Congressman GT Thompson's

2021 Year-End Report

Serving the 15th Congressional District of Pennsylvania

thompson.house.gov

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

PA-15

Dear Friend,

It is an honor and a privilege to represent you in the United States House of Representatives.

This 2021 Year-End Report was prepared as a review of the work I do on your behalf in Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. This is a snapshot on important initiatives across various policy areas.

This year, I continued as a Senior Leader on the House Education and Labor Committee and took on a new role as Republican Leader on the House Agriculture Committee, which allows me to further my goal to restore a robust rural economy in America. I will continue to highlight the importance of Career and Technical Education and support our farmers and farm families who work hard produce the food and fiber we consume across the country.

Thank you for trusting me to be your Representative in Congress. I look forward to continuing my work on your behalf in the year ahead. Wishing you and yours a safe, healthy and prosperous 2022.

Sincerely,

CONGRESSMAN "GT" THOMPSON

BY THE NUMBERS

Congressman Thompson at the 2021 Farm Show.

Constituent Meetings	1,847
Constituent cases resolved	2,222
Constituent Correspondence	38,934

BY THE NUMBERS

Congressman Thompson speaks during a Caucus meeting in Washington, D.C.

Days Speaking on the House Floor	70
Sponsored + Cosponsored Legislation	179
News stories	283

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

House Agriculture Committee

As a descendent of dairy farmers, I am proud to be the **Republican Leader** of the House Agriculture Committee.

The Farm Bill is the central law governing federal agriculture, rural and related nutrition programs, and remains vital for the success of our farmers and rural America.

Oversight of this critical law allows us to improve federal policies that govern our nation's agricultural sector and ensure the continuation of vital research and development of new technologies and processes that will assist our family farms into the 21st Century.

Congressman Thomson hosts a panel during Ag Progress Days at Penn State University.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Education and Labor Committee

Education serves an important role in both our lives and in our society. Working to ensure access to high quality and affordable education for more students, including those in our rural communities, has been a fundamental priority of mine in Congress.

I am proud to be a **Senior Leader** on the House Education & Labor Committee and have worked to promote Career & Technical Education (CTE) through my work on the Committee.

This includes passage of the *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act*, which made important updates to federal CTE policies to help more students gain the knowledge and skills they need to compete for in-demand jobs.

Keystone High School students meet with Congressman Thomson on the steps of the U.S. Capitol.

LEGISLATION

Rural Broadband

H.R. 4374 - Broadband Internet Connections for Rural America Act

• In May 2021, I introduced H.R. 3396, the Broadband for Rural America Act, a key proposal included in House Republicans' alternative infrastructure plan to bridge the digital divide for communities nationwide.

• The bill garnered broad stakeholder support and became the framework for the bipartisan H.R. 4374, the Broadband Internet Connections for Rural America Act, which is the only major broadband infrastructure proposal to advance through a House Committee this Congress.

• This legislation invests $43.2 billion in USDA's Rural Development broadband programs by providing last mile technical and financial assistance to rural communities seeking to improve their broadband service, increasing resources available to build out middle mile, providing grant funding to small rural communities, and providing funds to invest in distance learning and telemedicine capabilities.

Congressman Thompson meets with the Cambria County Farm Bureau to discuss his work on the House Agriculture Committee.

LEGISLATION

Chronic Wasting Disease

H.R. 5608 – The Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Management Act

• In October 2021, I, along with Congressman Ron Kind (D-WI) introduced H.R. 5608, the Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Management Act.

• The bill authorizes $70 million in appropriations with funding to be split evenly between critical research and management efforts to combat chronic wasting disease, a contagious, neurological disease affecting cervids—deer, elk and moose—that is always fatal, and which has been detected in 27 states, including Pennsylvania.

• The bill passed out of the House of Representatives in December 2021 with overwhelming support.

Congressman Thompson captured members of Pennsylvania's prized elk herd resting in a pasture in Elk County.

LEGISLATION

Community Services Block Grant

H.R. 5129 - Community Services Block Grant Modernization Act

• The Community Services Block Grant program supports more than 1,000 Community Action Agencies, which act as a safety net for low-income individuals and families, but even more importantly, they help create opportunities for people to move from poverty to independence.

• In September 2021, my colleague, Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-WA), and I introduced H.R. 5129, the Community Services Block Grant Modernization Act of 2021.

• The bill reauthorizes this critical program for another decade and make overdue updates to further reduce poverty.

Congressman Thompson meets with the Clarion Rotary Club to speak about his work in Washington, D.C and thank them for their service to the community.

LEGISLATION

Telehealth Access

H.R. 4437 – HEALTH Act

• In July 2021, I introduced H.R. 4437, the Helping Ensure Access to Local TeleHealth (HEALTH) Act, which codifies Medicare reimbursement for telehealth services rendered by community health centers and rural health clinics.

• The bill also allows these health facilities to continue to utilize audio-only telehealth visits for patients who do not have access to quality broadband.

• Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, telehealth has added tremendous reach and value to communities across the country, especially in rural America.

• The HEALTH Act builds upon previously enacted provisions in the COVID-19 relief packages and provides access to vital health care services to more seniors, regardless of their geographic location.

Congressman Thompson speaks during a roundtable event at Penn Highlands in Johnstown.