

## Appropriations Testimony 6/9/21:

Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger, thank you for convening this member day hearing. I would like to speak about my top appropriation requests.

Our country is currently facing an array of challenges relating to infrastructure, immigration, healthcare, and the ongoing struggles of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite these realities, most members of Congress currently receive an annual salary of 174,000 dollars a year, which is more than approximately 90 percent of American households.

Why should we as Members of Congress, whose job it is to serve the American people, receive a pay raise when our constituents are struggling to pay their bills? The answer is clear—we shouldn't.

I commend the Legislative Branch subcommittee for including language during fiscal year 2021 that prevented Members of Congress from receiving a pay raise. I hope we can push this issue even further by adding language to the appropriations bill for fiscal year 2022.

Specifically, I ask that language be written into the appropriations bill to state that no adjustment be made under 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946

relating to the cost of living adjustments for Members of Congress.

Representing our communities in Congress is about public service and that is why including this language is vital to moving our country forward in a bipartisan, bicameral way.

Another issue I would like to bring to your attention is the impact that PFAS chemicals are having on our communities.

These forever chemicals, which are used in everyday items, have been found in high concentrations in sources of drinking water and other sites around the country.

In my district, I have been actively working with local officials to address PFAS contamination experienced by communities surrounding the former Naval Air Warfare Center in Warminster, the former Willow Grove Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, and the Horsham Air Guard Station. We need to crack down on these harmful chemicals to keep our constituents safe from contaminated water.

Earlier this year, I alongside my colleagues on the Congressional PFAS Task Force, sent a letter to the President with nearly 100 cosigners asking to work with the administration on these PFAS issues. Specifically, we raised the need to institute a national drinking water standard and designate even more PFAS chemicals as hazardous.

There are more than 700 active military installations with PFAS contamination. On March 24, 2021, Paul Cramer, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment, testified that it would cost approximately 2-3 billion dollars to fully clean up PFAS contamination at and around current and former military bases. I ask that there be increased funding for PFAS cleanup. This is necessary to ensure that a vigorous and successful cleanup is carried out.

As a co-chair of the Congressional PFAS Task Force, I will continue to fight for our communities' right to safe and clean drinking water.

I appreciate your consideration of these important priorities that I have spoken about here today. I yield back.