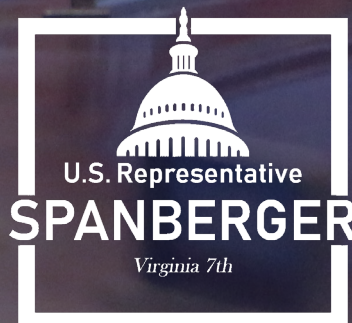


**REP. SPANBERGER'S**  
**FIRST TERM IN REVIEW**  
*2019 - 2020*



## Happy New Year, and thank you for giving me the opportunity to share a brief progress report on my work during my first term in the U.S. House.

This year has brought hardships to so many here in Central Virginia. Our district has felt the wide-ranging impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our healthcare system, our long-term care facilities, our small businesses, and our schools. But in the face of this tremendous uncertainty, we've watched as heroes have worked around the clock to protect the lives of our neighbors and as our fellow Virginians extended an extra helping hand to those in need or those on the verge of crisis. My deepest condolences go to those of you have fallen ill or lost a loved one in these difficult months.

My top priority in the coming year will be to work with our communities to combat this virus, rebuild Central Virginia's economy, and restore confidence in the future of our country. When COVID-19 negotiations broke down in this fall, I was proud to work across the aisle to propose a bipartisan framework – eventually signed into law – that included extended unemployment benefits, additional small business relief, and much-needed funding for the safe purchase and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. However, we have a long road toward recovery – and I welcome your ideas, concerns, and feedback as we move forward together.

Serving the people of Virginia's Seventh District is the honor of my life, and I look forward to prioritizing the needs of Central Virginia in the weeks and months to come. Over the past two years, my office has held 25 public town halls and several issue-focused forums on issues ranging from prescriptions drug costs to the need for expanded high-speed internet access. These events have informed my work in Congress to lower drug prices, increase funding for broadband internet infrastructure, and prioritize educational opportunities that will give the next generation of Virginians the tools they need to stay competitive and ultimately succeed.

One of my proudest achievements during my first term has been our office's commitment to advocating on behalf of every constituent. My office has closed more than 1,700 constituent assistance cases and returned or recovered more than \$4.1 million to Central Virginians. If you are having an issue with the VA, Social Security, Medicare, or another federal agency, please don't hesitate to call my office at (202) 225-2815 or (804) 401-4110.

I hope you and your family are staying safe, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank you,

ABIGAIL SPANBERGER



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**3**

BY THE NUMBERS

**4**

CONSTITUENT SUCCESS STORIES

**6**

THE COVID-19 CRISIS

**8**

RACIAL JUSTICE, EQUITY, & CIVIL RIGHTS

**10**

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE

**12**

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS & HEALTHCARE COVERAGE

**14**

CENTRAL VIRGINIA'S ECONOMY

**17**

PUTTING CENTRAL VIRGINIA FIRST

**19**

TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

**20**

CONTACT ME

# ABIGAIL'S FIRST TERM BY THE NUMBERS

**\$4.1 million**

RETURNED TO CENTRAL VIRGINIANS

**1,700**

CONSTITUENT CASES CLOSED

**599**

MEASURES COSPONSORED

**80%**  
BIPARTISAN

**122,000**

RESPONSES TO EMAILS, CALLS, AND LETTERS

**#1**

RANKED FOR BIPARTISANSHIP  
AMONG VIRGINIA U.S. HOUSE MEMBERS

**27**

BILLS INTRODUCED

**7**

BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW

**9**

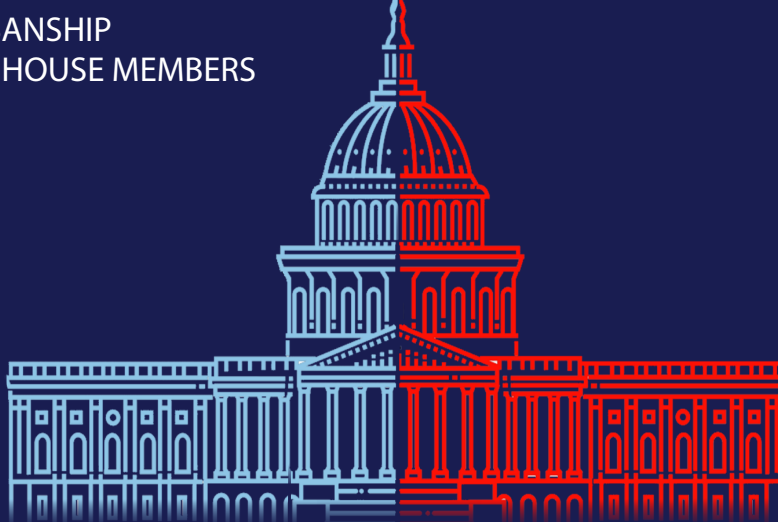
HEARINGS CHAIRED

**25**

TOWN HALLS AND PUBLIC  
FORUMS

**#5**

RANKED FOR BIPARTISANSHIP  
AMONG ALL U.S. HOUSE DEMOCRATS



# from SEVENTH DISTRICT NEIGHBORS

In her first term, Abigail's office has returned or recovered more than \$4 million to Seventh District residents and closed more than 1,700 constituent assistance cases. The office assists Seventh District residents with issues they're having with the federal government — from receiving backlogged VA benefits to dealing with the Social Security Administration. Here's what a few Central Virginians had to say:



"We had been waiting for a refund from the government for over a year. The office of Representative Spanberger worked on our behalf, and we are thrilled that they resolved our situation and we received our refund. We so appreciate their attention to our need!"

— PATTIE, GOOCHLAND



"Congresswoman Spanberger - I want to express my sincere gratitude for the time and attention that was provided assisting me. I realize how busy you must be and know that it took a lot of time to process my requests. You demonstrated such a high level of support and professionalism by constantly communicating the status of my requests. Your patience and time was much appreciated, and it is through your help that I have official copies of my military records and that my requests have been processed. I am grateful for all you did with assisting me. Thank you."

— JANICE, CHESTERFIELD



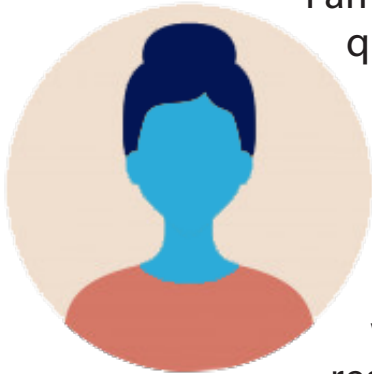
"I had an experience with the IRS and my Social Security. I exhausted all of my avenues for help. I didn't know which way to turn, so finally a friend said, 'Call your representative.' I did, even though it was during the holidays. I called and they took this case and got it settled. I say if you have a problem too big for you, call the office of Rep. Spanberger. They work for you."

— JACQUELINE, AMELIA



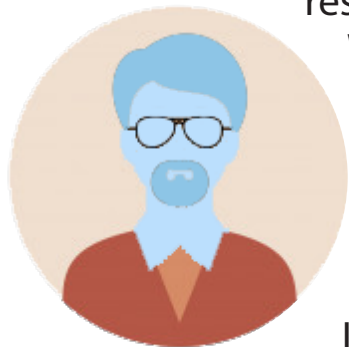
"Abigail and her team were extremely responsive with a very time sensitive issue. It was less than two hours from our request that her team was on the phone with me and less than 24 hours before there was a resolution. I am thankful for your hard work and dedication to our district. Thank you again."

— *DARWIN, CHESTERFIELD*



"I am so grateful to Congresswoman Spanberger and her staff for their quick availability and efficiency in helping resolve my mother's tax obligation. My mother has been in respite care for five years and has been in hospice for the last six months, and her money is quickly running out. With Congresswoman Spanberger's advocacy staff, my mother received a "Case Closed" and has been removed from collection attempts by the IRS. The entire process was easy and seamless and I cannot thank them enough for resolving this situation with the Internal Revenue Service."

— *LORI, POWHATAN*



"I contacted Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger's office for assistance in resolving an issue with the Social Security Administration (SSA).

When I applied for my Social Security benefits several years ago, I was informed that I had to repay over \$60,000 that I had collected due to a disability I had many years prior. So, for the past one and a half years I was not receiving any payments from the SSA in order to repay the monies I had collected.

I subsequently learned that I could appeal the decision. I followed up with an appeal via Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger's office. There I met her District Manager Mr. Shawn Meredith. Mr. Meredith stuck with me as I filed my appeal and saw to it that I could repay a small portion every month and subsequently will receive nearly all of my allotment every month. He was always very professional and helpful and was able to reach SSA staff when I could not. I am very grateful he intervened in the process for me. Thanks again for all of the excellent assistance and caring for my survival in my later years of life."

— *JOHN, SPOTSYLVANIA*

# ADDRESSING THE COVID-19 CRISIS



## Abigail Works to Pass COVID-19 Relief Measures to Support Central Virginia Families, Businesses, & Healthcare Workers

Since March 2020, Abigail has voted to pass five relief packages and worked to expand testing, deliver small business loans, distribute personal protective equipment (PPE) to nursing homes, and support school meal programs. Additionally, she led a bipartisan effort to expand telehealth services for Central Virginia patients and healthcare providers amid high demand. In the fall of 2020, she worked with the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus – as well as several U.S. Senators – to propose a relief framework that eventually laid the groundwork for the COVID-19 relief bill that was signed into law in December 2020. The latest relief package also included an extension of the deadline to use awards from the Coronavirus Relief Fund, a provision Abigail fought to include after hearing about the issue from Central Virginia schools, local governments, and electric cooperatives. (8News, 8/12/20; NBC12, 12/12/20; CBS6 12/8/20; CNN, 12/21/20; Richmond Times-Dispatch, 12/21/20)

## Abigail Fights for Central Virginia's Nursing Homes & Assisted Living Facilities

During the past year, Central Virginia has seen many tragic COVID-19 outbreaks among long-term care residents, and Abigail led several bipartisan efforts to pressure the federal government into releasing additional funding to protect these vulnerable populations. In April 2020, she led a bipartisan group of Virginia Members in calling on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to swiftly distribute billions of dollars in delayed federal funding signed into law as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Abigail also co-led an effort with U.S. Rep. Denver Riggleman (R-VA-05) urging the federal government to better coordinate information sharing between nursing homes, long-term care facilities, and PPE distributors. (Richmond Times-Dispatch, 3/27/20; MSNBC, 4/13/20; ABC News, 4/14/20; CBS6, 4/23/20; Richmond Times-Dispatch, 5/22/20; Daily Beast, 5/28/20)

## Abigail Brings Concerns of Central Virginians Directly to the Administration

In early March 2020, Abigail was part of a bipartisan group of her colleagues that met with Vice President Pence and Deborah Birx at the White House to discuss the administration's response to the COVID-19 outbreak. During that meeting, she brought up concerns expressed by Central Virginia healthcare workers – and in subsequent conversations with both CMS Administrator Seema Verma and Dr. Anthony Fauci, she pushed the administration to focus on delivering additional assistance to long-term care facilities in Central Virginia and across the country. (Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star, 3/3/20; Rep. Spanberger, 5/20/20)



## Abigail Makes Commonsense Reforms to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, Abigail has pushed for much-needed changes to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), which provides forgivable loans to Central Virginia small businesses that are facing financial challenges due to the COVID-19 crisis. In April 2020, she fought to update the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA's) guidance on the "75-25 rule," which required more than 75 percent of PPP loans to be spent on payroll. After hearing directly from small businesses and restaurants about how this rule was overly restrictive, she successfully worked to cut this red tape and secure additional flexibility for businesses to use their loan to respond to their individual needs. And in December 2020, she successfully advocated for PPP forgivable loans to count towards a small business' tax deductions, reversing a ruling from the U.S. Treasury Department. (Henrico Citizen, 4/9/20; Yahoo! Finance, 4/13/20; Rep. Spanberger, 6/28/20; 8News, 8/17/20; Rep. Spanberger, 12/28/20)



## In the Face of PPE Shortages, Abigail Presses for Full Use of the Defense Production Act, Investigation of Stockpile Mismanagement

In March 2020, Abigail introduced a bipartisan resolution calling on the President to make urgent and effective use of the Defense Production Act (DPA) to respond to COVID-19, as Virginia experienced a shortage of masks, protective gowns, gloves, and other PPE. And in April 2020, Abigail spearheaded a request for a full investigation into HHS' stocking and deployment of PPE, ventilators, and other materials from the Strategic National Stockpile ahead of COVID-19

outbreaks in the United States. "It is deeply troubling that the Strategic National Stockpile was unable to provide the support necessary for our states to adequately protect our health care workers' response to the virus," said Abigail. (Culpeper Star-Exponent, 3/23/20; Washington Post, 3/27/20; Washington Post, 4/13/20)

## Abigail Fights to Guarantee Free Access to COVID-19 Vaccine for Central Virginia Seniors

As vaccine development progressed through 2020, Abigail introduced bipartisan legislation alongside U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-SD-AL) to prevent seniors from paying out-of-pocket for a COVID-19 vaccine. Specifically, her bill advocated for seniors on traditional Medicare to be responsible for zero cost-sharing for the COVID-19 vaccine, correcting a critical error in the original CARES Act. Following Abigail's push, the administration made a regulatory change to fix the problem she identified. (CBS19, 10/19/20; Rep. Spanberger, 10/19/20)

# ADVANCING RACIAL JUSTICE, EQUITY, & CIVIL RIGHTS



## Abigail Cosponsors & Votes to Pass George Floyd Justice in Policing Act

To address issues of systemic racism within law enforcement and increase accountability in U.S. police departments, Abigail – a former federal law enforcement officer – cosponsored and voted to pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act in June 2020. The legislation would make changes to practices that have disproportionately harmed Black communities in the United States — including banning chokeholds, curbing racial profiling, reforming the use of force standards for police, reducing implicit bias, and limiting the continued militarization of local police departments. Later that month, Abigail hosted a virtual conversation with Democratic Whip U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-SC-06) alongside Central Virginia faith leaders, advocates, and community leaders to address issues of racism, equity, and police reform. (Richmond Times-Dispatch, 6/9/20; Rep. Spanberger, 6/23/20; Culpeper Star-Exponent, 6/27/20; Washington Post, 9/11/20)

## Abigail Helps Introduce & Pass Equality Act to Protect LGBTQ+ Virginians

In May 2019, Abigail voted to pass legislation to expand protections for LGBTQ+ people in Central Virginia and across the country. Earlier that year, she helped introduce the Equality Act, which would offer new anti-discrimination protections for LGBTQ+ Americans who too often face discrimination without any legal recourse. In February 2020, Abigail met with LGBTQ+ youth in the Seventh District to discuss their challenges and their ideas for future legislation as part of her Two-Day Civil Rights Tour. (NBC12, 2/18/20; Culpeper Star-Exponent, 2/26/20)

## Abigail Votes to Remove the Ratification Deadline on the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)

"Equality should have no expiration date," said Abigail ahead of voting to remove the ratification deadline on the ERA to the U.S. Constitution. Abigail was a cosponsor of the legislation, which builds on Virginia's role as the 38th state to ratify the ERA earlier in the year – reaching the three-fourths threshold needed to amend the Constitution. (NPR, 1/16/20; Richmond Times-Dispatch, 2/13/20; Rep. Spanberger, 2/13/20)

## Abigail Passes Legislation to Defend Virginians Against Unprecedented Efforts to Strip Voting Rights

Across the United States, Americans have faced a pattern of suppressive laws and practices, like the unfair purging of voters from the rolls and the moving or elimination of polling places. In December 2019, Abigail voted to pass the Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA), which would work to counteract these incursions by restoring the full force of the Voting Rights Act, renewing protections that were gutted by the 2013 *Shelby v. Holder* Supreme Court decision. Abigail cosponsored the VRAA in March 2019. (Rep. Spanberger, 12/6/19; Culpeper Star-Exponent, 2/26/20; Forbes, 10/13/20)



# KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE

## Abigail's Bipartisan Bill to Protect Against Foreign Cyberattacks Signed into Law

In March 2020, Abigail's bipartisan bill to protect our nation's 5G communications infrastructure from foreign threats – like the rise of China's Huawei – was signed into law by the President. Abigail led the legislation with U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX). "If we aren't actively working to strengthen our resilience against these threats — especially as we see the growing adoption of these technologies in our rural communities and increasing reliance on these high-speed connections — we are putting American families, businesses, and consumer data at risk," said Abigail. Earlier in 2020, Abigail's legislation to ban TikTok on government devices also passed in the House. (CBS News, 5/23/19; C-SPAN, 1/14/20; The Hill, 3/5/20; Culpeper Star-Exponent, 3/25/20)

## Abigail's Bipartisan Border Security Bill Signed into Law by President Trump

Abigail introduced legislation alongside U.S. Rep. Will Hurd (R-TX-23) to combat Central American trafficking and smuggling networks that threaten U.S. border security. The legislation — which helps address the root causes of drug trafficking, human trafficking, and illegal migration — was signed into law by the President in December 2019. Earlier that year, Abigail visited the United States-Mexico border to learn more about the humanitarian and security crisis. (CBS19, 12/23/19; Richmond Times-Dispatch, 7/22/19)

## Abigail Helps Introduce & Pass Bipartisan Gun Violence Prevention Legislation

In February 2019, Abigail joined a bipartisan group of her colleagues in passing legislation that would close existing loopholes and apply the same background check standards equally to all firearm purchases. "As a former federal law enforcement agent who carried a firearm every day on the job, I understand the responsibility of gun ownership," said Abigail. "After far too many gun violence tragedies across the United States, including in our schools, offices, and places of worship, we are long overdue for bipartisan gun safety reform." (Rep. Spanberger, 2/27/19; Washington Post, 9/12/19)





## Abigail Visits U.S. Servicemembers Serving in Warzones

In October 2019, Abigail joined a bipartisan congressional delegation trip to Turkey, Afghanistan, and the Syrian-Jordanian border to meet with the dedicated U.S. servicemembers stationed in these areas. Following her return, Abigail expressed deep concern about Turkey's incursion into Northern Syria and its aggression against the Kurdish people—and she joined two bipartisan sanctions bills to hold Turkey accountable for its actions against U.S.-allied forces in the region. (Virginia Public Media, 10/7/19; Rep. Spanberger, 10/24/19)

## Abigail's Bill to Combat Child Exploitation Becomes Law

Abigail introduced bipartisan legislation alongside former U.S. Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC-11) to combat the sharing of child pornography on government-associated networks. The bill—which was signed into law by President Trump in December 2019—upgrades the training and technical capacity of military criminal investigative organizations to confront the misuse of Defense Department networks to access and trade these horrific images. Additionally, in August 2020, Abigail introduced legislation alongside U.S. Rep. Ben Cline (R-VA-06) to strengthen federal efforts to rescue children from sexual abuse, particularly during the COVID-19 crisis. (CNN, 7/2/19; Rep. Spanberger, 7/15/19; NBC4, 8/3/20; Forbes, 10/13/20)

## Abigail Brings Both Parties Together to Reassert Constitutional Authority of Congress in Decisions of War

In her first term, Abigail has advocated for elected officials to be held accountable for decisions to wage future U.S. military action, and she has worked to prevent U.S. Armed Forces from entering into another military conflict in the Middle East without approval from Members of Congress. In January 2020, she voted to repeal the 2002 Authorization for the Use of Military Force, which authorized military activities in Iraq, and preserve the separation of powers found in the U.S. Constitution. Spanberger also led a resolution in 2019 – passed in both the U.S. House and U.S. Senate – to block the administration's sale of offensive weapons, likely to be used in the targeting of civilians, to Saudi Arabia (Foreign Policy, 6/13/19; Yahoo! News, 7/3/19; Culpeper Star-Exponent, 1/10/20; Washington Post, 1/16/20)

# LOWERING THE COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS & PROTECTING HEALTHCARE COVERAGE

## Abigail's Legislation to Lower Drug Costs, Increase Competition Signed into Law

In October 2019, Abigail joined U.S. Rep. Tom Reed (R-NY-23) in leading a bill to stop harmful practices that block new generic alternatives from entering the consumer market. By increasing patent transparency in the prescription drug market, Abigail's Biologic Patent Transparency Act will promote competition between biosimilars and established biologic medicines—and these provisions would help lower drug prices for Central Virginia consumers. In December 2020, the President signed these provisions into law. (Richmond Times-Dispatch, 11/24/19; Rep. Spanberger, 10/23/19; Rep. Spanberger, 12/28/20)

## Abigail's Bipartisan Bill to Increase Transparency in the Prescription Drug Industry Passes Unanimously

In October 2019, the House voted 403 to 0 to pass Abigail's bipartisan bill to hold pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) accountable for their role in the prescription drug affordability crisis. At a community-focused roundtable held in August 2019, Abigail heard from patients and pharmacists about how the three largest PBMs in the United States control three-quarters of the U.S. prescription drug supply chain. However, Americans are currently unable to learn more about how PBMs could be triggering rising drug prices and out-of-pocket costs. Abigail's Public Disclosure of Drug Discounts Act would help hold PBMs accountable by requiring

ing PBMs to report their aggregate rebates, discounts, and other price concessions to a public website.

(NBC12, 1/12/20; Henrico Citizen, 8/7/19; Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star, 11/14/19)

## Abigail Hears Directly from Seniors about Skyrocketing Drug Prices

The rising cost of lifesaving prescription drugs has been a top concern raised by constituents since Abigail took office in January 2019. In November 2019, Abigail hosted a prescription drug forum in Henrico County alongside AARP Virginia to discuss the impacts of high prescription drug prices in Central Virginia. And in

February 2020, Abigail hosted a similar event in Gooch-

land. Ahead of the Goochland forum, Spanberger announced the initial results of her 2020 Prescription Drug Survey, through which she received more than 2,500 survey responses from Central Virginia families and seniors about the effects of rising prescription drug prices. (NBC12, 11/26/19; Richmond Times-Dispatch, 11/28/19; Rep. Spanberger, 11/29/19; Henrico Citizen, 12/18/19; Richmond Times-Dispatch, 2/25/20)

## Abigail Votes to Give Medicare the Power to Negotiate Drug Prices

In December 2019, Abigail joined Democrats and Republicans in passing the Lower Drug Costs Now Act, which would give Medicare the power to negotiate directly with drug companies. In VA-07, more than 96,000 people are enrolled in a Medicare Part D plan. The Abigail-cosponsored bill would expand Medicare benefits to include dental, vision, and hearing coverage—and it would establish a new \$2,000 out-of-pocket limit on prescription drug costs for individuals on Medicare. (Rep. Spanberger, 12/12/19; Culpeper Star-Exponent, 12/12/19; 8News 12/13/19)



## Abigail Fights Back Against Efforts to Strip Protections for Central Virginians with Pre-Existing Conditions

Since arriving in the U.S. House, Abigail has continued to push back against the partisan healthcare attacks that have caused premiums and uninsured rates to increase across the country. In May 2019, Abigail supported the Protecting Americans with Pre-Existing Conditions Act, which would immediately rescind the administration's guidance regarding protections for people with pre-existing conditions in State Innovation Waivers. And in June 2019, she voted in support of a bipartisan resolution to condemn the administration's active legal campaign to gut the existing healthcare law. (Rep. Spanberger, 5/9/19; CNN, 7/11/19; Rep. Spanberger, 7/11/19)



# EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY & STRENGTHENING CENTRAL VIRGINIA'S ECONOMY

## Abigail Secures Millions in Funding for Central Virginia Broadband Internet Projects

After successfully leading the 2019 fight to protect the funding of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) ReConnect Program – which partners with local businesses and governments to expand high-speed internet access, Abigail announced \$28 million in February 2020 for Central Virginia Electric Cooperative broadband projects in Central Virginia – including in Louisa, Orange, Goochland, and Powhatan Counties. In December 2020, Abigail again protected the ReConnect Program from cuts, and she secured additional investments in broadband internet in the end-of-year funding deal. (DTN Progressive Farmer, 12/17/19; CBS19, 2/28/20; NBC29 2/28/20; The Central Virginian, 2/28/20; Rep. Spanberger, 12/28/20)

## Abigail Helps Negotiate & Pass USMCA, Pushes Trade Deal to the President's Desk

Throughout 2019, Abigail heard from many Central Virginia businesses, farms, and workers about the potential benefits of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). In December 2019, Abigail joined a bipartisan majority of her colleagues in ratifying the USMCA in the House. Earlier that month, Abigail had joined Vice President Mike Pence at the White House to discuss the need to finalize the agreement. During her first year, she also met with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to emphasize how the USMCA would expand markets for Central Virginia exports, level the playing for her district's workers, and protect critical trade relationships with buyers in Canada and Mexico. The President signed the USMCA into law in January 2020. (Politico, 8/31/19; Culpeper Star-Exponent, 12/7/19; Agri-Pulse 12/10/19; Richmond Times-Dispatch, 12/20/19)



## Abigail's Legislation to Improve Financial Aid Fairness for Veterans Signed into Law

On Veterans Day 2020, Abigail introduced bipartisan legislation to fix an issue in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form that has unfairly penalized disabled veterans and their families. Abigail's Honor Our Nations' Oath to Remember (HONOR) Our Veterans' Sacrifice Act excludes VA Disability Compensation from being taken into consideration when calculating an applicant's Estimated Family Contribution. President Trump signed the bill into law in December 2020. (CBS19, 11/11/20; Rep. Spanberger, 12/28/20)

## Abigail Introduces Bipartisan Legislation to Expand Use of 529 Funds

To help more Virginia students and workers obtain the skills they need to stay competitive, Abigail and U.S. Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA-01) introduced a bill to give individuals the freedom to use their 529 savings accounts to cover the costs of certain workforce training and credentialing programs. The bill would allow students to use their 529 funds to pay for costs associated with certification exams and maintaining credentials. Right now, only colleges, vocational schools, universities, or other post-secondary institutions are considered an eligible 529 education savings account expense. (Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star, 12/6/19)

## Abigail Protects Central Virginia Businesses from Tax Hikes Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

In 2020, Abigail worked across the aisle to secure permanent tax relief for Central Virginia craft breweries and distilleries. She cosponsored the Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act, which was signed into law by President Trump in December 2020 and makes permanent the federal excise tax cut on craft beer and distilled spirits that was enacted in 2017. In August 2020, Spanberger heard directly from Virginia distilleries about this issue – and how they could have faced a 400 percent tax increase in 2021, had this legislation not gone into effect. (NBC12, 8/11/20; Richmond Times-Dispatch, 8/21/20; Rep. Spanberger, 12/28/20)

## U.S. House Passes Spanberger’s Bipartisan Legislation to Strengthen Youth Apprenticeships

Alongside U.S. Reps. Joaquin Castro (D-TX-20) and Brett Guthrie (R-KY-02) in October 2020, Abigail introduced legislation to support youth apprenticeship programs in Central Virginia and across the country. Her Strengthening Our Youth Apprenticeships Act which would create a new interagency apprenticeship agreement between the U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Education. The House passed Abigail’s legislation in November 2020 (Rep. Spanberger, 11/20/2020).

## Abigail Hosts 2019 Rural Broadband Summit at Louisa County High School

In August 2019, Abigail hosted a Rural Broadband Summit to hear about how a lack of reliable broadband internet access is impacting families, farmers, first responders, and business owners across Central Virginia. During the event, community members had the opportunity to share their personal experiences and ideas with Abigail, as well as with officials from the USDA and the U.S. Commerce Department. The summit built on Abigail’s efforts to amplify and collect the stories of Central Virginians who are currently facing unnecessary challenges due to the absence of broadband internet in their community, including through her 2019 Rural Broadband Survey and a 2020 roundtable with FCC Commissioner Geoffrey Starks in Central Virginia. (Charlottesville Daily Progress, 8/17/19; Richmond Times-Dispatch, 8/19/19; Progress-Index, 2/24/20)

## Abigail Leads Legislation Passed by U.S. House to Fix Outdated Broadband Maps

To help improve the FCC’s broadband mapping data and fix outdated broadband connectivity maps, Abigail introduced an amendment that would provide recommendations on how the FCC can produce more accurate, reliable, and granular maps—and the report would identify FCC programs that rely on broadband maps and could benefit from improved accuracy. Additionally, in July 2020, the House passed Abigail’s amendment to update broadband internet speed thresholds as part of the Moving America Forward Act. (Rep. Spanberger, 4/10/19; Culpeper Star-Exponent, 4/12/19; Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star, 7/2/20)

## Abigail Introduces Bipartisan Bill to Expand Work-Study Eligibility to Head Start Jobs

In August 2019, Abigail helped lead the introduction of a bill to allow Head Start programs to receive Federal Work-Study dollars and to give college students additional opportunities to gain experience in the field of early childhood education. Later, during her two-day education tour in October 2019, she heard directly from Culpeper Head Start staff about how the legislation would help recruit and hire new employees. For her work, Abigail received the “2020 Head Start Pledge Award” from the National Head Start Association. (Rep. Spanberger, 8/23/19; Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star, 10/9/19; Culpeper Star-Exponent, 1/29/20)

## Alongside Bipartisan Coalition, Abigail Introduces & Helps Pass Farm Workforce Modernization Act

To keep their operations successful, farms, greenhouses, and agribusinesses in Central Virginia need steady access to qualified and legal labor. However, the existing H-2A guest-worker program does not meet the employment requirements of local businesses and has long needed meaningful reforms. In October 2019, Abigail and a bipartisan group of her colleagues introduced legislation to improve predictability for Central Virginia agriculture employers and to reform the immigration system for farmworkers—and in December 2019, the bill passed in the U.S. House. Abigail joined this effort after hearing the immigration needs of greenhouse owners and agribusinesses throughout the Seventh District—including the need for a year-round visa program. (Rep. Spanberger, 11/4/19; Culpeper Star-Exponent, 12/12/19)





## PUTTING THE PEOPLE OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA FIRST

### Abigail Returns More than \$4.1 million to Seventh District Constituents

In her first term, Abigail and her staff successfully returned or recovered more than \$4,000,000 to the people of VA-07 through federal casework. “As many working families and seniors fight to keep their heads above water during this devastating pandemic and economic crisis, certainty and stability are key. When an error results in delays to critical benefits like Medicare coverage or Social Security payments, it can have a ripple effect that throws Central Virginians into financial insecurity,” said Abigail. If you are in need of assistance, please reach out to Abigail’s team at (804) 401-4110 or go to <https://spanberger.house.gov/forms/casework/> (Henrico Citizen, 11/24/20)

### Abigail Introduces Growing Climate Solutions Act with Broad Coalition of Support from Farm, Environment, & Industry Organizations

As Chair of the Conservation and Forestry Subcommittee on the House Agriculture Committee, Abigail has worked in her first term to protect Central Virginia’s natural resources and give farmers and producers a seat at the table when it comes to conversations related to the climate crisis. In June 2020, Abigail introduced a bipartisan bill alongside U.S. Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE-02) to break down barriers for farmers, ranchers, and foresters interested in participating in carbon markets and to reward them for embracing climate-smart practices. Abigail’s Growing Climate Solutions Act would help connect landowners to companies that can assist farmers in implementing climate-smart practices and finding the long-term economic value of these sustainable practices. (Virginia Public Media, 6/29/20; The Hill, 9/22/20)

### Abigail Fights to Protect Federal Workers, End the Record-Long Government Shutdown

Upon swearing-in, Abigail entered Congress amid a record-long government shutdown. Days later, she went to the White House to meet directly with President Trump to discuss border security and the shutdown’s harmful impacts on federal workers in VA-07. During this time, she also introduced bipartisan legislation to protect pay for servicemembers and law enforcement personnel whose salaries were endangered during the shutdown. Upon the reopening of the government, she introduced her first bill—the Stop STUPIDITY Act—which would help prevent similar shutdowns and incentivize lawmakers to make progress before funding lapses begin. (Richmond Times-Dispatch, 1/15/19; Washington Post, 1/16/19; WWBT 2/14/19)

## Abigail Honors Long-Time Midlothian Resident & World War II Codebreaker

In December 2020, the President signed into law Abigail's legislation to rename a Chesterfield County post office after World War II code breaker and former Midlothian resident Dorothy Bruce, who passed away at the age of 99 in 2019. Bruce was recruited by the U.S. military during World War II to serve in a top-secret group of code-breaking women. The post office is located at 1201 Sycamore Square Drive in Midlothian—near Spring Arbor Assisted Living, where Dorothy lived. (Chesterfield Observer, 11/13/19; Chesterfield Observer, 12/16/20)

## Abigail Pushes Back Against Misguided Effort to Eliminate MFP Payments to Central Virginia Farmers

In September 2019, Abigail pushed back against an effort by fellow Democratic House Members to block continued Market Facilitation Program (MFP) payments to American farmers that offset the negative side-effects of the administration's trade wars. The MFP payments were preserved in the final version of the funding bill. (The Fence Post, 9/19/19; Culpeper Star-Exponent, 9/19/19)



# INCREASING TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

## Abigail Keeps Vow to Hold Town Halls across Central Virginia

While keeping her promise to hold a town hall in each county of the Seventh District during her first year in office, Abigail has now held 25 public, community-wide town halls, with at least one in each county. These events also included COVID-19-focused telephone town halls during the pandemic, with local experts and community leaders joining to share their perspectives. These events focused on topics ranging from education issues to minority community healthcare challenges to small business concerns. At each town hall, Abigail gave a brief update on her work in the U.S. House, and she then took questions directly from VA-07 constituents. (Rep. Spanberger, 9/16/19; Culpeper Star-Exponent, 9/17/19; Orange County Review, 9/21/19; Henrico Citizen, 6/9/20)



## Abigail Helps Pass Landmark Campaign Finance Reform Legislation to Put the Public Interest Ahead of Special Interests

In March 2019, Abigail voted to pass a package of reforms—which she cosponsored—that would strengthen transparency in the U.S. political system and limit the influence of special interests and undisclosed donors in the democratic process. “Congress cannot meaningfully address the nation’s significant challenges without first recognizing and acknowledging the undue influence of special interests in our politics,” said Abigail. The legislation also includes Abigail’s amendment to prevent foreign threats to the U.S. political system by requiring intelligence assessments to identify possible foreign threats to election infrastructure, so that states may take appropriate actions. (New York Times, 3/7/19; Culpeper Star-Exponent, 3/8/19)

## Abigail Helps Spearhead Successful Push to Block Proposed Congressional Pay Raise

In June 2019, Abigail was part of a successful bipartisan effort to block a pay increase for Members of Congress. After she and 19 additional Democrats and Republicans pushed an amendment to block the proposed cost-of-living-adjustment, House leaders decided to delay consideration of the Member pay raise. “When we are voting to raise wages, I hope that it’s for teachers and community leaders and minimum wage workers before we turn our attention toward ourselves,” said Abigail. (The Hill, 6/10/19; Fox News, 6/11/19; WAVY, 6/14/19)

## After the U.S. Senate’s COVID-19 Stock Transactions Controversy, Abigail Introduces Bipartisan Bill to Prevent Insider Trading

Following news reports that U.S. Senators were using inside knowledge about COVID-19 to trade stocks in their portfolios, Abigail introduced bipartisan legislation to require Members of Congress – as well as their spouses and dependent children – to put certain investment assets into a qualified blind trust during their entire tenure in Congress. By establishing this new firewall between Members and their investments, her TRUST in Congress Act would prevent lawmakers from using their positions in the U.S. House or U.S. Senate to unethically inform investment decisions or influence the value of their existing investments. (8News, 6/19/20; Roll Call, 12/17/20)

@REPSPANBERGER

WWW.SPANBERGER.HOUSE.GOV



*WASHINGTON*

1431 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2815

*GLEN ALLEN*

4201 Dominion Blvd  
Suite 110  
Glen Allen, VA 23060  
(804) 401-4110

*SPOTSYLVANIA*

9104 Courthouse Rd  
Room 249  
Spotsylvania, VA 22553  
(540) 321-6130