



# Frankly Speaking...

## Rep. Frankel Statement on Draft Roe v. Wade Opinion

**West Palm Beach, FL** – Today, Congresswoman Lois Frankel (FL-21) released the following statement after a draft Supreme Court decision that would overturn *Roe v. Wade*, jeopardizing reproductive freedom for millions of Americans, leaked to the press.

“First thing’s first, abortion is still legal, and this leak doesn’t change that yet,” **said Rep. Frankel.** “However, if this rumor is true, this is devastating news for our country. This draft Supreme Court opinion would allow politicians to take control over an individual’s reproductive freedom and deny them access to health care—it’s horrendous. The decision of whether and when to become a parent should be made by the person who is pregnant, not by their Governor or anyone else.”

A [draft Supreme Court opinion by Associate Justice Samuel Alito](#) was leaked this evening that would overturn decades of precedent by striking down *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. If true, the right to abortion care, which is still currently legal under federal law, would be undermined in dozens of states.

Last year, the House passed the [Women’s Health Protection Act](#), which Rep. Frankel co-led, to ensure that abortion access is protected regardless of a harmful judicial opinion like this. Unfortunately, the Senate failed to advance this measure.

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## ICYMI: Rep. Frankel Questions Army Corps About Everglades Restoration, Lake Okeechobee During Appropriations Hearing



**Washington, DC** – Representative Lois Frankel (FL-21), member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water, participated in a hearing with the Army Corps of Engineers on the Biden Administration’s proposed Fiscal Year 2023 budget. During the hearing, Rep. Frankel asked the witnesses about their approach to the ongoing Lake Okeechobee and Everglades restoration projects.

For video of Rep. Frankel’s questioning, [click here](#).

Below are excerpts from Rep. Frankel's questions:

*"We are of course very pleased with the infrastructure money, more than a billion dollars to Everglades restoration and then the request last year, which we funded, and this year I think it's over \$400 million..."*

*It seems like there is always controversy [around] the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM)... Both the quality and the amount of water in South Florida is so important for different groups. The city and the county are concerned about drinking water. The farmers are concerned about having enough water for their crops. And everybody is concerned about having clean drinking water as well as enough water.*

*When I was mayor of my city, West Palm Beach, we had a tremendous drought and literally came within weeks of not having any water... The LOSOM system that you set up [has to be] sensitive for everybody's interest without politics."*

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## **ICYMI: Rep. Frankel Questions Secretary Blinken on International Affairs Priorities During Appropriations Hearing**

**Washington, DC** –Representative Lois Frankel (FL-21), member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, participated in a hearing with Secretary of State Anthony Blinken. Rep. Frankel asked Secretary Blinken about the State Department's work to combat gender-based violence against Ukrainian women, the importance of educating girls around the world, and the Administration's approach to Israel, antisemitism, and efforts to keep Iran from getting a nuclear weapon.



For video of Rep. Frankel's questioning, and Secretary Blinken's responses, [click here](#).

Below are excerpts of Rep. Frankel's questions for Secretary Blinken:

*"Thank you, Mr. Secretary for being with us today. The reports of sexual violence and rape as a weapon of war against Ukrainian women are deeply appalling. It's horrendous, the stories that we are hearing. I have a couple of questions related to that.*

*Are there any realistic efforts that can be made to stop that particular kind of violence? What kind of efforts are you making in terms of with the supplemental emergency funding to support the survivors of the sexual violence, including many who are becoming pregnant? And is there any extra accountability that Russia can be held to?*

[...]

*I just want a quick statement on education. There are still 130 million girls out of school internationally and 11 million of them who had been in school before COVID and are predicted to not go back. And I*

*just want to say that education is a game changer for girls and for their communities. So, I hope you will pursue efforts to try to reduce the barriers around the world that are keeping girls from school.*

[...]

*On the Iran Agreement... We all agree that we don't want Iran to have a nuclear weapon. Two questions on that: What do you see as the current role of Russia? And what do you see as the current role of Congress?*

[...]

*[On] the Abraham Accords we know that at least between Israel and the UAE there has been a big boost in their commercial interaction can you tell us how you envision the expansion and whether you think it's being successful... [and] do you feel the Abraham Accords can actually advance Israeli-Palestinian peace?*

*The other one has to do with antisemitism which, as we know, globally is increasing all over the world and what kind of efforts are in that regard?"*

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## Rep. Frankel Announces Postal Reform That Increases Reliability, Boosts Longevity of Postal Service

**Washington, DC** –Representative Lois Frankel (FL-21), visited a local Post Office to announce postal service reforms that will ensure the continuation of six-day service, save taxpayers billions of dollars, and provide better benefits for postal workers.



Over recent years the shaky financial solvency of the U.S. Postal Service has threatened the end of six-day delivery. The *Postal Service Reform Act of 2021* will end an outdated pension policy that was bankrupting the U.S. Postal Service (USPS). The new law will save American taxpayers \$50 billion over the next 10 years, guarantee six-day service, and require enrollment of postal workers in Medicare. This is good news for businesses and those who rely on the service for essentials—including medication, social security checks, communicating with our loved ones, mail-in-ballots, and paychecks.

Watch the conference [here](#).

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## Rep. Frankel Statement on Yom HaShoah

**Washington, DC** –Representative Lois Frankel (FL-21), released the following statement commemorating Yom HaShoah, also known as Holocaust Remembrance Day.

“Today, on Yom HaShoah, we remember the six million Jewish men, women, and children that were murdered during the Holocaust,” **said Rep. Frankel**. “I’m also thinking of survivors like Piotr, who at

age 16 fled Ukraine to escape the Nazis, and now at age 96, has fled Ukraine once again to escape the Russians. Unfortunately, Piotr is not alone is experiencing a second hate-fueled expulsion from his homeland. If ‘Never Again’ really means ‘Never Again,’ then we must recommit to our fight against antisemitism, hatred, and bigotry wherever it arises, and stand with the people of Ukraine in their fight for freedom from an oppressive Russia.”

Last November, Rep. Frankel [introduced a bill to honor Benjamin Ferencz](#), the last living Nuremberg prosecutor, with the Congressional Gold Medal. Mr. Ferencz brought 22 Nazi officials to justice during the Nuremberg Trials and has continued to be an outspoken advocate for human rights throughout his long and storied career. The push to award Mr. Ferencz with this honor has bipartisan support in the House of Representatives, including 263 cosponsors from both sides of the aisle.

Last week, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) released [a harrowing report](#) that details a troubling rise in antisemitism in the United States. According to the report, ADL tabulated 2,717 antisemitic incidents throughout the country in 2021, a 34 percent increase from 2020, and the highest number the ADL has recorded since it started tracking these cases in 1979.

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## Rep. Frankel Announces Over Half a Billion Dollars in Funding for Florida Public Transportation Projects, Highlights Funding for Bus Shelters

**West Palm Beach, FL** –Representative Lois Frankel (FL-21) hosted an in-person press conference with Clinton Forbes, Executive Director of Palm Tran, at a local bus stop to highlight over \$530 million Florida will be receiving for public transit projects. The funding will come from both the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Fiscal Year 2022 budget passed by Congress last month.

32,000 people take Palm Tran buses daily in Palm Beach County, yet at least 300 stops do not currently have any overhead covering to protect riders from harsh direct sunlight or rain. The county will be able to use this funding toward various public transit improvements, including building covers to protect riders while they wait for their bus.

Watch the conference [here](#).



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## Rep. Frankel Announces \$325,000 for Alpert Jewish Family Service



**West Palm Beach, FL** – Congresswoman Lois Frankel (FL-21), a member of the House Appropriations Committee, visited the food bank at Temple Shaarei Shalom to announce \$325,000 in new funding she secured for Ferd & Gladys Alpert Jewish Family & Children’s Service (Alpert JFS) in the Federal Fiscal Year 2022 spending bill, which Congress passed last month. Alpert JFS runs the food bank, which is non-sectarian and

serves everyone in need in the local community.

Alpert JFS is a nationally accredited, non-sectarian agency that has been serving seniors, adults, children, and families in the Palm Beaches since 1974. Alpert JFS requested this funding for a mixed-use space that will expand on all the services provided by the organization, including mental health services for adults and children, support groups, financial and career counseling, food insecurity services and food pantry, mentoring programs, services for seniors, Holocaust survivors, persons with disabilities, and more.

This funding for Alpert JFS was secured as one of nine projects Rep. Frankel championed to directly benefit Palm Beach County residents through her Community Project Funding requests for the FY 2022 spending bill. Read more about the other eight [here](#).

Watch the press conference [here](#).

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## Rep. Frankel Visits Palm Beach State College Respiratory Lab, Announces \$700,000 Federal Funding

**West Palm Beach, FL** – Representative Lois Frankel (FL-21) visited the Palm Beach State College Respiratory Clinical Care Laboratory to highlight \$700,000 in new funding she secured for the laboratory in the Federal Fiscal Year 2022 spending bill, which Congress passed last month.



Palm Beach State College is a public college that currently educates nearly 49,000 students across Palm Beach County. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Palm Beach State College’s Respiratory Care program was at the forefront of the response by providing county hospitals with ventilators, supplies, and most importantly, essential workers. This funding will help expand the clinical laboratory to provide respiratory care students with better training opportunities to prepare them for the workforce.

Funding for the Respiratory Clinical Laboratory was secured as one of nine projects Rep. Frankel championed to directly benefit Palm Beach County residents through her Community Project Funding requests for the FY 2022 spending bill. Watch the announcement [here](#).

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## Rep. Frankel Visits Wellington Boys & Girls Club, Highlights \$525,000 in Federal Funding



**West Palm Beach, FL** –Representative Lois Frankel (FL-21) visited the Boys and Girls Club of Palm Beach County to announce \$525,000 in new funding she secured for the centers in Delray Beach, Wellington, and Northwood, as part of the Federal Fiscal Year 2022 spending bill which Congress passed last month.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County is a non-profit youth development organization that serves more than 10,000 youth in the area. It includes 17 clubs that provide programs and prepare children for college or a career after high school in safe, welcoming, and positive environments. This new funding will implement the College and Work Readiness Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) program in Boys and Girls Club Centers in Delray, Wellington, and Northwood. The program helps minority, low-income youth by preparing them to be an integral part of a skilled labor force throughout Palm Beach County.

Funding for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County was secured as one of nine projects Rep. Frankel championed to directly benefit Palm Beach County residents through her Community Project Funding requests for the FY 2022 spending bill. Watch the press conference [here](#).

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## Reps. Frankel, Casten Introduce Legislation to Protect K-12 Students from Sexual Harassment, Assault in School

**Washington, DC** –Representatives Lois Frankel (FL-21) and Sean Casten (IL-06) introduced the *Stop Sexual Harassment in K-12 Act*, comprehensive legislation to combat sexual harassment and assault in K-12 schools by creating clear standards and funding streams for schools to uphold students' Title IX rights.

"School should be a safe place for students to learn and grow, free from the fear of sexual assault or harassment," **said Rep. Frankel**. "This bill will protect our children by ensuring students are aware of their rights and have access to the tools they need to pursue their education free from sexual misconduct in the classroom."

**Congressman Sean Casten said**, "At least one in four female and one in six male students face sexual abuse, but right now, our schools simply don't have the resources and guidance under Title IX to protect students from sexual harassment, assault, and other forms of discrimination that interfere with equal

access to education. The *Stop Sexual Harassment in K-12 Act* will provide schools with clear standards and resources necessary to keep our students safe. As we work to address learning loss, socioemotional, and mental health issues that have left students vulnerable in the wake of the pandemic, it's more important than ever that we equip our schools to meet the needs of all students and protect them from sexual harassment and abuse.”

**Kenyora Parham, Executive Director of End Rape on Campus said,** “Sexual harassment is a public health crisis and it's not just happening on college campuses. K-12 students experience sexual harassment at an alarming rate and many schools do not have the resources or guidance to address it. The *Stop Sexual Harassment in K-12 Act* will make a concerted effort to provide funding, clarity on the roles and responsibilities of Title IX Coordinators; and developmentally appropriate training for students, teachers, and other community members. An inclusive national climate survey will help ensure that we understand the scope of the problem, including representing the perspectives of students of color, LGBTQ+ students, and students with disabilities who are disproportionately targeted for sexual harassment. We have confidence that this bill will serve as a critical guardrail to make sure K-12 schools' responses to stop sexual harassment are effective and appropriate.”

According to the [National Sexual Violence Resource Center](#), one-in-four girls and one-in-six boys will be sexually abused before they turn 18. A 2019 study by the [Journal of Sexual Abuse](#) also found that 10 percent of K-12 students would experience sexual abuse or misconduct by school employees, and that low-income, female high school students are the most at-risk. Yet, [more than 85 percent of schools reported zero allegations](#) of sexual misconduct, which is in stark contrast to the rates reported in victimization surveys, suggesting that many students are not reporting their experiences.

Specifically, the *Stop Sexual Harassment in K-12 Act*:

- Clearly defines the role and responsibilities of a Title IX coordinator in a K-12 school;
- Sets guidelines on how many full-time educators serving as Title IX coordinators a school district needs, given the size of their student body;
- Prevents people with conflicts of interest (e.g. the principal) from serving as Title IX coordinators;
- Encourages confidential reporting of sexual assault, so students are not deterred from seeking help;
- Provides training to students and teachers about what to do if they see or experience Title IX violations;
- Creates a national climate survey so we can get better data about where and how often harassment and assault are occurring;
- Ensures these trainings, surveys, and processes are age-appropriate for each grade level, and;
- Provides funding to schools to help them implement these provisions.

The bill has been endorsed by the National Education Association, National Women's Law Center, End Rape on Campus, and the Association of Title IX Administrators.

Bill text can be found [here](#).

Please contact my local office with your concerns, comments, or if you need help with a federal agency:  
561-998-9045.

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