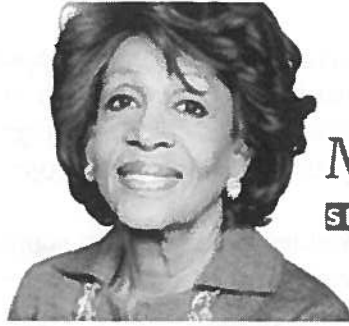


# **Congresswoman Maxine Waters**



**South Bay Cities Council of  
Governments Legislative Briefing  
Thursday, October 11, 2018**





CONGRESSWOMAN  
**MAXINE WATERS**  
SERVING CALIFORNIA'S 43RD DISTRICT

RANKING MEMBER OF THE  
FINANCIAL SERVICE COMMITTEE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 14, 2017

## **Congresswoman Waters Leads Dems in Fight for Infrastructure Funding**

**WASHINGTON** – Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Ranking Member of the House Financial Services Committee, introduced landmark legislation to create jobs in the 43<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District and other communities throughout our nation by funding investments in transportation and water infrastructure. The legislative package consists of two bills, the *Transportation Infrastructure for Job Creation Act* (H.R. 3858) and the *Drinking Water Infrastructure for Job Creation Act* (H.R. 3859), which together will provide emergency supplemental appropriations totaling \$15 billion over the next six years for job creation through investments in our nation’s infrastructure. Her two bills were cosponsored by 69 and 60 of her colleagues, respectively.

**“My legislation will provide important funding to improve roads, bridges, transit, and drinking water infrastructure in my district and throughout the United States,”** said Congresswoman Maxine Waters. **“It will also create jobs and economic growth for working families in cities like Los Angeles, Inglewood, Torrance, and Gardena.”**

Congresswoman Waters played a critical role in obtaining federal support for Metro’s Crenshaw LAX Corridor, which will improve transit access in the 43rd Congressional District. It includes stations serving Inglewood, Westchester, and LAX airport. Construction is on schedule for completion by October 2019.

**“I was proud to help Metro obtain federal support for the Crenshaw LAX Corridor, but I know we must do more to invest in infrastructure for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,”** said Congresswoman Maxine Waters. **“My legislation could provide funding for critical improvements to local highways, reduce traffic congestion, and assist local transit agencies, such as Torrance Transit and the Gardena GTrans system.”**

Infrastructure investments have a track-record of success for creating good paying jobs for hard-working Americans regardless of educational attainment. According to the Brookings Institute, infrastructure jobs usually represent long-term, well-paid opportunities for the two-thirds of U.S. workers who lack four-year college degrees.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.brookings.edu/research/expanding-opportunity-through-infrastructure-jobs/>.

The *Transportation Infrastructure for Job Creation Act* provides an emergency supplemental appropriation totaling \$7.5 billion dollars over the next six years for investments in transportation infrastructure through the successful “TIGER” program, which provides competitive grants to local governments and transit agencies to fund innovative highway, bridge, and transit projects.

The *Drinking Water Infrastructure for Job Creation Act* provides an emergency supplemental appropriation totaling \$7.5 billion dollars over the next six years for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, which help public water systems finance infrastructure projects in order to replace lead pipes, upgrade water infrastructure, and ensure clean drinking water for families.

**“A safe, efficient, modern, and accessible transportation system and access to safe, clean drinking water is vital for a healthy environment and a vibrant economy,”** said Congresswoman Waters. **“I urge my colleagues in the Republican-controlled House to join me in fighting for good paying jobs and the infrastructure repairs our country so desperately needs through the Transportation and Drinking Water Infrastructure for Job Creation legislative package.”**

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## **Rep. Waters' Efforts on Behalf of Servicemembers, Veterans & Military Families**

Congresswoman Maxine Waters is working to support servicemembers, veterans and military families across California's 43<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District. She has written legislation, conducted community outreach, and provided access to casework services through her district office.

### **Legislation**

In the 115th Congress, she has introduced the following legislation that benefits servicemembers, veterans and their families:

- H.R. 2744, *Ensuring Education Quality for Veterans Act* - Closes a loophole that incentivizes for-profit colleges to take advantage of our veteran students.
- H.R. 4369, *Protecting Benefits for Disabled Veterans Act* - Protects benefits for veterans who are unable to work due to a service-connected disability.
- H.R. 2076, *Ending Homelessness Act of 2017*- Provides immediate emergency funds and programs to meet the needs of the homeless population, including homeless veterans.
- H.R. 3357, *Military Consumer Protection Act* - Enhances protections for military servicemembers and their families from abusive Wall Street practices by authorizing the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to oversee and enforce compliance with the Servicemember Civil Relief Act (SCRA).
- H. Res. 821 - Recognizes the importance of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, its replica which travels in "The Wall That Heals" exhibit, and the distinguished servicemembers the memorials honor and commemorate.

### **Casework and Constituent Outreach**

Congresswoman Waters' Los Angeles Office makes it a top priority to provide constituent services and casework on behalf of veterans and military families residing in the 43rd Congressional District. Congresswoman Waters also maintains a strong partnership with local chapters of the **Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), American Legion, U.S. VETS, and New Directions for Veterans**, and regularly works with them to host events and provide assistance to veterans in her district. Additionally, each Memorial Day she attends events throughout the 43<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District to honor the memory of fallen men and women throughout the district who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

### **The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall That Heals Exhibit**

Congresswoman Waters worked for two years with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, City of Gardena Mayor Tasha Cerda, the City Council, and Director of Parks and Human Services Kelly Fujio, and talented volunteers, to bring the remarkable and iconic Vietnam Veterans Memorial Replica and Mobile Education Center's "The Wall That Heals" exhibit to Gardena's Mas Fukai Park in April 2018. "The Wall That Heals" is a 375-foot-wide, 7.5-foot-tall memorial that lists the names of more than 58,000 brave service men and women who lost their lives during the Vietnam War. The April 2018 visit was the first time the traveling replica visited the South Bay.

### **Department of Veterans Affairs, Center for Women Veterans**

Congresswoman Waters originally served on the House Veterans Affairs Committee, where she led the effort to establish the Center for Women Veterans at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Today, the Center monitors and coordinates the health services, benefits, and programs for women veterans and ensures they are treated with dignity and respect.

### **New Directions for Veterans in Los Angeles**

Congresswoman Maxine Waters has a long and strong history with New Directions for Veterans. Shortly after their founding in 1992, Congresswoman Waters worked with New Directions co-founders, Larry Williams, John Keaveney, and Toni Reinis, to secure \$1.5 million in funding for the purchase of Building 116 on the Veterans Administration (VA) Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System campus. This flagship location allowed New Directions to expand from serving 10 veterans at a time to roughly 130 veterans. Congresswoman Waters also obtained additional funding and support from then-President Bill Clinton's Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jesse Brown and led efforts to enact legislation to obtain a 50-year lease for Building 116. Since then, she has also worked closely with New Directions on a number of community initiatives including establishing a women's program for female veterans and opening New Directions' Mitchell House in Mar Vista.

### **United States Veterans Initiative (U.S. Vets)**

For the past 25 years, Congresswoman Maxine Waters has maintained a strong partnership with U.S. Vets, a non-profit organization that provides housing, employment and counseling services to veterans, which opened its inaugural headquarters in Inglewood, CA. Since its founding, Congresswoman Waters has worked with U.S. Vets to provide housing assistance and constituent casework to veterans residing in her district. She also joins U.S. Vets' Memorial Day and Veterans Day celebrations each year to honor veterans and military families residing in Los Angeles County.

### **Gardena Community Based Outpatient Clinic**

Congresswoman Waters advocated for a veterans' facility in her district that provides health and mental health care to veterans, and is responsible for the creation of the Gardena Community Based Outpatient Clinic in the City of Gardena by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.



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## **Waters Introduces Bill to Improve Protections for Homeowners Facing Foreclosure**

**Washington, DC, June 18, 2018**

*The bill comes on the heels of Ranking Member Waters' bill to prevent foreclosures on FHA Borrowers.*

A decade after the devastating foreclosure crisis, **Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA)**, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Financial Services, continues the fight to ensure hardworking Americans can remain in their homes by introducing **H.R. 6102, the Homeowner Mortgage Servicing Fairness Act of 2018**. This bill would protect homeowners against foreclosure and increase the Federal Housing Finance Agency's (FHFA) oversight of mortgage servicers that conduct business with Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac own or guarantee nearly 60% of all mortgage loans.

"Mortgage servicers play a critical role in determining whether homeowners experiencing financial hardships will be forced out of their homes," said Ranking Member Waters. "However, despite the lessons learned during the foreclosure crisis, we continue to uncover evidence of bad behavior by our nation's mortgage servicers. Borrowers can't choose their servicer so it's especially important that Congress provide strong protections to prevent servicers from taking advantage of borrowers and to protect borrowers from foreclosure. This bill will implement common-sense reforms to ensure that servicers are giving borrowers every possible opportunity to avoid foreclosure."

### **What is the role of mortgage loan servicers?**

Mortgage servicers accept mortgage payments, manage borrower escrow accounts, work on loan modifications, and initiate foreclosure proceedings. After borrowers take out mortgage loans and settle into their homes, they continue to interact with their mortgage loan servicers. Despite the critical role that mortgage servicers play in the lives of homeowners across the nation, there are still significant lapses in mortgage servicing governance, which ultimately harm borrowers and the economy.

### **What does H.R. 6102 do to prevent harmful mortgage servicing practices?**

- Enhances FHFA oversight of servicers who conduct business with Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac;
- Requires documentation of servicer behavior and FHFA evaluation of the services provided to borrowers;
- Penalizes servicer failure to meet minimum standards established by the FHFA.

This legislation is supported by the National Consumer Law Center and the National Fair Housing Alliance.

To view the legislation text, click [here](https://democrats-financialservices.house.gov). ([democrats-financialservices.house.gov](https://democrats-financialservices.house.gov))

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## **Waters Introduces Legislation to Help Prevent Unfair Foreclosures on Seniors with HUD Reverse Mortgages**

**Washington, DC, October 27, 2017**

Today, **Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA)**, Ranking Member of the Committee on Financial Services, introduced the *Preventing Foreclosures on Seniors Act*, a bill to make reforms to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) reverse mortgage program to help prevent unfair foreclosures on seniors. HUD's Home Equity Conversion Mortgages (HECM) program allows seniors to take out reverse mortgages, which convert a portion of their home equity into cash to supplement their income in retirement.

"Unfair foreclosures on seniors continue to be a problem in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's reverse mortgage program. This bill makes key changes to help seniors who are vulnerable to foreclosure under the current program," said **Ranking Member Waters**. "It is critical that we take every possible step to ensure that seniors who take out reverse mortgages, and particularly their surviving spouses, do not unfairly lose their homes."

**Congressman Denny Heck (D-WA)** is an original cosponsor on the bill.

The bill is supported by the National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) (on behalf of its low-income clients) and the California Reinvestment Coalition (CRC).

"This bill would provide much needed protections for older borrowers with reverse mortgage loans. It would require lenders to give seniors a chance to stay in their homes by repaying back taxes and insurance when they can afford to do so," said Alys Cohen, Staff Attorney for the National Consumer Law Center. "It also would protect spouses left off a reverse mortgage from needless foreclosure by requiring that eligible spouses be given the opportunity to remain in their home. These are common sense steps that would protect older borrowers and preserve the reverse mortgage program by making it work better."

"This new bill by Ranking Member Waters is a practical and effective way to ensure that widows and widowers are able to live out the rest of their lives in their homes, consistent with what the majority of these seniors were told when they first obtained a reverse mortgage," said Paulina Gonzalez, Executive Director of the California Reinvestment Coalition.

The bill makes reforms to HUD's Home Equity Conversion Mortgages (HECM) program to:

- Require loss mitigation for HECM borrowers in default (currently it is optional).
- Require that non-borrowing spouses are treated as borrowing spouses for the purposes of loss mitigation (currently they are ineligible).

- Require mandatory assignment of HECM loans to HUD if there is an eligible non-borrowing spouse living in the home upon the death of the borrower (currently it is optional).
- Require mortgagees to provide prompt notice to a surviving non-borrowing spouse of their eligibility to remain in the property if they meet certain basic requirements.
- Prevent foreclosures on non-borrowing spouses once the loan is assigned to HUD unless they fail to meet certain basic requirements.
- Grant the Secretary of HUD authority to reduce or deny insurance benefits to any mortgagee who fails to comply with loss mitigation requirements.
- Extend the deadline by which non-borrowing spouses must obtain the proper paperwork to prove their eligibility.
- Require HUD to consult with the Consumer Protection Financial Bureau (CFPB) on matters of consumer protection to ensure that HUD rules are more sensitive to these issues in the future.

For more information, view the [legislation](#) and a [one pager](#). ([democrats-financialservices.house.gov](https://democrats-financialservices.house.gov))

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## **Waters Introduces Legislation to Make FHA Mortgages More Affordable**

**Washington, DC, October 26, 2017**

Today, **Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA)** introduced the *Making FHA More Affordable Act*, a bill to repeal the requirement that Federal Housing Administration (FHA) borrowers pay mortgage insurance premiums for the life of the loan, and reinstate the FHA's previous policy of only requiring borrowers to pay premiums until the outstanding principal balance reaches 78 percent of the original home value.

"Families who take out home loans through the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) should not be unnecessarily burdened with mortgage insurance premiums for the life of the loan," **said Ranking Member Waters**. "My bill would remove this unfair requirement for FHA borrowers and help to make mortgages more affordable for hardworking Americans."

The FHA has required borrowers to pay the annual premiums for the life of the loan since June 3, 2013. Before that, the FHA was aligned with the private mortgage insurance industry in charging premiums only until the outstanding principal balance reached 78 percent of the original home value.

The bill is supported by the National Association of Realtors (NAR), the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB), the Community Home Lenders Association (CHLA), the National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) (on behalf of its low-income clients), the National Housing Conference (NHC), the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC), the California Reinvestment Coalition (CRC), and the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals (NAHREP).

"Low and moderate-income homebuyers often look to FHA, but policies like the "life of loan" mortgage insurance make it harder for those creditworthy buyers to close the deal," said William E. Brown, President of the National Association of Realtors. "Lifetime mortgage insurance requirements also encourage strong borrowers with substantial equity in their home to refinance into a conventional mortgage product. That represents a missed opportunity to further strengthen the FHA portfolio. This legislation will take unnecessary burdens off the backs of homebuyers who look to FHA for a mortgage. Realtors know that's good for consumers and the housing market broadly, and we thank Congresswoman Waters for her leadership on this important issue."

"Returning to a more reasonable FHA premium policy is the right move now that home prices and mortgage markets have stabilized and the FHA's financial position is strong. It helps homeowners build wealth and save for the future, so they'll be better prepared for the next economic downturn," said Ethan Handelman, Acting CEO of the National Housing Conference.

"Through this legislation, Representative Waters is championing homeownership opportunity. We encourage immediate passage of the Making FHA More Affordable Act," said John Taylor, President and CEO of the National Community Reinvestment Coalition.

For more information, view the [legislation](#) and a [one pager](#). ([democrats-financialservices.house.gov](http://democrats-financialservices.house.gov))





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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 13, 2018

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## **U.S. Postal Service Agrees to Rep. Waters' Request for a New Alzheimer's Stamp**

### ***Stamp Will Promote Public Awareness and Raise Funds for Research***

**Washington, D.C.** — After a request and continued advocacy by Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA), the Ranking Member of the Financial Services Committee and Co-Chair of the bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease, the U.S. Postal Service held a ceremony to dedicate a new Alzheimer's Semipostal Fundraising Stamp on November 30, 2017.

**"I am pleased that the Postal Service has responded to my request to adopt a new Alzheimer's Semipostal Fundraising Stamp,"** said Congresswoman Waters. **"The new stamp will promote public awareness and raise funds for medical research for this tragic disease, which affects more than five million Americans and has no effective treatment."**

Congresswoman Waters introduced the Alzheimer's Research Semipostal Stamp Act (H.R. 2973) on June 21, 2017, to require the Postal Service to issue a semipostal stamp — a type of postage stamp issued to raise money for a specific cause — promoting Alzheimer's awareness and research. The bill is supported by 130 Members of Congress representing both political parties.

The price of the Alzheimer's stamp includes the First-Class Mail single-piece postage rate in effect at the time of purchase plus an additional amount to fund Alzheimer's research. The additional funds raised will be distributed to the National Institutes of Health, where they will be used by medical researchers who are working to find a cure. The amount raised will depend upon the number of Alzheimer's stamps sold.

The Alzheimer's stamp is modeled on the highly successful Breast Cancer Research Stamp, which was first issued in 1998. As of December 2017, that stamp has raised more than \$87 million for breast cancer research.

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