

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW



U.S. CONGRESSMAN

SEAN  **CASTEN**

6TH DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

2025 Year In Review

Friend,

I was deeply humbled to begin this year by returning to Washington for another term serving Illinois' 6th Congressional District. Representing you in Congress is the honor of my life, and every day I work to uphold the trust you have placed in me.

The year has undoubtedly seen countless challenges. The Trump Administration's policies — from tariffs that have driven up the price of everyday goods, to immigration enforcement actions in Chicagoland with the goal of sowing fear and intimidation, to the deployment of out-of-state National Guard troops into Illinois — have tested us. But the resilience, compassion, and commitment to one another you have shown gives me hope.

This year-in-review offers a glimpse into what we have accomplished in 2025. As you read this report, please know that my team and I will continue working to ensure Congress listens to and addresses your concerns. If we can be of assistance, do not hesitate to contact my Lombard, IL office at 630-520-9450 or my Washington, DC office at 202-225-4561.



Sean Casten



2025 By-The-Numbers

14

**Town Halls and
Community Events**

\$2,129,000

**Dollars Returned to
Constituents**

118,000+

**Responses to Constituent
Letters and Calls**

33

**Bills
Introduced**

300+

**House Votes Cast
on Behalf of IL-06**

829

**Casework Issues
Resolved**

321

**Meetings with Constituents
and Advocates**

284

**Legislative Requests to
Federal Agencies**

JANUARY



Education in IL-06

I attended the Downers Grove District 58 Annual Legislative Breakfast, where we discussed challenges facing teachers and administrators. I highlighted my work in Congress to make classrooms safer and level the playing field for students.

Climate Action Under the Trump Administration

I convened a roundtable in Lisle with community stakeholders to discuss my top climate and energy priorities for the 119th Congress. I heard from each organization what is at stake during the Trump Administration.



Aviator Mental Health

I continue to advocate for pilot and air traffic controller mental health reform at the federal level. I was honored to meet with members of the Chicago Air Traffic Controllers Association in Aurora to discuss my Mental Health in Aviation Act.

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Reducing Harmful Emissions

I introduced the End Oil and Gas Tax Subsidies Act, the LNG Public Interest Determination Act, and the Exported Carbon Emissions Report Act. These bills are aimed at reducing harmful emissions that lead to global warming.

Helping Consumers Make Climate-Friendly Decisions

I introduced the Voluntary Food Climate Labeling Act, legislation to revolutionize how consumers learn about the climate impact of the food they purchase.

FEBRUARY

Senior-Focused Community Events

I met with seniors in Downers Grove and Westmont to answer their questions about the Trump Administration's cuts to veterans' services, Social Security, and Medicare.



VALENTINES FOR VETERANS

This year, I was honored to deliver valentines to veterans at Hines VA Clinic and discuss how legislation considered by Congress may impact them. The 6th District of Illinois' Valentines for Veterans Program collected over 3,500 valentines made by students and community members in IL-06.

***Interested in sending love to our veterans?
Constituents can drop off or mail valentines to my office.***



LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Protecting Americans' Data

Alongside House Democratic leadership and Representative Haley Stevens (MI-11), I introduced the Taxpayer Data Protection Act to prevent government employees without appropriate security clearances from accessing or modifying the Treasury payment system that processes \$5 trillion of payments per year to American citizens, contractors, and intelligence assets.

In addition, I led 154 House Democrats in a letter to Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent expressing concern regarding Elon Musk and his allies' access to the federal government's payments system, which also includes sensitive personal data of U.S. citizens, and demanding answers as to the extent of Musk's access.



MARCH

Women's History in IL-06

I partnered with the Lombard Historical Society to discuss my Period PROUD Act and the remarkable accomplishments of Ellen Martin, the first woman to vote in Illinois.

On April 6, 1891, Ellen Martin boldly stepped into her polling place in Lombard and voted. Following Ellen's lead, 14 of Lombard's most prominent women also cast their votes.



National Reading Month

March is National Reading Month. I visited libraries in Chicago Ridge, Downers Grove, Palos Hills, and Tinley Park to meet with librarians and hear about the services that keep our communities running.

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Protecting Women's Health Care

Women and health care providers should not be threatened, harassed, or abused while trying to enter reproductive health care facilities. I worked with Representatives Jan Schakowsky (IL-09) and Jerrold Nadler (NY-12) to lead 72 House Democrats to demand the Department of Justice (DOJ) fully enforce the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act and ensure women and health care providers are protected.

Combating Dangerous Gun Modifications

I worked with Representative Hank Johnson (GA-04) and Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Gary Peters (D-MI) to introduce the Preventing Illegal Weapons Trafficking Act, which would prevent the importation and trafficking of dangerous and illegal gun modifications.

APRIL



Food Insecurity

I toured the Northern Illinois Food Bank to talk about their work to curb rising food insecurity trends in our district. They serve 13 counties across the state and provide 250,000 meals per day.

Housing Affordability

I met with the Illinois Housing Council to discuss federal housing resources and affordable housing projects in our district. We also discussed my work on the House Financial Services Committee as it relates to affordable housing.



Community Meeting in Evergreen Park

I hosted a community meeting in Evergreen Park with Mayor Kelly Burke. I heard constituents' concerns about rising prices, preserving the Constitution, and President Trump's immigration policies.

Vietnam Veterans Pinning Ceremony

My office hosted a Vietnam Veterans Pinning Ceremony in Worth. We discussed how Congress can honor veterans' service, and each participating veteran or family member was honored with a commemorative lapel pin as a token of our nation's gratitude.



LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Pushing Back on Attacks Against Immigrants

I led 22 House Democrats in a letter to President Trump highlighting how his immigration policies have increased the cost of living for Americans. The letter demands that the president reverse course or risk further economic turmoil.

Demanding Protections for Students

Slashing the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) hubs is detrimental for students across the country. I demanded Secretary Linda McMahon restore OCR hubs to protect students' right to equal access to education.

MAY



Small Business Month

I met with members of the La Grange Business Association at Jack's West End. I heard first-hand how tariffs are impacting businesses in our community and the value that small businesses add to our district.

Chicago River Cleanup

I joined local residents to help clean up a section of the Chicago River in Crestwood and heard about how Congress can help improve water quality and public spaces in the 6th Congressional District.



Internship Program

My office's interns assist with constituent inquiries, conduct research, and track news that's happening around our district. I enjoyed catching up with my district-based interns at the end of their semester.

Interested in interning with my office? Visit casten.house.gov/services/internships for more information.

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Holding Financial Institutions Accountable For Climate Promises

Following financial institutions' recent decisions to abandon previous commitments to combat climate change, I sent a letter to the Chief Executive Officers of leading U.S. banks. In the letter, I criticized the companies for withdrawing from several global coalitions of leading companies committed to combating climate change, particularly in light of our nation's worsening climate crisis.

Pushing Back Against Corruption and Fraud

I teamed up with Representative Adam Smith (WA-09) to demand the Department of Justice immediately launch an investigation into whether President Donald Trump's offer for top investors in his cryptocurrency token, \$TRUMP, to join him at a private dinner violates federal bribery laws or the foreign emoluments clause of the Constitution.

JUNE

Art From IL-06 On Display in U.S. Capitol

The Congressional Art Competition showcases the amazing artistic talents among the 6th District's high school students. Our community celebrated this year's participants at my office's Congressional Art Competition Gala.

Congratulations to this year's first place winner, Zoe, whose art is now on display in the U.S. Capitol.



Town Hall at Saint Xavier

I was thrilled to host a town hall at Saint Xavier University in Chicago.

I answered questions about President Trump's attempts to gut Medicaid and Medicare, resources for federal employees, and dangerous DOGE cuts. I also discussed my recent work in Washington to push back on the Trump Administration's reckless agenda.

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Empowering Victims of Abuse

In response to an issue raised by a constituent, I introduced the Financial Empowerment and Protection Act with Representatives Joyce Beatty (OH-03) and Jen Kiggans (VA-02). This bipartisan legislation would ensure equal access to household finances and empower victims to make their own financial decisions.

Reestablishing Representative Democracy

The fundamental promise of our democracy is to fulfill the will of the people. I introduced a package of legislation to reform American government by increasing the size of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, as well as restoring the Supreme Court's jurisdiction to better align with Article III of the U.S. Constitution.

Outlawing Discriminatory Damage Calculations in Federal Courts

I teamed up with Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) to introduce the Fair Calculations in Civil Damages Act, legislation to prohibit the consideration of race, ethnicity, gender, or actual or perceived sexual orientation when calculating damages in civil lawsuits.

JULY

Medicaid and Medicare Anniversary

July 30th marked the 60th anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid. I joined my colleagues from the Illinois Congressional Delegation and local elected officials to stress the importance of Medicare and Medicaid, and to reflect on how the Trump budget bill threatens health care access for millions of people across the country.



Federal Funding at Work

I secured \$346,000 in federal funding for DuPage PADS, the county's largest provider of emergency shelter and supportive housing, to provide a safe, onsite playground for children experiencing homelessness.



STEM Careers for Students in IL-06

Students in my STEM Scholars program spent an afternoon with Argonne scientists to learn about their work in the lab and potential careers in supercomputers, robotics, material sciences, and mathematics.

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Demanding Information on EPA Firings and Rollbacks

I led 16 House Democrats in submitting a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for details of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin's efforts to slow-walk the promulgation and enforcement of public health standards.

Urging Insurers to Continue Covering Vaccines

I teamed up with Representative Kim Schrier, MD (WA-08) to lead 77 House Democrats in urging top health insurers to continue to provide coverage for vaccines currently recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

Calling for an Investigation into the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation

I led 92 House Democrats in a letter to Secretary of State Marco Rubio demanding an investigation into the ownership structure and operation of the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), a private, unqualified U.S.-linked aid organization at the center of the worsening starvation and humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

AUGUST

Small Businesses

I toured Prairie Food Co-Op, a community-owned grocery store in Lombard that recently held its grand opening. In 2023, I secured \$750,000 in federal funding to help build this project.

I also checked out 2 Bici Bicycle Shop in Willow Springs, Skeleton Key Brewing in Woodridge, and RTT Cycle Shop in Downers Grove.

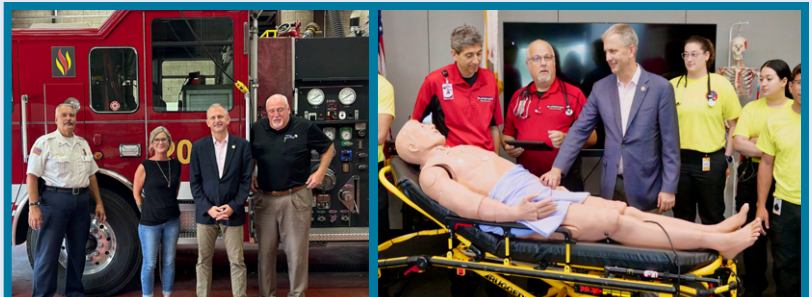


Behavioral Health in IL-06

DuPage County's new Crisis Recovery Center opened its doors in August. The facility acts as a behavioral health triage center where patients experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis can be assessed and provided a plan of action within 24 hours. I was proud to secure \$1,000,000 in federal funding to help build the center.

Tours with First Responders

I toured fire departments in Alsip, Downers Grove, Palos, Villa Park, and Western Springs. I also met with the Countryside Police Department and Superior Ambulance in Elmhurst.



Cuts to Public Health Programs

My office has received dozens of calls from health care professionals and researchers who are concerned about the future of public health. I convened a roundtable discussion with community health leaders to hear how their work is being affected, and about dangerous changes enacted by Secretary Kennedy and the Trump Administration.

I also met with residents at Lacey Creek Supportive Living and Alden Estates and heard their concerns about Medicaid and Medicare cuts.

SEPTEMBER

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Making Our Skies Safer

My bipartisan Mental Health in Aviation Act passed the House! I worked across the aisle with Republican Congressman Pete Stauber (MN-08) to introduce this legislation that makes our skies safer by ensuring pilots and air traffic controllers can access mental health care, should they need it.



Expanding FMLA Coverage to Education Support Professionals

I teamed up with Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) to introduce the ESP, Paraprofessional, and Education Support Staff Family Leave Act. This legislation would expand the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to cover 2.7 million education support professionals (ESPs) who are currently blocked from accessing FMLA benefits.

Calling for an End to Illegal Immigration Enforcement

I joined Democratic members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation to demand answers about extreme immigration enforcement operations in Illinois under “Operation Midway Blitz” and “Operation at Large.” We reprimanded the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Department of Justice (DOJ), and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials for violating due process as they continue to advance President Trump’s mass deportation scheme by targeting immigrants with no criminal convictions.

Unveiling the Cheap Energy Agenda

I worked with Representative Mike Levin (CA-49) to introduce the Cheap Energy Agenda, a consumer-focused approach to United States energy policy that ensures Americans have access to cheap, reliable, and clean energy.

To fulfill this agenda, Rep. Levin and I released a draft of our legislation, the Cheap Energy Act, which is a comprehensive approach to addressing the wide array of different factors that are raising energy bills. At a time when electricity rates are soaring across the country and millions of families are struggling to pay their rising energy bills, the single most impactful thing we can do to lower energy costs for Americans is to expand access to cheap energy.

OCTOBER

Food Pantry Roundtable

Families across America have felt the pain of the Trump Administration's policies. The 43 day government shutdown amplified these challenges. I convened a roundtable with local food pantries to hear what they're seeing on the ground.



Hispanic Heritage Month

This Hispanic Heritage Month, I toured Toro Construction in Orland Park and JP Architects in Alsip, where I heard the stories of their companies and how Congress can support minority-owned businesses.

Health Care Facility Visit

I visited VNA Health Care in Villa Park. I heard their concerns about cuts to Medicaid, the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition program, and other federal programs that help our community.



Mainstream Pumping Station Tour

I joined the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) for a tour of the Mainstream Pumping Station in Hodgkins. This station was designed to capture combined sewer overflows and prevent backflows into Lake Michigan.

Government Shutdown Telephone Town Hall

Shortly after the start of the government shutdown, I hosted my 5th Telephone Town Hall of the year to talk with constituents and answer questions about what was happening – and not happening – in Washington.



NOVEMBER



Veterans Day in IL-06

I attended the American Legion Post 80's Veterans Day Celebration in Downers Grove.

It's always a privilege to spend time with our veterans, hear their stories, and help ensure they get the benefits they deserve.

Nature Education

I toured the Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center in Willow Springs with members of the Forest Preserve of Cook County. The Little Red Schoolhouse offers educational programming and connects to the Palos Trail System.



SNAP Benefits Hearing

1.9 million people in Illinois rely on SNAP. I joined a Steering and Policy Committee hearing back in Washington, D.C. with my Democratic House colleagues to learn about how threats to SNAP benefits are hurting communities across America.

Senior Facility Town Halls

I spoke with seniors at Oak Trace Senior Living in Downers Grove and Brookdale Senior Living in Lisle. I heard their concerns and answered questions about the rise of AI, ICE's harmful presence in our community, and holding the Trump Administration accountable.



DECEMBER

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Passing Legislation to Support Entrepreneurs

I teamed up with Republican Congresswoman Ann Wagner (MO-02) to pass a bipartisan bill that supports innovation, entrepreneurship, and capital formation. Congress must do more to support growth in the start-up economy and ensure capital reaches the communities and innovators who need it most. My legislation — the DEAL ACT — does just that and passed the House on December 1st.

Mitigating Negative Impacts of Dirty Energy Sources

For too long, we have placed the interests of energy producers above all else when setting our energy policy, including when deciding to permit a new natural gas pipeline. I introduced a bill to rectify this problem by requiring the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to consider the potential impacts on climate change, Environmental Justice Communities, energy affordability, and reliability when approving new gas pipelines.

HOLIDAY CARD DRIVE

This year, my office organized our first annual Holiday Card Drive for Seniors. The program received over 450 cards created by members of the community. I enjoyed seeing seniors and delivering the cards at seniors facilities in Downers Grove, Countryside, Oak Brook, and Orland Park.



Constituent Services

My office has resolved hundreds of constituent cases with federal agencies and returned over \$2 million back into the pockets of folks in our community this year.

Here are a few examples of what my office can assist you with:

Passports

If you have imminent travel and require a passport urgently, my office may be able to request an emergency appointment at a Passport Agency on your behalf. My office may also submit a congressional inquiry to the National Passport Center to check on the status of your passport application.

Visas

For issues related to visa applications or petitions, my office can contact U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) through a congressional inquiry. My office has successfully assisted constituents with a variety of immigration matters, including I-485 Adjustment of Status applications, I-130 family petitions, and other USCIS processes.


Veterans Services

My office can submit a congressional inquiry on your behalf to help ensure your case is reviewed in a timely manner. My office can also help you obtain your VA medical records and discharge documents, assist with questions regarding your benefits, and provide guidance on navigating VA systems and requirements.

If you are having trouble accessing these benefits and services, or receiving a response from any other federal agency, please don't hesitate to reach out to my Lombard, IL office at 630-520-9450 or my Washington, DC office at 202-225-4561 to see how my team might be able to help.

“It is an honor to represent the 6th District of Illinois. Happy holidays to all, and wishing you a wonderful 2026.”

 casten.house.gov

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