



Legislative Accomplishments

Congresswoman Capps has worked throughout her career in Congress to advance the interests and needs of her constituents on the Central Coast. Below are some of the legislative accomplishments she achieved during her time in Congress.

Strengthening Public Health

- **Improving Children's Dental Health** – authored the [Children's Dental Health Preservation Act](#) which provides grants for dental health programs for children (*Enacted as part of Children's Health Act in 2000*)
- **Assisting Individuals with ALS** – authored the ALS Treatment and Assistance Act which waived Medicare's 24 month waiting period for persons with ALS (*Enacted as part of the FY2001 Omnibus Appropriations Bill*)
- **Ensuring Access to Emergency Devices** – authored the Community Access to Emergency Devices Act which provides grants for AED programs (*Enacted as part of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Response Act in 2002*)
- **Improving Early Hearing Detecting and Intervention** – authored the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act which provides grants for early hearing and detection programs for newborn infants and puts a greater emphasis on diagnosis and treatment (*Signed into law in December 2010*)
- **Supporting Women with Heart Disease** – authored the Heart For Women Act which improves prevention, diagnosis and treatment of heart disease and stroke in women (*Enacted as part of FDA Reform Act in 2012*)
- **Ensuring Effective Medical Devices** – authored the Sentinel Assurance For Effective Devices Act to allow FDA to more regularly collect, review, and trend adverse event data for medical devices (*Enacted as part of FDA Reform Act in 2012*)
- **Providing Support for Military Moms** – authored the TRICARE Moms Act which adds breastfeeding support and supplies to TRICARE coverage for military moms (*Enacted as part of NDAA in 2014*)
- **Improving Cancer Care for Medicare Beneficiaries** – introduced the [Planning Actively for Cancer Treatment \(PACT\) Act](#) which improves the quality and coordination of cancer care for Medicare beneficiaries
- **Ensuring Affordable Access to Drug Treatments** – introduced the [Patient Access to Treatment Act](#) which limits the co-payments and other cost-sharing requirements insurance companies impose on patients who require "specialty" medications to treat life threatening or chronic diseases
- **Improving Access to Maternity Care** – introduced the [Improving Access to Maternity Care Act](#) to help identify and address maternity care shortage areas

Investing in our Healthcare Workforce

- **Investing in Our Nurses** – authored the Nurse Reinvestment Act which provides scholarships, loans and retention strategies for nurses ([Signed into law in 2002](#))
- **Expanding Nursing Opportunities for our Troops** – authored the Troops to Nurse Teachers Act which offers nursing schools an incentive to partner with the military to increase the number of nurses ([Enacted as part of FY2009 NDAA](#))
- **Expanding Nurse Practitioner Managed Clinics** – authored the Nurse-Managed Health Clinic Investment Act which allows nurse practitioners to manage primary care clinics without doctors ([Enacted as part of Affordable Care Act in 2010](#))
- **Increasing Advanced Practice Nurse Training Programs** – allocated new funding under Medicare to expand the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse workforce ([Enacted as part of Affordable Care Act in 2010](#))
- **Ensuring Safe Staffing of Nurses** – introduced the [Registered Nurse Safe Staffing Act](#) which requires hospitals to develop safe staffing plans

Supporting Our Veterans and Public Servants

- **Honoring a Local Hero** – authored legislation to rename the Lompoc post office in honor of local veteran and federal correctional officer Scott J. Williams who was killed on duty at Lompoc federal prison in 1997 ([Signed into law Dec 2014](#))
- **Making it Easier for Veterans to Find Jobs** – introduced the bipartisan Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act to streamline requirements and procedures for veterans with military emergency medical training to become civilian emergency medical technicians ([Passed House in 2013](#))
- **Improving Access to Veteran Services** – authored the [Veterans Emergency Telephone Service \(VETS\) Act](#) to set up a national veterans hotline service operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- **Helping Veterans Get the Benefits They've Earned** – authored [Veterans' Record Reconstruction Act](#) to make it easier for veterans to prove their eligibility for certain benefits or decorations when a veteran's service records are incomplete due to damage caused to the records while in the possession of the Department of Defense

Expanding Federal Investments in Research

- **Improving Pain Research** – authored the National Pain Care Policy Act to improve research, education, training, access, outreach and care for people suffering from chronic pain ([Enacted as part of Affordable Care Act in 2010](#))
- **Expanding National Pediatric Research Network** – authored the National Pediatric Research Network Act to help increase research and accelerate the development of clinical trials to treat rare pediatric diseases ([Enacted as part of PREMMIE Act in 2013](#))
- **Creating Path for Medical Research of HIV-positive Organ Transplants** – authored the HIV Organ Policy (HOPE) Act which created a science-based path for medical research to study the feasibility, effectiveness, and safety of organ transplants between HIV-positive patients ([Signed into law in 2013](#))
- **Increasing Awareness and Research of Scleroderma** – authored the [Scleroderma Research and Awareness Act](#) to better coordinate and increase research of this disease
- **Advancing Research at Local Universities** – helped secure millions in research funding at local universities, including a new [marine research center at UCSB](#) and the [technology park at Cal Poly](#)

Protecting our Environment

- **Championing Fight Against Offshore Drilling** – authored numerous bills, passed amendments, and drafted letters to successfully stop repeated efforts to expand oil drilling of California's coast
- **Ensuring Accountability for MTBE Contamination** – led congressional effort to [successfully strip a provision](#) in 2005 energy bill that would have exempted manufacturers of the known-carcinogen MTBE from paying to cleanup drinking water supplies they knowingly polluted in communities across the country, including Cambria
- **Supporting Sustainable Fisheries** – authored [Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Preservation Act](#) to authorize the Federal government to buy back fishing vessels and permits to relieve pressure on Pacific groundfish fisheries (*Enacted as part of FY2005 Consolidated Appropriations bill*)
- **Improving Ocean Monitoring** – authored the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act to establish a national integrated system of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observing systems to better manage conditions ([Enacted as part of Omnibus Public Land Management Act in 2009](#))
- **Stopping Drilling in Los Padres** – authored the Los Padres National Forest Conservation Act to block all forms of oil and gas development proposed by the U.S. Forest Service (*Forest Service proposal withdrawn in 2002*)
- **Investigating Deepwater Horizon Disaster** – authored BP Deepwater Horizon Disaster Inquiry Commission Act to establish an independent commission to investigate the causes, response and impacts of BP's gulf oil spill and make recommendations to the president to avoid future disasters ([President Obama established an inquiry commission modeled on this legislation](#))

Preserving our Public Lands

- **Designating Carrizo Plain Monument** – authored the [Carrizo Plain National Conservation Area Act](#) to increase protections for Carrizo Plain (*President Clinton designated the Carrizo Plain as a National Monument in 2001*)
- **Preserving Gaviota Coast** – authored the [Gaviota Coast Act](#) to initiate a federal study of Gaviota Coast preservation options (*Study funded in FY2001 Omnibus Appropriations bill*)
- **Ensuring Santa Rosa Island Access** – authored the Channel Islands National Park Management Act to repeal a provision that extended private hunting operations and limited public access to Santa Rosa Island ([Enacted as part of FY2008 Omnibus Appropriations bill](#))
- **Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation** – authored legislation to establish a national program to provide grants to coastal states for land acquisition from willing sellers ([Enacted as part of Omnibus Public Land Management Act in 2009](#) and funded multiple Central Coast protection projects)
- **Designating Piedras Blancas Historic Light Station** – authored legislation to designate the light station as an Outstanding Natural Area and provide additional financial assistance to restore and protect the lighthouse ([Enacted as part of Omnibus Public Land Management Act in 2009](#))
- **Expanding Central Coast Wilderness** – authored [landmark legislation](#) to protect nearly 250,000 acres of new and expanded wilderness on the Central Coast; built strong, diverse coalition of stakeholder support for the proposal

Supporting Central Coast Agriculture

- **Ensuring Uniform Avocado Quality Standards** – authored [Hass Avocado Quality Assurance Act](#) to ensure avocado imports meet the same quality standards as those in California (*Enacted as part of 2008 Farm Bill*)
- **Strengthened Integrity of Organic Label** – authored [Organic Standards Protection Act](#) to strengthen enforcement of USDA organic labeling standards (*Enacted as part of 2014 Farm Bill*)
- **Championing California's Cut Flower Farmers** – pushed for the [White House to feature American grown flowers](#) at State dinners, founded the [bipartisan Congressional Cut Flower Caucus](#), and built bipartisan coalition of support for cut flower industry in Congress
- **Supporting Local Priorities in Farm Bill** – [spearheaded letters](#) from California congressional delegation to support key California priorities in 2014 Farm Bill, including specialty crops, organic farming assistance, research, pest detection and conservation

Combatting Climate Change

- **Curbing Greenhouse Gas Emissions** – helped craft American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 and has vocally supported EPA's Clean Power Plan to regulated carbon emissions
- **Investing in Clean Energy Future** – persistent and vocal advocate for increased federal investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and development of new clean energy technologies
- **Supporting Ocean Acidification Research** – authored the [Ocean Acidification Research Partnerships Act](#) to encourage cooperative research projects between academia and the seafood industry
- **Called for Action on Climate Change Resilience** – [led congressional effort](#) to push the Obama Administration to establish Task Force on Climate Resiliency and Adaptation, and authored suite of bills to help communities prepare for impacts of climate change (*Some provisions of these bills were included in the final Task Force recommendations to President Obama in 2014*)
 - [Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Act](#) – authorizes EPA grants to local drinking water, wastewater, or stormwater utilities to address impacts of climate change
 - [Coastal State Climate Change Planning Act](#) – creates a new grant program to help states plan and prepare for climate impacts, like sea level rise
 - [Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Act](#) – directs HHS to develop action plan to assist health professionals in preparing for and responding to the effects of climate change

Improving Education

- **Preventing Underage Drinking** – authored the [Youth Drinking Elimination Act](#) to provide grants for preventing underage drinking (*Enacted as part of Children's Health Act in 2000*)
- **Teaching Children To Save Lives** – authored the [Teaching Children to Save Lives Act](#) to provide resources to local schools to teach CPR (*Enacted as part of No Child Left Behind in 2001*)

- **Championing School Based Health Centers** – authored legislation to provide federal resources for school based health centers like the one at Santa Maria High School ([*Enacted as part of Affordable Care Act in 2010*](#))
- **Ensuring Student Athlete Safety** – authored the [SAFE PLAY Act \(Supporting Athletes, Families, and Educators to Protect the Lives of Athletic Youth Act\)](#) to increase research and awareness of concussions, heat stroke, cardiac arrest among student athletes
- **Making Our Schools Safer** – authored [the School Safety Enhancement Act](#) to reauthorize the successful Secure Our Schools grant program, which provides resources to schools to help make security related capital improvements

Ensuring Public Safety and Consumer Protection

- **Improving Domestic Violence Programs** – authored legislation to increase federal funding for efforts to prevent family violence ([*Enacted as part of Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization in 2005*](#))
- **Ensuring Access to Emergency Broadcasts** – authored Short-term Analog Flash and Emergency Readiness Act to allow the short-term continued analog broadcast of emergency information after the nationwide transition to digital television ([*Signed into law as Sen. Rockefeller bill in 2008*](#))
- **Commemorating Isla Vista Tragedy** – authored H.Res. 608, condemning the violence in Isla Vista and supporting those affected ([*Passed House in May 2014*](#))
- **Supporting Federal Firefighters** – authored the bipartisan [Federal Firefighters Fairness Act](#) to ensure federal firefighters get the disability benefits they deserve if they were harmed through the hazards of their service
- **Advancing Rental Car Safety** – authored bipartisan [Raechel and Jacqueline Houck Safe Rental Car Act](#) to keep unsafe rental cars that have been recalled off the road until they are fixed
- **Helping Prevent Senseless Tragedy** – authored the [Pause for Safety Act](#) with Sens. Boxer and Feinstein to encourage states to empower families and others with new tools to prevent a tragedy if someone they are close to poses a threat to themselves or others
- **Increasing Honesty in Advertising** – authored bipartisan [Truth in Advertising Act](#) to study the use of altered images in advertising that change the physical characteristics of the people depicted and to develop recommendations to address it

Strengthening National Security

- **Opposed the Iraq War** – [voted against](#) the authorization of war in Iraq in 2002
- **Improving Disaster Preparedness** – introduced the [Disaster Preparation and Local Action Now Act](#) to help communities prepare for future disasters (*Similar legislation signed into law in 2005*)
- **Combating Panga Boats** – [led effort to increase funding](#) for the Department of Homeland Security's Operation Stonegarden program which increased coordination between federal, state and local law enforcement and helps offset costs to local agencies
- **Support Middle East Peace Efforts** – authored numerous bills and letters to the Administration supporting efforts to secure a just and lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians; served as an official U.S. observer to the historic first Palestinian presidential election in 2005

Assisting Local Governments

- **Supporting Local Water Agencies** – authored the Goleta, Carpinteria and Montecito Water Distribution Systems Conveyance Acts to authorize the title transfer of federally owned water distribution systems from the Bureau of Reclamation to local water agencies ([*Enacted as part of Omnibus Public Land Management Act in 2009*](#))
- **Improving Local Infrastructure** – led bipartisan congressional efforts to require a minimum federal funding level be set aside to maintain and repair local bridges; protect the ability of local governments to be involved in transportation planning; and authorize the use of federal transportation dollars to improve the effectiveness of local evacuation routes ([*Enacted as part of the Moving Ahead Progress for the 21st Century Act in 2012*](#))