



Frankly Speaking...

Honoring Our Veterans

Veterans Day is a day to honor the brave men and women who have served our country and to pay tribute to those who are putting their lives on the line to keep our nation safe.

As the proud mother of a U.S. Marine war veteran, today is personal for me. My son, Ben served in Iraq and Afghanistan and I am grateful every day that he came home safe and sound. Not every family is so lucky. Many of our brave servicemen and women have paid the ultimate price and many more veterans face hardship and roadblocks when they return home. It is our job to provide the support they need to reenter civilian life successfully.

On this day people gather to show our gratitude, respect and our support for the Americans who put on a uniform, leave their families behind and answer the call to serve. There are more than 85,000 veterans right here in Palm Beach County and each of them deserve the support of our community.

I will continue to fight to provide all our veterans with every tool and resource necessary to assimilate back into civilian life and to overcome the challenges that COVID-19 has brought forth. It is my honor to work on this issue that is so close to my heart. Along with our community and our country, I thank all of those who have served or are currently serving, as well as their families, who support them each day

Rep. Frankel Announces Affordable Care Act Open Enrollment Period



West Palm Beach, FL – Congresswoman Lois Frankel (FL-21) hosted an in-person press conference announcing the beginning of the 2022 Affordable Care Act (ACA) Open Enrollment Period. Open enrollment for 2022 plans begins Monday, November 1, and goes through Saturday, January 15, 2022. Those who enroll by December 15 will have coverage starting January 1, 2022.

Florida once again led the nation in ACA Marketplace enrollment during last year's Open Enrollment season with over 2 million enrollees. This will be the ninth year that the Affordable Care Act has provided access to affordable health care for individuals and families. Thanks to subsidies from the *American Rescue Plan*, over 90 percent of 2021 Special Enrollment Period enrollees saw lower premiums, and nearly one million Americans found a new plan for \$10 a month or less. Navigators help individuals and small businesses in Florida access these plans, by acting as guides during and after the enrollment process.

Rep. Frankel Cosponsors Legislation to Strengthen Social Security

Washington, DC –Representative Lois Frankel (FL-21) released the following statement after joining Congressman John Larson (CT-01) to introduce the *Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust Act* as an original cosponsor.

“Social Security is our nation’s most important program for millions of older Americans, and it is our responsibility to ensure it is protected for future generations,” **said Rep. Frankel**. “This important legislation follows through on our promise to take care of our seniors by providing a bump in benefits to older Americans who rely on this program today and protects the longevity of the Social Security by asking millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share.”



The *Social Security 2100 Act* would:

- **Provide a benefit bump for current and new beneficiaries** of around 2 percent to help address the current retirement crisis.
- **Protect against inflation** by improving the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) formula to better reflect the costs incurred by seniors.
- **Extend the depletion date for when a 20 percent cut to benefits would occur to 2038**, giving Congress more time to ensure the long-term stability of the program.
- **Protect low-income workers** to ensure that anyone who paid into Social Security over their lifetime can retire with dignity.
- **Establish a Social Security Trust Fund** to ensure all benefits are paid.
- **Improve benefits for widows and widowers in two-income households.**
- **End the five-month waiting period for disability benefits.**
- **Provide caregiver credits** to ensure that caregivers are not penalized in retirement for taking time off to care for children or other dependents.
- **Extend benefits for students through the age of 26.**
- **Increase access to benefits for children who live with grandparents or other relatives.**
- **Ensure that millionaires and billionaires pay the same rate as average Americans**, a provision that would only impact the top 0.4 percent of wage earners.

The bill now goes to the Ways and Means Committee for review.

Rep. Frankel Statement on Supreme Court Hearing Oral Arguments Over Texas Abortion Law



Washington, DC –Representative Lois Frankel (FL-21), released the following statement as the Supreme Court heard oral arguments on the merits of the Texas abortion law, *S.B. 8*.

“Today’s arguments before the Supreme Court will have a dramatic impact on the lives of millions of Americans,” **said Rep. Frankel**. “The Texas law was written to intentionally undermine the judicial

protection of a person’s access to legal abortion by allowing rogue citizens to take the law into their own hands. If upheld, this law would not only take the decision of becoming a parent away from individuals, but also set a dangerous precedent for skirting the judicial review process for any law.”

S.B. 8 bans all abortions after six weeks, before most patients even know they are pregnant, including in cases of rape or incest. It allows private citizens to sue abortion providers a minimum of \$10,000 for each abortion they provide after six weeks, with no limit on how many lawsuits per procedure. By giving individuals the power to enforce this law, Texas lawmakers are attempting to get around the State Action Requirement, which requires a plaintiff to demonstrate that a government, not an individual, is responsible for the violation of their Constitutional right. This ultimately makes it more difficult for patients, providers, and advocates to sue to block this dangerous law.

The Supreme Court heard two challenges to the case. The first appeal came from a coalition of abortion providers aiming to sue the state over implementation of the law. The second appeal came from the U.S. Department of Justice, which holds that the Texas law undermines a federally protected Constitutional right and impedes on the ability of federal actors in the state to carry out their role in protecting this right.

Reps. Frankel, Katko, Underwood, Fitzpatrick, Blunt Rochester, Nadler Introduce EMPOWER Act

Washington, DC –Congresswoman Lois Frankel (FL-21) hosted a virtual press conference with Representatives Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-Del) and Jerrold Nadler (NY-10) to announce the reintroduction of the bipartisan, bicameral *Ending the Monopoly of Power Over Workplace harassment through Education and Reporting (EMPOWER) Act*.

The Representatives were joined by **actress and activist, Rosanna Arquette**, who has publicly spoken out about the abuse she endured by producer Harvey Weinstein, **National Women’s Soccer League Players’ Association**



representative & defender for the Houston Dash Katie Naughton, who participated in forced game stoppage to advocate and elevate this issue, and **Fatima Goss Graves, President and CEO of the National Women’s Law Center**, to discuss the importance of this comprehensive legislation.

The *EMPOWER Act* will increase transparency and accountability surrounding workplace harassment. It would ban the use of non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) as a condition of employment, in order to empower workers to speak out about harassment, require annual reporting on harassment payouts, end the tax penalty on survivors, close loopholes in the tax code that allow companies to benefit from payouts, and direct the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to create and disseminate resources to help foster safe and respectful workplaces.

Rep. Frankel Statement on Biden Administration’s Reversal of Harmful Title X Rule

West Palm Beach, FL –Congresswoman Lois Frankel (FL-21) issued the following statement after the Department of Health and Human Services reversed a harmful Trump-era policy that cut off Title X funding from health care providers who offer abortion services or refer patients for abortion. This new rule re-instates critical funding for clinics like Planned Parenthood and the Presidential Women’s Center in West Palm Beach, which provide reproductive health services, cancer screenings, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, for millions of low-income patients across America.

“Millions of Americans rely on Title X funded health care providers to access the resources they need to stay healthy, including family planning tools that would otherwise be out of reach for low-income patients. Yet, the Trump Administration cut off funding for nearly 1,000 of these clinics by not allowing grantees to provide abortions or abortion-related services, even with their own private funding,” **said Rep. Frankel**. “This new rule from the Biden-Harris Administration rights this terrible wrong and ensures that the needs of patients are once again prioritized over the personal beliefs of politicians looking to undermine their health care. Abortion care is a critical aspect of reproductive health care, and I’m grateful this Administration has taken this important step to ensure its accessible for all Americans.”

The Biden-Harris Administration’s new rule reinstates eligibility for Title X funds to be given to organizations, like Planned Parenthood, that provide abortions or abortion referrals, with non-federal funds. It also reverses the requirement that Title X grantees not share a physical space with an abortion provider and requires Title X clinics to use culturally and linguistically appropriate language, offer referrals for primary care providers, and offer prescriptions for a full range of contraceptive methods. It also discusses the goals of equity and racial and socioeconomic justice.

While the new rule takes a critical step to address the harm done to Title X under the previous administration, there is still work to do to ensure the needs of patients are always put first, especially when it comes to their reproductive health.

Wounded Veterans Relief Fund

Wounded Veterans are offering dental services to qualified Florida veterans who are enrolled at their local VA Medical Center but are not eligible for the VA dental care. To see if you are eligible, you can call our office or Wounded Veterans Relief Fund at 561-855-4207 or visit info@wvrf.org

Veterans - Please Share Your Stories

The Congresswoman's office participates in the Library of Congress Veterans Project. We are looking for Veterans who want to share their stories and have them documented forever in the Library of Congress. If you are interested or want more information, please call Trevor Fleming in our District Office at 561-998-9045 or email him at Trevor.Fleming@mail.house.gov

Contact My Office 561 998-9045

Please reach out to us if you need help with a federal agency or want to leave me your opinion.

Please be safe and follow CDC Guidelines. Visit our site at www.Frankel.House.Gov for where to get a Vaccine and other important information.

Stay Safe & Healthy