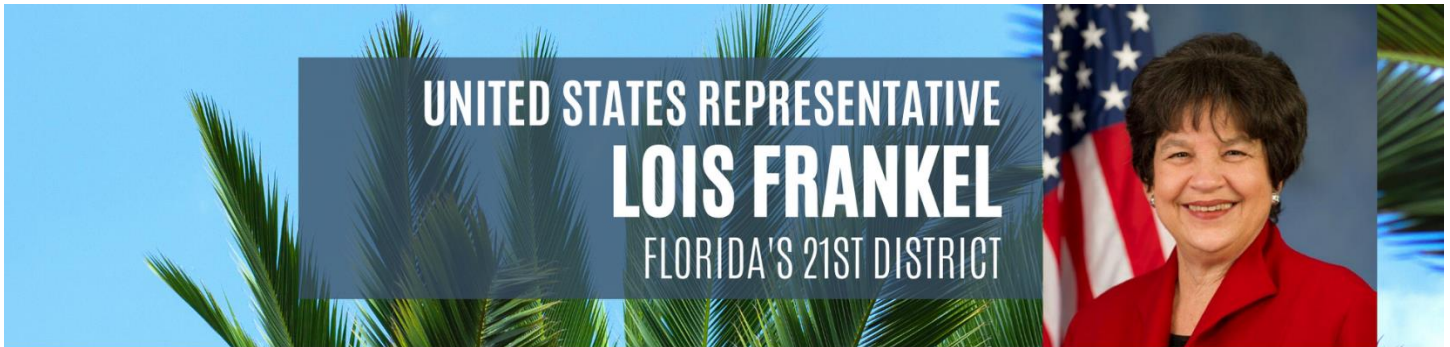


March 2021

Frankly Speaking...



Rep. Frankel Hosts Roundtable Discussion on State of Child Care

West Palm Beach, FL – On Tuesday, February 23rd, Congresswoman Lois Frankel (FL-21) hosted a Zoom roundtable discussion with The Business & Leadership Institute for Early Learning (BLI) to discuss the state of child care in South Florida, the impacts of COVID-19 on the industry, and what assistance is needed to move forward.

The child care industry was on the brink of collapse before the pandemic began, and COVID-19 has only exacerbated the child care crisis. Due to COVID-19 economic pressures, 60 percent of child care providers have had to close their doors or reduce hours, and in Florida alone, 56 percent of child care slots could be permanently lost. As co-chair of the Democratic Women’s Caucus, Rep. Frankel has been advocating on behalf of families to ensure that the upcoming COVID-19 relief legislation addresses issues facing the child care industry, pushing for more assistance for low-income families, providing child care workers with the resources they need to stay afloat, and more.

- Rep. Frankel Appointed to House Veterans’ Affairs Committee

West Palm Beach, FL – Rep. Lois Frankel (FL-21) released the following statement after being appointed to serve on the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs for the 117th Congress.

“As a mother of a proud U.S. Marine War veteran, taking care of our brave men and women in and out of uniform is personal for me, and I am honored to have been selected for this new committee assignment,” **said Rep. Frankel.** “My first focus will be to make sure that all veterans who qualify based on current CDC guidance are able to get the COVID-19 vaccine through the VA health care system.”

Rep. Frankel will also maintain her seat on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, where she will continue to serve on the Energy and Water Development, Labor Health and Human Services, and State and Foreign Operations subcommittees.

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Rep. Frankel Hosts Roundtable Discussion on COVID-19 and Our Communities of Color.

West Palm Beach, FL – On Monday, March 1st, Congresswoman Lois Frankel (FL-21) hosted a Zoom roundtable discussion on the impact of COVID-19 in communities of color. Panelists discussed underlying health and social inequities that put many racial and ethnic minority groups at increased risk of getting sick, having more severe illness, and dying from COVID-19. There since have been several discussions on implemented some of the ideas that were suggested at this meeting.

Rep. Frankel Statement on House Passage of Major COVID Relief Legislation

West Palm Beach, FL – Representative Lois Frankel (FL-21), released the following statement after the most recent COVID relief bill, the *American Rescue Plan*, passed the House of Representatives.

“This past year has tested us like never before—the COVID-19 pandemic has destroyed lives and livelihoods, leaving many Americans grieving for their loved ones and worrying about how to put food on the table,” **said Rep. Frankel.** “The good news is help is on the way. The *American Rescue Plan* will crush this virus, return children safely to the classroom, get vaccines into the arms of Americans, put money into the pockets of working families, and get people back to work.”

The *American Rescue Plan* will take immediate steps to address the coronavirus pandemic and economic. Important provisions in the bill include:

- A national vaccination program;
- \$170 billion to help safely reopen schools and colleges across the country;
- \$1,400 stimulus checks for Americans who need it most;
- An extension and increase of federal unemployment insurance to \$400 per week;
- An infusion of \$40 billion into the child care industry to help centers stay open and help families pay for care;
- An expansion of paid family and medical leave for workers to help more women stay in the workforce;
- An expansion of the child tax credit to \$3,000 per child and \$3,600 for a child under age six;
- \$26 billion for emergency rent and utility assistance;
- Critical support for small businesses through EIDL grants and expanded PPP eligibility; and
- \$350 billion for state and local governments, including nearly \$300 million in assistance for Palm Beach County to provide crucial resources to protect the jobs of first responders, frontline public health workers, teachers, transit workers and other essential workers that all Americans depend on.

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Our office continues to work remotely. However, we are open full time. If you need to speak with our office or share something with the Congresswoman, please contact us at 561 998-9045