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In 2022, Congressman Ruppersberger and his colleagues set out to implement an ambitious agenda that would not only restore pre-pandemic conditions but build a foundation for continued growth across the nation. And despite ongoing challenges – waves of COVID-19, inflation, Russia’s brutal invasion of Ukraine, rising crime – the legislative year was among the most productive in history.

Congress passed legislation to curtail consumer prices, reduce supply chain gridlock, encourage domestic manufacturing and restore American competitiveness, especially in the semiconductor industry. In passing the Inflation Reduction Act, Congress took its most aggressive action to date to combat climate change and strengthen American energy security, while also reducing prescription drug costs and making a substantial down payment on the deficit.

Implementation of the bipartisan infrastructure bill brought an infusion of $2.6 billion to Maryland to fix roads, upgrade public transit, slash commute times, clean up pollution and more. Appropriations bills brought additional investments to Maryland for 2023, including more than $30 million in community projects specifically requested by Congressman Ruppersberger.

Congress provided massive support for the people and troops of Ukraine as well as measures to punish and isolate Russia. We honored our commitment to our own servicemembers by finally passing legislation to expand VA benefits to more than 5 million troops who were exposed to dangerous burn pits and toxins.

On the civil rights front, Congress this year guaranteed Americans the right to marry who they choose. In the House, we also passed legislation to protect voting rights and reproductive freedom, though these measures stalled in the Senate, along with long-awaited gun safety reforms and new supports for law enforcement.

Back at the homestead, Congressman Ruppersberger and his team found relief from pandemic-related casework and residents with missing mail this year and were able to focus on the more routine needs of constituents. In all, Team Dutch closed 1,800 cases for constituents and returned more than $2.5 million in tax dollars on their behalf in 2022.

Through it all, Congressman Ruppersberger maintained his trademark common sense approach. Thanks to the recent redistricting process, the Second District includes many new constituents and communities and Team Dutch looks forward to providing them with best-in-the-nation service and end-game legislation in 2023.
Providing Exceptional Constituent Service

Congressman Ruppersberger got into politics for one reason – to help people – and has always prided himself on his constituent service operation. He believes his casework team is among the best in the nation. While preparing for a substantial Congressional redistricting, Team Dutch continued to conduct the day-to-day business of helping seniors navigate Social Security and Medicare, connecting veterans to their benefits, assisting with tax-related inquiries and much more.

Constituent Testimonials

"I have the highest respect and praise for Congressman Ruppersberger’s office and his excellent staff. Twice I have had issues with the IRS and it was practically impossible to reach a person to address my concerns and issues. I wrote to Congressman Ruppersberger both times and almost immediately a member of his staff reached out to me. She was caring, responsive to my needs, and instrumental in getting answers and in successfully resolving the issues both times. It is reassuring to know that Congressman Ruppersberger takes the needs of his constituents seriously; that he truly does care, and that he has an excellent staff working hard and advocating for the little person.”

Maureen, Essex, Maryland

"I have been writing this note in my head for months and my words never quite measure up to my level of appreciation for your office. I had been trying to help my brother for over a year on his disability case. Your caseworker knew the exact channels to go through and was truly remarkable in her thoroughness and tenacity. Her compassion for my brother was heartwarming, and I was so impressed that she truly cared. That doesn’t happen very often these days. Without her help, I don’t think we could have been successful. I am not exaggerating when I say she helped save his life.”

Mary Ann, Cockeysville, Maryland

17,566 Responses to Constituent Emails, Letters and Calls

1,884 Total Cases Opened on Behalf of MD-02 Constituents

$2,503,522 Tax Dollars Recovered for Constituents

Top Casework Issue Area: Social Security
2022 BRINGS WELCOME RELIEF TO SECOND DISTRICT POSTAL CUSTOMERS

The year brought welcome relief to Second District residents struggling with consistent and timely mail service thanks to Congressman Ruppersberger’s persistent advocacy. The recommendations included in an Inspector General report of the Baltimore region's six most problematic Post Offices – conducted at the request of Congressman Ruppersberger – were implemented and corresponded with a dramatic decrease in constituent complaints throughout 2022.

Following the audit, postal performance and on-time delivery rates in the Second District are getting back on track. In fact, compared to 2021, performance for two-day First-Class Mail sent from the Baltimore-area saw a 10.6 percent increase and three-to-five-day mail saw a whopping 67.3 percent increase. Both categories now maintain close to 90 percent on-time performance rates, respectively.

In all, Congressman Ruppersberger:
- Voted in favor of legislation that will boost the financial solvency of USPS by reversing a Congressional mandate requiring the agency to pre-fund employee healthcare;
- Was instrumental in organizing a Congressional field hearing focused on USPS delays held in Baltimore in February 2022;
- Requested the USPS Inspector General conduct an audit of Baltimore-area post offices;
- Personally visited problematic post offices throughout the Second District and met with local USPS leadership;
- Sent letters to Postmaster General Louis DeJoy requesting meetings and solutions;
- Championed legislation increasing the budget of the USPS Inspector General to allow the office to conduct more audits – and more thorough audits – around the country.

DECREASE IN USPS CASEWORK NUMBERS:

2021: 1,173 CASES
2022: 200 CASES

Congressman Ruppersberger questions USPS leaders at a field hearing in Baltimore focused on mail delays and customer complaints.
CONGRESSMAN RUPPERSBERGER SERVES SECOND DISTRICT VETERANS

As the son of a World War II veteran and the representative of region home to many military installations and contractors, supporting our troops and veterans isn’t just a priority for Congressman Ruppersberger: it’s an obligation.

In February, Congressman Ruppersberger launched a program to honor local veterans with the help of Second District school children. The first-ever “Valentines for Veterans” project coincided with the VA’s National Salute to Veteran Patient Programs the week of February 14, honoring the more than 9 million veterans who are cared for in VA medical centers, outpatient clinics and nursing homes.

Congressman Ruppersberger delivered 1,100 valentines to the Loch Raven VA Medical Center, all of which were handmade by students from eight area schools.

In June, Congressman Ruppersberger was honored to join constituents Garry and Yvonne Green as local road MD-7 was dedicated to their daughter, U.S. Army Specialist Toccara Green. Toccara was Maryland’s first female killed in action in the War in Iraq in 2005. The road in White Marsh, close to where Specialist Green grew up and where her parents still live, will now bear her name.

In addition to these and other district events, Congressman Ruppersberger actively championed pro-veterans policies in Washington.

Students, Congressman Spread Love to Vets

Students, Congressman Spread Love to Vets

Feb 15, 2022

Congressman Ruppersberger joins constituents Garry and Yvonne Green at a road dedication ceremony in memory of their daughter in June.
NEW DISTRICT, NEW PAGE: CONGRESSMAN RUPPERSBERGER DEBUTS NEW WEBSITE

In October, Congressman Ruppersberger unveiled a new, official U.S. House of Representatives website to better serve Second District constituents. The new site not only features a more modern aesthetic, but improves the ability of constituents to connect with the Congressman, request assistance and keep tabs on his performance as their representative.

The new website was designed by the Web Assistance division of the House’s Chief Administrative Office under the advisement of Congressman Ruppersberger and his staff. The CAO issued the new website a modernization score of 95 – one of its most improved sites ever after a starting score of 66.1 prior to the redesign.
DUTCH IN DC: PROVIDING COMMON SENSE LEGISLATIVE SOLUTIONS

Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger spent much of his time in Washington, working with colleagues from both sides of the aisle to get results for Maryland and the nation.

Congressman Ruppersberger saw progress on several of his top legislative priorities including efforts to reduce violent crime, spur economic development in blighted communities, help victims of food stamp theft and more.

SNAP THEFT PROTECTION ACT

Across Maryland, families reported losing more than $1 million in federal nutrition benefits in 2022 as food stamp theft skyrocketed across the country. Thieves, using card skimming, identity theft and phishing scams, are stealing funds from SNAP (food stamp) beneficiaries’ electronic debit cards before they can withdraw funds themselves, leaving recipients without grocery money for the month.

Responding to calls from constituents who have been victimized by this unconscionable crime – often seniors, disabled individuals and struggling families – Congressman Ruppersberger introduced legislation empowering states to use already-allocated federal funds to reimburse stolen SNAP benefits. While the bill failed to advance before the end of the Congressional session, the omnibus spending bill included a provision requiring states to reimburse these victims that is consistent with Congressman Ruppersberger’s legislation. The provision applies to benefits stolen from October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2024.

It was a major victory for SNAP theft victims, although Congressman Ruppersberger looks forward to again introducing his legislation to create a permanent solution.

RUST TO REVITALIZATION ACT

This year, Congressman Ruppersberger authored legislation to help bring federal economic development incentives to Baltimore’s Tradepoint Atlantic — a massive logistics center that will eventually employ 21,000 people — as well as projects in distressed communities around the country.

The Rust to Revitalization Act addresses a gap in the federal Opportunity Zone program created in 2017 to encourage investment in low-income areas that excluded parcels that are unpopulated yet are nonetheless ideal for revitalization. The bill expands opportunity zones to include census tracts that have zero population if they were previously used for industrial purposes and are a brownfield site.
The Rust to Revitalization Act could spur billions of dollars in private investment, creating jobs where none currently exist. The bill was strategically introduced by Republican Congressman Daniel Kildee on Congressman Ruppersberger’s behalf and was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

**THE BIPARTISAN SOLUTION TO CYCLICAL VIOLENCE ACT**

Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger again introduced his bipartisan bill to address the revolving door of violent crime across our nation, including in cities like Baltimore. The Bipartisan Solution to Cyclical Violence Act was modeled off a highly-successful program at the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center, where 20 percent of patients are victims of violence. These patients receive a bed-side assessment, counseling and a wide range of support that could include groceries, bus money, substance abuse treatment, job training or affordable housing guidance. Patients have shown an 83 percent decrease in re-hospitalization due to intentional violent injury, a 75 percent reduction in criminal activity and an 82 percent increase in employment.

Congressman Ruppersberger’s bill provides federal grants to hospitals that want to expand or create programs like Shock Trauma’s. This bill helps victims of violent injury before they become repeat victims or even perpetrators themselves. In doing so, we end the cycle and keep money in the American taxpayer’s pocket. This legislation is also vital to our efforts to shift social work away from police and first responders, and back to the experts in mental health, substance abuse, homelessness, unemployment and other areas that often afflict victims of violent crime.

The bill passed the U.S. House of Representatives but stalled in the U.S. Senate.

**INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES ACT**

As a founder and Chairman of the bipartisan House Municipal Finance Caucus, Congressman Ruppersberger has long championed the tools used by state and local governments to pay for community improvements, drawing from his experience in local government. Congressman Ruppersberger once again introduced legislation to enable governments to refinance outstanding bonds for projects such as new roads, schools, hospitals and fire stations, reducing their borrowing costs and freeing up resources for other community improvements.

The legislation reverses changes made under the tax reform law of 2017, restoring the tax-exemption for advance refunding bonds, which are often used by municipalities to pay off another, outstanding bond. The change enables governments to take advantage of lower interest rates, similar to homeowners refinancing their mortgages. The use of tax-exempt advance refunding bonds saves taxpayers an estimated $2.35 billion a year and is now more important than ever as our state and local governments continue to recover from the COVID-19 crisis.

The bill was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee, where it remained under consideration.

**H.RES.335**

This legislation designates the month of May as Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (EDS) Awareness Month and was inspired by a longtime employee who suffers from this potentially-fatal, genetic disease that currently has few treatment options and no cure. Congressman Ruppersberger’s resolution builds on a wave of recent attention to EDS, thanks to celebrities and public figures sharing their own experiences with the genetic disorder.
EDS largely remains a mystery not only to patients but many doctors, making accurate diagnoses and management nearly impossible. Congressman Ruppersberger hopes his bill will not only raise awareness of this debilitating disease, but reduce discrimination toward patients suffering from EDS and inspire research toward a cure.

H.Res. 335 was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce for consideration.
This year, Congressman Ruppersberger secured $3.4 million to upgrade the iconic egg-shaped wastewater treatment digesters in Baltimore County’s Essex – helping to address recent failures at the city-run Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant contributing to harmful bacteria spilling into local Chesapeake Bay tributaries. The funding was included in the omnibus spending bill for fiscal year 2023, which was signed into law in December.

An Appropriator, Congressman Ruppersberger requested the funding on behalf of Baltimore City, which operates the troubled plant. The State of Maryland took over the plant in March after a report detailed significant failures and violations causing sewage to contaminate local waterways.

“This federal funding will pay for improvements that will bring the Back River Wastewater treatment plant back into compliance, more effectively treat our wastewater and, ultimately, protect our region’s natural resources and the livelihoods that depend on them,” Congressman Ruppersberger said. “Quick and permanent fixes to this plant are absolutely necessary not just for the health of our local ecosystem, but our economy.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Funding</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$401,615 for Baltimore’s National Aquarium to expand a statewide educational program on conservation</td>
<td>$1.48 million to address chronic flooding in Baltimore County’s Turner Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$721,130 to expand the Community College of Baltimore County’s CDL-A training program to address a shortage in commercial truckers</td>
<td>$1.5 million to upgrade Medstar’s Curtis National Hand Center, home to some of the world’s best hand surgeons based at Baltimore’s Union Memorial Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$750,000 to help reconstruct the “Triple Bridges” interchange at I-695 at I-70 in Woodlawn</td>
<td>$1.5 million to build new affordable housing and a community center for veterans and their families in Baltimore County’s Rosedale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$950,000 to expand Towson University’s teacher workforce initiative to encourage more students to enter the education profession</td>
<td>$2 million for an artificial intelligence research center at Morgan State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1 million to begin planning a full interchange at I-695 and Broening Highway, supporting the redevelopment of Sparrows Point at TradePoint Atlantic</td>
<td>$3.45 million to upgrade the egg-shaped digesters at the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant in Essex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1.25 million to support Goucher College’s teaching labs to double the number of students it can admit to its biology, biochemistry, chemistry, neuroscience, pre-nursing and pre-med programs</td>
<td>$4 million for improvements to the Aberdeen Amtrak and MARC Train Station;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1.3 million for the Baltimore City Police Department to purchase license plate scanners</td>
<td>$7.6 million for a new test fabrication facility at Aberdeen Proving Ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$420,000 for the Ashley Addiction Treatment Center to educate middle and high school students in Harford County about substance misuse.</td>
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CONGRESSMAN RUPPERSBERGER’S DIGITAL COAST ACT PROTECTS PEOPLE AND PROPERTY

This year marked the first anniversary of Congressman Ruppersberger’s bipartisan legislation to help coastal communities prepare for storms and floods. The Digital Coast Act codified and authorized the next phase of the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Digital Coast program, which provides free online mapping data to government planners, the public and communities that make up the country’s 95,000 miles of shoreline, including Maryland. Communities can use the data – and free NOAA training – to address issues like erosion, rising sea levels and storm damage.

To mark its first anniversary, NOAA issued a report showcasing the Digital Coast in action and how it is already protecting people and property. In the year since Congressman Ruppersberger’s bill became law, data has been used to calculate wetland loss after a storm in Texas, support crop restoration in a tribal area of Michigan, help a community in Mississippi find a new location for a wastewater facility and much more.

Congressman Ruppersberger is extremely proud of the swift and substantial impact the Digital Coast Act is having on coastal communities around the country.

“The (Digital Coast) Act recognized the Digital Coast as a constituent-driven program that helps leaders make smart decisions about the coast. The site’s coastal data, integrated with decision-support tools and training, provides the best-available resources for coastal communities. For the federal government, this approach also increases the return on investment for data production by greatly diversifying and expanding the audience reach.”
PASSING LANDMARK LEGISLATION TO CREATE JOBS, LOWER COSTS AND PROTECT COMMUNITIES

The 117th Congress was among the most productive in history, with members passing legislation to invest in aging infrastructure, lower prescription drug costs, tackle climate change, advance domestic manufacturing and protect marriage rights, all while lowering the federal deficit.

In 2022, we began implementing the bipartisan infrastructure bill passed last year, which has already infused $2.6 billion into Maryland to fix roads, upgrade public transit, slash commute times, clean up pollution and more.

We enacted the **Inflation Reduction Act**, which lowers health care and prescription drug costs for millions of Americans. The bill forces Big Pharma to negotiate lower drug prices, caps the cost of drugs and insulin for seniors on Medicare and locks in lower health insurance premiums that will save 13 million Americans an average of $800 a year. The bill also marks the country’s most significant effort to tackle climate change to date, advancing American’s energy independence, all while reducing the federal deficit.

To compete in the 21st century, we enacted the **CHIPS and Science Act**, which will lower costs for American consumers by encouraging greater domestic manufacturing of semiconductor chips – a shortage of which has driven up the price of everything from cars to cell phones. The bill is expected to generate 100,000 new jobs in hi-tech manufacturing and turbocharge American research and development.

To help ensure every American lives in a safe community where they and their family can thrive, Congressman Ruppersberger and his colleagues enacted the **Bipartisan Safer Communities Act**, which is the most significant piece of gun violence prevention legislation in nearly 30 years. From suicide and domestic violence to gun violence in our cities and mass shootings, the bill creates common sense gun safety regulations to tackle the problem from all angles.

Congress upheld its commitment to our veterans by finally passing legislation known as the **Honoring Our PACT Act** to expand VA benefits to more than 5 million servicemembers who were exposed to dangerous burn pits and toxins like Agent Orange.

Finally, to strengthen the financial solvency of the long-ailing U.S. Postal Service, Congress passed the **Postal Reform Act of 2022** with Congressman Ruppersberger’s earnest support. The bill finally eliminates the requirement that the Postal Service pre-fund retiree health benefits for current and retired employees, which has forced the service to accumulate billions in debt in recent years. The reforms are expected to enable the Postal Service to save $27 billion over 10 years.
## INFLATION REDUCTION ACT HIGHLIGHTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extends health insurance premium subsidies for 13 million Americans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lowers the costs of prescription drugs by enabling Medicare to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies, caps seniors’ out-of-pocket prescription costs and insulin copays at $35 per month</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reduces the federal deficit by $300 billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advances America’s energy independence by providing tax incentives for companies to advance clean energy and rebates for consumers to make their homes more efficient and purchase electric vehicles</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fully paid for by implementing a minimum tax on the nation’s 150 richest corporations (which currently pay little to no federal taxes) and by recouping the $1 trillion gap between what Americans owe in taxes and what the chronically-underfunded IRS collects.</td>
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Congressman Ruppersberger discusses legislation with colleagues outside the U.S. Capitol.
IN ITS FIRST YEAR, BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW DELIVERS FOR MARYLAND

The Biden-Harris Administration hit the ground running to implement the massive Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed last year with Congressman Ruppersberger's support. In its first year alone, the bill delivered $2.6 billion in shovel-ready projects across Maryland with many more to come in the years ahead. Investments are being made in roads, mass transit, broadband, clean water, ports, airports and more.

In March, Congressman Ruppersberger gathered colleagues to announce federal funding to replace an overpass in Dundalk – one of Maryland's 273 bridges that have been rated “poor” or “structurally deficient.” Maryland is expected to receive more than $400 million over the next five years to repair and replace deteriorating bridges thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

By reaching communities all across Maryland – including rural communities and historically underserved populations – the law makes critical investments that will improve lives for Marylanders and position the state for success.

"Federal Funds Will Help Shore Up Bridges in Danger of Collapse, Lawmakers Say"

MARYLAND MATTERS

| March 8, 2022
BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW HARD AT WORK IN MARYLAND

$1.8 BILLION
FOR MARYLAND ROADS, BRIDGES, ROADWAY SAFETY AND MAJOR PROJECTS

$347 MILLION
TO IMPROVE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS ACROSS MARYLAND

$144 MILLION
TO PROVIDE CLEAN AND SAFE WATER ACROSS MARYLAND AND IMPROVE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

$57 MILLION
FOR CLEAN ENERGY, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND POWER PROJECTS IN MARYLAND

$31 MILLION
FOR MARYLAND AIRPORTS

$22.7 MILLION
TO BUILD OUT A NETWORK OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS ACROSS MARYLAND

$9.4 MILLION
TO UPGRADE MARYLAND SCHOOL BUSES TO ZERO-EMISSIONS MODELS

$4.8 MILLION
FOR MARYLAND PORTS AND WATERWAYS
SUPPORTING UKRAINE AGAINST RUSSIA’S BRUTAL AND ILLEGAL INVASION

In February, Russia invaded sovereign Ukraine territory, violating international law, displacing millions of Ukrainians and killing thousands of innocent civilians – and more by the day. Congressman Ruppersberger, a member of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, fervently supported sending aid to the people, government and military of Ukraine to help them defend themselves from Russia’s aggression.

In all, Congressman Ruppersberger supported several enacted laws this year to support Ukraine and punish Russia for its unprovoked and brutal invasion, including:

- **Ending Importation of Russian Oil Act**, which ended the importation of energy products from Russia into the United States;
- **Suspending Normal Trade Relations With Russia and Belarus Act**, which essentially terminates the United States’ recognition of Russia’s World Trade Organization rights and subjects Russian and Belarusian imports to higher duties;
- **Ukraine Democracy Defense Lend-Lease Act**, a bipartisan bill designed to strengthen Ukraine’s war-fighting capabilities by ensuring that shipments of urgently-needed weapons, ammunition and other military assistance arrive faster and easier;
- **Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act**, which provided $40.1 billion to support the Ukrainian people with emergency food assistance, economic assistance, defense equipment and more;
- **Russia and Belarus SDR Exchange Prohibition Act**, which handicapped Russia’s use of International Monetary Fund tools from bankrolling its invasion and encouraged other IMF member countries to follow suit.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky delivered a virtual address to Congress in March. He returned for an in-person joint session of Congress in December.
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