

Meet the Ranking Member

On January 3, 2017, Frank Pallone, Jr. was sworn in for his 15th full term in the U.S. House of Representatives. Pallone represents [New Jersey's 6th Congressional District](#), which covers most of Middlesex County, as well as the Bayshore and oceanfront areas of Monmouth County.

Pallone is the Ranking Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has one of the broadest jurisdictions of any congressional committee. Its jurisdiction includes issues pertaining to energy, environment, healthcare, commerce, food and drug safety, consumer protection, telecommunications and the internet. Pallone has held a seat on the Committee since 1992.

In his first term as Ranking Member, Pallone led Democrats in passing key health care and environmental bills that were signed into law by President Obama. In March 2015, Congress passed the [Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act](#) (MACRA), which improved the quality of health care for America's seniors while also lowering costs, ensured that over eight million children and pregnant women continue to have access to healthcare coverage through the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and provided \$8 billion to fund Community Health Centers.

In May 2016, Pallone led Democratic efforts to pass the first comprehensive update to the [Toxic Substances Control Act](#) (TSCA) since its original passage in 1976. The TSCA update was a long-overdue step forward in protecting families and communities from toxic chemicals. The law will remove dangerous chemicals like lead, mercury and asbestos out of consumer products and the environment.

Pallone also led Democratic negotiations in the House on the [21st Century Cures Act](#), which was signed into law by President Obama in December 2016. The Cures law provides billions of dollars in funding for Vice President Biden's Cancer Moonshot initiative, research to increase our understanding and treatment of brain disorders, and grants for states and communities hard-hit by the opioid abuse crisis. It also includes important reforms to our broken mental health system.

Prior to serving as the Ranking Member of the full Committee, Pallone served as the Top Democrat on the Subcommittee on Health from 2006 to 2014. As Chairman of the Health Subcommittee during the 111th Congress, Pallone played a key role in authoring and passing the Affordable Care Act. The landmark law extends healthcare coverage to millions of Americans, while driving down healthcare costs and reigning in abusive tactics used by insurance companies to deny medical treatment.

Throughout his career, Pallone has been a leader in protecting the integrity of the Medicare and Medicaid programs, making the nation's food system safer, strengthening laws to keep our air and water clean, making healthcare more affordable and accessible, and supporting initiatives that advance and protect the public health.

Pallone was born and raised in Long Branch, New Jersey, where he still resides. He is a graduate of Middlebury College, holds a master's degree in international relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, and earned his law degree at Rutgers University. Pallone married the former Sarah Hospodor in 1992. They have three children, daughters Rose Marie and Celeste Teresa, and a son, Frank Andrew.