Patrick Murphy:
First Year In Office Demonstrates Accomplishments, Independent-Thinking, and Keeping His Promises

Patrick Murphy. A Representative who is keeping his promise to always put his constituents before anything else. With his common-sense business values and bi-partisan approach, Murphy has worked hard to bring change to Washington, cut wasteful spending, promote economic growth, protect the local environment and protect seniors and veterans. His hard work and dedication has helped Florida's 18th district be an even better place to work and live.

Murphy: Fighting For Fiscal Responsibility

Murphy Introduced Bipartisan SAVE Acts To Cut $230 Billion In Wasteful Spending: In May 2013, Murphy and Rep. David Joyce (R-OH) introduced HR 1999, the Savings, Accountability, Value, and Efficiency Act or SAVE Act. It would cut $200 billion in government spending over 10 years by eliminating duplication and waste, and by increasing efficiency. It would do that by eliminating programs like the USDA's duplicative catfish inspection program, reclaiming billions of unused dollars in Department of Energy accounts, pushing federal agencies to compete hundreds of billions of dollars in contracts like the private sector, and moving the executive branch to dispose of hundreds of excess or underutilized buildings. In September 2013, Murphy introduced the bipartisan HR 3146, the Savings, Accountability, Value, and Efficiency II Act or SAVE II Act to cut $26 billion in government spending over 10 years. The bill was an extension of the bipartisan SAVE Act (HR 1999) that Murphy introduced in May 2013 to cut $200 billion in wasteful spending over 10 years. As an extension of his SAVE Acts, Murphy offered several amendments to reduce wasteful appropriations in military construction and defense spending, five of which were passed by the House. (congress.gov, HR 1999, May 14, 2013; congress.gov, HR 3146, September 19, 2013; Targeted News Service, September 24, 2013; Congressional Documents and Publications, September 19, 2013; congress.gov, H.Amdt. 91 and 95 to HR 2216, June 4, 2013; H.Amdt. 392 and 373 to HR 2397, July 24, 2013; Congressional Record, 113th Congress, page H3078)

Voted To Keep Government Paying Its Bills And Voted To Support "No Budget, No Pay": In January 2013, Murphy voted to suspend the debt limit through May 18, 2013, and then automatically increase the debt limit to accommodate the additional debt accumulated through that date. The bill also directed both chambers of Congress to adopt a budget resolution for FY 2014 by April 15, 2013. If either body failed to pass a budget, members of that body would have their paychecks put into an escrow account starting on April 16 until that body adopted a budget or until the last day of the 113th Congress. (CQ Votes, 1/23/13) The bill passed, 285-44. (HR 325, Vote # 30, 1/23/13)

Murphy: A Bi-Partisan, Independent Leader

Murphy Co-Chairs Two Bipartisan Caucuses: In February 2013, Murphy reached across the aisle to Rep. Robert Pittenger (R-NC) to form a bipartisan caucus of 31 other freshman representatives called the United Solutions Caucus. Its first step was to endorse a bipartisan statement of principles on reducing the deficit. Murphy also co-chairs the Problem Solvers team of the No Labels group, a group of House and Senate members who have agreed to meet regularly to build trust across the aisle.

> **Murphy And No Labels Problem Solvers Introduced Nine Bipartisan Bills To Cut Wasteful Spending And Duplication**: In July 2013, Murphy and the bipartisan No Labels group's Problem Solvers congressional coalition, which he co-chairs, unveiled a legislative package called "Make Government Work!" consisting of nine bills designed to make government more efficient, more effective, and less wasteful. Murphy characterized the new bills as "no brainers." The bills would: eliminate a variety of agencies and programs identified by the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office as duplicative and wasteful, withhold Congress members' pay if it did not pass a budget on time, cut 50 percent of agency travel by implementing more video conferencing, reduce energy waste in federal buildings by incenting private companies to find energy savings, and eliminate automatic year-to-year spending increases in agency budgets,   including inflation increases. (Press Journal, July 19, 2013; Sun-sentinel.com, July 18, 2013; nolabels.org)

Murphy: Champion for Business And Jobs

Murphy Introduced A Bill To Ease Capital Requirements On Community Banks To Make It Easier For Small Businesses To Get Loans: On an August 1, 2013 telephone town hall meeting with his constituents, Murphy responded to one of his Republican constituent's frustrations about federal regulations on banks that have created "excruciating" paperwork for small businesses trying to get loans. "We've got to do everything to ease the regulations and expand capital for these small businesses," said Murphy. He noted that he had introduced a bill to ease capital requirements on community banks. (Palm Beach Post, August 2, 2013)

Murphy Voted To Consider Bill To Use Private Capital To Create Jobs And Build Infrastructure: In 2013, Murphy voted to consider a bill to permanently extend the Build America Bonds program. The program, part of the Put America Back to Work Act, would help states and local governments leverage private capital to create jobs today and build the infrastructure that is the backbone of economic growth. The previous question was ordered, 228-192, meaning the bill was not brought up for consideration. Murphy's "no" vote to order the previous question was therefore effectively a "yes" vote to consider the bill. (H Res 175, Vote #121, 4/23/13)

Murphy Introduced Legislation To Boost Small Business' Manufacturing Capability And Create Jobs: In April 2013, Murphy introduced his first piece of legislation, HR 1418, the Partnering with American Manufacturers for Efficiency and Competitiveness Act. The bill would extend through FY2018 the authorization of appropriations to add capabilities to the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program (MEP), including the development of projects to solve new or emerging manufacturing problems. By reauthorizing the competitive grants program the bill would foster small businesses' manufacturing capabilities by promoting the use of clean, high- tech, and efficient processes. (congress.gov, HR 1418, April 8, 2013; patrickmurphyforcongress.com)

Murphy: Protecting Our Waterways and the Environment

Murphy Rallied Local Residents To Join Him In Washington To Press For Urgent Action To Halt Catastrophic Pollution Discharges Into St. Lucie Estuary And Indian River Lagoon: In August 2013, Murphy invited over 200 people at a Rivers Coalition meeting to join him in Washington to lobby Congress on behalf of projects to stop catastrophic discharges from Lake Okeechobee into the St. Lucie Estuary and the lagoon. "Help me sell this case to my colleagues in D.C.," Murphy said. "Let them know that we've got to spend money on these projects." Murphy told the audience, "There's no question (the lagoon) is the most important issue in my office right now. ... This is the United States of America, and our water has declined to the point that it's toxic. We're not a Third World country. This cannot be tolerated. ... Enough's enough." (The Stuart News/Port St. Lucie News, August 30, 2013)

Murphy Voted For The Water Resources Reform and Development Act To Restore The Everglades: In October 2013, Murphy voted for the bipartisan Water Resources Reform and Development Act, which authorizes a suite of four restoration projects in the central Everglades as part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. The projects will improve the health of polluted waterways along the Treasure Coast, improve the quality of drinking water for millions of people, and allow more water to be directed south from Lake Okeechobee into the Central Everglades, Everglades National Park, and Florida Bay. (HR 3080, Vote #560, October 23, 2013; evergladesplan.org; WPTV NewsChannel 5, November 1, 2013 via tveyes.com)

Murphy Secured Funding For Beach Renourishment In Palm Beach, St. Lucie And Martin Counties And Dredging of Local Inlets After Hurricane Sandy: In the Spring of 2013 after several months of work, Murphy announced that the Army Corps would be providing $14 million in funding for five environmental projects in Florida's 18th district. This includes funding for the Martin County Shore Protection Project, the Jupiter/Carlin segment of the Palm Beach Harbor Shore Protection Project, and Fort Pierce Beach renrouishment to restore these beaches to their pre-Hurricane Sandy condition as well as dredging of the Fort Pierce and St. Lucie inlets to respond to shoaling impacts from Hurricane Sandy. (patrickmurphy.house.gov, March 26, 2013; March 27, 2013; April 9, 2013)

Murphy Urged The Obama Administration To Add Funding To The Budget For The C-44 Project To Relieve The Pressure Of Polluted Discharges Of Water From Lake Okeechobee Into The St. Lucie River Where It Kills The Plant And Animals: In a November 2013 letter, Murphy and other Florida Members sent a letter to Sylvia Mathews Burwell, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, urging the President to add funding to the budget for the second phase of the C-44 Indian River Lagoon Project to clean up toxic waters along the Treasure Coast. The $750 million to $1 billion C-44 project, split 50-50 between the federal government and a combination of state and local governments, would remove nitrogen from the water as well as handle rainfall runoff and clean some of the discharges from Lake Okeechobee into the St. Lucie River that pollute it and lead to toxic algae blooms. The project is also an important component of broader Everglades restoration efforts. The project is under construction but there is currently no funding for its second phase. "The success or failure of the small businesses in the area is directly connected to the quality of the waterways. When the river is devastated by pollution, the economy suffers." said Murphy. (WPBF 25 News, November 7, 2013 via tveyes.com; TCpalm.com, November 7, 2013; Murphy et. al. letter to OMB Director Sylvia Mathews Burwell, November 6, 2013)

Murphy: A Champion for Seniors And Veterans

Murphy Voted Against The Ryan Budget, Which Would Have Turned Medicare Into A Voucher Program, Gutting Funding And Eliminating The Guarantee: In March 2013, Murphy voted against the Republicans' main budget, put forward by Republican Rep. Paul Ryan. It would cut $885 billion from Medicare and Medicaid spending over the following 10 years, eliminating the Medicare guarantee, and turning it into a voucher program. The bill passed the House 221-207. (H Con Res 25, Vote #88, 03/20/13; Forbes.com March 12, 2013 and March 20, 2013; The Stuart News, Port St. Lucie News, March 24, 2013)

Voted To Protect Jobs Programs For Seniors And Other Vulnerable Groups And To Raise The Minimum Wage: In 2013, Murphy voted for the full reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and explicitly prohibiting any cuts to the program. WIA provides employment protections, employment or training opportunities for seniors, disabled veterans, women in nontraditional occupations, youth, or people with disabilities. The motion would also raise the minimum wage, in increments over the course of two years, to $10.10 and increase the minimum wage for tipped employees to 70 percent of the minimum wage. (Congressional Research Service, 3/02/06; Huffington Post, 3/15/13) The measure failed, 184-233. (HR 803, Vote #74, 3/15/13)

Murphy Offered Amendment To Protect Seniors, Veterans, and Troops From Budget Cuts And Privatization Of Social Security And Medicare: In January 2013, Murphy proposed an amendment to a debt ceiling bill to shield veterans and military members from budget cuts as well as seniors, such as in the form of the privatization of Medicare and Social Security. The amendment failed 151-277. The underlying bill then passed 285- 144. (Press Journal, February 7, 2013; HR 325, Vote #29 and Vote #30, January 23, 2013; Congressional Record, 113th Congress, page H248)

Murphy Led Bipartisan Push To End Veteran Disability Claim Backlog: As of 2013, Veterans Affairs disability claims had risen more than 2,000% over the prior four years. Meanwhile the agency's budget had increased only 40%. Murphy urged the president to "take direct action" to reduce the large backlog of claims. (Law Firm Newswire, July 16, 2013)

> **The VA Significantly Reduced The Backlog Time For Veterans' Disability Claims**: Following six months of focus to address the massive backlog in processing veterans' disability claims, the Veterans Administration had made significant progress through overtime work and a new computer system. Though its goal had been to eliminate the backlog of those waiting a year or more by October, and though 401,000 claims remained officially backlogged as of Veterans Day, November 11, meaning that the applicants had been waiting at least four months, the number of veterans waiting two years for benefits had dropped 99% to less than 500, the number waiting a year or more had dropped 87% to 34,000, and the average waiting time had dropped from 280 days to 168 days. At the current rate, the VA will eliminate the backlog by mid-December 2014. (The Daily Beast, November 11, 2013)