



Frankly Speaking...

Rep. Frankel Statement on Horrific Uvalde Mass Shooting

West Palm Beach, FL – Congresswoman Lois Frankel (FL-21) released the following statement in response to the horrific shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas that killed 14 children and their teacher.

“I am heartbroken by the news of another senseless mass shooting at an elementary school. Our children deserve to feel safe at school, not fear for their lives,” **said Rep. Frankel**. “We must do more to stop this unthinkable violence. Today, I join all who are sending their thoughts and prayers to the victims and their families as we mourn the lives that were taken.”

Rep. Frankel Advocates for Passage of Bill Honoring Benjamin Ferencz, the Last Living Nuremberg Prosecutor, on House Floor

Washington, D.C. – Representative Lois Frankel (FL-21) took to the House Floor to speak on her bipartisan bill honoring Benjamin Ferencz, the last living Nuremberg Prosecutor, with the Congressional Gold Medal—Congress’ highest expression of appreciation for distinguished achievements.



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

Below are Rep. Frankel’s remarks, as delivered:

“Thank you, Mister Speaker and my colleagues.

I rise today with great pride, as we move forward with a bipartisan bill to award the last living Nuremberg prosecutor, a prosecutor against Nazi criminals, Mr. Benjamin Ferencz, awarding him with the Congressional Gold Medal—Congress’ highest expression of appreciation for distinguished achievements.

In this day of partisan conflict, this is a rare show of bipartisanship with 296 co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle. Mr. Ferencz is 102 years old, and to this day is a tireless advocate for the rule of law and international justice. I have met Ben Ferencz because I am blessed to say he is my constituent in Delray Beach, Florida. And he remains very alert and very humble.

Mr. Ferencz immigrated to the United States with his family when he was only 10 months old to escape the persecution of Jews in Eastern Europe. He grew up in New York City, eventually earning degrees from City College and Harvard Law School before serving in the Army during World War Two. He enlisted under General Patton before being transferred to a newly created War Crimes unit to help collect evidence of Nazi war crimes. He would enter concentration camps and come face-to-face with the horrors of the Nazi regime's systematic murder of millions of Jews.

He once said, "Even today, when I close my eyes, I witness a deadly vision I can never forget- The crematoria aglow with the fire of burning flesh, the mounds of emaciated corpses stacked like cordwood waiting to be burned... I had peered into Hell."

After the war, he was honorably discharged and awarded five battle stars for his service. That's when he was recruited for his most notable role: Chief Prosecutor in the Nuremberg Trial that was later called "the biggest murder trial in history."—

At age 27, it was his first case!

And yet he rose to the occasion, reminding the courtroom, and the world, that this was a case that dealt with our humanity. And in his closing statement, he concluded that the Nazis on trial, "Death was their tool and life was their toy." And that if they were found innocent, "then the law has lost its meaning and man must live in fear."

Not only did his words ring true in the courtroom, where all 22 Nazi officials he prosecuted were brought to justice, they resonated around the world and have been quoted time and time again when the international community rallies to decry crimes against humanity.

Nearly 80 years after the conclusion of these trials we meet here, during Jewish-American history month, after having just celebrated Israel's Independence Day, and observing Yom HaShoah, the day set aside for Jews to remember the Holocaust. It is important to recognize that we are still fighting an ongoing battle against racism, antisemitism, and Holocaust denial in this country and around the world,

We are witnessing the horror, the inhumanity of Putin's war on Ukraine, so the timing for this bill has never been more important, because Mr. Ferencz inspires us to stand up to the cruel barbarians of the world.

Mr. Ferencz said it best: "Nuremberg taught me that creating a world of tolerance and compassion would be a long and arduous task." His lifelong philosophies of "law not war" and "never give up" were quoted recently by Ukraine's Ambassador.

Today, in a bipartisan fashion, we're going to recognize this magnificent man committed to justice, peace, and human dignity with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Thank you.

And I yield back."

Rep. Frankel Statement on Pride Month



West Palm Beach, FL – Congresswoman Lois Frankel (FL-21) released the following statement celebrating the beginning of Pride Month.

“As we honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan and celebrate the impact of the LGBTQ+ community on our history, we recognize that there is still so much work to be done to achieve equality and justice for all,” **said Rep. Frankel.** “We must work together to ensure the dignity and freedom for each person to be their true self.”

Rep. Frankel, Local Leaders Highlight Federal Assistance for Floridian Homeowners

West Palm Beach, FL – Congresswoman Lois Frankel (FL-21), was joined by local officials to highlight the \$676 million in Homeowner Assistance Funds (HAF) available to Florida homeowners through the *American Rescue Plan*.

The *American Rescue Plan*, which the Biden Administration and Congressional Democrats passed last year, set aside \$676 million in Homeowner Assistance Funds for Florida. This funding is meant to help Floridians who are struggling with the increasing costs of mortgages, insurance, and utilities keep a roof over their heads. Rep. Frankel and her guests will discuss the importance of this funding, and where Floridians who need this critical assistance can apply.



Watch the conversation [here](#).

Rep. Frankel Helps Convene Appropriations Committee Hearing on Healthy Aging, Fall Prevention

Washington, DC – Representative Lois Frankel (FL-21), a member of the House Appropriations Committee, released the following statement after the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee held a hearing on healthy aging. The hearing, entitled *Healthy Aging: Maximizing the Independence, Well-being, and Health of Older Adults*, examined the top health issues facing seniors, including falls, mental health, nutrition, and elder justice.

“We have over 365,000 seniors living in Palm Beach County, and one of them is very special to me—my 96-year-old mother,” **said Rep. Frankel.** “After her recent fall and recovery, I learned that she was

one of 36 million older Americans who fall every year. Through further research, I discovered that medical expenses related to elderly falls cost our health system billions of dollars annually. While there are strategies for prevention, current investments in federal fall prevention programs are too small. Our hearing brought this important information to Members, with policy recommendations for going forward.”

For video of Rep. Frankel’s questions for the panel, [click here](#). In April, Rep. Frankel [led a bipartisan letter](#) to LHHS Chair Rosa DeLauro and Ranking Member Tom Cole requesting increased funding for programs aimed at preventing falls among older adults.

Rep. Frankel Visits Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County, Announces Over \$100,000 in Federal Funding



West Palm Beach, FL – Representative Lois Frankel (FL-21) visited The Early Learning Coalition (ELC) of Palm Beach County to announce over \$100,000 in new funding included in the Federal Fiscal Year 2022 spending bill, which Congress passed in March.

The Early Learning Coalition is working to ensure that every child in Palm Beach County is ready to succeed in school and in life through an array of

comprehensive early-childhood education programming. This new funding will support a parent-to-teacher workforce pipeline project to help parents who need a safe, trusted place for child care in order to return to work, while also filling the staffing gap many early learning programs have dealt with as a result of the pandemic’s impact on the child care industry.

Rep. Frankel championed funding for nine projects that will 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](#).

Rep. Frankel Announces \$1 Million for AVDA, Discusses Assistance for Domestic Violence Survivors

Frankel Secures \$1 million in Federal Funding for Local Organization that Aids Domestic Violence Survivors

West Palm Beach, FL – Congresswoman Lois Frankel (FL-21), announced \$1 million in new federal funding for Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA), which she secured in the recently passed Federal Fiscal Year 2022 spending bill.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 1-in-4 women and nearly 1-in-10 men, have experienced domestic violence—including contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking—by an intimate partner during their lifetime. **Frankel will be joined by Pam O’Brien,**

President and CEO of AVDA, to discuss the organization's important work helping survivors of domestic violence across the country.

AVDA offers a comprehensive array of services for survivors of domestic violence in Palm Beach County and requested this new funding to expand their campus to provide further outreach and prevention programming to a broader part of the community and expand their assistance to domestic abuse survivors.

This funding 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](#).

Extended Health Coverage for New Mothers Will Save Lives

West Palm Beach, FL – In response to the maternal mortality crisis, the Biden Administration has approved Florida's application to extend postpartum Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage from 60 days to 12 months after childbirth. The extended coverage will help postpartum patients receive care for longer periods of time as they recover from pregnancy and birth—a period during which about one-third of maternal death occurs. Congresswoman Lois Frankel (FL-21) released the following statement in response to the announcement.

“The United States has the highest rate of maternal mortality in the developed world,” **said Rep. Frankel**. “No baby or mom should die because of lack of care. Expanding Medicaid and CHIP Coverage for a full year after birth is going to make a critical difference for the health of new mothers and their infants.”

The United States has the highest rate of maternal mortality in the developed world, a crisis that hits Black women three-to-four times harder than non-Hispanic white women. The continuation of Medicaid coverage is an important factor in preventing these tragedies.

This extension will impact over 50,000 women giving birth in Florida each year. Florida's extension of Medicaid and CHIP coverage for postpartum individuals is part of an ongoing effort by the Biden-Harris Administration's Department of Health and Human Services to address the nation's ongoing pregnancy-related mortality crisis.

Learn more [here](#).

Rep. Frankel Statement on Senate Republicans' Failure to Protect Abortion Access

Washington, DC – Congresswoman Lois Frankel (FL-21) released the following statement after the Senate voted to block the House-passed *Women's Health Protection Act*, which would prohibit states from enacting medically unnecessary restrictions that unfairly target abortion providers and prevent patients from getting access to legal abortion.

“Everyone should have the freedom to make the personal health care decisions that impact their lives, health, and futures,” **said Rep. Frankel**. “Republicans are determined to strip away the right to abortion care, and they made that clear tonight with their vote in the Senate. This is not the end, though—it's just the beginning. We will never stop fighting to ensure that every person, regardless of where they live or how much money they make, has access to the health care they need.”

The Senate vote was held in response to a [leaked draft Supreme Court opinion](#) by Associate Justice Samuel Alito that would overturn decades of precedent by striking down *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. If this draft opinion is finalized, millions of people nationwide would lose access to abortion care. Abortion is currently still legal in the United States.

Rep. Frankel Asks USAID Administrator About Women's Empowerment and Education

Washington, D.C. – Representative Lois Frankel (FL-21), Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, participated in a hearing with Samantha Power, Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development. Rep. Frankel spoke with Administrator Power about sexual violence against women in Ukraine, funding efforts to keep girls in school worldwide, women's economic empowerment, and the importance of women's participation in any peace negotiations between Ukraine and Russia.

For a video of Rep. Frankel's questioning, and the Administrator's responses, [click here](#).

Below are Rep. Frankel's questions for the Administrator:

"I want to talk, first of all, about sexual violence against women in Ukraine. It's so horrific what I've been reading, I almost can't repeat it. But gang rapes in front of their children, 11-year-old girls being raped, tongues being torn out of women's mouths. I could go on and on, it is barbaric, it is cruel, so my question is what we are doing to help those survivors?"



And I just want to add, as I get on my soapbox, this is an example of how the cruel policies of the Republicans in this Congress not to allow funding for abortions, safe abortions, have ramifications. Hopefully, there are other countries coming to the aid of these young girls and women. But tell us what we are able to do, and what we are doing.

[...]

I know you agree keeping girls in school is one of the best ways to empower our future generations. I noticed there was a couple hundred million decrease in your request, could you explain to me the reason for that and what efforts you're going to make to support girls in school?"

[...]

We know that COVID really disproportionately impacted women around the world. The World Economic Forum estimates that it's going to take 276 years to close the gender gaps in the economy. It's probably as long as it's going to take here probably, but obviously women are in better shape in our country. Tell me what kinds of things you're going to be doing in terms of women's economic empowerment in the world.

[...]

I don't know whether there are any negotiations going on in Ukraine with Russia, but I do hope that the Administration encourages the participation of women, if that ever does happen."

Rep. Frankel, Local Leaders Highlight Reduced Costs for High-Speed Internet



West Palm Beach, FL – Congresswoman Lois Frankel (FL-21), was joined by local officials to highlight the Biden Administration's recently announced Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This program allows tens of millions of American households to reduce their internet service costs to \$30/month or less.

Rep. Frankel was joined by:

- Gregg Weiss, Vice Mayor of Palm Beach County
- Dr. David Atwell, Director of Educational

Technology for the School District of Palm Beach County

High-speed internet is no longer a luxury—it's a necessity for millions of Americans who are working, learning, or accessing services from home. Today, too many families find themselves without high-speed internet due to the cost of the service. In response, the Biden Administration has partnered with 20 leading internet providers to offer ACP-eligible households affordable high-speed, high-quality internet plans.

Nearly 40 percent of households qualify for ACP based on their income or through their participation in other federal programs including Pell Grants, Medicaid, or Supplemental Security Income. Visit [GetInternet.gov](https://www.getinternet.gov) to learn more about eligibility requirements.

Rep. Frankel Statement on Senate Passage of Ukraine Supplemental

West Palm Beach, FL – Congresswoman Lois Frankel (FL-21) released the following statement in response to the Senate passage of a \$40.1 billion supplemental funding bill to support Ukraine.

"Today, we followed through on our promise to continue to help Ukraine defend its people, sovereignty, and freedom with a new \$40 billion aid package," **said Rep. Frankel**. "Last month, President Zelenskyy delivered an impassioned plea before Congress for additional assistance to fight back against Putin's unprovoked brutality. The U.S. has helped Ukraine since the start of war. This funding will make an immediate difference in helping to ensure Ukraine has the tools it needs to fight for the future of the free world."

Since the beginning of Russia's unprovoked, full-scale attack on Ukraine in February, over 14 million Ukrainians have been displaced, with roughly 6.2 million having fled to neighboring countries and beyond. Over 3,000 civilians have been killed, including at least 200 children. This week, the Biden administration launched a Conflict Observatory to document evidence of Russian war crimes and other atrocities in Ukraine to ensure justice for victims and accountability for perpetrators.

The United States, in coordination with NATO and allies from around the world, has responded to these acts of aggression with crippling economic sanctions and substantial economic, humanitarian, and security assistance to Ukraine. Today's Ukraine assistance is on top of an additional \$13.6 billion emergency package that Congress passed in March.

Yesterday, the Senate also unanimously confirmed career foreign service officer Bridget Brink as U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine—the first person to fill the role since 2019.

Rep. Frankel Statement on Passage of Domestic Terrorism Bill

Washington, DC – Congresswoman Lois Frankel (FL-21) released the following statement after voting to pass *H.R. 350*, which would authorize domestic terrorism offices within the Department of Homeland Security, the Justice Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

“Just this past week, once again, we saw race-based, hate-fueled domestic terror attacks—this time on the Black community in Buffalo, the Korean community in Dallas, and the Taiwanese community in Southern California,” **said Rep. Frankel**. “No one should have to fear for their lives because of the color of their skin, religion, or ethnicity when they go to the grocery store, the hair salon, or their place of worship. It’s far past time that we give our federal law enforcement agencies the tools they need to combat the deadly threat of domestic terror so our children can grow up in a safer world.”

These new offices set up by this legislation would be dedicated to monitoring, investigating, and prosecuting instances of domestic terrorism, and each office would have at least one employee dedicated to civil rights and civil liberties. *H.R. 350* passed the House by a vote of 222-203 and now goes to the Senate.

Rep. Frankel Celebrates Signing of Her Bill Honoring Justices Sandra Day O’Connor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg



Washington, DC – Representative Lois Frankel (FL-21), Co-Chair of the Democratic Women’s Caucus, joined House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Scott O’Connor, son of Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, and Professor Kelsi Corkran, former clerk for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, to celebrate the signing of her bill to place statues of the two former Justices on Capitol Grounds.

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

Below are Rep. Frankel’s remarks, as delivered:

“Of the hundreds of busts and statues on Capitol grounds, only about 14 of them are of women. It’s pretty shocking, isn’t it? So, that’s one of the reasons I’m very excited to be here today.

But I wanted to tell you a personal story. When I was a young law student in the early 1970’s. Back then, there weren’t many students who looked like me. There were hardly any women law professors. In

fact, only four percent of the students in law school were female at the time. It was the days before women could get credit cards, there were no laws requiring equal pay or equal opportunities in school.

Madam Speaker, you won't be surprised, but I organized the women of my class—the few of us that were in the class—to go hear a lecture from this superstar female law professor we heard about who was teaching at Rutgers Law School.

We piled into a van and took the two-and-a-half-hour ride to Camden and it was a ride that changed my life. We got to the classroom, and saw this tiny, young woman with a quiet voice who then proceeded to mesmerize us as she told us about how the law treated men and women differently. We left Camden that day on a new mission, ready to fight for equal justice for men and for women.

Little did I know that just about 20 years later, that young law professor would eventually become the second female Justice on the United States Supreme Court. And that 50 years later I, the young law student, would be standing here as a Member of Congress with the privilege of honoring that professor, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and her very outstanding colleague, Sandra Day O'Connor, both who faced incredible adversity, made remarkable, and historic achievements.

I am very proud that future generations—millions of visitors, especially children from all over the country and the world—are going to come over to the Capitol, see the statues of these women and hopefully want to learn more about them...I can't wait to bring my two little grandsons by one day and say 'Hey, you see? Girls can do it too.'"

The bipartisan bill was co-sponsored by Democratic Women's Caucus Co-Chairs, Lois Frankel (FL-21), Jackie Speier (CA-14) and Brenda Lawrence (MI-14), DWC Vice Chairs Veronica Escobar (TX-16) and Sylvia Garcia (TX-29) and Bipartisan Women's Caucus Co-Chairs Congresswomen Madeleine Dean (D-PA) and Jenniffer González-Colón (R-PR), in the House, and by Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Susan Collins (R-ME), and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ).

President Biden [signed the bill](#) into law on April 14, 2022.

CHECK YOUR PASSPORT: As the school year comes to a close and more people are planning time away, it is the perfect time to check your passport and ensure you are ready and able to travel!

Please contact my local office with your concerns, comments, or if you need help with a federal agency:

561-998-9045.

Follow me on Twitter | Facebook | Instagram at @RepLoisFrankel



Congratulations to Saint John Paul II Academy student, Andrea for winning my 2022 Congressional Art Competition!

Her beautiful piece "Picked from the Gourden" was selected by a panel of local artists from the dozens of excellent submissions. Thank you to all Palm Beach County students who participated!

The Congressional Award recognizes initiative, service, & achievement. Last month, I was proud to celebrate two Palm Beach County students, Jake & Ashwin, who go above & beyond and have earned this award!



Congratulations to the outstanding Palm Beach County students heading to military academies!

As the proud mother of a veteran, I know the skills & lessons they learn in training will stay with them forever. West Point, the Naval Academy, and the U.S. Airforce are lucky to have them.

