



# **2019 MID-YEAR REPORT**



Congresswoman Katie Hill  
25th District, California



*In one way or another, I've been here fighting for this community my whole life. Now, as your representative, I'm taking that fight to Congress. From helping individual people get the federal benefits they've earned, to protecting thousands of local jobs and growing our economy, to delivering on the issues you asked me to take on, one thing is very clear to me: **change can't wait**. As you read this update, please know that I'll never stop fighting for you.*

*Katie Hill*



## **Congresswoman Katie Hill's first 6 months in office, by the numbers:**

**204** constituent cases opened

**72** constituent cases completed

**51** success stories from constituent casework

**\$336,773.96** in total benefits for constituents

**3** district offices opened, and in record time!

**8** town halls and community forums held

**87** community events attended and key sites visited (businesses, military bases, etc)

**6** leadership positions, allowing Katie to advocate for CA-25 from a position of strength:

- Freshman Co-Representative to Leadership
- Vice Chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform
- Co-Chair of the New Democrat Coalition Task Force on Housing
- Co-Chair of the Equality Caucus
- Co-Chair of the bipartisan Congressional Future Caucus
- Assistant Whip of the House Leadership Team

**10** legislative items led

- **5** Bills introduced (**1** signed into law)
- **4** Amendments passed out of committee
- **1** Amendment passed out of the House

**292** bills and resolutions passed by the House, delivering on many of the items Congresswoman Hill promised to fight for, including:

- **H.R. 1, the For the People Act**, to end the corruption of dark money and corporate interests in politics, secure our elections, restore ethics and integrity to government, and put power back in the hands of the people.
- **H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act**, to institute commonsense universal background checks for most gun sales or transfers. Since passage of this bill, an estimated 11,400 people have died from firearm-related injuries as we've waited for the Senate to take action.
- **H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act**, to provide a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers who were brought to the U.S. as children and TPS recipients who have lived in the U.S., on average, since 1997.
- Of all the bills and resolutions passed in the House, the Senate has only passed **42**, and the President has only signed **26**.

Over **300** bills cosponsored and letters signed to provide solutions for the everyday problems people are facing in our community

# Fighting to achieve community milestones

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- Congresswoman Hill introduced **H.R. 1015, the Saint Francis Dam Disaster Memorial Act**, to address a top local priority and highlight the importance of infrastructure investment through memorializing one of the worst civil engineering disasters in American history. She worked closely with the Senate to include the measure in a public lands package that passed both Houses of Congress and was signed into law by the President.



**Signed into law**

- Action: Congresswoman Hill advocated for change and sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Interior's Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) requesting immediate resolution to a decades-long dispute around the **CEMEX mine**, which proposed to construct a 56 million-net-ton sand and gravel mine in Soledad Canyon. The mine was a tremendous cause for local concern and threatened the health and well-being of Santa Clarita residents.

Result: Several days after receiving the Congresswoman's urging, and thanks to many years of local advocacy, IBLA issued a ruling that CEMEX can only finish out the remainder of their current contract, which is not long enough to obtain the necessary permits to break ground.



**CEMEX Mine stopped**

- **Santa Susana Field Lab Cleanup**: This environmental hazard has been a threat to community health, safety, and wellbeing for far too long, and Congresswoman Hill is pursuing every possible lead to overcome business-as-usual delay tactics and achieve real results, with the following steps achieved so far:

- Action: Wrote a letter and presented her case to the House Appropriations Committee Energy and Water Subcommittee, identifying SSFL cleanup as one of her top funding priorities.

Result: \$308 million for **Department of Energy Non-Defense Environmental Cleanup**, which is \$61 million above the request, and is recommended to be used for the [“remediation of contaminated soil in Area IV and the Northern Buffer Zone of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory.”](#) (pg. 108)



**Passed the House**

- Action: Wrote a letter and presented her case to House Appropriations Committee Commerce, Science, and Justice Subcommittee, requesting increased funding for **NASA's Environmental Compliance and Restoration Program**, which provides overall leadership for NASA's environmental cleanup efforts, including its portion of SSFL cleanup.  
Result: The NASA Environmental Compliance and Restoration Program was funded at \$82,900,000 in the House bill, which is \$8,000,000 greater than the fiscal year 2019 appropriated level.

 **Passed the House**

- **Whittaker-Bermite Cleanup**: This former Department of Defense site is in need of funding to address groundwater contamination caused by munitions manufacturing, testing, and burial, which affects the drinking water supply of thousands of Santa Clarita Valley residents.

- Action: Wrote a letter and presented her case to the House Appropriations Committee Defense Subcommittee, identifying Whittaker-Bermite cleanup as one of her top funding priorities and identifying the Department of Defense as being responsible for 33% of the costs of treatment at the site.
- Result: The House Appropriations Committee included \$1.26 billion for Environmental Restoration for the Department of Defense, which is \$14.9 million more than the fiscal year 2019 enacted. The Whittaker-Bermite site is eligible for this funding.

 **Passed the House**

## Fighting for children, families, veterans, and our neighbors who need it the most

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- Working closely with colleagues across the aisle, Congresswoman Hill introduced **H.R. 3116, bipartisan legislation to extend funding for successful programs that keep vulnerable youth out of the foster care and juvenile detention systems** in LA County and across the country. CA-25 is home to the highest caseloads of children entering foster care in LA County, and some of the highest across the state.



**Bipartisan teamwork**



- Congresswoman Hill has signed a number of letters and bills to support the care and well being of CA-25 veterans, including:

- Helping to secure \$60 million in the House appropriations bill for the **Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program**;

☑ **Passed the House**

- Helping to secure \$316 million in the House appropriations bill for the **Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS)**, which is an increase of \$16 million above the FY 2019 enacted level; and

☑ **Passed the House**



- Cosponsoring **H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act**, to ensure tens of thousands of Vietnam veterans finally receive the benefits they should have gotten for exposure to Agent Orange off the coast of the country. This bill was signed into law on June 25th, 2019.



**Bipartisan teamwork**



**Signed into law**

- With her team of committed and compassionate caseworkers, Congresswoman Hill has **secured over \$336,773 in VA and Social Security benefits** for 25th Congressional District constituents. They are working tirelessly everyday to get the word out that our office is here to help!

- Of all the investments we make in building a better future, Congresswoman Hill knows that the investments we make in our kids are the most important. That's why she has voted in favor of:

- \$7.7 billion in funding for the **Child Care and Development Block Grant**, an increase of \$2.4 billion over the FY 2019 enacted level, which would provide child care for about 300,000 additional children;
- \$11.6 billion for **Head Start**, an increase of \$1.5 billion over the FY 2019 enacted level, expanding access to an additional 80,000 infants and toddlers from low-income families (with current funding levels, Head Start can only serve 7% of eligible children);

- \$16.9 billion for **Title I Grants** for Local Educational Agencies, an increase of \$1 billion above the FY 2019 enacted level;
- \$14.5 billion for **Special Education**, an increase of \$1.05 billion above the FY 2019 enacted level; and
- Increasing the maximum **Pell Grant** award to \$6,345 to keep pace with inflation and the skyrocketing costs of higher education and living expenses for students.

### ☑ **Passed the House**



- With her strong experience leading the largest homelessness services organization in California, Congresswoman Hill was a top pick to serve as co-chair of the **New Democrat Coalition Housing Task Force**, where she is working to address the issues of affordable housing and homelessness across the country.
- As Co-Chair of the **Equality Caucus** and the first openly LGBT woman elected to Congress from California, Congresswoman Hill was a [leading voice](#) in the historic House passage of the Equality Act on May 17, 2019.

### ☑ **Passed the House**

- Action: Congresswoman Hill signed a letter to the House Appropriations Committee in support of **YouthBuild**, an important program that provides at-risk youth a pathway to a positive future through playing a productive role in improving their communities. This program is at work right here in our own community in the Antelope Valley, where YouthBuild students split their time between basic education classes and job



skills training in the construction field. The program was cut in recent years, so the Congresswoman requested a restoration of that vital funding.

Result: The House Appropriations Committee included \$127.5 million for the program, an increase of \$38 million above the FY 2019 enacted level and \$43 million above the President's budget.



**Passed the House**

## Fighting for better, more affordable healthcare

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- After hearing seniors were accidentally incurring lifelong penalties for late Medicare Part B enrollment, often due to delayed retirement dates, Congresswoman Hill drew on the stories of her constituents to author **H.R. 1788, the Medicare Part B Fairness Act**. This bipartisan bill would reduce or eliminate these penalties and is endorsed by key groups including the Medicare Rights Center, the Center for Medicare Advocacy, the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, and the Association of Mature American Citizens.



**Bipartisan teamwork**

- Congresswoman Hill is a cosponsor and strong supporter of **H.R. 1425, the State Health Care Premium Reduction Act**, which would lower health insurance premiums and reduce out-of-pocket costs for working Americans by encouraging states to create or maintain their own state-based exchanges and providing funding to help them pay for health care costs for people with pre-existing conditions. States can also use these funds to directly reduce premiums and out-of-pocket costs for their residents. The bill is estimated to reduce premiums by 10 percent or more.



**Passed out of Committee**

- Congresswoman Hill is a rising leader in addressing issues relating to addiction and mental health, seeking solutions and accountability around this devastating epidemic through a number of leadership, committee, and caucus positions:
  - As a member of the Freshman Working Group on Addiction, she joined a letter to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services urging the **inclusion of local governments** in developing best practices for national recovery housing support individuals in recovery from addiction.

- Because the opioid epidemic is now more deadly than H.I.V., car crashes, or gun violence in the United States, the Congresswoman in May of 2019 led her colleagues in sending a bipartisan letter to the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education encouraging them to **rigorously train physicians on how to treat patients with opioid use disorder.**



#### **Bipartisan teamwork**

- In one of many steps that must be taken to reign in the escalating cost of prescription drugs, Congresswoman Hill is a cosponsor and strong supporter of the **H.R. 965, the CREATES Act**. This bill would facilitate speedier access to lower-cost generic and biosimilar versions of brand-name drugs and biological products.



#### **Passed out of Committee**

- The Congresswoman is a cosponsor of **H.R. 1046, the Medicare Negotiation and Competitive Licensing Act**, which would allow the Medicare program to leverage its purchasing power to get the best deal possible for America's seniors in negotiating the cost of prescription drugs covered through the program.



#### **Bipartisan teamwork**

- The Congresswoman worked with the House Appropriations Committee to include \$3.8 billion for **substance use treatment**, an increase of \$24 million above FY 2019 enacted levels, and an additional \$212 million for **substance abuse prevention**, an increase of \$7 million above the FY 2019 enacted level.



#### **Passed the House**

- Congresswoman Hill opposes moves by the Trump Administration that have raised premiums and out-of-pocket costs, making life-saving health care unaffordable for working Americans, including:
  - The elimination of cost sharing payments that help reduce out-of-pocket costs for individuals. This action alone increased premiums by 20 percent in 2018, and significantly raised costs for American families not receiving subsidies; and
  - The 2017 tax reform bill's elimination of the individual mandate penalty, which increased premiums by 10 percent a year.

# Fighting for CA-25 leadership in national defense

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One of Congresswoman Hill's first actions as an elected representative was to fight for a seat on the House Armed Services Committee, where she would be able to advocate for one of the most economically critical industries in her district. She successfully obtained the seat and set to work authoring the next annual **National Defense Authorization Act**, directing our nation's defense dollars in the most strategic and effective way possible, and ensuring CA-25 businesses, workers, and ingenuity are proudly at the forefront of the best military on the planet. With this guiding vision, Congresswoman Hill helped to write and pass out of Committee a \$733 billion bill that includes:

- A 3.1% **pay increase** for all military service members;
- \$33 Million above the President's budget request to ensure the continued **U-2 modernization program** at Plant 42, protecting over 350 Palmdale jobs;
- An additional \$794.23 million for the **European Defense Initiative**, reversing cuts proposed by the President and ensuring we have the resources to deter Russian aggression in Europe;
- 90 **F-35 fighters**, marking the largest procurement of the aircraft to date (the F-35 Program directly and indirectly employs almost 6,000 people in CA-25);

- A requirement that the military establish a **tenants' bill of rights** for residents of privatized military housing;
- An additional \$121.3 million for environmental restoration remediation related to **chemicals in drinking water**;
- \$50 million for the **Defense Community Infrastructure Program** to address deficiencies in community infrastructure projects around military installations like Edwards Air Force Base;
- 73 **UH-60M Blackhawk helicopters**, which utilize parts from six different manufacturing suppliers in CA-25;
- Full funding of the **B-21 bomber program**, which performs test flights at Edwards Air Force Base, at \$3 billion.



### **Bipartisan teamwork**



### **Passed out of Committee**

Beyond the crafting and passage of the NDAA, Congresswoman Hill has led on national defense issues through other avenues, including:

- Action: Led her colleagues in authoring a bipartisan letter to the House Appropriations Committee requesting \$60 million for **NASA's Hypersonics Technology Project** to ensure U.S. R&D remains competitive with China and Russia when it comes to cutting edge hypersonics technology and weapons.  
Result: The House Appropriations Committee included no less than \$60 million for this mission critical program.



### **Bipartisan teamwork**



### **Passed the House**

## **Fighting for safer communities**

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- Congresswoman Hill put forth an amendment to increase funding for crucial **wildfire prevention and response efforts** to H.R. 3055. Her amendment #187 provided an additional \$7 million for Department of Interior and Forest Service wildfire-related accounts for increased preparedness, protection, suppression, and more, and passed the House on April 20, 2019, with a bipartisan vote of 377-55.



### **Bipartisan teamwork**



### **Passed the House**

- As part of her work to honor Police Week and our local law enforcement, Congresswoman Hill cosponsored H.R. 2379, to permanently reauthorize the **Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program**. This life-saving legislation helps state and local law enforcement purchase bulletproof vests for the officers that keep our communities safe on a daily basis. The bill was signed into law on May 24, 2019.



**Bipartisan teamwork**



**Signed into law**

- Drawing on her background in as a homelessness services leader in California and a survivor of assault herself, Congresswoman Hill signed on to a letter to the House Appropriations Committee requesting robust funding for a **Transitional Housing Assistance Grants program specifically focused on victims of sexual assault and domestic violence**. The program focuses on holistic, survivor-centered assistance that helps victims escape difficult situations and move into safe, permanent housing. The Committee funded the program at \$41 million in the House bill.



**Passed the House**

## Fighting for change in Washington

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- As one of her first legislative actions, Congresswoman Hill introduced a bipartisan bill to **protect whistleblowers** and follow through on her promise to weed out government corruption and promote accountability and transparency. She offered her bipartisan bill, H.R. 1064, as an amendment to the NDAA. It was included and now awaits passage in House.



**Bipartisan teamwork**



**Passed out of Committee**

- When Congresswoman Hill noticed an egregious provision tucked inside a sweeping IRS reform bill, she immediately mobilized her colleagues in shining a light on the issue and demanding action. The provision, inserted in the bill earlier in the process by corporate interests, would have barred the IRS from developing a **simple and free tax filing program** that could compete with costly services offered by TurboTax and Intuit. In the end, the harmful provision was stripped out of the Taxpayer First Act



thanks to the Congresswoman's leadership. The bill has now passed both the House and Senate and awaits the President's signature.



### **Bipartisan teamwork**



### **Passed the House**

- Congresswoman Hill was selected to serve as co-chair of the only bipartisan caucus for millennial lawmakers, the **Congressional Future Caucus**. Together, she and her colleagues are working across the aisle to address:
  - Safeguarding Americans through data privacy
  - Tackling the crippling weight of student loan debt
  - Exploring workforce innovation through 21st century skills training



### **Bipartisan teamwork**

- Congresswoman Hill helped lead the charge to pass **H.R. 1, the For the People Act**, a sweeping set of reforms to get corporate money out of politics, restore ethics and integrity in government, and ensure our elections are fair and secure.



### **Passed the House**

- Congresswoman Hill was appointed **Vice Chair of the powerful House Oversight and Reform Committee**, where she has used her position to fight for issues like accountability in government, lowering the cost of prescription drugs, and increasing transparency regarding climate change.

