

## TX-34 Message #1 Backup

*Rep. Vicente Gonzalez is ranked one of the most bipartisan members of Congress from Texas because he works with both political parties to get things done. He's worked to lower costs for South Texas families, secure the border and protect Medicare and Social Security.*

**Rep. Vicente Gonzalez Is Ranked One Of The Most Bipartisan Members Of Congress From Texas Because He Works With Both Political Parties To Get Things Done. He's Worked To Lower Costs For South Texas Families, Secure The Border And Protect Medicare And Social Security.**

**Vicente Gonzalez Was Ranked The 2<sup>nd</sup> Most Bipartisan Member Of Congress From Texas**

**According To The Lugar Center Bipartisan Index, Vicente Gonzalez Was The 2<sup>nd</sup> Most Bipartisan Member Of Congress From Texas.** [Lugar Center, 2023 House Scores, accessed [8/30/24](#)]

**Gonzalez Voted For The Inflation Reduction Act**

**Gonzalez Voted For Passing The Inflation Reduction Act Through Reconciliation.** In August 2022 Gonzalez voted for: “Yarmuth, D-Ky., motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the bill comprising a package of climate, tax and health care provisions. Among drug pricing provisions, the bill would require the Health and Human Services Department to negotiate a ‘maximum fair price’ with drug manufacturers for certain Medicare-eligible, brand-name drugs that do not have generic competition; cap cost-sharing for insulin products covered under Medicare at \$35 a month; and require single-source drug manufacturers to provide rebates to HHS for the price of drugs under Medicare Parts B and D for which price increases outpace inflation. For Medicare Part D, it would cap the annual out-of-pocket limit at \$2,000. It would extend through 2025 tax subsidies toward Affordable Care Act marketplace insurance premiums for individuals under a certain income level. The bill would provide for approximately \$270 billion in new or expanded tax credits to incentivize actions by businesses and individuals to mitigate climate change, including production credits for electricity produced by renewable and nuclear facilities; investment tax credits for certain renewable energy equipment and facilities; and credits for advanced energy manufacturing projects, including in areas where a coal mine or power plant has closed. To incentivize emission reduction and clean fuel production, it would create or extend tax credits for carbon oxide sequestration facilities; biodiesel, renewable diesel and alternative fuels; and clean hydrogen facilities. For most of its corporate tax credits, it would add prevailing wage and apprenticeship requirements and establish bonus credits for using domestic materials in facility construction. It would also expand individual tax credits for residential energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy expenses; increase credits for new energy efficient homes; and create credits for the purchase of used electric vehicles by individuals under a certain income level. It would reinstate the Superfund tax on crude oil at a rate of 16.4 cents per barrel. Among other tax provisions, the bill would establish a 15 percent alternative minimum tax for corporations with a book income of at least \$1 million annually and institute a 1 percent excise tax on corporate stock buybacks. It would authorize \$79.3 billion for IRS operations, including enforcement activities and systems modernization. The bill would provide funding for various activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote energy-efficient technologies and mitigate the impacts of climate change, including \$27 billion for grants to state, local and nonprofit entities for greenhouse gas emission reduction activities; \$9.7 billion for zero-emission or carbon capture rural electric systems; \$5 billion for loan guarantees to replace or reduce emissions of energy infrastructure; \$3 billion for zero-emission vehicles for the Postal Service; and \$1.6 billion for methane emissions reduction and mitigation. It would provide \$9 billion for residential energy efficiency improvement rebates; \$3 billion for new EPA environmental and climate justice block grants for community-led activities to address pollution, emission reduction, climate resiliency and public engagement; and \$3 billion for Federal Highway Administration grants for projects that address surface transportation facilities that disconnect or negatively impact communities. It would provide \$4 billion for drought mitigation in Western states; \$2.15 billion for hazardous fuel reduction and restoration projects; and \$1 billion to improve energy and water

efficiency or climate resilience of affordable housing. It would require the Interior Department to accept bids for certain canceled oil and gas leases on the outer continental shelf. It would authorize wind lease sales adjacent to U.S. territories but prohibit new wind or solar development rights on federal lands for 10 years unless the department completes certain oil or gas lease sales.” The bill passed by a vote of 220-207. [H.R. 5376, [Vote #420](#), 8/12/22; CQ, [8/12/22](#)]

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## **The Inflation Reduction Act Capped Medicare Insulin Prices At \$35 Per Month**

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**The Inflation Reduction Act Protected Seniors By Capping Prescription Prices At \$2000 Out Of Pocket Annually, As Well As Free Vaccines For All Seniors And Medicare Insulin Prices Being Capped At \$35 Per Month.** “The package would cap the out-of-pocket costs that seniors pay annually for prescription drugs at \$2,000, and would ensure that seniors have access to free vaccines. Lawmakers also included a rebate should price increases outpace the rate of inflation. [...] Republicans successfully challenged the inclusion of a \$35 price cap on insulin for patients on private insurance during a rapid-fire series of amendment votes early Sunday morning, forcing its removal. But a separate proposal that caps the price of insulin at \$35 per month for Medicare patients remained intact.” [New York Times, [8/7/22](#)]

**Centers For Medicare & Medicaid Services: The Inflation Reduction Act Ensured People With Medicare Paid No More Than \$35 For A Month’s Supply Of Covered Insulin Product.** “The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 was signed into law on August 16, 2022. The new law provides meaningful financial relief for millions of people with Medicare by improving access to affordable treatments and strengthening the Medicare Program both now and in the long run. The law makes improvements to Medicare by expanding benefits, lowering drug costs, keeping prescription drug premiums stable, and improving the strength of the Medicare program. The law also extends enhanced financial help to purchase HealthCare.gov and state-based Marketplace plans and expands access to Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended vaccines for adults with Medicaid coverage. Specifically, the Inflation Reduction Act: Ensures that people with Medicare pay no more than \$35 for a month’s supply for each covered insulin product under Medicare prescription drug coverage, Traditional Medicare, or Medicare Advantage.” [CMS.gov, [8/16/23](#)]

- **The Inflation Reduction Act Led To Eli Lilly Lowering Their Cost Of Insulin By 70%.** “As part of President Biden’s historic Inflation Reduction Act, nearly four million seniors on Medicare with diabetes started to see their insulin costs capped at \$35 per month this past January, saving some seniors hundreds of dollars for a month’s supply. But in his State of the Union, President Biden made clear that this life-saving benefit should apply to everyone, not just Medicare beneficiaries. This week, Eli Lilly, the largest manufacturer of insulin in the United States is lowering their prices and meeting that call. Eli Lilly announced they are lowering the cost of insulin by 70% and capping what patients pay out-of-pocket for insulin at \$35. This action, driven by the momentum from the Inflation Reduction Act, could benefit millions of Americans with diabetes in all fifty states and U.S. territories. The President continues to call on Congress to finish the job and cap costs at \$35 for all Americans.” [White House, Press Release, [3/2/23](#)]
- **Eli Lilly Lowered Insulin Prices After Biden Called On The Pharmaceutical To Bring Down Prices While Signing The Inflation Reduction Act.** “Lilly says it will also expand its Insulin Value Program, which caps out-of-pocket costs at \$35 or less per month for people who are uninsured. President Joe Biden heralded the announcement as ‘a big deal.’ ‘For far too long, American families have been crushed by drug costs many times higher than what people in other countries are charged for the same prescriptions. Insulin costs less than \$10 to make, but Americans are sometimes forced to pay over \$300 for it. It’s flat wrong,’ Biden said in a statement on Wednesday. The President also urged other pharmaceutical companies to cut insulin prices. ‘Last year, I signed a law to cap insulin at \$35 for seniors and I called on pharma companies to bring prices down for everyone on their own. Today, Eli Lilly did that. It’s a big deal, and it’s time for other manufacturers to follow,’ Biden said. Eli Lilly says it will cut the list price of its nonbranded insulin to \$25 a vial as of May 1, making it the lowest list-priced mealtime insulin available. Its current list price is \$82.41 for a vial.” [CNN, [3/1/23](#)]

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## The Inflation Reduction Allowed Medicare To Negotiate For Cheaper Prescription Drugs

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**U.S. Centers For Medicare And Medicaid Services: The Inflation Reduction Act Improved Medicare By Expanding Benefits, Lowering Drug Costs, And Keeping Drug Premiums Stable.** “The Inflation Reduction Act provides meaningful financial relief for millions of people with Medicare by improving access to affordable treatments and strengthening the Medicare Program both now and in the long-run. The new drug law makes improvements to Medicare that will expand benefits, lower drug costs, keep prescription drug premiums stable, and improve the strength of the Medicare program.” [CMS.gov, accessed [1/6/24](#)]

- **The IRA Allowed Medicare To Negotiate For Cheaper Prescription Drugs At A Limited Scope.** “The bill also makes several smaller changes to limit price increases of drugs overall. Most significantly, the measure directs the government to negotiate what Medicare pays for a small group of drugs starting in 2026. In 2026, the first year that the drugs will be up for negotiation, the list will include the 10 drugs that Medicare spent the most money on the prior year. By 2029, that list would expand to 20 drugs, including medications filled at pharmacies and drugs administered by doctors, such as some chemotherapy treatments. ‘The cost — and the savings to the federal government — goes up significantly as more and more drugs are added,’ said Michael Levesque, lead pharmaceutical analyst at Moody’s Investors Service. The bill limits the government’s scope to negotiate to drugs that have been on the market for at least nine or 13 years, depending on the class of medicine, and that don’t have a generic or biosimilar equivalent. The bill also directs the U.S. to focus on the medications the government spends the most money on.” [CBS News, [8/16/22](#)]

### Vicente Gonzalez Worked With Democrats And Republicans In Congress To Secure Nearly \$300 Million For Border Security And Funding For Thousands Of Border Patrol Agents

**March 2024: Vicente Gonzalez Voted For Passing Fiscal 2024 Further Consolidated Appropriations.** In March 2024, Gonzalez voted for: “Granger, R-Texas, motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H Res 1102) that would provide for the House to concur in the Senate amendment to the legislative vehicle (HR 2882) with an amendment that would provide \$1.2 trillion in total budget authority for the Defense, Financial Services, Homeland Security, Legislative Branch, Labor-HHS-Education and State Foreign Operations spending bills. It would provide \$825 billion for the Defense department; \$26.1 billion for Financial Services and general government; \$89.8 billion for the Homeland Security Department; \$224.7 billion for the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Departments; \$6.7 billion for legislative branch; and \$58.3 billion for the State Department. It would provide \$300 million for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative and \$500 million for Israel defense programs. Among its policy provisions, it would extend the National Flood Insurance Program through Sept. 30, 2024; prohibit the use of funding in fiscal years 2024 or 2025 to make any payment to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency; and increase the number of Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention beds from 34,000 to 41,500.” The motion was agreed by a vote of 286-134. [H. Res. 1102, [Vote #102](#), 3/22/24; CQ, [3/22/24](#)]

- **The Fiscal 2024 Further Consolidated Appropriations Contained Six Appropriations Bills And Helped The Country Avert A Government Shutdown.** “Congress averted a government shutdown by passing the final appropriations bills for FY24 over the weekend. The ‘minibus,’ as it’s called, included the six remaining appropriations bills and accounted for nearly 75% of the federal budget. The passage of this legislation marked the end of the very long, drawn-out fight over FY24 funding almost six months into the fiscal year.” [Council for Opportunity in Education, [3/23/24](#)]
- **The Fiscal 2024 Further Consolidated Appropriations Contained Spending Bills For Defense, Financial Services And General Government, Homeland Security, Labor, Health And Human Services And Education, Legislative Branch, And State And Foreign Operations.** “On March 23, the U.S. Congress passed its second ‘minibus’ appropriations package (H.R. 2882) containing the final Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Defense, Financial Services and General Government, Homeland Security, Labor, Health and Human Services and Education, Legislative Branch, and State and Foreign Operations spending bills. The enactment of this legislation comes two weeks after passage of the other six spending bills and several hours after the March 22

funding deadline set for the included appropriations. With all 12 spending bills now enacted, the federal government is funded through the remainder of Fiscal Year 2024, ending September 31, 2024.” [National Association of Counties, [3/25/24](#)]

**Following Passage Of The Fiscal 2024 Further Consolidated Appropriations, DHS Announced \$300 Million In Funding To Support Communities Providing Services For Migrants.** “Today, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), announced \$300 million in grants through the Shelter and Services Program (SSP), which was authorized by Congress to support communities that are providing services to migrants. \$275 million will be distributed in the first allocation, and the remaining \$25 million will be allocated later in the year to accommodate evolving operational requirements. The initial funding will be available to 55 grant recipients for temporary shelter and other eligible costs associated with migrants awaiting the outcome of their immigration proceedings. Additionally, the Department is announcing \$340.9 million through the Shelter and Services Program-Competitive grant program to be allocated before the end of this Fiscal Year.” [Department of Homeland Security, Press Release, [4/12/24](#)]

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### **The Fiscal 2024 Further Consolidated Appropriations Funded The Hiring Of 22,000 Border Patrol Agents**

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**The Fiscal 2024 Further Consolidated Appropriations Act Awarded \$19.6 Billion In Funding For US Customs And Border Protection, Helping Build The Largest Border Patrol Workforce Ever By Funding The Hiring Of 22,000 Border Patrol Agents.** “Congressman Jared Golden, ME-02, voted today for the final package of appropriations bills to fund the government through September. The package also includes a \$25 million increase for LIHEAP, an essential program that helps keep many Mainers warm in the winter, bringing funding for the program to more than \$4 billion, which is essential to keeping many Mainers warm in the winter. Other provisions include: HOMELAND SECURITY: \$19.6 billion for US Customs and Border Protection, including funding to hire 22,000 border patrol agents, the largest border patrol workforce ever.” [Rep. Jared Golden, Press Release, [3/22/24](#)]

### **Gonzalez Worked To Protect Social Security And Medicare**

**Vicente Gonzalez Voted Against The Republican Debt Limit Package.** In April 2023, Gonzalez voted against: “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would suspend the statutory limit on federal debt through March 31, 2024, or until an additional \$1.5 trillion has been borrowed — whichever occurs first. It would also include a range of provisions to limit federal spending, as well as the text of a previously passed energy and permitting policy package. The bill would set base discretionary spending limits through fiscal 2033, capping spending for fiscal 2024 at the fiscal 2022 level of \$1.47 trillion — a reduction from current spending levels — and raising the cap by 1 percent annually through fiscal 2033. It would also include similar annual cap adjustments for specified programs, including for wildfire suppression, disability reviews and redeterminations, health care fraud and abuse control, and disaster reemployment services and eligibility assessments. The bill would rescind unobligated amounts from various funds provided by the fiscal 2022 reconciliation package (PL 117-169) for COVID-19 relief, IRS enforcement, and certain climate- and infrastructure-focused initiatives, as well as all unobligated funding from the March 2021 coronavirus relief reconciliation package (PL 117-2) and earlier coronavirus response laws. The bill would expand or establish work requirements for Medicaid beneficiaries aged 19 to 55 and raise from 49 to 55 the oldest age at which existing work requirements would apply for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program beneficiaries. It would also modify various work standards for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, including to update the baseline for calculating certain state workforce participation standards and require states to collect certain data related to work outcomes for TANF participants. To limit regulatory spending, the bill would nullify pending executive actions suspending student loan payments and prohibit the Education Department from implementing any substantially similar actions without congressional approval. It would also establish a process to require congressional approval of all “major” federal rules that would have an annual impact of at least \$100 million, cause a major increase in prices, or cause significant adverse effects to economic competitiveness. Among energy- and climate-focused provisions, the bill would repeal, phase out or narrow a variety of climate-focused tax credits under the fiscal 2022 reconciliation package, including repealing new credits for solar and wind

projects, sustainable aviation fuel and clean fuel production. It would also include the full text of the House-passed energy and permitting package (HR 1) that would require a number of actions to boost the domestic production of fossil fuels and certain critical minerals and accelerate the construction of natural gas pipelines and other energy infrastructure, while reversing or repealing certain presidential actions taken and laws enacted during the Biden administration related to energy policy and climate change.” The bill passed by a vote of 217-215. [H.R. 2811, [Vote #199](#), 4/26/23; CQ, [4/26/23](#)]

- **New York Times: The Republican Debt Limit Bill Did Not Include Many Specifics On What Government Spending Would Be Cut.** “Their bill, which would raise the country’s borrowing limit for a year in exchange for a decade of spending reductions, does not include many specifics. It achieves most of its savings with spending caps for discretionary spending — the part of the budget allocated annually by Congress that is not automatic like Social Security payments — but it doesn’t say what discretionary programs should be cut and which ones should be spared.” [New York Times, [5/8/23](#)]
- **Republican Spending Cuts Were Expected To Cut Cancer Research, Nutritional Assistance For Poor Mothers And Infants, And The Social Security Administration Employees By More Than Half.** “The charts above show how exempting big categories of spending would make the budget caps more draconian. Universal discretionary caps would cut spending by an average of 18 percent over a decade, compared with what’s expected if current levels grew according to inflation. But with defense, veterans’ care and homeland security exempted, the caps would result in cutting the rest of the discretionary budget by more than half. Defense is the largest category of discretionary spending in the budget. Veterans’ health care is the second largest. The programs that would be subject to such deeper cuts include nutrition assistance for poor mothers and infants, air traffic control, the State Department, cancer research and Social Security Administration employees.” [New York Times, [5/8/23](#)]

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### **Gonzalez Voted Multiple Times Against Blocking Consideration Of Protecting Social Security And Medicare**

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**Gonzalez Voted Against Blocking Consideration Of Protecting Medicare And Social Security.** In January 2024, Gonzalez voted against: “Houchin, R-Ind., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment).” According to the Congressional Record, Rep. McGovern said, “Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to provide for consideration of a measure that unambiguously states that the people’s House will keep its promise to the American workers and senior citizens. We will protect and preserve Social Security and Medicare for future generations, two important programs that my Republican friends are constantly attacking.” *A vote for the motion was a vote to block consideration of the bill.* The motion was agreed to by a vote of 213-200. [H.Res. 947, [Vote #2](#), 1/10/24; CQ, [1/10/24](#); Congressional Record, [1/10/24](#)]

**Gonzalez Voted Against Blocking Consideration Of Stating That The House Would Not Cut Money From Social Security Or Medicare.** In November 2023, Gonzalez voted against: “Fishbach, R-Minn, motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment).” According to the Congressional Record, Rep. McGovern said, “Madam Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer a resolution to state unequivocally that the House won’t cut a single cent from these crucial programs that so many of our constituents rely on.” *A vote for the motion was a vote to block consideration of the bill.* The motion was rejected by a vote of 213-200. [H.Res. 838, [Vote #565](#), 11/2/23; CQ, [11/2/23](#); Congressional Record, [11/2/23](#)]

**Gonzalez Voted Against Blocking Consideration Of A Resolution To Protect Social Security And Medicare.** In September 2023 Gonzalez { {voted for/voted against/voted Present on/did not vote on} }: “Cole, R-Okla., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment).” According to the Congressional Record, Rep. Fernandez said, “I am going to offer my friends, my dear friends, a chance to show the American people that they are serious about preserving Social Security and Medicare. I urge you all to join us in defeating the previous question. If we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to provide for consideration of a resolution which plainly states that the people’s House won’t cut a single cent from these crucial programs that so many of my constituents, so many of your constituents, rely on.” *A vote for the motion was a vote*

to block consideration of the resolution. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 217-209. [H. Res. 680, [Vote #397](#), 9/19/23; CQ, [9/19/23](#); Congressional Record, [9/19/23](#)]

**Gonzalez Voted Against Blocking Consideration For Protecting Social Security And Medicare.** In November 2023, Gonzalez voted against: “Massie, R-Ky., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment).” According to the Congressional Record, Rep. McGovern said, “we are going to urge our side to defeat the previous question. If we do, I will offer an amendment to the rule to provide for consideration of a measure that unequivocally states that the people’s House will keep its promise to American workers and seniors and that we will protect and preserve Social Security and Medicare and fight against any Republican cuts to these essential programs that so many of our constituents rely on.” *A vote for the motion was a vote to block consideration of the bill.* The motion was agreed to by a vote of 218-206. [H. Res. 864, [Vote #646](#), 11/14/23; CQ, [11/15/23](#); Congressional Record, [11/15/23](#)]

**Gonzalez Voted Against Blocking Consideration Of Protecting Social Security And Medicare.** In November 2023, Gonzalez voted against: “Houchin, R-Ind., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment).” According to the Congressional Record, Rep. Leger Fernandez said, “Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to provide for consideration of a resolution which clearly states that it is the people’s House’s duty to keep our promise to American workers and seniors to protect and preserve Social Security and Medicare and to fight against any cuts to these vital programs.” *A vote for the motion was a vote to block consideration of the bill.* The motion was agreed to by a vote of 217-204. [H.Res. 847, [Vote #601](#), 11/7/23; CQ, [11/7/23](#); Congressional Record, [11/7/23](#)]

**Gonzalez Voted Against Blocking Consideration For Protecting Social Security And Medicare.** In September 2023, Gonzalez voted against: “Resenthaler, R-Pa. motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment).” According to the Congressional Record, Rep. Scanlon said, “Madam Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to provide for consideration of a resolution which clearly states that it is the people’s House’s duty to keep our promise to American workers and seniors to protect and preserve Social Security and Medicare and fight against any cuts to these vital programs.” *A vote for the motion was a vote to block consideration of the bill.* The motion was agreed to by a vote of 218-207. [H.Res. 756, [Vote #516](#), 10/3/23; CQ, [10/3/23](#); Congressional Record, [10/3/23](#)]

## TX-34 Message #2 Backup

*Mayra Flores made life more expensive for South Texas families, voting against lowering the cost of prescription drugs and capping insulin at \$35 a month.*

**Mayra Flores Made Life More Expensive For South Texas Families, Voting Against Lowering The Cost Of Prescription Drugs And Capping Insulin At \$35 A Month.**

**Flores Opposed And Voted Against The Inflation Reduction Act**

**Flores Voted Against The Senate Amendment To H.R. 5376, The Inflation Reduction Act, And Said It Was “Nothing More Than A Giveaway To Liberal Donors At The Expense Of Us, The Average American”**

*Flores Said, “This Bill Is Nothing More Than A Giveaway To Liberal Donors At The Expense Of Us, The Average American”*

**Flores Said, “This Bill Is Nothing More Than A Giveaway To Liberal Donors At The Expense Of Us, The Average American.”** “U.S. Congresswoman Mayra Flores (TX-34) released the following statement after voting ‘No’ on the Senate Amendment to H.R. 5376, as this bill would worsen inflation, increase IRS audits with the hiring of 87,000 agents, and result in more expensive healthcare for all South Texans: ‘I may be new to Congress,

but anyone who thinks that injecting \$745 billion dollars into an economy already coping with record high inflation is a good idea, should think again,' said Congresswoman Flores. 'This bill is nothing more than a giveaway to liberal donors at the expense of us, the average American. 'Can't afford food, gas, or medicine? too bad, enjoy your tax audit' is clearly the attitude this Administration and liberals in Congress have embraced.' For reference, the mean household income in TX-34 is \$58,810. This means, it would take over 12.6+ million years for an average household in our district to pay off this one legislative bill. Additional background on the legislation passed by the House today: Going After Families & Small Businesses: Provides the IRS with \$80 billion dollar in new funding This is 6 times its current budget \$45.6 billion is budgeted for 'enforcement', also known as audits Impacting individuals and small businesses directly Allows for the hiring of 87,000 IRS agents This is more than 3x the current amount of CBP officers More employees than the Pentagon currently has Twice the size of the Coast Guard and 5x the size of Space Force Tax Increases: Increases taxes by nearly \$17 Billion for taxpayers earning less than \$200k Raises taxes by nearly \$14.1 billion for taxpayers earning between \$200-500K Places a \$52 billion tax increase on small businesses Places a \$72 billion tax increase on seniors' retirement and 401(k)s New Spending \$400+ Billion for Green New Deal initiatives, for example: \$1.3 billion to boost the sale of luxury electric vehicles \$27 billion for a national climate bank." [Office of Rep. Mayra Flores via Internet Archive, Press Release, archived [12/31/22](#)]

### ***Flores Voted Against Passing The Inflation Reduction Act Through Reconciliation***

**Flores Voted Against Passing The Inflation Reduction Act Through Reconciliation.** In August 2022 Flores voted against: "Yarmuth, D-Ky., motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the bill comprising a package of climate, tax and health care provisions. Among drug pricing provisions, the bill would require the Health and Human Services Department to negotiate a 'maximum fair price' with drug manufacturers for certain Medicare-eligible, brand-name drugs that do not have generic competition; cap cost-sharing for insulin products covered under Medicare at \$35 a month; and require single-source drug manufacturers to provide rebates to HHS for the price of drugs under Medicare Parts B and D for which price increases outpace inflation. For Medicare Part D, it would cap the annual out-of-pocket limit at \$2,000. It would extend through 2025 tax subsidies toward Affordable Care Act marketplace insurance premiums for individuals under a certain income level. The bill would provide for approximately \$270 billion in new or expanded tax credits to incentivize actions by businesses and individuals to mitigate climate change, including production credits for electricity produced by renewable and nuclear facilities; investment tax credits for certain renewable energy equipment and facilities; and credits for advanced energy manufacturing projects, including in areas where a coal mine or power plant has closed. To incentivize emission reduction and clean fuel production, it would create or extend tax credits for carbon oxide sequestration facilities; biodiesel, renewable diesel and alternative fuels; and clean hydrogen facilities. For most of its corporate tax credits, it would add prevailing wage and apprenticeship requirements and establish bonus credits for using domestic materials in facility construction. It would also expand individual tax credits for residential energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy expenses; increase credits for new energy efficient homes; and create credits for the purchase of used electric vehicles by individuals under a certain income level. It would reinstate the Superfund tax on crude oil at a rate of 16.4 cents per barrel. Among other tax provisions, the bill would establish a 15 percent alternative minimum tax for corporations with a book income of at least \$1 million annually and institute a 1 percent excise tax on corporate stock buybacks. It would authorize \$79.3 billion for IRS operations, including enforcement activities and systems modernization. The bill would provide funding for various activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote energy-efficient technologies and mitigate the impacts of climate change, including \$27 billion for grants to state, local and nonprofit entities for greenhouse gas emission reduction activities; \$9.7 billion for zero-emission or carbon capture rural electric systems; \$5 billion for loan guarantees to replace or reduce emissions of energy infrastructure; \$3 billion for zero-emission vehicles for the Postal Service; and \$1.6 billion for methane emissions reduction and mitigation. It would provide \$9 billion for residential energy efficiency improvement rebates; \$3 billion for new EPA environmental and climate justice block grants for community-led activities to address pollution, emission reduction, climate resiliency and public engagement; and \$3 billion for Federal Highway Administration grants for projects that address surface transportation facilities that disconnect or negatively impact communities. It would provide \$4 billion for drought mitigation in Western states; \$2.15 billion for hazardous fuel reduction and restoration projects; and \$1 billion to improve energy and water efficiency or climate resilience of affordable housing. It would require the Interior Department to accept bids for

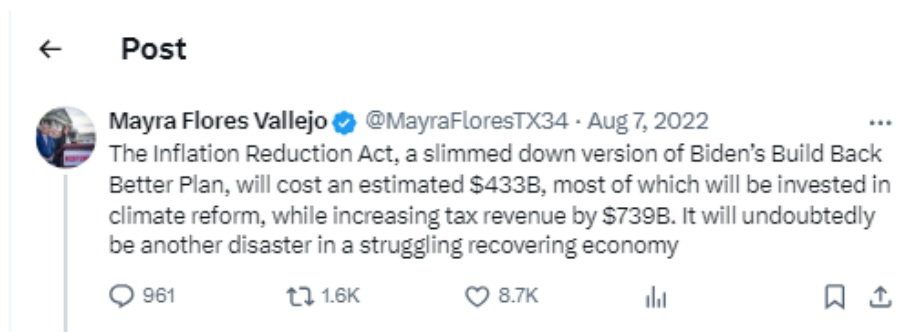
certain canceled oil and gas leases on the outer continental shelf. It would authorize wind lease sales adjacent to U.S. territories but prohibit new wind or solar development rights on federal lands for 10 years unless the department completes certain oil or gas lease sales.” The bill passed by a vote of 220-207. [H.R. 5376, [Vote #420](#), 8/12/22; CQ, [8/12/22](#)]

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### **Flores Said The Inflation Reduction Act “Will Undoubtedly Be Another Disaster In A Struggling Recovering Economy”**

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**Flores Said The Inflation Reduction Act “Will Undoubtedly Be Another Disaster In A Struggling Recovering Economy.”** “The Inflation Reduction Act, a slimmed down version of Biden’s Build Back Better Plan, will cost an estimated \$433B, most of which will be invested in climate reform, while increasing tax revenue by \$739B. It will undoubtedly be another disaster in a struggling recovering economy.” [Mayra Flores Vallejo, Twitter, [8/7/22](#)]



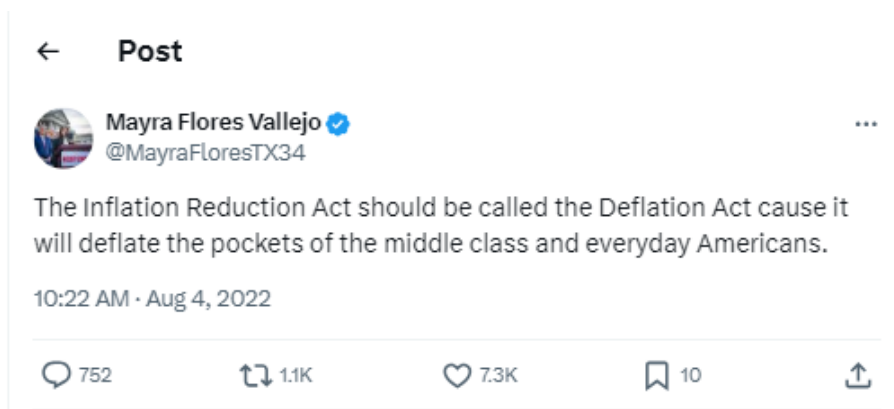
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### **Flores Said The Inflation Reduction Act Would “Deflate The Pockets Of The Middle Class And Everyday Americans”**

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**Flores Said, “The Inflation Reduction Act Should Be Called The Deflation Act Cause It Will Deflate The Pockets Of The Middle Class And Everyday Americans.”** “The Inflation Reduction Act should be called the Deflation Act cause it will deflate the pockets of the middle class and everyday Americans.” [Mayra Flores Vallejo, Twitter, [8/4/22](#)]



[Mayra Flores Vallejo, Twitter, [8/4/22](#)]

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### **The Inflation Reduction Act Capped The Price Of Insulin At \$35 Per Month For Seniors And Allowed Medicare To Negotiate Cheaper Drug Prices**

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**The Inflation Reduction Act Protected Seniors By Capping Prescription Prices At \$2000 Out Of Pocket Annually, As Well As Free Vaccines For All Seniors And Medicare Insulin Prices Being Capped At \$35 Per Month.** “The package would cap the out-of-pocket costs that seniors pay annually for prescription drugs at \$2,000, and would ensure that seniors have access to free vaccines. Lawmakers also included a rebate should price increases outpace the rate of inflation. [...] Republicans successfully challenged the inclusion of a \$35 price cap on insulin for patients on private insurance during a rapid-fire series of amendment votes early Sunday morning, forcing its removal. But a separate proposal that caps the price of insulin at \$35 per month for Medicare patients remained intact.” [New York Times, [8/7/22](#)]

**Centers For Medicare & Medicaid Services: The Inflation Reduction Act Ensured People With Medicare Paid No More Than \$35 For A Month’s Supply Of Covered Insulin Product.** “The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 was signed into law on August 16, 2022. The new law provides meaningful financial relief for millions of people with Medicare by improving access to affordable treatments and strengthening the Medicare Program both now and in the long run. The law makes improvements to Medicare by expanding benefits, lowering drug costs, keeping prescription drug premiums stable, and improving the strength of the Medicare program. The law also extends enhanced financial help to purchase HealthCare.gov and state-based Marketplace plans and expands access to Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended vaccines for adults with Medicaid coverage. Specifically, the Inflation Reduction Act: Ensures that people with Medicare pay no more than \$35 for a month’s supply for each covered insulin product under Medicare prescription drug coverage, Traditional Medicare, or Medicare Advantage.” [CMS.gov, [8/16/23](#)]

- **The Inflation Reduction Act Led To Eli Lilly Lowering Their Cost Of Insulin By 70%.** “As part of President Biden’s historic Inflation Reduction Act, nearly four million seniors on Medicare with diabetes started to see their insulin costs capped at \$35 per month this past January, saving some seniors hundreds of dollars for a month’s supply. But in his State of the Union, President Biden made clear that this life-saving benefit should apply to everyone, not just Medicare beneficiaries. This week, Eli Lilly, the largest manufacturer of insulin in the United States is lowering their prices and meeting that call. Eli Lilly announced they are lowering the cost of insulin by 70% and capping what patients pay out-of-pocket for insulin at \$35. This action, driven by the momentum from the Inflation Reduction Act, could benefit millions of Americans with diabetes in all fifty states and U.S. territories. The President continues to call on Congress to finish the job and cap costs at \$35 for all Americans.” [White House, Press Release, [3/2/23](#)]
- **Eli Lilly Lowered Insulin Prices After Biden Called On The Pharmaceutical To Bring Down Prices While Signing The Inflation Reduction Act.** “Lilly says it will also expand its Insulin Value Program, which caps out-of-pocket costs at \$35 or less per month for people who are uninsured. President Joe Biden heralded the announcement as ‘a big deal.’ ‘For far too long, American families have been crushed by drug costs many times higher than what people in other countries are charged for the same prescriptions. Insulin costs less than \$10 to make, but Americans are sometimes forced to pay over \$300 for it. It’s flat wrong,’ Biden said in a statement on Wednesday. The President also urged other pharmaceutical companies to cut insulin prices. ‘Last year, I signed a law to cap insulin at \$35 for seniors and I called on pharma companies to bring prices down for everyone on their own. Today, Eli Lilly did that. It’s a big deal, and it’s time for other manufacturers to follow,’ Biden said. Eli Lilly says it will cut the list price of its nonbranded insulin to \$25 a vial as of May 1, making it the lowest list-priced mealtime insulin available. Its current list price is \$82.41 for a vial.” [CNN, [3/1/23](#)]

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### **The Inflation Reduction Allowed Medicare To Negotiate For Cheaper Prescription Drugs**

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**U.S. Centers For Medicare And Medicaid Services: The Inflation Reduction Act Improved Medicare By Expanding Benefits, Lowering Drug Costs, And Keeping Drug Premiums Stable.** “The Inflation Reduction Act provides meaningful financial relief for millions of people with Medicare by improving access to affordable treatments and strengthening the Medicare Program both now and in the long-run. The new drug law makes improvements to Medicare that will expand benefits, lower drug costs, keep prescription drug premiums stable, and improve the strength of the Medicare program.” [CMS.gov, accessed [1/6/24](#)]

- **The IRA Allowed Medicare To Negotiate For Cheaper Prescription Drugs At A Limited Scope.** “The bill also makes several smaller changes to limit price increases of drugs overall. Most significantly, the measure directs the government to negotiate what Medicare pays for a small group of drugs starting in 2026. In 2026, the first year that the drugs will be up for negotiation, the list will include the 10 drugs that Medicare spent the most money on the prior year. By 2029, that list would expand to 20 drugs, including medications filled at pharmacies and drugs administered by doctors, such as some chemotherapy treatments. ‘The cost — and the savings to the federal government — goes up significantly as more and more drugs are added,’ said Michael Levesque, lead pharmaceutical analyst at Moody's Investors Service. The bill limits the government's scope to negotiate to drugs that have been on the market for at least nine or 13 years, depending on the class of medicine, and that don't have a generic or biosimilar equivalent. The bill also directs the U.S. to focus on the medications the government spends the most money on.” [CBS News, [8/16/22](#)]

## TX-34 Message #3 Backup

*Flores co-sponsored a total national abortion ban with no exceptions, even in the case of rape or if the mother's health is in danger.*

### **Flores Co-Sponsored A Total National Abortion Ban With No Exceptions, Even In The Case Of Rape Or If The Mother's Health Is In Danger.**

#### **2022: Flores Cosponsored The Life At Conception Act Which Would Ban Nearly All Abortions Nationwide With No Exceptions**

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##### **July 2022: Flores Cosponsored The Life At Conception Act**

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**July 2022: Flores Cosponsored The Life At Conception Act.** Flores cosponsored H.R. 1011 – Life at Conception Act on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022. [Congress.gov, H.R. 1011 – Life at Conception Act, cosponsored [7/14/22](#)]

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##### **The Life At Conception Act Would Ban Nearly All Abortions Nationwide With No Exceptions**

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**Life At Conception Act: “This Bill Declares That The Right To Life Guaranteed By The Constitution Is Vested In Each Human Being At All Stages Of Life, Including The Moment Of Fertilization, Cloning, Or Other Moment At Which An Individual Comes Into Being.”** [H.R. 431, Introduced [1/20/23](#)]

**The Life At Conception Act Would Implement Equal Protection Of The Right To Life For “Each [...] Preborn Human Person.”** “To implement equal protection under the 14th article of amendment to the Constitution for the right to life of each born and preborn human person. [...] To implement equal protection for the right to life of each born and preborn human person, and pursuant to the duty and authority of the Congress, including Congress' power under article I, section 8, to make necessary and proper laws, and Congress' power under section 5 of the 14th article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the Congress hereby declares that the right to life guaranteed by the Constitution is vested in each human being.” [Congress.gov, [1/20/23](#)]

**Washington Post: The Life At Conception Act Would “Ban Nearly All Abortions Nationwide.”** “The congressional proposal, known as the Life at Conception Act, defines a “human being” to “include each member of the species homo sapiens at all stages of life, including the moment of fertilization or cloning, or other moment at which an individual member of the human species comes into being.” The bill would also provide equal protection under the 14th Amendment “for the right to life of each born and preborn human person.” The measure has no provisions for processes like IVF, meaning access to the procedure would not be protected. It would ban nearly all abortions nationwide.” [Washington Post, [2/25/24](#)]

**The Life At Conception Act Did Not List Any Exceptions, Including Life Of Mother, Rape, Or Incest.**  
[Congress.gov, [1/20/23](#)]

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## **The Life At Conception Act Could Be Used To Attack Contraception And IVF**

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**NARAL President: Life At Conception Act Could Be Used “To Really Attack Issues Like Contraception And Even Fertility Treatments Like IVF.”** “Mini Timmaraju, President of NARAL, sees Mooney’s bill as a slippery slope. ‘I think life starts at conception is a line that’s used by extremist right-wing folks to really attack issues like contraception and even fertility treatments like IVF (in vitro fertilization). So, look, we know that that’s not based on science. However, that rhetoric is used to go after a much broader range of reproductive rights and services. So it’s really important that Americans understand what that’s code for. That’s code for going after your fundamental, basic, everyday medication like birth control. It’s code for going after something that we know more and more American women rely on to expand their families and to have children, which is IVF. It’s very dangerous. And we’re going to do everything we can to block any efforts at legislation that tries to do that,’ said Timmaraju.” [Gray DC, [1/25/23](#)]

## **TX-34 Message #4 Backup**

*Flores is an extreme MAGA Republican, voting against protecting access to birth control, against a law to prevent gun violence supported by both parties and even opposes the right of gay couples to marry.*

**Flores Is An Extreme MAGA Republican, Voting Against Protecting Access To Birth Control, Against A Law To Prevent Gun Violence Supported By Both Parties And Even Opposes The Right Of Gay Couples To Marry.**

**2022: Flores Voted Against The Right To Contraception Act Which Protected Access To Birth Control**

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**July 2022: Flores Voted Against Establishing A Statutory Right For Individuals To Obtain Contraceptives And For Health Care Providers To Provide Contraceptives, Contraception And Related Information**

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**July 2022: Flores Voted Against Establishing A Statutory Right For Individuals To Obtain Contraceptives And For Health Care Providers To Provide Contraceptives, Contraception And Related Information.** In July 2022, Flores voted against: “Passage of the bill that would establish that individuals have a statutory right to obtain contraceptives and health care providers have a right to provide contraceptives, contraception and related information. It would prohibit any limitation or infringement of these rights that impedes access to or singles out the provision or providers of contraceptives, contraception or related information. It would supersede any federal and state law that conflicts with its provisions. It would allow the U.S. attorney general or a harmed individual to bring a civil action in U.S. district court for equitable relief against an individual who violates these provisions. It would allow health care providers to bring action on behalf of themselves, their staff or their patients.” The bill passed 228-195. [HR 8373, Vote #385, [7/21/22](#); CQ, [7/21/22](#)]

- **Huffington Post: Right To Contraception Act “Codifies The Right To Birth Control And Other Contraceptives Amid Fears That The Supreme Court May Come For That Aspect Of Reproductive Health Care Next.”** “The House passed the Right to Contraception Act on Thursday — a bill that codifies the right to birth control and other contraceptives amid fears that the Supreme Court may come for that aspect of reproductive health care next after the high court repealed *Roe v. Wade*’s protection of abortion rights last month. [...] The Right to Contraception Act, introduced by Rep. Kathy Manning (D-N.C.), codifies the right to birth control into federal law by creating a statutory right for people to obtain and use contraceptives, as well as codifying protections for physicians who provide contraceptives. The bill protects a range of contraceptives approved by the Food and Drug Administration and defines contraception as any ‘action taken to prevent

pregnancy, including the use of contraceptives or fertility-awareness based methods, and sterilization procedures.’ The bill authorizes the Department of Justice to take civil action against any federal or state official who attempts to restrict birth control access, and it allows those affected to also take civil action against anyone who attempts to enforce any restriction on contraception.” [Huffington Post, [7/21/22](#)]

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### **Flores Said The Birth Control Access Legislation “Creates A Back Door To Abortion”**

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**Texas Tribune: Flores Said The Birth Control Access Legislation “Creates A Back Door To Abortion.”** “The controversial votes did not end there, though. With Democrats looking to codify same-sex marriage and birth control access after the Roe ruling, Flores voted against bills to do both of those things. She said the birth control bill ‘creates a back door to abortion’” [Texas Tribune, [7/27/22](#)]

- **Flores: “I Would Never Vote For A Bill That Creates A Back Door For Abortion, Which Is What This Bill Will Do.”** “I am pro-life and I will never be ashamed of such. I would never vote for a bill that creates a back door for abortion, which is what this bill will do. Supreme Court already gave Americans the right to buy and use contraception without government restriction in 1965.” [Mayra Flores Vallejo, Twitter, [7/22/22](#)]



[Mayra Flores Vallejo, Twitter, [7/22/22](#)]

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### **Flores Was The Only U.S. Representative From The Texas-Mexico Border Region To Vote Against Senator Cornyn’s Gun Safety Legislation**

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### **Flores Was The Only U.S. Representative From The Texas-Mexico Border Region To Vote Against Senator Cornyn’s Gun Safety Legislation**

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**Flores Was The Only U.S. Representative From The Texas-Mexico Border Region To Vote Against Senator Cornyn’s Gun Safety Legislation.** “Newly sworn-in Congresswoman Mayra Flores was the only U.S. representative from the Texas-Mexico border region to vote against gun safety legislation authored by Sen. John Cornyn. The bipartisan Safer Communities Act has been signed into law by President Biden. It won the support of four of the five members of Congress representing the Texas-Mexico border region: Veronica Escobar, Tony Gonzales, Henry Cuellar, and Vicente Gonzalez.” [Rio Grande Guardian, [6/26/22](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Flores Is Sole Border Rep. To Vote Against Cornyn’s Gun Safety Legislation.”** [Rio Grande Guardian, [6/26/22](#)]

**Flores Voted Against The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Gun Violence Package.** In June 2022 Flores voted against: “Nadler, D-N.Y., motion to concur in the Senate amendments to the House amendment to the

bipartisan gun violence package that would provide over \$4.6 billion in emergency funding through fiscal 2026 to address gun violence and mental health, and tighten restrictions on firearm purchases. Within total appropriations, the bill would provide \$2.1 billion for Education Department support for school-based mental health services and student engagement activities and \$990 million for Health and Human Service Department mental health programs, including \$50 million for grants to states to implement or expand school-based health programs under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. It would require the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to provide guidance to states on increasing access to telehealth care, including mental health services, under Medicare and CHIP. It would expand a Medicaid community behavioral health clinic demonstration program, allowing up to 10 new states to opt into the program every two years. It would reauthorize the Pediatric Mental Health Care Access grant program for five years and authorize teleconsults for emergency departments and schools under the program. It would require the Homeland Security Department, in consultation with the Education, Justice and Health and Human Services departments, to establish and publish online a federal clearinghouse for evidence-based practices and recommendations to improve school safety. It would prohibit the use of certain existing Education Department school grants to provide or train staff in the use of dangerous weapons. Within total appropriations, the bill would provide \$1.6 billion for Justice Department activities to support school security, community violence intervention, community-oriented policing and background check system improvements, including \$750 million for new grants under the Byrne JAG program to implement state crisis intervention programs, including mental health, drug and veterans courts, as well as extreme risk protection order or 'red flag' programs, provided they include certain due process protections. It would expand background check requirements by requiring the National Instant Criminal Background Check System to check juvenile criminal and mental health adjudication records for gun purchasers under 21 years of age and apply the existing criteria for disqualification based on crimes committed as a juvenile or adjudication of mental illness at 16 years or older. It would narrow the definition of a federally licensed firearm dealer to require registration by all individuals who sell firearms to predominately earn a profit to register. It would close the 'boyfriend loophole' by applying restrictions on gun ownership for individuals convicted of domestic violence to include violence against a current or former dating partner. It would prohibit firearm trafficking and 'straw purchases,' or the knowing acquisition of firearms on behalf of another individual who is prohibited from owning a firearm or intends to use the firearm to commit a felony. As an offset, the bill would extend for one year, until Jan. 1, 2027, a moratorium delaying implementation of a rule eliminating anti-kickback statute safe harbor protection for prescription drug rebates. It would increase funding available for the Medicare Improvement Fund from \$5 million to \$7.5 billion." The motion was agreed to, (thus cleared for the president), by a vote of 234-193. [S. 2938, [Vote #299](#), 6/24/22; CQ, [6/24/22](#)]

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## **15 Republican Senators And 14 House Republicans Joined Democrats To Vote For The Package Of Gun Safety Reforms**

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**June 2022: 15 Republican Senators And 14 House Republicans Joined Democrats To Vote For A Package Of Gun Safety Reforms.** "In the wake of a recent streak of large mass shootings, the House of Representatives passed a bipartisan gun safety package on Friday, 234-193, one day after the bill cleared the Senate. [...] Sens. John Cornyn of Texas (R-TX), Thom Tillis (R-NC), Chris Murphy (D-CT), and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) were the primary negotiators. Ultimately, 15 Republicans and 50 members of the Democratic caucus ended up joining them in voting for the bill. The vote was bipartisan on the House side too, with 14 GOP lawmakers — including Rep. Tony Gonzales, whose district includes Uvalde — voting yes." [Vox, [6/24/22](#)]

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## **The Legislation Was Based On A Framework Announced By Senator Cornyn And A Bipartisan Group Of U.S. Senators In The Aftermath Of The Uvalde Shooting**

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**Senator Cornyn And A Bipartisan Group Of U.S. Senators Announced The Framework For The Legislation To Address The Gun Violence In The Aftermath Of The Uvalde Shooting.** "A bipartisan group of U.S. senators, including Texan John Cornyn, announced Sunday the framework for a legislative deal to address gun violence in the aftermath of the May 24 mass shooting that left 19 children and two teachers dead at a Uvalde elementary school. The tentative deal, for which Cornyn was the lead negotiator, includes a mix of modest gun control proposals and funding for mental health. It would incentivize states to pass 'red flag' laws, which are designed to keep guns out of the hands of individuals who pose a threat to themselves or others; boost funding for

mental health services, telehealth resources and more school security; permit juvenile records to be incorporated into background checks for purchasers under the age of 21; and crack down on the straw purchase and trafficking of guns.” [Texas Tribune, [6/12/22](#)]

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### **2022: Flores Said She Voted Against The Successful Bipartisan Gun Deal Because It “Did Not Provide Enough Money For School Safety And That The Process Was Too Rushed”**

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**July 2022: Flores Said She Voted Against The Successful Bipartisan Gun Deal Because It “Did Not Provide Enough Money For School Safety And That The Process Was Too Rushed.”** “The news obscured a more politically sensitive matter looming that morning for Flores, at least in her view. The Senate had just passed a bipartisan gun control bill, the first significant one in a generation, partly in response to the Uvalde school shooting in May. The House vote on the legislation would be Flores’ first major vote in Congress, and she had declined to tell a CNN reporter the night before how she would vote. She ended up joining most of her GOP colleagues in voting no, even as the full House approved the bill and sent it to Biden’s desk. She issued a statement afterward saying the proposal did not provide enough money for school safety and that the process was too rushed.” [Texas Tribune, [7/27/22](#)]

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### **BBC: “The Most Significant US Gun Control Bill In Nearly 30 Years” Was Signed Into Law By President Biden After It Passed With Bipartisan Support**

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**BBC: “The Most Significant US Gun Control Bill In Nearly 30 Years” Was Signed Into Law By President Biden After It Passed With Bipartisan Support.** “The most significant US gun control bill in nearly 30 years has been signed into law by President Joe Biden. It imposes tougher checks on young buyers and encourages states to remove guns from people considered a threat. Congress approved the legislation with bipartisan support this week, following a spate of mass shootings. [...] The new legislation is also significant because it is the first time in decades that the reforms have received support from both Democrats and Republicans. Historically, efforts to strengthen US gun laws have been blocked by the Republican party. The National Rifle Association (NRA) opposed the bill, arguing that it would not stop the violence.” [BBC, [6/25/22](#)]

- **NPR: President Biden Signed Into Law “The First Major Gun Safety Legislation Pass By Congress In Nearly 30 Years.”** “President Biden on Saturday signed into law the first major gun safety legislation passed by Congress in nearly 30 years. The signing comes just over a month after the mass shooting at a Texas elementary school killed 19 children and two adults. That attack came 10 days after a racist mass shooting at a Buffalo, N.Y., supermarket killed 10 Black people.” [NPR, [6/25/22](#)]

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### **The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Enhanced Background Checks For Firearm Purchasers Under 21, Tightened The Boyfriend Loophole, And Invested In Community Based Violence Prevention Programs**

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**The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Enhanced Background Checks For Firearm Purchasers Under 21, Tightened The Boyfriend Loophole, And Invested In Community Based Violence Prevention Programs.** “Arguably, the subsequent success of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which President Biden signed into law in June, shows that the organizing of recent years has at last paid off; among other provisions, the legislation enhanced background checks for gun buyers under 21, tightened the ‘boyfriend loophole’ for domestic abusers and invested \$250 million in community-based violence prevention programs.” [Washington Post, [9/21/22](#)]

- **The Bipartisan Gun Control Bill Limited Access To Guns For Domestic Abusers.** “The bipartisan bill, which includes measures to limit access to guns among young adults, individuals who have committed acts of domestic violence, and individuals who are considered a danger to themselves or society, was then sent to President Biden, who signed the measure into law on Saturday, noting that it was the ‘most significant’ gun violence legislation in almost three decades. [...] ‘It funds crisis intervention, including ‘red flag’ laws. It keeps guns out of the hands of people who are a danger to themselves and to others,’ Biden said. ‘And it finally closes

what is known as ‘the boyfriend loophole.’ So if you assault your boyfriend or girlfriend, you can’t buy a gun or own a gun.” [Advisory Board, [6/28/22](#)]

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## **The Bipartisan Gun Bill Provided Grant Funding For Red Flag Programs If They Included Certain Due Process Protections**

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**The Bipartisan Gun Bill Provided Grant Funding For Red Flag Programs If They Included Certain Due Process Protections.** “Nadler, D-N.Y., motion to concur in the Senate amendments to the House amendment to the bipartisan gun violence package that would provide over \$4.6 billion in emergency funding through fiscal 2026 to address gun violence and mental health, and tighten restrictions on firearm purchases. [...] Within total appropriations, the bill would provide \$1.6 billion for Justice Department activities to support school security, community violence intervention, community-oriented policing and background check system improvements, including \$750 million for new grants under the Byrne JAG program to implement state crisis intervention programs, including mental health, drug and veterans courts, as well as extreme risk protection order or ‘red flag’ programs, provided they include certain due process protections.” [CQ, [6/24/22](#)]

- **Red Flag Laws Allowed People To Petition State Courts For The Temporary Removal Of Firearms From Someone Who Presents A Danger To Themselves Or Others.** “States can also get funding to implement their ‘red flag laws’ if such laws include provisions that protect due process — including the right to be represented by a lawyer, the right to an in-person hearing and the right to know opposing evidence. (Opponents of red flag laws argue that they infringe on due process rights.) The bill does not implement a federal red flag law. Such laws, which allow people to petition a state court to order the temporary removal of firearms from a person who might present a danger to themselves or others, exist in 19 states and Washington D.C.” [PolitiFact, [6/24/22](#)]
- **Red Flag Laws, Also Known As Extreme Risk Protection Orders, “Allow[ed] Police, Family Members, Or Even Doctors To Petition A Court To Take Away Someone’s Firearms For Up To A Year If They Feel That Person Is A Threat To Themselves Or Others.”** “Red-flag laws allow police, family members or even doctors to petition a court to take away someone’s firearms for up to a year if they feel that person is a threat to themselves or others. Nineteen states and the District of Columbia — including two Republican-controlled states, Florida and Indiana — have some form of this law on the books. [...] You’ll also hear these laws called ‘extreme risk protection orders’ — a term that gun policy experts favor because it doesn’t carry stigma for those on the receiving end of a petition.” [Washington Post, [6/14/22](#)]

**President Biden Signed A Bipartisan Bill Into Law To Provide Funding For States To Carry Out Red Flag Laws To Prevent Dangerous People From Obtaining Firearms.** “President Biden on Saturday signed into law a bipartisan gun bill intended to prevent dangerous people from accessing firearms and increase investments in the nation’s mental health system, ending nearly three decades of gridlock in Washington over how to address gun violence in the United States. [...] The gun legislation will expand the background check system for prospective gun buyers under the age of 21, giving authorities up to 10 business days to examine juvenile and mental health records. It sets aside millions of dollars so states can fund intervention programs, such as mental health and drug courts, and carry out so-called red flag laws that allow authorities to temporarily confiscate guns from any person found by a judge to be too dangerous to possess them. It pours more federal money into mental health resources in communities and schools across the country, and it sets aside millions for school safety.” [New York Times, [6/25/22](#)]

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## **The Bipartisan Gun Bill Signed By President Biden Toughened Laws Against Gun Trafficking**

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**The Bipartisan Gun Bill Signed By President Biden Toughened Laws Against Gun Trafficking.** “President Biden on Saturday signed into law a bipartisan gun bill intended to prevent dangerous people from accessing firearms and increase investments in the nation’s mental health system, ending nearly three decades of gridlock in Washington over how to address gun violence in the United States. [...] The legislation also toughens laws against the trafficking of guns and straw purchasing, the practice of buying a gun on behalf of someone barred from

purchasing one. And for the first time, it includes serious or recent dating partners in a ban on domestic abusers buying firearms, tightening what is known as the boyfriend loophole.” [New York Times, [6/25/22](#)]

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### **The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Made It Easier To Prosecute Straw Purchasers Who Purchase Firearms For Others Who Should Not Own Them**

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**The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Made It Easier To Prosecute Straw Purchasers Who Purchase Firearms For Others Who Should Not Own Them.** “The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act was passed in late June and it allowed for more extensive background checks and is expected to help prosecute firearm traffickers more severely. We spoke with U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich from New Mexico who helped write this new bill to include a law that would help stop gun trafficking and give stronger penalties to those who engaged in it. Heinrich said the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act will make it easier to prosecute straw purchasers, which are those who purchase firearms for other people that should not own firearms. He said guns are often trafficked in this way into South America and Mexico. ‘Something like 70 percent of the guns recovered after a crime actually are American firearms that were then through a straw purchaser purchased and then trafficked to feed the drug war in places like Mexico,’ said Heinrich.” [KFOX14, [8/15/22](#)]

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### **Flores Voted Against The Respect For Marriage Act**

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**Flores Voted Against The Respect For Marriage Act To Codify The Right To Marry For Same-Sex And Interracial Couples.** In July 2022 Flores Voted Against: “Passage of the bill that would codify the right to marry, regardless of sexual orientation or race. Specifically, it would prohibit any person acting under color of state law from denying full faith and credit to, or any rights based on, a marriage between two individuals on the basis of the individuals' sex, race, ethnicity or national origin. It would allow the U.S. attorney general or a harmed individual to bring a civil action in U.S. district court for declaratory and injunctive relief against an individual who violates these provisions. The bill would also replace the current federal definition of marriage, which defines marriage as a union between one man and one woman, to define a marriage as valid if it is valid in the place where the marriage was entered into and would be considered valid in a U.S. state.” The bill passed by a vote of 267-157. [H.R. 8404, [Vote #373](#), 7/19/22; CQ, [7/19/22](#)]

- **The Respect For Marriage Provided Statutory Authority For Same-Sex And Interracial Marriages.** “The House of Representatives passed a bill on Tuesday aimed at protecting marriage equality. The Respect for Marriage Act passed the House with a 267-157 vote, with 47 Republicans joining all the supporting Democrats present. The bill provides statutory authority for same-sex and interracial marriages and is a direct response to Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas’s call for targeting multiple decisions that protect LGBTQ+ rights. For federal purposes, the bill would also repeal the provisions that define marriage as between a man and woman, and spouse as a person of the opposite sex, so that all marriage can be valid under state law. Local representatives weighed in on the vote as follows: Mayra Flores (R) 34th District: Nay.” [Valley Central, [7/19/22](#)]
- **HEADLINE: “Rep. Mayra Flores Votes Against Bill Protecting Gay Marriage.”** [Valley Central, [7/19/22](#)]

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### **The Respect For Marriage Act Passed The House With Bipartisan Support**

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**The Respect For Marriage Act Passed The House With Bipartisan Support And Included Protections For Same-Sex Marriage And Interracial Marriage Amid Concerns Following The Reversal Of Roe V. Wade.** “The Democrat-led House of Representatives on Tuesday voted to pass a bill that would enshrine protections for same-sex marriage into federal law. The bipartisan final vote was 267 to 157 with 47 Republicans joining with Democrats to vote for the bill. It's not clear, however, whether the bill can pass the Senate where at least 10 Republicans would need to join with Democrats to overcome the filibuster's 60-vote threshold. The vote comes amid fears among Democrats that the conservative majority on the Supreme Court could take aim at same-sex marriage in the future, after the high court overturned Roe v. Wade in a highly consequential reversal of



longstanding legal precedent. The bill -- called the Respect for Marriage Act -- was introduced by Democratic Rep. Jerry Nadler of New York, the chair of the House Judiciary Committee. In addition to safeguarding the right to same-sex marriage nationwide, the bill also includes federal protections for interracial marriages. The measure holds that a marriage must be recognized under federal law if the marriage was legal in the state where it took place. The bill would also enact additional legal safeguards for married couples intended to prevent discrimination on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity or national origin, including empowering the attorney general to pursue enforcement actions.” [CNN, [7/19/22](#)]

**The Respect For Marriage Act Repealed The Defense Of Marriage Act.** “The House on Tuesday passed the Respect for Marriage Act, which would protect marriage equality by repealing the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and providing federal protections for same-sex and interracial couples. The bill passed 267-157, with 47 Republicans joining every Democrat voting in favor of the bill. Congressional Democrats mounted the legislative response this week to a concurring opinion by Justice Clarence Thomas suggesting that Supreme Court decisions involving access to contraception and same-sex marriage should be reconsidered, with lawmakers holding votes on a pair of bills that aim to address concerns that more rights could be rolled back. While the Supreme Court struck down sections of DOMA in *U.S. v. Windsor* and *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the law still remains on the books.” [CBS News, [7/19/22](#)]