

## Congresswoman Jackie Speier

November 16, 2021

Dear dear friend,

It is with mixed emotions that I am reaching out today, as I wanted you to hear from me personally that I will not be a candidate for Congress in 2022. It has been a remarkable journey that has surpassed my wildest dreams, and I could not have done it without you. No one could have hoped for a better partner. Thanks to you and to others who joined with you, I have enjoyed nearly four decades in a career that defines the phrase “chance of a lifetime.”

Forty-three years ago, as I lay dying on a jungle airstrip, I promised God that, if I were allowed to live, I would dedicate my life to public service. I was given that chance, and thanks to you, I was able to make good on that promise.

Now, it is time to take a different path. I will be retiring in 2022. It is time for me to come home and be more than a weekend wife, mother, and friend.

Early in my service, we protected San Bruno Mountain from development, strengthened the county hospital, and ensured that family childcare needs were met through new county services. In the state legislature, I got landmark child support laws passed that ultimately led to billions being collected on behalf of struggling custodial parents —largely women. Every time I see a license plate with a heart or similar symbol, I am reminded that my legislation establishing that program continues to fund children’s safety programs throughout this state. Every time I see a Caltrain Baby Bullet whoosh by, I am reminded of \$127 million that was made possible when the legislature appropriated help for our Peninsula.

It has been my honor in Congress to work on some of the greatest challenges of our lifetimes. I was sworn in to Congress as the economy was in freefall from the housing collapse. We passed historic legislation to stabilize the economy, sharply reversing the decline and setting it on the path of growth for the next decade, passed the Affordable Care Act which ended discrimination against those with pre-existing conditions and extended health insurance to tens of millions. Little could I imagine at the time that, years later, a few malignant molecules originating in China would prove so powerful that they would kill over 750,000 of our neighbors, knock our economy back into a steep decline and lead to once-in-a-century hardship for our nation and the world.

Thanks to your support, in the last 13 years in Congress I have fought to:

- strengthen consumer protection laws
- secure tens of millions of dollars for the San Francisco Bay
- root out waste, fraud, and abuse at the Pentagon
- clean up how sexual harassment is handled in the halls of Congress
- secure hundreds of millions of dollars for service members who were victims of medical malpractice
- pass legislation to remove the arbitrary time limit for the ratification of the ERA
- recover millions in veterans’ benefits for my constituents

Just this year, I was finally able to pass legislation to fix our broken system of handling sexual assault in the military, securing justice for survivors. I was also proud to vote for our infrastructure bill that will spur the greatest investments in rail, bridges, roads, broadband, and energy in the last half century. I hope to soon vote again for the Build Back Better plan that will invest directly in fighting climate change, and provide help to families through offering universal pre-k and expanding childcare, housing, healthcare and so much more. The

vote margins in Congress on all of these measures have been razor thin. Your support ensured that I was able to help pass historic change for all.

In the end, no member of a board of supervisors, state legislature or Congress secures the trust of voters without support from those who understand that campaigns cost money and the road from hopeful candidate to seasoned policymaker is long and complex. I deeply appreciate that you were always there when I asked for your assistance.

Thank you for being a rock of support during decades of change. We made a difference on behalf of our nation. I treasure you more than you know.

All the best,

Jackie

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