

February 2023



Frankly Speaking...



NEW OFFICE LOCATION:

DELRAY BEACH DISTRICT OFFICE

**7499 W Atlantic Ave
Suite 206
Delray Beach, FL 33446
Phone: 561-998-9045**

Due to redistricting, as of Jan. 3rd I am representing District 22, which is very similar to my former District 21. You can call my office or check the Supervisor of Election site at pbcelections.org to confirm that I am still your Representative.

Rep. Frankel Sworn-In to the U.S. House of Representatives for the 118th Congress

Congresswoman Lois Frankel released the following statement after being officially sworn in for the 118th United States Congress. It will be her sixth term representing Palm Beach County.

“I am honored to have been sworn in to serve Palm Beach County for a sixth consecutive term,” **said Rep. Frankel.** “Last Congress, Congressional Democrats and the Biden Administration advanced historic legislation making unprecedented investments in infrastructure, passing gun safety legislation, bringing manufacturing jobs back home, combating the climate crisis, and driving down the cost of life-saving prescription drugs. I’m looking forward to finding common ground with my Republican colleagues to build on this progress. At the same time, I pledge to protect our community’s priorities—including access to abortion, affordable health care, and Social Security.”

ICYMI: Rep. Frankel Brings Local Retired Nurse, Medicare and Social Security Recipient to State of the Union



Representative Lois Frankel announced Janet Zweiback, a retired nurse from Delray Beach, as her guest for President Joe Biden's 2023 State of the Union Address. Zweiback represents the nearly 200,000 people in Palm Beach County who rely on Social Security and Medicare and will be joining Rep. Frankel to highlight her commitment to protecting these vital programs from ongoing Republican attacks.

Rep. Frankel was also joined by Bill Sauers, the President of the Florida Alliance for Retired Americans, as well as other local seniors.

For video of Rep. Frankel and Janet Zweiback's full remarks, [click here](#).

Below are excerpts of Rep. Frankel's remarks, as delivered:

"Every year I get to bring a guest [to the State of the Union], and I'm very excited to introduce Janet Zweiback. She is going to represent our nearly 200,000 people here in Palm Beach County who are on Social Security and Medicare[...]"

Janet has worked since age 16, she started as a secretary, later in life she became a nurse and is retired now. Like the hundreds of thousands of retirees here, she deserves a good, dignified life. She is relying, as her sole income, on Social Security and Medicare, so I'm here to tell Janet and the folks behind me and those listening that it's going to be a fight, but I can promise that I am going to be fighting hard to protect Social Security and Medicare[...]"

And there is a threat because there are extreme [MAGA] Republicans in the Congress who don't want Americans to pay our bills, who are threatening to hold out on the vote on the debt ceiling and that threatens our biggest bills, paying to Social Security and Medicare."

Below are excerpts of Janet Zweiback's remarks, as delivered:

"Thank you Congresswoman for inviting me, I am very excited to be attending the State of the Union Address tomorrow night[...]"

I've been paying into Social Security since I was 16 years old. This is my money. This is what is paying my bills. I never worked for a company or organization that provided me with a pension, so I put my own money away, I saved and I saved. I'm fortunate that I get a pretty decent Social Security that pays my bills, it gives gifts to my grandchildren, and when I think of that being cut, what will I do? What will millions of Americans do if their Social Security is cut?"

I will still have to pay my homeowner's insurance, my car insurance, my home insurance, food on the table, a birthday gift to my grandchild. I don't want to be supported by my children because I know the dignity that my mother lost asking her children for money."

ICYMI: Rep. Frankel Stands Up Against Antisemitism on the House Floor

Just in January alone, Palm Beach County experienced multiple incidents of antisemitism. There were Nazi symbols projected on buildings, hundreds of antisemitic flyers thrown into people's yards, and Florida Atlantic University's student club fair was interrupted by a group displaying a banner with antisemitic messages.

That is why Rep. Frankel took to the House Floor to stand up against this surging rise in antisemitism, in our community, and around the world.



Rep. Frankel took inspiration from the story of 103-year-old Ben Ferencz, the last living Nuremberg prosecutor, and recent recipient of Congress' highest honor: the Congressional Gold Medal. Ben was chief prosecutor of the biggest murder trial in the history of the world, where he convicted 22 Nazi leaders for their roles in the deaths of over one million people.

Ben went on to dedicate his life to the pursuit of peace and justice, warning "that creating a world of tolerance and compassion would be a long and arduous task." Rep. Frankel believes it is a task that we must all take up in words and with action.

For the Congresswoman, this work starts with protecting the security of Israel—the homeland of 46% of the world's Jews—and much more.

You can read her full remarks and watch her speech [here](#).

"Mr. Speaker, let me first start and say this: that hatred and discrimination against any marginalized community is wrong. Whether it be an ethnic minority, [the LGBTQ+ community], a person with disabilities, or women and girls. Today I want to focus on something that is very personal to me.

My family was blessed. My grandfather came over to this country from Poland just before the rise of Hitler, and he saved his brothers and sisters bringing them over. But too many people were not so blessed. So Mr. Speaker, I rise today and start my comments by saying 'Never Again', as I address the growing concern of antisemitism, in my home state of Florida, and across this country.

And this rise in antisemitism is deeply concerning, particularly [given] the lessons of the Holocaust, where we lost 6 million Jews and millions of others, who were murdered by the Nazis in one of the worst human atrocities in our history of the world. Precious lives who were tortured, gassed, shot, and treated as less-than-human. And it is terrifying that we find ourselves today having to defend the fact that it even happened.

So we say 'never again' to remind the world that we didn't just wake up one moment to gas chambers and genocide. It was a slow and deliberate effort dehumanizing Jews and others, fomenting fear, and normalizing extremism and prejudice.

Today, Holocaust denial and antisemitism are on the rise, and incidents of antisemitism reported, and this is just reported to the Anti-Defamation League, have risen significantly by 34 percent in their last report. That's over 2,700 incidents just in a year that were reported. Vandalism, harassment, assault, Molotov cocktails thrown at synagogues, defacing Jewish cemeteries, I could go on and on. The point is: It is clear that antisemitism is real.

And in my own hometown of Palm Beach County, which is home to tens of thousands of Jews, just this month in January, there were Nazi symbols projected on buildings, there were hundreds and hundreds of antisemitic flyers thrown into [people's] yards, so, Mr. Speaker, I say what should we do? What must we do?

Combating antisemitism is everyone's responsibility. There is something for all of us to do to promote a more inclusive and respectful society. So let me just give a to do list, it's not necessarily inclusive, but some things that we should all take to heart:

- Believe it or not, a significant number of our young people don't have any understanding of the Holocaust. So of course, education and awareness about the Holocaust and the history of antisemitism and the harm it causes. That is something that is very important: education.*
- And all of us must speak out and condemn antisemitism whenever and wherever it calls, whether it's using your voice, your Facebook page, your Twitter [page], writing letters to the editor - if you see something, you must say something.*
- And we should be working with our great partners across the different sectors and levels of government to combat antisemitism and protect our Jewish communities. Partners like the ADL and the American Jewish Committee and many others.*
- And we have to keep our houses of worship safe. And not just synagogues, but churches and mosques. People must be free in this country to go to a house of worship and feel safe.*
- And we must support the laws and policies that protect people and communities from discrimination. That's all, as I said, discrimination. And that is improving hate crime reporting and prosecuting hate crimes.*

Mr. Speaker, as I finish up let me just refer to a magnificent hero in my community, Ben Ferencz, the last living Nuremberg prosecutor who tells us that creating a world of tolerance and compassion would be a 'long and arduous task.' It is a task that we must all take up in words and actions.

Rep. Frankel Statement on Anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* Decision

Congresswoman Lois Frankel released the following statement on the 50th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. The Supreme Court's dangerous and extreme decision in the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case reversed *Roe* last year, undermining decades of protection for abortion care.

“The extreme MAGA-backed Supreme Court decision has undermined access to abortion care for millions of women across the United States,” **said Rep. Frankel**. “Today should be a celebration of reproductive freedom, instead, *Roe v. Wade* has been undone, and Republicans are racing full steam ahead toward a nationwide abortion ban. We cannot and will not let that happen. Women, not politicians, should have control over decisions that impact their health, lives, and futures, which includes access to legal abortion.”

Rep. Frankel Votes to Support Iranian Women, Condemn Regime's Human Rights Abuses

Congresswoman Lois Frankel released the following statement after voting for a bipartisan resolution condemning Iran's human rights abuses. The resolution is in response to the death of Mahsa Amini and the ensuing protests. Amini was 22 years old when she was arrested and brutally beaten by the regime's so-called “morality police” for “improperly” wearing her hijab. She died in custody three days later. In response to her death, Iranian women and men began demonstrating in more than 133 cities across the country. Iran's security forces have responded with violence, detention, and brutality, reportedly killing more than 450 protestors, including 58 children.

“I join my colleagues in strongly condemning the recent violence against women by the Iranian regime,” **said Rep. Frankel**. “The use of force and intimidation against peaceful protestors, including women, is a gross violation of human rights and must be met with international condemnation.”

ICYMI: Rep. Frankel Commemorates the 50th Anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* on the House Floor



Representative Lois Frankel, Chair of the Democratic Women's Caucus, took to the House Floor to mark the 50th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* and stand up to Republican efforts to ban access to abortion.

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

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

"Madam Speaker. I rise today to mark the 50th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the historic Supreme Court decision that gave women legal access to abortion.

Now, fifty years later, an extreme MAGA Supreme Court has reversed Roe and taken us to a new dark place in history. And now republicans are racing full steam ahead toward a nationwide abortion ban, creating hardship, and even death for pregnant women and prison for their doctors.

To that I say: My, My, My.

People, not politicians, should have the freedom to control their own reproductive destinies. On the 50th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, I rise to say the American people want more freedom, not less. That means the ability of each person to make the personal decision about their health, their lives, and their future. And I yield back."

Rep. Frankel Appointed to House Appropriations Committee for Third Consecutive Term

Congresswoman Lois Frankel released the following statement after being appointed to serve on the House Appropriations Committee for the 118th Congress.

"Serving on the Appropriations Committee presents me with the opportunity to influence federal spending," **said Rep. Frankel**. "In that role, I will continue to champion the well-being of our working families and seniors."

The Appropriations Committee is responsible for setting annual spending for federal government departments, agencies, and programs. As a member of the Committee, Rep. Frankel has [successfully advocated for federal funding](#) for Everglades restoration, Israel's defense programs, women's health care, fall prevention, child care, education, and local nonprofit and government projects through [Community Project Funding](#).

Rep. Frankel Urges Governor DeSantis, Florida Officials to Address Sex Trafficking in Foster Care System

Representative Lois Frankel was joined by the rest of the Florida Democratic Congressional delegation in sending a letter to Governor Ron DeSantis and the leaders of the Florida State House and Senate expressing their deep concern over recent reports of sex trafficking of foster children in the State of Florida. The letter urges state officials to take immediate action to address sex trafficking of foster children and the sex trade in Florida's hotels.

The letter states, in part, "As you should know, foster children are among the most vulnerable members of our society, and they deserve our utmost protection and care. The fact that they are being exploited and abused in this way is a grave injustice, and it is imperative that we do everything in our power to bring those responsible to justice and prevent further incidents with a change in Florida's foster care system."

The letter continues, “We urge the DeSantis Administration and state legislators to work closely with local law enforcement, child welfare agencies, and advocacy groups to investigate [the Sun Sentinel report] and develop a comprehensive plan to address this issue. This may include increased funding for investigative and enforcement efforts, more robust protections, and support for foster children, including family-based care options and legislative fixes including those previously mentioned.”

The letter was written in response to a [troubling report](#) from the Sun Sentinel that illuminated a thriving sex trade of foster children in the State of Florida. At the end of last year, [President Biden proclaimed](#) January 2023 as National Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

Full text of the letter is available [here](#).

From the IRS: Key points to keep in mind when filing 2022 tax returns

Key Points: To help taxpayers navigate the beginning of the tax filing season, the IRS today offered a checklist of reminders for people as they prepare to file their 2022 tax returns. Among them:

1. Gather tax paperwork and records for accuracy to avoid missing a deduction or credit.
 2. Remember to report all types of income on the tax return.
 3. File electronically with direct deposit to avoid delays in receiving a refund.
 4. Free resources are available to help eligible taxpayers file online. Free help may also be available to qualified taxpayers.
 5. Choose a tax professional carefully.
- Additionally, the IRS suggests taxpayers stay up to date on important tax information online by following the [IRS’ official social media accounts](#) and [email subscription lists](#) to stay current on the latest tax topics and alerts
 - IR- 2023-17 [Key points to keep in mind when filing 2022 tax returns](#)— has more details, including tips and recommendations under each checklist item.

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

Follow me on Twitter | Facebook | Instagram at @RepLoisFrankel
[Subscribe to my Newsletter](#)