



Women's Legislative Update

Congressman Scott Peters (CA-52)

Fighting for Equality and Ensuring Opportunity

- Scott cosponsored a resolution that calls on the Senate to ratify the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women** and support the **full realization of the rights of women** as a vital role in the development and well-being of people of all nations.
- Scott cosponsored the **Paycheck Fairness Act** to strengthen the remedy and enforcement provisions of the existing **Equal Pay Act**; he also is an original cosponsor of a resolution recognizing the significance of **Equal Pay Day** and illustrating the disparity between wages paid to men and women.
- Scott cosponsored H.R. 1975, the **Pregnant Workers Fairness Act**, which would protect pregnant workers from being fired or denied reasonable accommodations for any physical limitations related to their pregnancy.
- As a cosponsor of H.R. 1358, the **STEM Opportunities Act**, which would ensure federal agencies and institutions of higher ed employ women and other underrepresented minorities in STEM programs, Scott supports incorporating more women into this critical, growing industry.
- Scott also introduced H.R. 2422, the **Sally K. Ride Congressional Gold Medal Act**, to posthumously recognize Sally Ride for her achievements in science and space and for a legacy of getting young women into STEM fields.
- And to ensure maximum opportunity in the federal procurement market, Scott voted to include **women-owned small businesses** among those given preferred treatment in Department of Defense contracts.

Guaranteeing Safety for Women and Children/Protecting the Rights of Servicemembers

- Scott cosponsored the reauthorization of the **Violence Against Women Act**, urged House leadership to bring the bill to the floor, and helped secure its passage.
- Scott also is an original cosponsor of H.R. 1690, the Child Protection Act of 2013. Also known as Hazel's Law, it would strengthen existing statute that **bars sex trafficking** of minors.
- In the Department of Defense appropriations bill, Scott voted to fund **enhanced training and investigation** of military sexual assault. He also voted to **protect whistleblower victims** and require the Department of Defense, Homeland Security, and other agencies to investigate claims with regard to alleged instances of rape, sexual assault, or other forms of sexual misconduct in violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and correct the records of women separated from the military on the ground of

disorder for reporting their claims. Additionally, he voted to **enhance penalties** for servicemembers who commit sexual assaults by establishing mandatory minimum sentences.

Defending Women's Healthcare and Protecting Reproductive Rights

- Scott is a strong fighter for accessible and affordable reproductive healthcare and a **woman's right to choose**. He spoke out on the floor and voted against the House Republicans' most recent attempt to ban abortion.
- On an international level, Scott is an original cosponsor of the Global Democracy Promotion Act, which would permanently repeal the **Global Gag Rule** and allow all women access to abortion services. At the state level, he authored a letter to the House Appropriations Committee, asking it to fully fund **Title X family planning**, and a letter to the Office of Population Affairs requesting that no further cuts be made to Title X funding in California.
- Scott cosponsored H.R. 728, the **Access to Birth Control Act**, requiring pharmacies without the prescribed medication in stock to order it in a timely manner, refer the patient to another pharmacy that will fill the prescription, or transfer the prescription. In addition, pharmacies cannot harass, intimidate, deceive, breach medical confidentiality, force women to wait, or refuse to return a prescription.
- Scott voted not to repeal or defund the **Affordable Care Act**, which provides greater access to coverage and financial assistance for those currently without insurance. Under the ACA, plans must cover mammograms and cancer screenings, birth control with no co-pay, doctor visits, hospitalizations, prenatal and maternity care, ER care, and other prescriptions. The law also prevents insurance companies from charging higher copays to women.
- To further support access to contraception, Scott coauthored a letter to Secretary Sebelius thanking her for clarifying **contraception benefits under the ACA**: plans must provide coverage without copay for the full range of FDA-approved contraceptive methods.
- Scott also cosponsored H.R. 2457, the **Women's Preventative Health Awareness Campaign**, which would provide for the planning and implementation of a national public outreach and education campaign to raise public awareness about women's preventative health services.
- To support better research, diagnosis, and treatment of breast cancer, Scott voted for enhanced collaboration with NIH for **breast cancer research** and authored a letter to CMS, urging the agency to establish a reimbursement policy for **3D mammograms**, which have recently been approved by the FDA.



Scott is a proud member of the Congressional Pro-Choice Caucus, Caucus on Women in the Military, the Congressional Military Family Caucus, and the Military Sexual Assault Prevention Caucus, all of which protect and strengthen the rights of women in the United States and around the world. His efforts have helped to expand opportunity and equality, repeal discriminatory laws, eliminate sexual violence, and improve health and wellbeing for all women.