly 60 percent. These healthcare workers have proven to be a vital lifeline as states and localities experience spikes in COVID-19 cases.

## Assisting Constituents

Senator Rubio's award-winning casework team helped more than 17,000 constituents, including with coronavirus-related issues ranging from unemployment insurance and small business relief to being stranded abroad as countries around the globe locked down.

Rubio's team worked around the clock to connect people with services, explain coronavirus aid eligibility, monitor cases, and ultimately get constituents back home.

**Stranded Abroad.** Repatriating Floridians stranded abroad was an unprecedented challenge as nations around the world closed their borders and air travel ground to a halt. Overall, Rubio's casework team assisted approximately 1,000 individuals return to the U.S. Every case presented different challenges, and each one – as with so much in 2020 – caused families across Florida untold stress, anguish, and ultimately joy as family members finally returned home.



“My sincere and heartfelt gratitude as you were the only team that kept me updated and constantly requested status on my behalf.” – Lilian, whose father and mother-in-law were stranded in Honduras.

“Your phone calls and emails really showed that someone cared and advocated on our behalf and I want to personally thank you.” – Stuart, whose son was stranded in Guatemala.



# Coronavirus Response

“Hallelujah! I am so happy to be home with my family and I thank you for the influence that you and your team had in making that possible.” – Jerry, who was stranded in Cameroon

“Words cannot express how grateful we remain to each of you for your continued efforts to bring us home. We realize that these are unprecedented times for communities across the globe. But your staff’s commitments to personalized communication and transparency throughout this entire process were absolutely unmatched.” – Abigail and Josh, who were stranded in Peru.

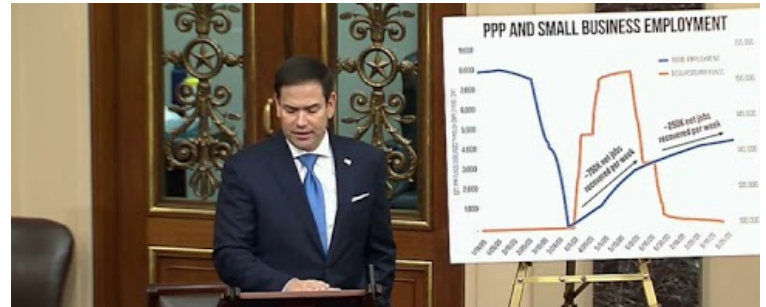
**Unemployment Benefits.** Rubio supported expanded unemployment benefits for individuals and families during the height of the coronavirus pandemic, and his team worked with thousands of Floridians to navigate the state’s old unemployment insurance system, which was overwhelmed.

“Dear Senator Rubio, I’m happy to inform you that I’ve received my unemployment benefits payment today, June 18, 2020. I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to you. When I prayed for my concerns, it was your name that first came to my mind. Thank you so much for your kind assistance.” – Amelia

“I would like to take this time to thank you very much for all you have done in helping me with my federal pandemic unemployment assistance.” – Vickie

“Thank You again, I just received the money from the federal government and from the State of Florida. The first several weeks were omitted. Now I’m up to date, and feel much better and get back on track.” – Rose

**Small Business.** In addition to creating the Paycheck Protection Program, Rubio ensured his staff was available to help businesses understand the program and how they could best apply for the forgivable loans. His team also assisted constituents with the SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan program.



“Senator Rubio, I just wanted to extend my heartfelt gratitude on helping me with this issue. You got it done and it has helped me get back on my feet and help revive small business in this state!” – Klaron

“Dear Senator and Staff, Thank you so much for all your help. I just received all the closing documents, signed them and sent them to SBA. Our application now shows approved and I guess we’ll be receiving correspondence or a call from SBA any time. I don’t think any of this would’ve happened without your help, I am so grateful for all your help!” – Tomas

“This saved my financial life Senator, and I’m so so very grateful to you and your staff.” – Lori

# Legislative Accomplishments

*Over the past four years, Senator Marco Rubio has been one of the most effective and impactful lawmakers in Congress. From the Paycheck Protection Program and the expanded Child Tax Credit to critical veterans reform and Everglades restoration, he gets results. A non-partisan analysis produced by GovTrack ranked Rubio as the second top leader compared to all Senators in 2019. The same analysis found he was the fourth top leader in 2018 and fifth top leader in 2017. Those are not just numbers – they show that Rubio is a senator who achieves real results for the people of Florida and for the nation.*

## Landmark Laws

*While Senator Rubio has authored dozens of laws over the past four years, several stand out as landmark accomplishments for Florida and the nation.*

**Families.** In 2017, the president signed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act into law. Thanks to Rubio's efforts, the law expanded the size of the Child Tax Credit from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per child and for the first time made the first \$1,400 refundable against an individual's payroll taxes. Passing pro-family policy is never easy in Washington, but, as the Miami Herald reported, "Rubio had his own leverage to exert" in his fight for Florida's families. A former Trump administration official observed that "there was division in the White House" about the Child Tax Credit, but Rubio "was determined to keep fighting for that" and ultimately won. One independent analysis found that Floridians with two children would see their average income tax liability drop by 13.3 percent. Lower-income communities would benefit significantly from the expanded and newly refundable Child Tax Credit.

**Veterans.** In 2017, the president signed Rubio's Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act into law.

Rubio fought to give the VA secretary the power to fire bad employees and to protect whistleblowers who come forward. "Credit is due to Senator Marco Rubio for championing this bill," said Concerned Veterans for America. The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) "saluted" Rubio and praised the bill for sending an "unmistakable signal to all employees that maintaining the status quo no longer works for those who have borne the battle."

**Environment.** In 2016, Oklahoma Senator Jim Inhofe, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, wrote in the Miami Herald that his opposition to federal funding for Everglades restoration "has since changed, largely in part to [his] friend and colleague Sen. Marco Rubio." Rubio has effectively used every tool at his disposal to expedite the construction of critical Everglades restoration projects.





# Legislative Accomplishments

In 2018, Rubio wrote and passed the congressional authorization to construct the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Storage Reservoir as part of the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) to reduce Lake Okeechobee discharges to coastal communities. And as a member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, Rubio secured the highest funding levels in a decade for critical Everglades restoration projects administered by the Army Corps, including breaking ground on CEPP in 2020. Audubon Florida named Rubio its 2019 Champion of the Everglades for his “strong commitment to Everglades restoration.”

**Small Businesses.** As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Senator Rubio created the bipartisan Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Working with his colleagues as the coronavirus pandemic began to cripple America’s economy, Rubio developed an unprecedented and historic forgivable loan program that was designed to keep employees on the payroll and smooth the way for the safe reopening of America’s small businesses.



By nearly every estimate, it was the most effective component of the federal government’s economic response, delivering more than \$525 billion to approximately 5 million small businesses. According to one expert, it was “the single most effective fiscal policy ever undertaken by the United States Government.” As Chairman, Rubio led the authorization of nearly \$1 trillion in small business relief, including over \$800 billion for PPP during the coronavirus pandemic.

**China.** In 2019, the president signed Rubio’s Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, sending an unambiguous message to Beijing: America will lead the world in standing with the people of Hong Kong as they defend their long-cherished freedoms and autonomy against the Chinese Communist Party’s violations of its commitments. The act, which passed with only a single dissenting vote in Congress before being signed into law by President Trump, gives the U.S. powerful new tools to deter Beijing’s interference in Hong Kong and hold accountable the officials responsible. **Venezuela.** In 2019, Rubio also led the response to the man-made crisis in

**Venezuela.** Passed in the year-end spending bill, the Rubio co-authored Venezuela Emergency Relief, Democracy Assistance, and Development (VERDAD) Act of 2019 provides \$400 million in humanitarian assistance to support Venezuelan refugees and codified crucial sanctions against the corrupt Maduro regime. Earlier in the year, the New York Times noted that Rubio had become the “lead policy architect and de facto spokesman” for the administration’s approach to Venezuela. The Miami Herald dubbed it the “Rubio Doctrine.”

# Legislative Accomplishments

## In-Depth Laws

*In addition to the Paycheck Protection Program, Senator Rubio's leadership led to the enactment of over 20 new laws in 2020 that he authored and sponsored to protect families, expand opportunities for work, make our communities safer, and ensure our country flourishes.*

**5G Innovation Funds.** As the lead Republican on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Rubio partnered with the committee's top Democrat to ensure America and the West did not lose the battle for 5G supremacy to China. The annual defense bill contained "5G Innovation Funds," based on Rubio's Utilizing Strategic Allied (USA) Telecommunications Act, which authorizes more than \$1 billion to invest in Western-based alternatives to Chinese equipment providers Huawei and ZTE. These malign, state-directed telecommunications companies pose a clear and growing threat to the economic and national security of the U.S. and our allies.

**Corporate Transparency Act.** In August 2017, Rubio introduced the Corporate Transparency Act following reports of anonymous shell companies and their negative effects on the South Florida real estate market and illicit gold trade. Passed as part of the annual defense bill, Rubio's bill gives law enforcement the tools to target criminals hiding behind shell companies to engage in illicit activities like human trafficking, healthcare fraud, transnational corruption, and terrorist financing.

**Strengthening America's Supply Chain and National Security Act.** In 2019, Rubio issued a report detailing critical vulnerabilities in America's medical supply chain, warning, "the U.S. runs the risk of losing important components of its medical supply chain to China's government-backed industry." He warned in Modern Healthcare that when it comes to the threat China poses to the U.S. healthcare industry, we cannot afford to be complacent. In March, as the pandemic revealed critical gaps in our medical supply chain, Rubio introduced the Strengthening America's Supply Chain and National Security Act. Portions of the bill were included in the initial economic relief package, and the other provisions were added as part of the annual defense bill. It represents the biggest step to date to ensure the resiliency of America's medical supply chain.

**The American Citizen Coronavirus Relief Act.** Rubio was a strong supporter of Economic Impact Payment (EIP) to help struggling American families throughout 2020 and into 2021, including increasing the payments to \$2,000. Rubio's American Citizen Coronavirus Relief Act ensured that U.S. citizens are eligible to receive EIPs even if they are married to foreign nationals who are not currently citizens of the United States. Before Rubio's effort, thousands of Floridians were wrongly denied these critical funds.



# Legislative Accomplishments

**Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act.** The widespread and horrific human rights abuses in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), including the mass internment of more than one million Uyghurs and other predominantly ethnic Turkic Muslims, are now well-established. Rubio's Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act, first introduced in 2018, became law in 2020 and provides the U.S. government with tools to punish those foreign individuals and entities responsible for such abuses. Rubio's law is the first in the world to directly address the Chinese Communist Party's abuses in Xinjiang and is part of his ongoing efforts to end the egregious human rights violations – and fundamentally restructure America's economic and security relationship with the brutal communist regime in China.

**Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys Act.** Rubio partnered with Representative Frederica Wilson (D-FL) to create the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys within the United States Commission on Civil Rights' Office, which is tasked with recommending policies to improve current government programs. The new commission is modeled after Florida's Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, which Rubio worked on while in the state legislature. In many ways, Florida is leading the way. Rubio is a regular participant in Wilson's "5000 Role Models of Excellence Project," a mentoring and dropout prevention program she founded three decades ago.

**Supporting Veterans in STEM Careers Act.** Rubio, author of the VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act, continued his fight on behalf of our nation's veterans. His bipartisan Supporting Veterans in STEM Careers Act, which became law in February, assists veterans re-entering the workforce by directing the National Science Foundation to encourage veterans to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). Samsung Electronics America said the new law "will help service members and their families as they transition into their next careers in manufacturing and technology." The National Association of Manufacturers noted it "will help prepare our nation's heroes for the modern manufacturing careers that await them in an industry in need of their unique skills and talents." And the Consumer Technology Association observed that it "will make it easier for America's veterans to transition their skills into a career in the technology sector – giving the opportunity for fulfilling and lucrative careers as civilians."

**Coast Guard Shore Infrastructure Improvement Act.** Rubio and Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK) joined forces to help the U.S. Coast Guard to reduce and better manage the maintenance backlog for its vast and aging shore infrastructure assets. Their Coast Guard Shore Infrastructure Improvement Act, which became law as part of the annual defense bill, will help ensure critical infrastructure – including facilities damaged by recent hurricanes – is up to par to support our servicemen and women who are always ready to protect the nation.

# Legislative Accomplishments

**Federal Advance Contracts Enhancement (FACE) Act.** Florida is no stranger to natural disasters, and ensuring an efficient and effective federal response is critical to the recovery process. Rubio's FACE Act will now require the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure more effective use and management of its advance contracts for goods and services. The bill requires federal preparedness actions to be coordinated with states and localities to prevent gaps in recovery efforts from occurring.

**Suppressing Looming Invasive Threats Harming Everglades Restoration (SLITHER) Act.** Rubio continued his longstanding efforts to restore and protect the Everglades with his bipartisan SLITHER Act, which authorizes and directs the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force to develop innovative technologies and approaches to identify, target, and eliminate invasive animal and plant species that threaten Everglades restoration.



**U.S.-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act.** After more than two years of legislative battles, Rubio's United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act became law as part of the annual defense bill. It strengthens the U.S.-Israel strategic alliance at a critical time by authorizing \$3.3 billion in annual security assistance and ensures that Israel has what it needs to defend itself and is able to address both conventional and emerging threats.

**Never Again Education Act.** Rubio co-authored the bipartisan Never Again Education Act, which became law in May and establishes a dedicated federal fund through the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum to provide teachers and educational leaders with resources and training necessary to teach our students the important lessons of the Holocaust. "We have seen an unprecedented wave of violent anti-Semitic attacks across the country and the sense of threat is universal," said the Jewish Federations of North America. "Holocaust education and specifically the Never Again Education Act is one legislative vehicle that will help alleviate this problem."

**Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act.** Named in honor of former FBI agent and Floridian Robert Levinson, whose unlawful detention by the Iranian regime left him the longest held hostage in American history, Rubio's bipartisan legislation bolsters U.S. government resources to bring back Americans held hostage or unlawfully detained abroad. Sadly, Mr. Levinson is presumed to have died in Iranian custody in 2020.



# Legislative Accomplishments

**Intelligence Authorization Act.** In the face of ever-expanding threats from hostile foreign actors, including China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea, it is vital that our Intelligence Community has the necessary resources, authorities, and personnel to protect America's national security. As acting chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Rubio passed sweeping legislation to enhance Congressional oversight of the U.S. Intelligence Community while providing it with the resources and authorities necessary to keep America safe and secure.



**Tibetan Policy and Support Act.** Rubio's bipartisan Tibetan Policy and Support Act updates and strengthens the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 to address emerging human rights, religious freedom, and other challenges faced by the Tibetan people. It demonstrates Rubio's commitment to human rights and religious liberty across the globe and his ability to build a bipartisan coalition to confront China's ongoing abuses.

**Taiwan Reassurance Act.** Rubio's Taiwan Reassurance Act strengthens our relationship with Taiwan by requiring the Department of Defense to work to include Taiwan in bilateral and multilateral military exercises.

Once again, Rubio made clear his ability to build a bipartisan coalition to confront China's aggressive global posture while supporting a staunch ally.

**Leo C. Chase Jr. Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.** Rubio joined Representatives John Rutherford (R-FL) and Michael Waltz (R-FL) to pass legislation to name a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) clinic in St. Johns County after Army Private First Class Leo C. Chase, Jr., the first man from St. Johns County to be killed in the Vietnam War. Outnumbered nearly ten to one, Chase and the other members of his platoon bravely repulsed many massive ground assaults from the Viet Cong, all the while taking fire from enemy snipers. "We can never repay his sacrifice to our nation," Rubio said, but we can honor "an American hero who made the ultimate sacrifice."

**Medal of Honor to Sergeant First Class (SFC) Alwyn Cashe.** Rubio led the push for legislation to waive the statutory limitations and posthumously award the Medal of Honor to Sergeant First Class (SFC) Alwyn Cashe, a Florida native who exemplified the finest traditions of military heroism when he disregarded his own safety and saved the lives of six fellow soldiers despite his serious injuries during Operation Iraqi Freedom in October of 2005.



# Legislative Accomplishments

## Federal Judiciary

*Senator Rubio voted to confirm 50 federal judges in 2020, including Judge Amy Coney Barrett to be Associate Justice on the United States Supreme Court, Aileen Mercedes Cannon to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, and Kathryn Kimball Mizelle and John Leonard Badalamenti to be United States District Judges for the Middle District of Florida.*



**Supreme Court.** After Justice Antonin Scalia's death in 2016, Rubio remarked that "[t]he courts too often treated the text of statutes as mere suggestions and often appointed themselves as a kind of super-legislature." Justice Scalia, he said, "saw this prevailing approach of judges as an abuse of power and a threat to a free and self-governing people." Rubio has since voted to confirm three excellent, well-qualified nominees to the United States Supreme Court, each of whom expressed an unwavering commitment to original intent, judicial restraint, and the understanding that the Supreme Court should be a 'trier of law' appellate court and not a 'trier of fact' trial court.

**Florida Courts.** Since 2017, the U.S. Senate has confirmed 12 Florida district court judges recommended by Rubio, including Bill Jung, Roy Altman, Rudy Ruiz, Rodney Smith, Wendy Berger, Tom Barber, Kent Wetherell, Allen Winsor, Anuraag "Raag" Singhal, John Leonard Badalamenti, Aileen Mercedes Cannon, and Kathryn Kimball Mizelle. The Senate also confirmed two Florida Supreme Court Justices, Barbara Lagoa and Robert Luck, to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, which covers the entirety of Florida.

**Federal Judiciary.** Overall, Rubio and his Senate colleagues have confirmed 234 federal judges, including 54 Circuit Court judges and 174 district court judges, many of whom received overwhelming bipartisan support. For example, Florida's district court judges averaged nearly 70 votes in favor despite the deeply divided and partisan nature of the Senate.

## Constituent Services

Not a day goes by when Senator Rubio's constituent services team is not solving problems for the people of Florida. Last year, the nonpartisan Congressional Management Foundation (CMF) recognized their tireless dedication and unparalleled compassion as a model for the rest of Congress. "As a Democracy Award winner," CMF said, "Sen. Rubio has made a significant commitment to being the best public servant for his constituents in Florida" and is "helping to restore trust and faith that our democratic institutions can work."

# Legislative Accomplishments

## By the Numbers

Every year, Senator Rubio's team of caseworkers helps thousands of Floridians with requests as mundane as finding the appropriate federal agency contact to as complicated as employment and travel authorizations.

In 2020, the team opened and closed more cases than ever before on issues ranging from Social Security and Medicare to veterans affairs and immigration.

And in 2020, in large part due to the coronavirus pandemic, the team handled more cases than ever by September.

- 82 percent satisfaction rating in 2020
- 17,100 new cases opened, an increase of 88 percent over 2019
- Overall, Rubio's constituent services team assisted more than 42,000 Floridians over the past four years

## Constituents' Voices

As impressive as the statistics are, constituent service isn't about numbers; it is about serving the people who elected Senator Rubio to represent them in Washington and helping them navigate an incredibly complex federal government.

"Thank you so much to you and to the Marco Rubio team! This means so much to us. Thank you so very much once again!"  
– Luis, a disabled veteran who requested passport assistance

"My wife and I recently received an update about our son's case. We wanted to give you thanks for your attention and assistance in helping us to reunite with our son. The case has been approved to be expedited and our family is now a step closer to being whole. My family expresses their gratitude to you and your team. May God bless you."

– Harold, whose ten-year-old son was stuck in Colombia due to an application error and was ultimately reunited with his parents in Florida

"You have worked hard and diligently to accomplish this almost impossible task."

– Joanne, who was incorrectly told she owed tens of thousands of dollars to the VA

"Dear Marco Rubio and Staff. Thank you so much for getting my taxes back and our stimulus checks for me and my husband. If it wasn't for you, we would still be waiting."

– Lisa and Greg, whose CARES Act stimulus and tax refund were inexplicably delayed

"Wonderful news!!! Thanks to all who played a part in this...OH MY GOD...YOU JUST MADE OUR DAY!!!!!!...I can't tell you how much this means to my mother and our family. God bless...Senator Rubio...."

– Daughter of Eleanor, a 99-year-old widow who was mistakenly denied benefits

"I want to officially thank you for helping me get my VBA appeal case resolved so quickly! I have been dealing with an abyss in the VA system for 4 years! You made it happen and I am so grateful!"

– Lourdes, a disabled veteran who received retroactive benefits she was long denied



# Working Behind the Scenes

## Strong Florida: Putting Floridians First

*Representing the third most populous state in the nation is an honor that comes with incredible responsibility. When Senator Rubio decided to serve on the appropriations committee, he did so because it empowered him to fight for Florida, but fighting for Florida goes well beyond legislating.*

**Everglades.** Rubio believes the Florida Everglades is one of the greatest natural treasures in the world, and protecting and restoring the river of grass remains one of his highest priorities in the Senate. Using his seat on the influential Senate Committee on Appropriations, Rubio worked with the president, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, and the Florida Congressional Delegation to ensure the President's FY 2021 budget contained a record \$250 million request for Everglades restoration. The historic funding levels build on Rubio's successful efforts to expedite the construction of the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP).

**Offshore Drilling.** Over the last four years, Rubio pushed the Trump Administration and his colleagues to protect Florida's coastlines. Thanks to those efforts, the president announced that the moratorium on oil and gas drilling off the coasts of Florida, which would have expired in 2022, would be extended to 2032. Rubio worked closely with the administration to secure the extension of the moratorium, and he continues to work alongside the administration and his colleagues in Congress to secure a permanent legislative solution to ensure that Florida's coasts remain free of the threat from offshore oil and gas drilling.

**Small Business.** In addition to creating the Paycheck Protection Program that helped more than 430,000 Florida small businesses, Rubio received the only "A rating" from the Lugar Center on its 116th Congress Committee Report Card for Congressional Oversight. "It's an honor to be recognized by the Lugar Center and a tribute to the tremendously talented and dedicated committee staff that I have had the pleasure of working with for the past two years," he said.



# Working Behind the Scenes

Rubio also had the honor of naming 47 Florida-based small businesses as U.S. Senate Small Business of the Week over the past two years.

- Oceana Coffee of Tequesta
- Indian Pass Raw Bar of Port St. Joe
- Bailey's General Store of Sanibel Island
- Carroll Bradford Incorporated of
- Orlando Haynes Security of Miami
- JL Marine Systems, Inc. of Tampa
- Magellan Transport Logistics of Jacksonville
- Hog Technologies of Stuart
- Miami Tour Company of Miami
- Southern Craft Creamery of Marianna
- Sunshine Peanut Company of Jacksonville
- The Big Cheese of Miami
- Rising Tide Car Wash of Parkland
- GT AirInject of Jacksonville
- Royal Furniture and Design of the Keys
- Two Peas Café of La Belle
- Capital Shoe Fixery of Tallahassee
- Levatas of Palm Beach Gardens
- Rethreaded of Jacksonville
- Melao Bakery of Kissimmee
- Mother Kombucha of St. Petersburg
- Amelia Island Kayak Excursions of Fernandina Beach
- Misha's Cupcakes of Coral Springs
- Tomato Express of Kissimmee
- Granny Cantrell's Restaurant of Panama City
- Delicate Periodontics and Implant Dentistry of Wellington
- Two Sisters New Beginnings LLC of Monticello
- Hull's Seafood of Orlando
- Sun Harvest Citrus of Fort Myers
- Oakes Custom Meats and Catering of Chumuckla



- Tally Mac Shack of Tallahassee
- Ideal Aluminum Products of St. Augustine
- Pinecrest Bakery of Pinecrest
- Best Memories Academy of Orlando
- Mercedes Scientific of Lakewood Ranch
- AMWAT of Tallahassee
- Sergio's Family Restaurants of Miami
- Hydra Engineering and Construction of Crawfordville
- JWR Construction of Deerfield Beach
- Fresco Foods of Tampa
- Beckwith Electric of Largo
- Scotlynn USA of Fort Myers
- Anna Maria Oyster Bar of Bradenton
- Boyd Industries of Clearwater
- Lucky Goat Coffee of Tallahassee
- Bayshore Fit of Florida
- Aunt Catfish's On the River of Port Orange



# Working Behind the Scenes

**Defending Domestic Producers.** Florida fruit and vegetable growers are fighting for survival against Mexico's unfair trade practices. Last year, after constant pressure from Rubio, the Trump Administration came to an agreement with Mexican tomato growers to increase monitoring, enforcement, and anti-circumvention provisions to defend American-grown produce, which should serve as a model for helping to rebalance agricultural trade with Mexico. Rubio was also instrumental in securing an action plan from the Administration to investigate the impacts of unfair Mexican trade practices on Florida's growers of blueberries, strawberries, bell peppers, and other seasonal produce. But more work remains. "What we're asking for is fair trade with our neighbors," Rubio told the administration's top trade officials. "As you guys have assured us on multiple occasions, this situation would not be the final word on it. We're truly hoping that can be followed up with some action." His bipartisan Defending Domestic Produce Production Act (S.16) is the gold standard for action.

**School Safety.** In 2018, after the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Rubio helped secure the passage of the Student, Teachers and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Act. Year after year, he has used his position on the Senate Committee on Appropriations to ensure continued funding of those critical school safety programs. He secured another \$132 million for the program in 2020.

He also helped push through the establishment of the Federal School Safety Clearinghouse, which will continue to help improve physical security and expand access to mental health services for students.

**Disaster Recovery.** Florida is no stranger to natural disasters. When Hurricane Sally brought surging floodwaters to Northwest Florida, Rubio was on the ground within days and successfully pushed the administration to issue a Major Disaster Declaration, unlocking additional federal resources, including both Public and Individual Assistance, for impacted communities. Rubio and his team continue to work with constituents in need of disaster assistance and local communities seeking federal reimbursement, including for Hurricanes Hermine, Irma, and Michael.





# Working Behind the Scenes

**Tyndall Air Force Base.** The reconstruction of Tyndall Air Force Base moves forward thanks to Senator Rubio's stalwart support of rebuilding the base – this time, even larger and more advanced than prior to Hurricane Michael. On October 13, 2020, Tyndall broke ground on their first reconstruction military construction project: the Air Battle Management Simulator.



This project is one of 44 individual construction projects planned in the reconstruction effort. These projects are anticipated to be completed by 2028, and Tyndall will return to full operational capacity at that time. Senator Rubio will continue to advocate and support Tyndall Air Force Base.

**Space.** Florida has long served as our nation's gateway to the stars. From his position on the Senate Committee on Appropriations, Senator Rubio has continued to advocate robust funding for NASA. He prevented a substantial cut in funding for the Exploration Ground System programs at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. This cut would have resulted in extensive layoffs and delayed the Artemis Program by several years.



# Working Behind the Scenes

## Strong America: Global Leadership

*America's focus understandably turned inward in 2020, but even as he led America's economic recovery by drafting the Paycheck Protection Program, Senator Marco Rubio used his senior position on the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and his acting chairmanship of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence to help shape America's foreign and national security policy. Over the past four years, Rubio has provided steady foreign policy leadership, working closely with the administration and pushing it when he must.*

**America's Role.** "The extent of America's international presence cannot simply be pursuing the most efficient economic outcomes; instead, it must prioritize American security and the pursuit of fundamental rights, including the strengthening of American workers and, through them, our nation's civil society," Rubio wrote in Columbia University's Journal of International Affairs. "We cannot accomplish those goals domestically by receding inward and abandoning the mantle of leadership abroad. Free, democratic allies are integral to our way of life at home. Strong international engagement means greater international stability and prosperity, as well as less mass migration, terrorism, and international crime."

**China.** Although he had no plans to travel to China, Rubio was sanctioned by the People's Republic of China and is now banned from entering the country in response to his work to counter the threats posed by the Chinese Communist Party and call out its human rights abuses, including in Xinjiang, Hong Kong, and Tibet. He has been on the leading edge in developing a coherent American strategy to counter Beijing's increasingly aggressive policies and efforts to reshape global norms.



While many Republican politicians have endorsed similar ideas," Bloomberg reported, "Rubio stands out for the intensity of his efforts, largely ignoring pleas from business lobbies to tone them down."

Of course, this is not new for Rubio. In 2015, he warned that, "China is doing everything it can to make the 21st century a Chinese century."

Since then, Rubio has worked in a bipartisan fashion and drafted, championed, and ultimately passed major laws that alter the U.S.-China relationship and begin to address systematic failures of our policy towards China since China's admission into the World Trade Organization (WTO).



# Working Behind the Scenes

For example, Rubio's Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, which became law in 2019, provided the U.S. powerful tools to punish Beijing for undermining Hong Kong's autonomy and freedom. Rubio's Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act, which became law in 2020, is the first law in the world aimed at countering the Chinese government's widespread and horrific human rights abuses against Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in Xinjiang.



Even legislation that does not become law has had the impact of changing federal policy.

In October 2019, Rubio was among the first lawmakers to warn of the danger posed by TikTok when he requested that the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) launch a full review of the national security implications of TikTok's acquisition of Musical.ly. This review by CFIUS remains ongoing.

In August 2020, the administration took action by issuing two Executive Orders to address the national security threats posed by TikTok and WeChat.

Rubio was also the first to highlight that the retirement assets of federal government employees, including members of the U.S. Armed Forces, were being invested in Chinese firms designing weapons to kill American service members. That changed in 2020 thanks to Rubio's efforts.

Parts of his Ensuring Quality Information and Transparency for Abroad-Based Listings on our Exchanges (EQUITABLE) Act, which would ensure Chinese and other foreign companies listed on American exchanges can no longer cheat and ignore U.S. regulators, became law. The administration took additional action to provide further transparency.

Rubio's Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act is driving conversations with regard to American companies and industry sourcing goods made with forced labor in Xinjiang from Uyghurs and other minorities. Portions of the legislation were signed into law in 2020, but the overall bill has broad bipartisan support in Congress and is expected to become law in 2021.

Finally, the Trump Administration prohibited U.S. investments in Chinese firms that are on the U.S. Department of Defense list of Communist Chinese military companies, a move that Rubio long called for and closely resembles his American Financial Markets Integrity and Security Act.



# Working Behind the Scenes

These actions led to multiple financial exchanges, including the NASDAQ and MSCI, to begin to delist some Chinese companies. Rubio began questioning MSCI's reliance on Chinese companies in 2019.

**Russia.** Rubio continued his outspoken criticism of Russia's meddling in America's elections, just as he did in 2016, and Putin's domestic repression against the Russian people. As acting chairman of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, he made certain the American people, the media, and state and local elections officials were prepared for continued meddling by Russia and other foreign adversaries.

**Latin America.** Rubio's leadership, including co-authorship of the bipartisan VERDAD Act, which provided \$400 million in humanitarian aid and placed additional restrictions on the Maduro crime family, is undeniable. Last year, the Miami Herald ran a piece titled, "The Rubio doctrine: U.S. recognition of new Venezuelan leader is Florida senator's work."



In 2020, Venezuela's interim president Juan Guaidó attended the State of the Union Address, marking a continued U.S. commitment to the freedom-loving people of Venezuela and more broadly to those in Cuba, Nicaragua, and beyond in their quest for freedom.



As Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights and Global Women's Issues, Rubio will remain a key player in shaping U.S. foreign policy in our hemisphere.

# Working Behind the Scenes

**Human Rights.** Rubio remains a leader in advancing human rights and democracy around the world. He has continued his Twitter campaign titled, “Expression NOT Oppression,” which highlights the plight of political prisoners around the world.



Senator Rubio Press  
@SenRubioPress

Pastor [#WangYi](#)'s harsh 9 yr sentence is another example of the [#PRC](#)'s attacks on independent thinkers & people of faith. Yi was critical of govt policies restricting the freedoms of 500 million Chinese religious believers. He should be released immediately.

[#ExpressionNotOppression](#)



Rubio has helped to secure the release of some of those wrongly detained. With the ongoing pandemic, Senator Rubio has worked in a bipartisan fashion to press nations to release political prisoners on humanitarian grounds due to health conditions in prisons. As co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Executive Commission on China, Rubio sheds light on the country's egregious human rights abuses and its failure to uphold the rule of law. His consistent advocacy for groups and individuals oppressed by the Chinese Communist Party led them to ban him from China in the summer 2020.



Rubio has also called attention to repression in Russia, Cuba, Egypt, Iran, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, and highlighted Saudi Arabia's ongoing abuses of women's rights. As USA Today reported, Rubio “directs his office to advocate for some [victims] using back-channel communications with the State Department.” He remains a champion for the fundamental rights of women and girls around the world.





# Working Behind the Scenes

## Strong America: New American Century

*Sweeping policy changes and landmark laws do not happen overnight but are often years in the making. That is why Senator Rubio is laying the groundwork for the next wave of policy victories in a series of high-profile speeches, essays, and detailed reports. As the Washington Post noted, the emerging agenda comes “more from the perspective of a blue-collar worker than a white-collar consumer.”*

*In 2019, Rubio laid out two key planks essential to the success of a new American Century: Common-Good Capitalism and American Industrial Policy. Both are built on timeless principles recognizable to any American: the dignity of work; the centrality of family; strong local communities, and a pride in the greatness of America.*

**Not Just Theory.** When Rubio first championed these ideas, he did so with a strong record of legislative achievement, including his successful effort to double the per-child tax credit. In the wake of the initial coronavirus outbreak, Rubio once again applied his governing theory – placing American workers and their families at the center of our political priorities – by creating the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), which saved tens of millions of American jobs.

**A New Coalition.** Although it's been a tough year for the nation, the results of the 2020 election made clear that America's future will be determined by a multi-ethnic coalition of patriotic, hard-working Americans who, like Rubio, prioritize American workers, families, and communities. These Americans are clear about what they want: to have a job that allows them to provide for their kids; to raise their family in a safe neighborhood; to give back to their communities; to practice their faith without fear of shame.

When these Americans wake up, their first thought isn't “I'm a black man” or “I'm a Hispanic woman.” They may be proud of their roots but first and foremost recognize that, as a husband or a wife, a father or a mother, a worker, a veteran, a volunteer, or a coach, they all have a critical role to play.





# Working Behind the Scenes

That is the kind of identity you can find in every single community across our nation. But these are also Americans who, over the last few decades, have found some parts of life to be getting harder. They've watched as elites enrich themselves through catastrophic trade policies that leave stable work harder to come by. They have watched their own communities decay and costs of raising a family skyrocket.

These Americans know that a world dominated by Wall Street and Silicon Valley has also brought about a shift in values: economic efficiency over national resilience; financial gains over Main Street investment; individual enrichment over the common good. Dismissing pro-American values, these elites exhort shrill identity politics, relentless wokeness, and cancelling everyone who gets in their way.

But, as November's electoral results have shown, regular Americans are saying "no more."

Washington owes them something better.

**Long-Term Prosperity.** Recovering from the coronavirus is a near-term priority, but Rubio understands that policymakers must bring the same sense of urgency to tackling the long-simmering crisis plaguing America. Defending our nation's working families will require building a more resilient economy that cannot be forced to its knees in the face of a crisis. It will require remaking our own industrial capacity, so we never again suddenly find ourselves dependent on China for medical equipment.

And it will require creating new opportunities for dignified work, so employment in this country means stable hours and the ability to provide for your own – no matter whether you're in Miami, Detroit, Omaha, or beyond.

A brighter future will also require speaking directly to our nation's concerns about "making it" and what it means to live a good, healthy life today. It's what Rubio had in mind when he delivered relief to working parents, and it's what's animated his thinking as he's successfully fought to start the process of restoring the Everglades, delivering environmental progress in thousands of Floridians' own backyards.

Rubio believes that everything that makes our nation great depends on our ability to give the American people the sense of opportunity that has fueled our greatness for generations. Now, as Americans beat back the coronavirus pandemic and Chinese efforts to supplant us, he's leading the effort to recognize this truth and bring these workers and their families to the forefront.

