

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT

2017 - 2018



FIGHTING FOR FLORIDA

SENATOR

MARCO RUBIO

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# WELCOME LETTER

Dear Friends,

Two years ago, you entrusted me to serve another six years in the United States Senate. One of my highest priorities continues to be ensuring that my staff and I are available to help Floridians with whatever federal assistance they may need. We have also accomplished some incredible policy victories over the last two years for Florida and for our nation.

In 2017, the president signed my Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act into law. The VA secretary now has the power to fire and dismiss bad employees and protect whistleblowers who come forward. It is already bringing accountability to an agency that should serve our veterans honorably, just as they served our country.

I also fought make sure the historic tax reform that became law in 2017 did not leave behind America's working families. Ultimately, we were able to expand the size of the Child Tax Credit from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per child and make the first \$1,400 refundable against payroll taxes. Pro-family policy doesn't come easy in Washington, but this is a critical victory for Florida families.

And this year, after decades of delay, we are making real progress on the Everglades and sustainable water management in the state. Working with my colleagues in the Senate and allies in the administration, I secured approval for the modification of the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) to construct the Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir to store, treat, and move more water south through the Everglades.

From harmful algal blooms and devastating hurricanes to drug overdoses and unthinkable shootings, our state has experienced significant challenges over the past two years. We are making progress, but there is no doubt that more must be done.

I hope this report serves as a marker on what we have accomplished on behalf of Floridians. As you read it, remember that my team and I work for you.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio

# LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*Over the past two years, Senator Marco Rubio has been one of the most effective and impactful senators in the nation. A non-partisan analysis ranked him 4th out of 100 Senators for the number of bills he wrote that became law. That same analysis ranked Rubio 5th overall in Senate leadership and 6th in bipartisan support for his bills. Those are not just numbers. They show that Rubio is a senator who has achieved real results for the people of Florida and for the nation.*

## **SNAPSHOT: NEW LAWS**

*Senator Rubio's leadership led to the enactment of dozens of new laws he authored and sponsored to protect families, expand opportunities for work, make our communities safer, and ensure our country flourishes.*

- Emergency Citrus Disease Response Act (S. 71)
- Obamacare Taxpayer Bailout Prevention Act (S. 147)
- Seniors' Tax Simplification Act of 2017 (S. 157)
- HUD Inspection Process and Enforcement Reform Act (S. 160)
- Hurricane Forecast Improvement Act of 2017 (S. 161)
- Billfish and Shark Conservation Amendments Act (S. 396 / H.R. 4528)
- Justice for Uncompensated Survivors Today (JUST) Act (S. 447)
- RACE for Children Act (S. 456)
- Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development (READ) Act (S. 623 / H.R. 601)
- INTERDICT Act (S. 708 / H.R. 2142)
- Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act (S. 821 / H.R. 1872)
- Syria War Crimes Accountability Act (S. 905)
- Taiwan Travel Act (S.1051 / H.R. 535)
- Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017 (S. 1094)
- Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 2017 (S. 1107)
- American Dream Accounts (S. 1205)
- North Korea Human Rights Reauthorization Act (S. 1118 / H.R. 2061)
- American Dream Accounts (S. 1205)
- Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2018 (S. 1595)
- Protecting Girls' Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act (S. 1580)
- Post-Disaster Fairness to States Act of 2017 (S. 1641)
- Spurring Business in Communities Act (S. 1995 / H.R. 4111)
- Protecting Newborns from Opioids Act (S. 2658)
- Hospice Safe Drug Disposal Act (S. 2661)
- Sober Home Fraud Detection Act (S. 2828)
- Eliminating Kickbacks in Recovery Act (S. 3254)
- A bill to redesignate Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge as the Nathaniel P. Reed Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge (S 3456)

## SNAPSHOT: NEW LAWS

Rubio also co-sponsored more than a dozen bills that became law:

- Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act (S. 178)
- Firefighter Cancer Registry (S. 382 / H.R. 931)
- NASA Transition Authorization Act (S. 442)
- U.S. Territories Investor Protection Act (S. 484)
- Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act (S. 534)
- Protecting Americans from Credit Entanglement Act of 2017 (S. 838)
- Nicaragua Investment Conditionality Act (NICA) of 2018 (S.972 / H.R. 1918)
- Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act (SESTA) (S. 1693 / H.R. 1865)
- STOP School Violence Act (S. 2495)
- Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (S. 2736)
- Anti-Terrorism Clarification Act of 2018 (S. 2946)
- Synthetics Trafficking and Overdose Prevention (STOP) Act of 2018 (S. 3057)
- A bill to extend the effective date for the sunset for collateral requirements for Small Business Administration disaster loans. (S. 3554)

## LANDMARK LAWS

*While Senator Rubio has authored dozens of laws over the past two years, a few are truly landmark accomplishments for Florida and the nation.*

In 2017, President Donald Trump 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 and dismiss 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."

Later that year, 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, "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.

In 2016, Oklahoma Senator Jim Inhofe, the chairman of a critical Senate committee, wrote in the *Miami Herald* that his opposition to federal funding for Everglades restoration "has since changed, largely in part to my friend and colleague Sen. Marco Rubio." From that point forward, Rubio used every tool at his disposal to secure approval for the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP). Following Rubio's request, the administration approved modifying CEPP, and Rubio was able to pass congressional authorization to construct the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Storage Reservoir to reduce Lake Okeechobee discharges to coastal communities. And as member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Rubio secured funding for critical Everglades restoration projects administered by the Army Corps. Audubon Florida gave a "special thank you" to Rubio for his "strong commitment to Everglades restoration."

## PUTTING FLORIDA FIRST

*There is more to representing a state as big and diverse as Florida than headline grabbing accomplishments. Every day, Senator Rubio and his team work to address problems in the state, create new opportunities, and secure a more prosperous future for Floridians. Many times, Rubio is able to include those policies in other wide-ranging bills. While those actions do not make headlines in Washington, they have a significant impact on the state and its residents.*

**Seniors Tax Simplification Act.** Working with longtime Florida Senator Bill Nelson, Rubio secured passage of the of the **Seniors Tax Simplification Act**, which provides a basic, easy-to-read form for senior taxpayers earning Social Security, retirement benefits, interest and capital gains.



**Florida Military Construction.** In 2018 alone, Rubio secured federal funding for five military construction projects for the state of Florida for a total of \$174 million. Those projects, located at Naval Station Mayport, Eglin Air Force Base, and MacDill Air Force Base are good for America's national security and continue Florida's strong relation and long history with our military.

**Next Steps for NASA.** Rubio introduced the **NASA Transition Authorization Act** for Florida's Space Coast. It was the first NASA authorization bill to clear both houses of Congress since the fall of 2010. It will improve collaboration between the agency and commercial space sector, and benefit thousands of workers across Florida, particularly at Cape Canaveral and the Kennedy Space Center.

**Small Business Investment.** Rubio "scored a win" for Florida when the president signed his bipartisan **Spurring Business in Communities Act** into law. The new law will allow more Small

Business Investment Companies to form and invest in Florida, strengthening the economy, and offering more options outside of Wall Street and Silicon Valley.

**Customs and Border Protection Staffing.** Florida is a major international tourist destination, with millions coming from Canada and overseas to enjoy the state's beaches, parks, and resorts. Rubio worked to secure funding for more than 300 Customs and Border Protection officers, including an additional 18 for Orlando International Airport, which was named "Large Airport of the Year" in 2018.

**Herbert Hoover Dike Repairs.** Rubio secured tens of millions of dollars for critical water and infrastructure projects in Florida, including a total of \$514 million to fulfill the federal government's responsibility to expedite and complete the rehabilitation of the Herbert Hoover Dike. Florida's News-Press noted Rubio's "appointment to the Appropriations Committee [in 2017] proved instrumental in the size of Florida's haul in the bill."

**Rising Seas.** In 2016, Rubio led the effort to pass a law that would require the Army Corps of Engineers to study Florida's coasts, and offer recommendations to counter the effects of rising seas and hurricanes. Rubio then secured \$16 million in federal funding to complete the study, which will be invaluable as Florida's coastal communities plan for the future.

**FEMA Clawbacks.** Rubio reformed FEMA's de-obligation process by passing the **Post-Disaster Fairness to States Act**. The new law limits FEMA's ability to claw back disaster funds several years, and sometimes decades, after communities use those much-needed dollars to recover from devastating natural events. Closing this loophole provides local officials and homeowners with certainty and security as they rebuild their communities.

## A HEALTHY AMERICA

*Despite advances in technology and medicine, American life expectancy continues to decline. In many parts of the country, including Florida, an epidemic of drug overdoses and suicides is driving that disturbing trend. Over the past two years, Senator Rubio secured important federal policy changes to begin reversing the tide and, equally as important, provide new opportunities for young Floridians hoping for a better life.*

**Opioid Recovery and Rehabilitation.** Rubio took action after visiting sober homes neighborhoods in Broward County and meeting with local officials to discuss Florida’s challenges with opioids, including illicit sober homes and insurance fraud. After overcoming Washington-based special interests, his two bipartisan bills – the ***Eliminating Kickbacks in Recovery Act*** and the ***Sober Home Fraud Detection Act*** – were included in the landmark opioid bill signed by the president. Palm Beach County State Attorney Dave Aronberg, who leads the Sober Homes Task Force in South Florida, praised Rubio for “empower[ing] federal prosecutors to go after corrupt kickbacks to patient brokers.” Rubio also secured legislation and funding for programs aimed at better understanding and improving the quality of care provided to newborn babies suffering from opioid withdrawal.

**Opioid Trafficking.** The bipartisan ***INTERDICT Act***, championed by Rubio and signed into law by the president, provides U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) hi-tech chemical screening devices to help detect and interdict illicit drugs, such as fentanyl, from crossing into the U.S. from places like Mexico and China.

**American Dream Accounts.** Rubio introduced and championed the bipartisan ***American Dream Accounts Act***. The new law increases the number of low-income and at-risk students able to access and complete college or technical education.

**Childhood Cancer.** Over the past 20 years, the FDA has approved nearly 190 new cancer treatments for adults, but only three new treatments for children. Some children with cancer currently rely on drugs developed in the 1960s. Rubio introduced the bipartisan Research to ***Accelerate Cures and Equity (RACE) for Children Act*** to change this. The organization Alliance for Childhood Cancer called the new law a “step forward in addressing this disparity” because it “will help make new therapies available for children.”



**Children’s Health Insurance.** In 2015, federal bureaucrats forced Florida to change the way it administered the popular Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for vulnerable children, causing premiums to double in 2016. Rubio worked to secure a fix to this problem in the 10-year reauthorization of CHIP to lower premiums and expand low-cost medical and dental insurance to nearly 100,000 uninsured children in Florida.

**Protecting Young Athletes.** Rubio joined a bipartisan effort to help protect amateur athletes from sexual abuse by pushing the ***Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017***. The new law requires swift reporting of abuse in youth sports and helps survivors get justice swiftly.

## A SECURE AMERICA

*As a prominent member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Rubio plays a critical role in America's foreign and national security policy. He has become a champion on the issue of human rights. When human rights are violated, the result is a humanitarian crisis that often leads to mass migration, resentment and radicalization. There is a moral imperative to fight for human rights, but it is also a practical element of America's foreign policy agenda.*

**Countering China.** Rubio continued to put pressure on China by passing two critical bills. His bipartisan **Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act** promotes access to Tibet for U.S. officials, journalists, NGOs and citizens by denying visas to Chinese officials who deny Americans the ability to enter Tibet. The bipartisan Asia **Reassurance Initiative Act** reaffirms America's commitment to Taiwan and lays out a new policy framework to deal with Chinese aggressions in the region.



**Stopping Iranian-Backed Terrorists.** Rubio “scored a win” when his “proposal adding more sanctions on Hizballah headed to President Donald Trump’s desk.” The **Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act** strengthens and expands the scope of economic and financial sanctions imposed on the Iranian-backed Hizballah terrorist group. Hizballah murdered 241 Americans in 1983 and continues to threaten our ally Israel and other U.S. national security interests in the Middle East.

**Cracking Down on North Korea.** Rubio championed and passed the bipartisan North Korea Human Rights Reauthorization Act, which holds the North Korean regime accountable for its egregious abuses, including its extensive political prison camps and its use of abductions, torture, forced starvation, and sexual violence against women.

**Punishing Dictators.** Championed by Rubio, the bipartisan **Nicaraguan Investment and Conditionality Act (NICA)** requires the administration to impose sanctions against Nicaraguan officials responsible for ongoing human rights abuses and corruption. Florida Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen praised a key Rubio provision that seeks to hold accountable any government that provides assistance to help corrupt regime in Nicaragua stay in power.

**Victims of International Terrorism.** Joining forces with Iowa Senator Chuck Grassley, Rubio passed the **Anti-Terrorism Clarification Act** to ensure Americans victimized by acts of terrorism while abroad have access to justice in U.S. courts.

**Justice for Holocaust Survivors.** Holocaust survivors and the families are still fighting for restitution from wrongfully confiscated or transferred assets. That is why Rubio led a bipartisan effort to pass the **Justice for Uncompensated Survivors Today (JUST) Act**. A Holocaust survivor living in Florida said the bill “brings us closer to receiving a measure of justice that we greatly deserve.”

**Accountability for Syrian War Crimes.** Rubio successfully fought to pass the **Syria War Crimes Accountability Act**, which ensures the U.S. holds accountable those responsible for the repeated use of chemical weapons and other atrocities against the Syrian people.



# LEADING DURING CRISIS

*Over the past two years, Florida has seen its share of traumatic events. Legislation often takes months, if not years to become law and many in Washington forget once the cameras go away. Senator Marco Rubio used every lever at his disposal to force immediate action, lay the groundwork for continued recovery, and take common sense steps to prevent future crises.*

## STONEMAN DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL

*The 2018 Valentine's Day massacre of 17 people in Parkland shocked the nation. Although many in Washington were eager to revert to pre-established positions and talking points, Senator Rubio led. During a nationally televised town hall attended by 7,000 people, Rubio promised to "work with people that may not agree with us" so we can "make sure that one of these events never happens again in any community in this country." During the town hall, one Stoneman Douglas student stood up to say "I would just like to thank you again for coming out and listening to us." For Rubio, listening to the students and engaging with the community was just the first step. Action and results were absolutely necessary.*

**STOP School Violence Act.** In March 2018, just five weeks after the shooting, the president signed Rubio's bipartisan **Student, Teachers and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Act**. The new law directly addresses the lack of coordination between various government agencies, which allowed the killer to carry out his plans despite being identified by multiple levels of law enforcement, social services and the school system. In addition to strengthening security infrastructure and providing training, the new law makes federal grants available to develop and operate threat assessment and intervention teams. Those teams will enable better coordina-

tion on threat information between law enforcement and school personnel. \$75 million was included in the package for STOP School Violence Act grants, with \$100 million authorized for following fiscal years. Rubio said the families and friends of the Parkland shooting victims have "done more in five weeks on gun violence than has been done in 15 years."

**Background Checks.** After months of congressional inaction, the **Fix NICS Act** finally became law in March 2018 after Rubio "pressed his colleagues to support" the proposal. The new law improves the National Instant Criminal Background Check System and ensures that individuals who should not be able to purchase or be in possession of a firearm are not passing background checks due to lack of proper information in the background check system.

**Next Steps.** Days after the shooting, Rubio encouraged the Florida State Legislature to consider a red flag proposal, which would give law enforcement the authority to prevent individuals who pose a threat to themselves or others the ability to purchase or possess firearms, while still providing due process protections. After the red flag proposal became law in Florida, Rubio introduced the bipartisan **Extreme Risk Protection Order and Violence Prevention Act** to encourage other states to take similar actions. It is part of his ongoing, multi-faceted approach to prevent future mass shootings.

## HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

*Florida's natural diversity, pristine beaches, and iconic waterways are a driving force behind the state's economy and quality of life. Over the past two years, Floridians faced the twin threats of red tide and blue-green algal blooms. As Senator Rubio continues to lead the fight to address the state's underlying water quality and infrastructure challenges, he also took steps to mitigate damage in the near term.*

**Lake Okeechobee.** "Sen. Marco Rubio, R- Miami, spoke and now the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is listening," reported the *Fort Myers News-Press*. Rubio urged the administration to consider the impacts of harmful algal blooms and poor water quality on downstream communities and ecosystems as a major factor for consideration when planning and conducting Lake Okeechobee discharges. In response, the Corps suspended its planned emergency discharge and reevaluated its schedule to reflect Rubio's concerns for downstream communities. Additionally, Rubio secured \$514 million to fulfill the federal government's responsibility to expedite and complete the rehabilitation of the Herbert Hoover Dike.

**Small Business Recovery.** Rubio asked the administration to establish small business recovery centers in Florida and make small business disaster resources available. As a result, the Small Business Administration opened centers in six locations to assist businesses affected by red tide and blue-green algae blooms

**Federal Research.** Floridians deserve to know the health risks associated with these harmful algal blooms, which is why Rubio led the effort to secure \$1 million in federal funding so the Centers of Disease Control can study the long-term health implications of this algae and the toxins it releases. As a member of the Senate

Appropriations Committee, Rubio provided key leadership necessary to secure the funding.

## HURRICANE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

*Over the last two years, two devastating storms ripped through Florida, and another decimated Puerto Rico. This is after two storms hit the state in 2016. As a two-term senator with a key spot on the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Rubio delivered for Americans in Florida and Puerto Rico in the aftermath of the storms, and is well positioned to ensure a continuing federal commitment. He also secured funding for a new hurricane hunter aircraft and passed the vital **Hurricane Forecast Improvement Act** into law, which will improve guidance for hurricane track, intensity and storm surge forecasts. This will ensure families, business owners and others are better prepared for approaching hurricanes, and reduce unnecessary disruptions to their lives.*



**Hurricane Irma.** Even as Rubio rode out Irma in his West Miami home, he was preparing to help those impacted. Shortly after the storm passed, he announced his staff would host comprehensive recovery assistance centers (RAC) to connect Floridians with the federal resources they needed to recover and rebuild. Staff were in a different county each day, working their way across each part of the state affected by the hurricane and directly assisting more than 10,000 Floridians who attended the RAC's over a five-day period.

## HURRICANE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY CONT.

Rubio also secured tens of millions of dollars for post-storm activities, and worked with key agencies to include a \$49 million grant for Monroe County to remove hurricane debris from the most impacted canals. Tens of millions also went to community health centers and agricultural producers. And thanks to Rubio's leadership, Florida's farmers will receive \$340 million to replace trees and groves lost to Hurricane Irma.

**Hurricane Maria.** Hurricanes Irma and Maria proved to be a devastating one-two punch to the Island of Puerto Rico. Surveying the damage days after Maria, Rubio pledged to "ultimately ... rebuild Puerto Rico stronger than ever." Less than a month later, the president signed a disaster-spending bill into law that included \$5 billion for Puerto Rico. Rubio successfully fought for the enactment of other key provisions including, funding for English language learners in mainland schools; multiple extensions of Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) program for Hurricane Maria victims; an extension for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); and a federal report on impact of foreclosures, delinquencies, homeownership in Puerto Rico to ensure victims were not being taken advantage of in the storm's aftermath.

Rubio staff in Florida worked directly with Puerto Ricans affected by the storm to help find housing and secure necessary assistance. They worked with families in need to ensure children and loved ones received transport to Florida and medical care in Orlando area hospitals, including Orlando's VA Hospital and Nemours Children's Hospital. A year after the storm, Rubio continued to press the president to ensure the administration "remains committed to supporting our fellow Americans as they continue the recovery process." It is a promise he will see through until Puerto Rico is stronger than ever.

**Hurricane Michael.** Once again, Rubio was on the ground immediately after the storm devastated vast swaths of Florida's panhandle region. More than a

dozen members of his team went door to door assisting residents. After meeting 90-year old widow Vera Shuck, who was given just seven days' notice that she had to vacate her damaged building, the entire team pitched in to help her move from Panama City to Port St. Joe. "These people have been a Godsend to us," Mrs. Shuck told the local news. Staff hosted another comprehensive recovery assistance center (RAC) a month later to follow up on cases and ensure Floridians were being well served by federal agencies.

Rubio has been outspoken in pressing the president and the Department of Defense to rebuild Tyndall Air Force Base completely. He understands the unique qualities that make Tyndall a valuable asset, not just for Florida, but for our nation's military's readiness and strength. Thanks to Rubio's efforts working directly with the Air Force, the service is committed to fully rebuilding the base. Additionally, with continued congressional support the Air Force plans to make Tyndall the home to three, new squadrons of F-35 fighters. As Rubio said at the time, it is "great news not only for national security, but also for the people of Florida." Using his position on the Senate Appropriations Committee, Rubio will continue to fight for the long-term recovery of the panhandle.

## FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY BRIDGE COLLAPSE

Not every situation calls for a federal law, but federal scrutiny can increase transparency in the aftermath of a disaster. When the pedestrian bridge collapsed at Florida International University (FIU), where Rubio has been an adjunct professor for a decade, he sprang into action. Rubio met with survivors, talked to officials, and called on the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) address the "bridge's design, construction, and ultimate failure" while it conducts its investigation. Florida staff worked with the families of the injured and deceased to assist in ensuring medical care was available and that family members abroad could obtain visas quickly to visit their loved ones or attend memorials.

# WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES

*For Senator Marco Rubio, there is more to being a United States Senator than writing bills and passing laws. From helping constituents navigate the federal bureaucracy to shaping an administration's foreign policy, a lot happens behind the scenes that never shows up on the television screen or social media.*

## STRONG AMERICA

*With two prized committee seats – the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations – Senator Rubio is well positioned to influence America's foreign and national security policy. Over the past two years, Rubio has provided steady foreign policy leadership, working closely with the administration when he is able, and pushing the administration when he must.*

**Human Rights.** “There’s not a greater champion” for human rights than Rubio, said Maryland Senator Ben Cardin. As co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional-Executive Commission on China, Rubio highlights the country’s egregious human rights abuses, including the detention of as many as one million ethnic minority Uighurs. He has called attention to political crackdowns in Russia, China and Venezuela, highlighted abuses in Saudi Arabia and Syria, and called out multinational companies that frequently help governments orchestrate crackdowns. He also works on individual cases. As USA Today reported, Rubio “directs his office to advocate for some [victims] using back-channel communications with the State Department.”



**China.** No country poses a larger threat over the long term to the United States and the world than China. Rubio continues to lead the charge against China’s attempt to infiltrate America’s telecommunications system, which is why he fought successfully to block certain federal funds from going to Chinese telecom companies ZTE and Huawei. Other international allies are following America’s lead in pushing back against China’s technology grab. Rubio also called out American companies for their willingness to put self-interest above American interests. And after urging from Rubio, the administration required two state-run Chinese media organizations to register as foreign agents operating in the United States.

**Russia.** When the Senate could not act, Rubio got creative and successfully persuaded the D.C. City Council to embrace and enact his legislation to rename the street in front of the Russian Embassy in the United States after the late Boris Nemtsov, the Russian opposition leader gunned down near the Kremlin in 2015. And as a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Rubio has deep knowledge of Russia’s efforts to interfere in America’s political debates and electoral contests. That is why he led a bipartisan effort to prevent Russian interference in future elections. His *Defending Elections from Threats by Establishing Redlines (DETER) Act* provided the framework for the administration’s executive order to impose sanctions on individuals and entities that meddle in U.S. elections.

## STRONG AMERICA

**Western Hemisphere.** As *Politico* reported, Rubio is “playing a central role in setting U.S. policy in Latin America as chair of the Senate’s Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere.” With close relationships to National Security Advisor John Bolton, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and a handful of other key administration officials working on Western Hemisphere policy, Rubio is one of the “architects of Trump’s policy to unwind President Barack Obama’s rapprochement with Cuba.” For example, his ***Cuban Military Transparency Act*** was the basis for key presidential actions to prevent financial compensation to the Cuban military and entities associated with the regime’s military. And when the administration slapped sanctions on Venezuela, the *Miami Herald* reported the “indications are that the administration is likely acting on Rubio’s expert advice.” During a speech on Central America in Miami, the Vice President Mike Pence thanked Rubio for being an “eloquent champion for freedom in our hemisphere and around the world.”

## STRONG FLORIDA

*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.*

**Constituent Services.** Since elected in November 2010, one of Rubio’s highest priorities has been ensuring his office is available to help constituents with whatever federal assistance they may need. In 2017, more than 7,600 Floridians contacted Rubio’s office seeking assistance, and over 6,700 Floridians reached out in 2018. Those numbers do not include the more than 10,000 Floridians in 2017 and nearly 2,000 Floridians in 2018 who received help at one of Rubio’s Hurricane Recovery Assistance Centers held on-site in impacted localities. Over 75% of constituents contacting Rubio’s office for assistance rank their satisfaction with the work

his staff does on their behalf as above average or excellent. One of the highest honors Rubio has is nominating some of Florida’s most outstanding high school seniors to the nation’s military academies. In 2017, Senator Rubio nominated 45 students to one of the four academies; 23 received offers of appointment. In 2018, Senator Rubio has nominated 50 students who are awaiting appointment offers.

**Fighting Slumlords.** In 2016, Rubio pushed the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to investigate Global Ministries Foundation (GMF), which owned Eureka Gardens Apartments Jacksonville. The company “must be held accountable for stealing millions in taxpayer dollars and forcing Florida families to live in deplorable conditions,” he said at the time. Fast-forward two years, after continued pressure from Rubio, GMF sold its Eureka Gardens complex. The new owner is committing \$24 million in new investments to give the community and its residents a much-needed new start.

**Closing Confucius Institutes.** Everything is interconnected. Rubio’s focus on China and his seat on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence led him to warn of Beijing’s growing influence in Florida’s schools and colleges. Rubio raised concerns over the Chinese government-run programs known as Confucius Institutes, which are part of China’s aggressive campaign to infiltrate American classrooms, stifle free inquiry, and subvert free expression both at home and abroad. The universities of North Florida, West Florida, and South Florida shut down their programs after Rubio sent a letter documenting his concerns.

**Safe Hospitals.** Outdated federal programs and formulas not only hurt taxpayers, but they also hurt patients in states like Florida. Rubio introduced the ***State Accountability, Flexibility and Equity for (SAFE) Hospitals Act*** to ensure that hospitals receive funding that aligns with the populations they serve – not more and not less. It will allow hospitals to innovate and better serve their communities.

## STRONG FUTURE

*Sweeping policy changes and landmark laws do not happen overnight – they are often years in the making. That is why Senator Rubio is laying the groundwork for the next wave of policy victories. As the Washington Post noted, the agenda is developing “more from the perspective of a blue-collar worker than a white-collar consumer.” At its core, Rubio’s agenda is built on timeless principles: the dignity of work, the family as the fundamental institution of society, the importance of strong local communities, and a love for and pride in the greatness of America and its ideals.*

**Work.** America needs to restore paths to a stable and prosperous livelihood for the many. This means making the dignity of work our top economic policy goal. The dignity of work provides a sense of accomplishment, pride, and sufficiency that is essential to human flourishing. Rubio will look to focus the new tax law’s benefits toward domestic investments in workers and the products they make. This will include expanding and making permanent the immediate deduction for capital investments and encouraging investment in the real economy over financial arbitrage. It will also include standing up to countries like China that violate the rules of international trade and harm American workers. It also means increasing students’ exposure to the trades in school, and offering affordable courses and degrees in emerging technologies. Finally, Rubio will take action to ensure broad non-compete agreements do not limit the economic mobility of entry level and low-wage employees.

**Family.** Last Congress, Rubio became the first Republican to introduce a national paid parental leave plans – and without raising taxes, increasing the deficit or issuing new mandates. ***The Economic Security for New Parents Act*** would allow new parents to pull forward a portion of their Social Security benefits to address the economic insecurity

commonly associated with the birth or adoption of a child. He will also fight to expand pro-family policy in the tax code, ensuring his expansion of the Child Tax Credit becomes permanent. Rubio will fight against economic pressures that seek to reduce the formation of families, and progressive social engineering that seeks to replace the family.

**Community.** America’s community institutions have an important role to play in strengthening our society. It’s through local and civil society institutions that Americans are introduced and connected to public life, and learn the meaning of the common good. Rubio will stand for religious liberty and promote the role of faith in American society. Rubio will work to allow civil society institutions to administer some of America’s safety net programs, train workers for productive employment, and teach our students to be good citizens.

**Country.** America’s identity is rooted in the founding principle that all people are created equal and that all people are born with a God-given right to life, to liberty and to pursue happiness. From confronting challenges abroad to divisions at home, Rubio understands America cannot be a strong country if we do not have a unifying national identity that brings us together to take collective action.



