



**U.S. Representative
Emanuel Cleaver, II**

MISSOURI - 05

2021

Year in Review



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Dear Neighbor,

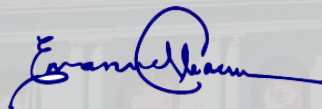
With 2021 and the first half of the 117th Congress coming to a close, I am pleased to share with you my annual report on the work we have done as a congressional district during this eventful year. As your representative in Congress, my staff and I have worked tirelessly to provide quality constituent service, help our communities get through a global pandemic, pass meaningful legislation, and advocate on behalf of each and every constituent and small business throughout the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri.

While there is plenty of work left to do in 2022, it's important to review all that was accomplished this year. Whether it was the nearly \$6.5 million my office was able to save constituents, passage of the historic American Rescue Plan, enactment of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, or the substantial federal funding I was able to secure for communities across Western Missouri, I am incredibly proud of all that we were able to achieve this year—and I hope you are, too.

As the new year quickly approaches, I remain optimistic about the possibilities for our great nation and the Fifth District moving forward. With federal funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law beginning to arrive, we're going to modernize Missouri's infrastructure while creating thousands of good-paying jobs for hardworking Missourians. I also remain committed to passing President Biden's Build Back Better Act in 2022 to cut taxes and lower costs for working class Missouri families. Additionally, for the sake of our democracy, I intend to make voting rights a central focus of my work in the new year.

It remains the honor of my life to serve as your representative in Congress, and I will continue working in a bipartisan manner to serve our communities and address the challenges facing our congressional district. I hope you and your family had a healthy, peaceful, and joyous holiday season, and may your new year be filled with happiness and countless blessings.

Sincerely,



EMANUEL CLEAVER, II
Member of Congress
Missouri's 5th District



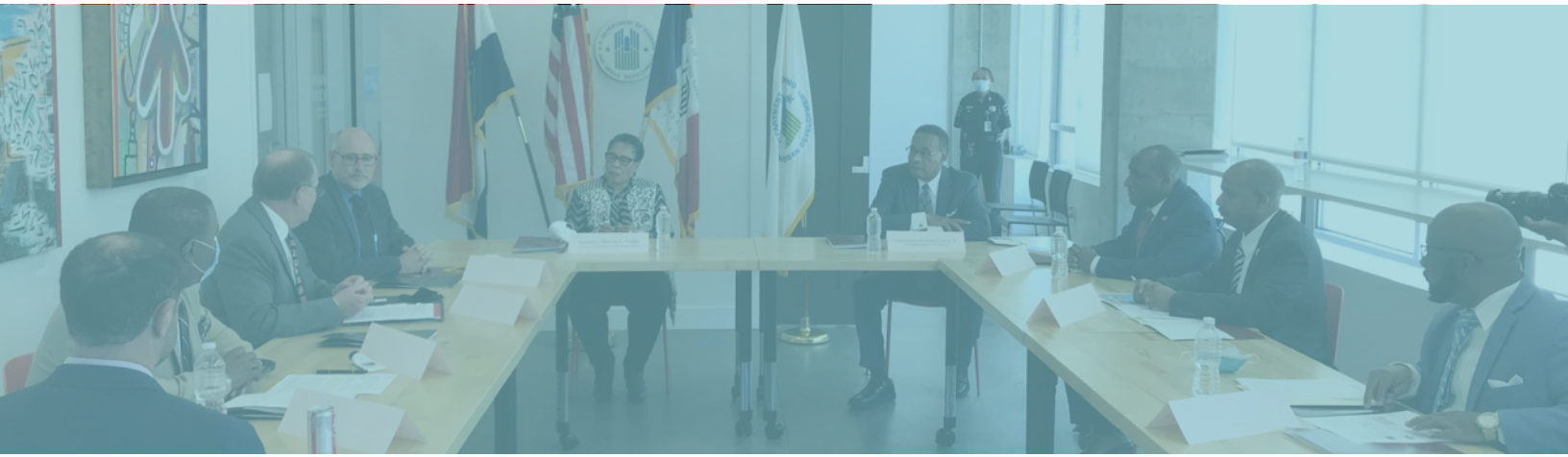


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AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

As the 117th Congress commenced in January 2021, Rep. Cleaver and Democrats in Congress immediately began work on the American Rescue Plan Act to provide financial relief to American families during the COVID-19 pandemic, assist struggling small businesses, accelerate our economic recovery, and ensure every American had an opportunity to get vaccinated against the deadly virus.

Thanks to this landmark rescue package, 2021 saw the creation of 6 million new jobs, the fastest drop in unemployment in a single year, the lowest single weekly jobless claims in five decades, the largest wage increases in a decade, and more than 200 million Americans fully vaccinated against COVID-19. It has been critical to keeping businesses and schools open throughout Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, and provided much-needed assistance to our health care heroes and public health system.

For our District, the American Rescue Plan Delivered:

- **\$232.4M** in **Child Tax Credit** tax cuts for **83,000** families
- **\$61.4M** in **Restaurant Grants** for small businesses
- **\$221.2M** in **Shuttered Venue Grants** for small businesses
- **\$1.9B** to help **K-12 schools** in our state reopen safely, stay open safely and get back on track
- **\$128.2M** for **Community Health Centers** to help vaccinate communities in our state
- **44,000 Jobs** created for our state

BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

The *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*, otherwise known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, was supported by Congressman Cleaver and signed into law by President Biden in November. This historic \$1.2 trillion investment will modernize our roads, bridges, public transportation, broadband, and other critical infrastructure—all while creating millions of good-paying jobs in Missouri and across the country.

**\$6.5
BILLION** for federal-aid
HIGHWAY
APPORTIONED
PROGRAMS in
Missouri

**\$484
MILLION** for BRIDGE
REPLACEMENT AND
REPAIRS in Missouri

**\$100
MILLION**

to help provide
BROADBAND COVERAGE
across the state

GIVING ACCESS TO
330,000
MISSOURIANS

WHO CURRENTLY
LACK IT

**\$674
MILLION**



**\$99
MILLION**

to IMPROVE PUBLIC
TRANSPORTATION
options across the state

to support expansion of
ELECTRIC VEHICLE
CHARGING NETWORK

**\$866
MILLION**

to REMOVE LEAD PIPES
and IMPROVE WATER
INFRASTRUCTURE
across Missouri

BUILD BACK BETTER ACT

For far too long, the biggest corporations and the wealthiest among us have reaped the benefits of a growing economy while working families have struggled to climb the economic ladder. On November 21, Congressman Cleaver and the House of Representatives passed the Build Back Better Act to finally level the playing field for working class Americans.

Cleaver has long believed that American workers and small businesses are the backbone of our economy. The Build Back Better Act will help to rebuild America's middle-class by cutting taxes, creating millions of good-paying jobs, and making long overdue investments that lower costs on everything from child care to health care to housing—all without raising taxes on those making less than \$400,000 per year.

While the Build Back Better Act continues to be negotiated in the Senate, Cleaver remains committed to passing this once-in-a-generation bill in 2022. See how it would benefit Missouri families below.

Provide family care to more than

380,000

Missouri children

Enable more than

115,000

Missouri 3- and 4- year-olds to access free, high-quality pre-K

Make the single largest investment to **combat climate change** in American history, creating good-paying green jobs and protecting our planet for future generations.

cap insulin prices at

\$35

per month

Allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices, and ensure seniors never pay more than

\$2,000

per year on prescription drugs

Allow

97,000

additional Missourians to obtain quality health care through Medicare

Provide

455,000

Missouri students with resources to purchase food during the summer months

Extend the expanded Child Tax Credit, which has delivered

\$232M

in tax cuts to

83,000

families in Missouri - 05

CONSTITUENT SERVICES

In 2021, Congressman Cleaver's district offices helped over 884 constituents initiate casework and navigate challenges with the federal bureaucracy. It is through casework and constituent service that Congressman Cleaver's office can truly generate life-changing impact for members of the community. These services are integral to Cleaver's role as a member of Congress, and he remains committed to providing quality support to those who need it. **Some services his office can provide include:**

- Social Security and Medicare benefits
- VA benefits and military service records
- Assistance with passports, visas, and immigration
- Service academy nominations
- Requesting American flags
- Securing COVID relief, small business loans, student loans, and federal grants

AND MORE

37,153

CONSTITUENTS RESPONDED TO

\$6.5M

IN CONSTITUENT DOLLARS SAVED

884

CONSTITUENT CASES OPENED

CONSTITUENT SERVICES

In 2021, Congressman Cleaver had the opportunity to help some incredible constituents navigate complicated issues concerning the federal government. From ensuring veterans get the commendation they deserve to saving refugees from life-threatening situations, Congressman Cleaver's office touched countless individuals in 2021. **Here are some of their stories:**



Mr. Fuhr

In June, Cleaver presented a long-awaited medal and certificate to retired Army veteran, Steven Fuhr. After retiring from the Army in 2013, Mr. Fuhr initiated casework with Congressman Cleaver's district offices in 2016, seeking assistance in obtaining requisite retirement documents and entitled, but unawarded, service medals. In April, Cleaver's office received Mr. Fuhr's Meritorious Service Medal and certificate from the Department of the Army.

Serving those who have served us is the ultimate honor of a lawmaker. Cleaver remains committed to ensuring every veteran in the Fifth District receives the benefits they need and have earned.

Ms. Zamzama Safi

In August, after two decades, U.S. troops withdrew from Afghanistan, marking the end of the United States' longest war and the beginning of a critical humanitarian crisis.

Cleaver's office received and initiated casework for over 300 individuals seeking assistance to evacuate the country of Afghanistan, from U.S. citizens to diplomats to Afghan allies and their families.

Among the individuals Congressman Cleaver's office assisted was Ms. Zamzama Safi. Ms. Safi – a former linguist for the U.S. Army in Afghanistan – initiated the casework process in my district offices in February of 2020 after years of being hunted by the Taliban for her role in aiding U.S. forces. As the city of Kabul fell to the Taliban in August, Ms. Safi made the daunting trek to reach a U.S. chartered evacuation flight, safely fleeing the country as hostility towards U.S. allies rose. Today, Ms. Safi has resettled in St. Louis, MO and is pursuing a master's degree.

For Zamzama and many others who faithfully aided American troops in times of conflict, putting themselves and their families in grave danger, their stories are characterized by profound resilience and courage. Congressman Cleaver is committed to helping our Afghan allies find safety and greater opportunity in the United States for their service to our men and women in uniform.



CONSTITUENT SERVICES

Leo

In February, the good people at FosterAdopt Connect contacted Congressman Cleaver's district offices to help ensure that a young man nicknamed Leo was not forced out of foster care the day of his 21st birthday. Leo's situation presented one of the most challenging cases Cleaver's office had seen – he was undocumented, his father had passed away, and his mother was living in a homeless shelter, unable to provide stable care for her son. On top of all this, Leo was a victim of child neglect and was on the autism spectrum, with a condition so severe that he was nonverbal and unable to dress himself. As one of his advocates told me, "Leo was as vulnerable as a human being could be."

Despite the dire circumstances surrounding this young man's life, the Missouri Department of Mental Health had no plan to continue caring for Leo beyond his 21st birthday due to his immigration status. With no one to look after him, no shelter, and no medical coverage, Cleaver's office recognized that keeping Leo under the state's wing was a matter of life and death.

The first step Congressman Cleaver's office took was contacting United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to request expedited processing of Leo's application for Special Immigrant Juvenile status, a classification reserved for children who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected. Three days later, Leo's application was approved. From there, it was requested that USCIS also fast track Leo's application for a work permit, which would help solidify his status as a legal resident here in the United States. Nine days later, this application was also approved. With those barriers out of the way, the office was able to secure an emergency biometrics appointment for Leo at the USCIS KC Field Office, during which his photographs and fingerprints were collected. This appointment was originally scheduled to take place more than two weeks after the young man's birthday, at which point Leo would have already been kicked out of foster care. With the help of Cleaver's office, however, the appointment was moved up, putting Leo on the path to securing a Green Card, thereby making him a Lawful Permanent Resident.

Having taken care of the immigration hurdles, Cleaver then wrote a letter to the Missouri Department of Mental Health calling on them to ensure Leo's continued care. Pointing out that the federal government had placed a moratorium on removing youth from foster care due to age along during the COVID-19 pandemic, our office got the Department of Mental Health to guarantee Leo's placement in a safe, secure facility well beyond his 21st birthday.



336

BILLS
COSPONSORED

18

BILLS
INTRODUCED

4

BILLS
PASSED

LEGISLATION

Legislation Passed

- **H.R. 1682 – Stabilizing Rural Homeowners During COVID Act of 2021 (included in Senate Amendment to H.R. 1319 American Rescue Plan Act – May 2021)** - provides over \$39 million in emergency rural housing assistance in response to COVID-19 through loans and refinancing from the Department of Agriculture for low-income Americans, helping them stay in their homes during the pandemic.
- **Stop Debt Collection Abuse Act (included in H.R. 2547 – Comprehensive Debt Collection Improvement Act – May 2021)** - to close a loophole that allowed for debt collectors hired by the federal government to utilize aggressive debt collection practices and charge excessive fees. It is illegal for debt collectors to use abusive, unfair, or deceptive practices when collecting debts from consumers. However, a major exception in the FDCPA are collections on debts owed to the government. The Stop Debt Collection Abuse Act closes that exemption.
- **H.R. 1877 – Security Screening During COVID-19 Act (July 2021 – passed House in FY22 NDAA December 2021)** - directed the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to issue and begin implementing a plan to enhance security operations during the COVID-19 pandemic to reduce the spread of the virus among TSA employees and airline passengers.
- **Directing the Treasury Department to study the efficacy of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network's (FinCEN) delegation authority (July 2021 – passed House in FY22 NDAA December 2021)** - would help bolster enforcement of the Bank Secrecy Act, which prevents criminals from using financial institutions to hide or launder money for nefarious purposes. The amendment is a complement to the bipartisan COUNTER Act, introduced by Congressman Cleaver and signed into law last year, which provides sweeping reforms to improve the ability of the United States to protect national security and safeguard our financial systems from bad actors.

With Representative Cleaver's support, the U.S. House of Representatives passed numerous pieces of vital legislation in 2021, including:

H.R. 4, John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act

H.R. 1446, Enhanced Background Checks Act

H.R. 256, Repealing the AUMF against Iraq Resolution of 2002

H.R. 1280, George Floyd Justice and Policing Act

H.R. 6, The American Dream And Promise Act

H.R. 842, Protecting The Right To Organize Act

H.R. 7, Paycheck Fairness Act

H.R. 3755, Women's Health Protection Act

H.R. 8, Bipartisan Background Checks Act

H.R. 1620, Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act

S. 937, Covid-19 Hate Crimes Act

COMMITTEES

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

- Chair of the Subcommittee on Housing, Community Development, and Insurance;
- Subcommittee on Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship and Capital Markets;
- Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

- Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MODERNIZATION OF CONGRESS

HELSINKI COMMISSION



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