

# CONGRESSWOMAN TERRI A. SEWELL

# WORKING FOR ALABAMA

## FIGHTING FOR OUR RIGHT TO VOTE

### HOUSE PASSES HISTORIC VOTING RIGHTS LEGISLATION

In February, we re-introduced H.R. 4, the Voting Rights Advancement Act, in response to the Supreme Court's decision in 2013 that called on Congress to update the Voting Rights Act of 1965. H.R. 4 will strengthen voting protections and prevent discrimination in places that have a recent history of unfair election practices. The bill passed the House in December by a vote of 228-187 and now heads to the Senate for consideration.

In May, we hosted the House Administration Subcommittee on Elections in Birmingham for a field hearing on the state of voting rights in Alabama. We had witnesses testify about the barriers currently facing Alabamians at the ballot box, like voter ID requirements, DMV office closures, and cuts to voting hours on election day. I also joined the Subcommittee at field hearings in Cleveland and Atlanta to learn more about voter suppression tactics across the country.

Protecting voting rights has been a priority since my first term in Congress, and I am so proud that the House passed H.R. 4

## INVESTING IN OUR STUDENTS AND OUR FUTURE

### RECORD FUNDING FOR HBCUs PASSES THE HOUSE

I'm committed to fighting in Congress on behalf of our Historically Black Colleges and Universities. I'm especially proud that Congress passed the FUTURE Act, which permanently reauthorizes \$255 million in critical, annual funding for our HBCUs and Minority Serving Institutions. This is a huge win for our district, which is home to 10 HBCUs!

The House also approved legislation this year to increase HBCU-related spending to nearly \$200 million, and \$26 billion to underserved students. We secured in that bill \$70 million in federal funding for both public and private HBCUs for loan deferment and facilities renovation. The bill provided \$20 million to ease the financial burdens of our most vulnerable HBCUs by allowing a deferment so that these historic institutions can continue providing students with high-quality educational opportunities.

## PROTECTING ALABAMA WORKERS

### NEGOTIATING DEALS THAT WORK FOR AMERICAN BUSINESSES & WORKERS

To continue promoting job growth in Alabama, I have worked to pursue trade policies that open markets for Alabama's farmers and manufacturers while protecting workers' rights. Earlier this year, I was selected by Speaker Pelosi to join the nine person Working Group tasked with improving the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement. We made transformative changes to the labor, environment, access to medicines, and enforcement provisions in the deal. The Working Group demanded changes to ensure Alabama workers can compete on level playing field in the global marketplace and we delivered!

This year, we also fought to protect Alabama auto manufacturers by fending off efforts by the Trump Administration to impose national security tariffs on automobiles and auto parts. I know that the products hard-working Alabamians in the auto sector design, build, sell, and service are not a threat to our national security. That is why I authored bipartisan legislation to encourage the Administration to abandon its threat to increase auto tariffs.



U.S. Reps. Terri Sewell, John Lewis, and Speaker Nancy Pelosi speak out in favor of H.R. 4 at an official press conference on the 6th anniversary of the Supreme Court's Shelby County v. Holder decision



Rep. Sewell speaks with Alabama mine workers about what Congress is doing to protect their pensions

## INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

### LEADING THE CHARGE TO ATTRACT GOOD, HIGH-PAYING JOBS TO THE 7TH DISTRICT

My top priority continues to be building an economy that works for all Alabamians and I am fighting every day to bring jobs and opportunity to our district. That's one of the reasons we host an annual job fair that moves throughout our district. In 2019, our 8th Annual Job Fair was in Selma, where nearly 700 job seekers connected with 86 high-quality employers.

As Vice Chair of the Ways & Means Committee, I have sponsored legislation that will incentivize financial investment and create high-paying jobs in Alabama. I introduced legislation to expand the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC), which provides tax incentives to spur private investment in underserved communities. Our district has benefitted from 17 job-creating projects as a result of the NMTC. Likewise, I am working closely with community leaders across Alabama to make sure the new Opportunity Zone program fulfills its goal of financing economic development projects that deliver positive social impacts in our most vulnerable communities.

We also must put more money in the pockets of working families. Too many people work day in and day out but still struggle to get ahead. From voting to raise the minimum wage to expanding tax breaks for working families and access to retirement savings accounts, I am fighting to help hardworking Alabamians achieve financial security.

## EXPANDING ACCESS TO QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

### UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE COVERAGE MUST BE OUR GOAL

This year, I was chosen to co-chair the Ways & Means Committee's new Rural and Underserved Health Task Force, where I am focused on convening members and experts to address the challenges of delivering health care to all Americans.

For years, we've been working with Alabama's health providers and our congressional delegation to advocate for increased Medicare reimbursements for Alabama's hospitals, which were unfairly reimbursed at the lowest rates in the country. This year, our efforts finally paid off. Beginning in January 2020, the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare services will recalculate the way Medicare reimburses Alabama hospitals, providing critical relief for hospitals, especially in rural areas.

The fight to improve Alabama's health care system is far from over. We introduced legislation to incentivize the state to expand Medicaid to 320,000 Alabamians, helping improve health care affordability, access, and quality across the state.

This year, the House also passed bold legislation to lower prescription drug prices. H.R. 3, the Lower Drug Costs Now Act, will bring down costs for patients and taxpayers.

In addition, we introduced legislation to protect and strengthen access to home health care, tackle doctor shortages, improve affordability for non-opioid pain management, strengthen rural ambulance services, allow physicians assistants to be reimbursed by Medicare, and address asthma medication and treatment affordability.



Rep. Sewell meets with job seekers at the 8th Annual Job Fair in Selma



Rep. Sewell meets with staff and community stakeholders at Hill Hospital of Sumter County about ways to make rural health care more accessible and affordable

CONGRESSWOMAN TERRI A. SEWELL

## 2020 PRIORITIES

### PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH & JOB CREATION

- Host our 9th Annual Job Fair in Jefferson County to provide quality employment opportunities for constituents
- Work to promote trade policies that work for Alabama workers and businesses, including passage of the new U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement
- Address income inequality by incentivizing economic development in underserved communities using tools like the NMTC and Opportunity Zones program
- Promote equal pay for equal work

### STRENGTHEN ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

- Continue to push the Alabama legislature to expand Medicaid to more than 320,000 Alabamians
- Support efforts to strengthen Medicare for generations to come
- Work to stabilize the Affordable Care Act
- Fight to address health disparities in rural and underserved communities

### PRESERVE OUR DEMOCRACY

- Restore the full protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by working to pass H.R. 4 in the Senate and into law
- Support efforts to preserve the integrity of our elections from foreign interference
- Fight to hold the Trump Administration accountable

**Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

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*Terri Sewell*  
 M.C.  
 Part of  
 Congressional  
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# CONGRESSWOMAN TERRI A. SEWELL ANNUAL REPORT 2020

## CONGRESSWOMAN TERRI A. SEWELL CONSTITUENT SERVICES REPORT

CONGRESSWOMAN TERRI A. SEWELL

# “IT’S AN HONOR TO SERVE YOU IN CONGRESS!”



Our office motto, “Constituents First,” represents our deep commitment to ensuring we are always ready to assist you and your family throughout the year. Every day, our office works to address the needs and concerns of those living in Alabama’s 7th Congressional District. In 2019, the District received over \$2.4 billion in federal grants and our office helped constituents recover more than \$2.28 million in benefits owed to them by the federal government. Once again, I visited all 14 counties in the district, hosting 84 district events, including many town hall meetings, industry tours, forums, and workshops. I know how much potential our community holds for the future, and I am committed to helping our district prosper!

- Nearly **700** job seekers and **86** major employers attended our 8th Annual Job Fair in Selma in 2019
- Over **\$2.4 billion** in federal grants awarded to the 7th Congressional District in 2019
- Over **\$2.28** million in favorable benefits awarded to constituents assisted by our office in 2019
- Opened **285** new constituent cases and closed **295** constituent cases involving federal issues
- Sent **14,877** letters and email replies to constituents in 2019
- **164,144** recipients of our bimonthly e-newsletters and “Guide to Grants”
- **353** bills sponsored/cosponsored; and **670** votes on the House floor in 2019
- More than **275** bipartisan bills passed the House, including H.R. 4 – the Voting Rights Advancement Act
- **38** Congressional interns in our District and D.C. offices learned how our government works
- **84** district events in 2019, including town hall meetings, forums, workshops, industry tours, and more
- **72** students competed in the 2019 Congressional Art Competition
- **14** Military Service Academy nominations were submitted from the 7th Congressional District in 2019: **3** to West Point, **4** to the Naval Academy, **5** to the Air Force Academy, and **2** to the Merchant Marine Academy
- Hosted **3** Grants Workshop events across the 7th District in 2019, teaching grant writing and providing guidance on COPS grants, rural broadband grants, and preservation grants
- Hosted over **30** Montgomery Public School student actors to perform the “Four Little Girls” play in Washington, D.C. and at the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham in 2019



Congresswoman Terri Sewell celebrates the House passage of H.R. 4, the Voting Rights Advancement Act, on December 6, 2019.

FROM THE DESK OF  
**CONGRESSWOMAN TERRI A. SEWELL**

Dear Friend,

This year was a resounding success! The House of Representatives finally passed our signature piece of legislation, H.R. 4 – the Voting Rights Advancement Act. The bill will restore the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by requiring jurisdictions with a recent history of voting rights violations to pre-clear election changes with the Department of Justice.

In 2019, we continued to deliver for our constituents, hosting 84 district events, securing \$2.4 billion in federal grants, and recovering over \$2.28 million dollars in favorable benefits owed to constituents by the federal government. In addition, the House Democratic majority has been hard at work delivering on our For The People agenda, passing nearly 400 pieces of legislation, including over 275 bipartisan bills, that will benefit all Americans. We have worked to increase access to health care, protect our elections from outside interference, give Alabama workers a raise, restore voting rights, lower the cost of prescription drugs, preserve Social Security for generations to come, and promote a more transparent government that works on behalf of the citizens it represents.

This and every year, I am honored to represent you in Congress. In 2020, we look forward to another informative and productive year!

Sincerely,  
*Terri*

## LET US HELP YOU WITH YOUR FEDERAL NEEDS

### WORKING FOR YOU

<b>SENIORS</b>	<b>VETERANS</b>	<b>COMMUNITIES</b>	<b>FAMILIES</b>
Social Security benefits	Transition assistance	Federal grants support	Capitol & White House tours
Medicare benefits	VA claims	Small business assistance	Passport & immigration services
Survivor’s benefits	Pension assistance	Job training assistance	Student internship support
Retirement benefits		Unemployment benefits	Military academy nominations
			IRS Assistance

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

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