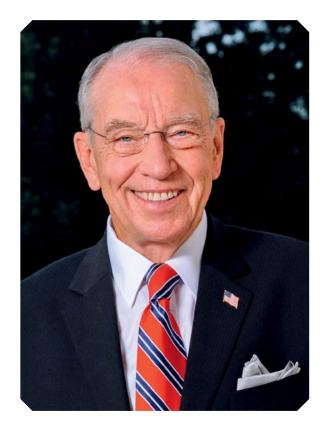


SEN. GRASSLEY MARKS POLICY, OVERSIGHT ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2021





"Serving the people of Iowa as their United States Senator is my first priority and it's an honor that I take seriously. As ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and through my extensive oversight efforts, my work focuses on making government more transparent, efficient and accountable to Iowans and all Americans,"

Chuck Granley

Grassley holds at least one question-and-answer session in each of lowa's <u>99 counties every year</u> to hear concerns and answer questions on any subject from lowans. In September 2021, Grassley completed his annual county meetings for the <u>41st year in a row</u>. Grassley holds meetings in a variety of settings to ensure that a broad cross-section of lowans can participate, including businesses, schools, town hall meetings, hospitals and factory floors. While the COVID-19 pandemic may have made some of Grassley's meetings look a little different this year, the format remained the same: lowans set the agenda. Grassley moved forward with his meetings in a safe and responsible way while following public health guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the state of lowa.

In addition to his annual meetings, Grassley attended or convened a variety of events and forums, including:

- Virtual Service Academy Open House
- Veterans History Project
- Federal Judiciary Youth Summit

In 2021, Grassley continued his annual social media series called <u>#CornWatch</u> and <u>#SoybeanWatch</u>. These give followers an <u>inside look</u> at farming operations, tracking the progression of corn and soybean crops grown on the Grassley family farm in New Hartford, Iowa, from planting through harvest.



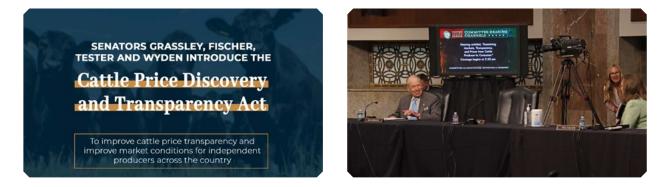
When the Senate is in session, Grassley sets aside at least eight 15-minute meetings every Monday through Thursday to meet with Iowans in Washington, D.C., including advocacy groups, associations, chambers of commerce and local business leaders, students and families. While there were limitations this year due to the pandemic, Grassley was able to meet with Iowans virtually. Throughout 2021, Grassley met with more than 800 groups of Iowans and discussed a variety of policy issues such as trade, tax reform, prescription drug pricing as well as the many issues that have arisen due to the pandemic. Grassley also joined Iowa schools for Q&As via video conferencing and, as an avid fan of Iowa universities, cheered on dozens of student-athletes at sporting events.



Highlights of Grassley's legislative and oversight work follow here:

AGRICULTURE:

Grassley continually hears from constituents expressing concern that there is a discrepancy between high grocery store shelf prices and simultaneous decreased cattle prices. In March, Grassley joined his colleagues to <u>reintroduce</u> legislation previously released in 2002. After months of calling for a hearing, Grassley questioned witnesses from the livestock marketing industry at Senate <u>Agriculture</u> Committee and Senate <u>Judiciary</u> Committee hearings to address competition in the American food supply chain. In August, Grassley <u>commended</u> the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) announcement of two new Market News Reports that provide additional insight into formula cattle trades and help promote fair and competitive markets. In October, Grassley was invited to <u>speak</u> at the House Agriculture Committee Hearing on the state of the livestock industry. In November, Grassley, along with Sens. Fischer (R-Neb.), Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) <u>introduced</u> bipartisan legislation to improve fairness in the cattle market.



Grassley and Senate Agriculture Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) along with colleagues, Sens. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) and Jon Tester (D-Mont.), introduced legislation to give top U.S. agriculture and food officials permanent representation on the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS). The bipartisan *Food Security is National Security Act* will also include new agriculture and food-related criteria for CFIUS to consider when reviewing transactions that could result in control of a U.S. business by a foreign company.

While Iowans continued to recover from the devastating derecho that swept through the state in August 2020, Grassley worked with Sen. Ernst to ensure

tax relief for Iowans would be <u>delivered</u> as part of the *Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2020*. Additionally, Grassley <u>praised</u> the adoption of derecho disaster relief he had called for in an agriculture funding bill, which was based on an amendment he and Rep. Randy Feenstra (Iowa-04) <u>initially tried to include in</u> <u>the COVID-19 relief bill</u> passed earlier this year.

As an advocate for reasonable water rules, Grassley <u>pushed</u> to make a workable definition of the term "waters of the United States" (WOTUS) permanent. He joined with Republican senators on the Environment and Public Works Committee to <u>introduce</u> legislation to codify the 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule (NWPR). He also gave a <u>speech</u> on the senate floor, highlighting the devastating effects of rolling back this rule.

Grassley joined a bipartisan effort to help Iowa farmers enter carbon credit markets by introducing the *Growing Climate Solutions Act*. This act was <u>passed</u> by the Senate in June and creates a certification program at the USDA to help solve technical entry barriers for farmer and forest landowners interested in entering carbon credit markets. The Growing Climate Solutions Act is still awaiting action in the U.S. House of Representatives.

As the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to rise, Grassley joined others in pressing Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, to ensure eligibility of pandemic relief for custom <u>cattle</u> feeders and <u>swine</u> producers and contract growers. COVID-19 also showed the importance of inspection at import hubs. With that in mind, Grassley <u>cosponsored</u> the *Healthy Dog Importation Act*, expanding the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (USDA-APHIS) program by providing additional tools to monitor and safeguard the health of dogs being imported into the country.

As an avid <u>lover</u> of bacon and in response to California's Proposition 12, requiring meat products raised out of the state to conform to the animal rights standards adopted by California under the guise of "public health", Grassley <u>cosponsored</u> the *Exposing Agricultural Trade Suppression (EATS) Act*. This will prevent states like California from radically regulating how lowa producers raise their pigs or laying hens in order to sell pork and eggs there. Grassley is a longtime advocate for tax protections so that family farms can continue to be passed down from one generation to the next. He is also a consistent proponent of <u>repealing the death tax</u>. Inheritance taxes have <u>negative effects</u> on the nation's farm economy and <u>culture</u>.

ANTITRUST, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND BIG TECH:

Grassley joined Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) in introducing legislation to ensure antitrust authorities have the resources they need to protect consumers. The <u>Merger Filing Fee Modernization Act</u> updates merger filing fees for the first time since 2001, lowers the burden on small and mediumsized businesses, ensures larger deals bring in more income and raises enough revenue so that taxpayer dollars aren't required to fund necessary increases to agency enforcement budgets.

Grassley joined Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) in introducing the <u>Tougher Enforcement</u> <u>Against Monopolies (TEAM) Act</u> to reform our nation's antitrust laws. The TEAM Act, in addition to consolidating our antitrust enforcement agencies into one, streamlined agency, strengthens our ability to prevent and correct antitrust harm in three main ways: antitrust laws, enforcers and remedies.

Grassley joined Sens. Dick Durbin (D-III.), Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-La.) and others to introduce the *Integrity, Notification and Fairness in Online Retail Marketplaces for Consumers (INFORM Consumers) Act.* It would direct online retail marketplaces that include third-party sellers of consumer products to authenticate the identity of "high-volume third-party sellers," which will help deter the online sale of counterfeit goods by anonymous sellers and prevent organized retail crime rings from stealing items from stores to resell those items in bulk online. The bill will also ensure that consumers can see basic identification and contact information for high-volume third-party sellers of consumer products on online marketplaces. Grassley also questioned witnesses at a Senate Judiciary Committee <u>hearing</u> on combating the online sale of stolen, counterfeit and dangerous consumer products by ensuring transparency of high-volume third-party sellers in online retail marketplaces. As a strong <u>believer</u> of the free market, Grassley has concerns about the power of Big Tech platforms over what Americans can see, buy and say online. So, he and Sen. Klobuchar (D-Minn.) introduced the <u>American Innovation and</u> <u>Choice Online Act</u>. This bipartisan legislation will restore competition online by establishing commonsense rules of the road for dominant digital platforms to prevent them from abusing their market power to harm competition, online businesses and consumers.

Amid rising oil prices fueled by foreign production cuts, Grassley joined a bipartisan group of Senate Judiciary Committee members to reintroduce legislation that will let the federal government take action against price fixing by OPEC, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. The <u>No Oil Producing</u> <u>and Exporting Cartels Act</u>, or NOPEC, would explicitly authorize the Justice Department to bring lawsuits against oil cartel members for antitrust violations. Grassley wrote letters to <u>Attorney General Merrick Garland</u> and <u>President Biden</u> to press the Biden administration to take a closer look at his bipartisan legislation to hold foreign oil producing nations accountable for anticompetitive behavior.

COMBATTING VIOLENCE:

Grassley reintroduced the <u>EAGLES Act</u> to expand efforts by the U.S. Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center to help communities proactively mitigate threats of violence at schools. The bill would establish a national program on targeted <u>school violence prevention</u> and provide additional resources to expand research and training on a national scale. The bill also would require the Secret Service to develop an expansion plan and periodically report to Congress on its progress.

Grassley pressed the Justice Department about its lack of updates from Joint Task Force Vulcan's (JTFV) efforts to combat the <u>violent street gang MS-13</u>. JTFV was established under the prior administration to combat the serious crimes, like murder, that MS-13 members regularly commit, but hasn't provided any updates since President Biden's inauguration.

After <u>calling</u> for a hearing on hate crimes, Grassley joined Senator Cotton (R-Ark.) to introduce the *Preventing Antisemitic Hate Crimes Act*, a bill to evaluate a <u>spike in crime against Jewish Americans</u>. The two senators made pivotal reforms to Senator Mazie Hirono's (D-Hawaii) <u>COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act</u>, targeting a <u>similar spike</u> in crimes against Asian Americans.

Grassley joined Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) and a bipartisan group of senators to introduce the <u>NICS Denial Notification Act</u>, which would help states enforce existing laws against individuals who attempt to purchase firearms but have no legal right to do so. This bill would require federal authorities to alert state and local law enforcement within 24 hours when an ineligible individual lies on a background check and tries to purchase a firearm.



COURTS:

Grassley and Senate Judiciary Committee colleagues introduced bills to put cameras in the <u>Supreme Court</u> and the <u>federal courts</u>. The Senate Judiciary Committee then <u>advanced</u> both bills that require televised coverage of federal court proceedings. For more transparency in the federal courts, Grassley joined some of his Judiciary Committee colleagues in introducing the <u>Courthouse</u> <u>Ethics and Transparency Act</u> to require online publication of financial disclosure reports for federal judges and to mandate that federal judges submit periodic transaction reports for certain securities transactions.

Grassley joined Representative Victoria Spartz (R-Ind. 05) in sending a <u>letter</u> to President Biden urging him to prohibit a practice known as "sue-andsettle." Grassley then reintroduced the <u>Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees</u> <u>and Settlements Act of 2021</u> to shine a light on sue-and-settle litigation and restores the transparency, public scrutiny and judicial review protections of the rulemaking process.

COVID-19:

After passing five bipartisan COVID-19 relief laws in 2020, Senate Democrats took the <u>partisan</u> route in constructing another relief spending bill by voting down all <u>commonsense</u> amendments offered by Senate Republicans. In response, Grassley and several of his Republican colleagues <u>offered</u> a substitute amendment focused just on COVID-19 relief that was struck down on the floor while Senate Democrats <u>jammed</u> their original spending bill through. Grassley was able to <u>introduce</u> and <u>pass</u> bipartisan legislation with Sen. Durbin (D-III.) to extend CARES Act bankruptcy relief provisions that were set to expire at the end of March 2021.

Grassley joined Sen. Ernst in <u>calling</u> on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to publicly release its weekly formula for allocating vaccines to states and other jurisdictions. The push for greater transparency came as news reports suggested Iowa was lagging behind other states in <u>vaccines</u> delivered and CDC data did not provide transparency into states' vaccine allocation formula. Grassley is actively investigating COVID-19's origins and <u>wrote</u> to the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as the Intelligence Community, seeking classified and unclassified records. When Grassley <u>spoke</u> on the Senate Floor about this issue, he made public the federal government's <u>failure to answer what steps it took to oversee taxpayer grants</u> sent to EcoHealth Alliance that were ultimately used to fund activity at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

While Grassley continues to encourage eligible lowans to get the safe and effective vaccine, he remains <u>opposed to President Biden's unconstitutional</u> <u>government vaccine mandate</u> on private businesses. Businesses don't need additional red tape on top of a worker shortage crisis and sluggish economy. Every business and American should have the ability to make their own decision about the vaccine. Grassley formally <u>challenged</u> President Biden's vaccine mandate under the Congressional Review Act (CRA). Grassley <u>regularly</u> <u>encourages</u> eligible individuals to get the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine. Approximately two million lowans have been fully vaccinated. We thank the many doctors, nurses, pharmacists and public health worker who made this milestone possible.



CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS:

As ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Grassley joined Chairman Durbin (D-III.) and a bipartisan, bicameral group of colleagues to introduce legislation to strengthen the *Victims of Crime Act* (VOCA) which Grassley cosponsored years ago. This legislation ensures that additional funds collected from criminal defendants would be attributed to the Crime Victims Fund (CVF) and <u>unanimously</u> passed the Senate in July. The pair also announced their bipartisan collaboration on a resolution observing a week in April as <u>National Crime Victims' Rights Week</u>. The resolution highlights that victims and survivors of crime need and deserve support. The resolution also asserts the importance of securing justice for crime survivors and protecting communities when victims report crimes—choosing to bravely participate in the criminal justice process.

Grassley also joined Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) in reintroducing the <u>Survivors' Bill of Rights in the States Act</u> which encourages states to adopt the same protections for survivors of state sex crimes that already exist at the federal level. In a hearing held by the Senate Judiciary Committee on <u>strengthening the Violence Against Women Act</u> (VAWA), Grassley expressed his continued support of survivors of sex crimes. He also sent a <u>letter to Senate</u> <u>appropriations leaders</u> urging Congress to continue prioritizing funding of VAWA programs.



After pushing for an investigation into the <u>FBI's response to repeated allegations</u> of sexual abuse of Olympic gymnasts and other young athletes by Olympic Physician Larry Nassar, the Justice Department Inspector General released a report in July. The following month, Grassley and Sen. Durbin (D-III.) held a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing to <u>seek accountability</u> for the mishandlings of the Nassar sexual abuse case. After <u>hearing from</u> gymnasts, the Justice Department Inspector General Michael Horowitz and FBI Director Wray, Grassley <u>called on</u> Attorney General Garland to reexamine the FBI's failure to promptly and properly investigate these claims of abuse.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM:

Building on the landmark *First Step Act* passed in 2018, Grassley and Sen. Durbin (D-III.) joined together again to introduce a number of bipartisan criminal justice reform bills, including the *Prohibiting Punishment of Acquitted Conduct Act of 2021* and the *First Step Implementation Act of 2021*. Grassley and Durbin also reintroduced more bipartisan legislation to reform the Elderly Home Detention Pilot Program and compassionate release from federal prisons. More than 200 federal prisoners with pre-existing medical conditions that made them more vulnerable to COVID-19 have died as a result of the virus, more than half of whom were over 60 years old. Grassley has continued his efforts to ensure that the *First Step Act* is fully and faithfully implemented. For instance, he participated in a <u>Bureau of Prisons</u> (BOP) Oversight Hearing. Grassley and Durbin also wrote a <u>letter</u> to the Department of Justice urging them to direct the BOP to expeditiously revise the proposed rule published on November 25, 2020, regarding earned time credits authorized by the *First Step Act of 2018*.

Senator Grassley is also actively participating and leading negotiations with members of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the U.S. Senate on a bipartisan criminal justice package. This package, which would build upon the historic bipartisanship of the First Step Act, will contain a number of recently introduced measures criminal justice reform bills.

Following <u>calls from Grassley</u>, the Senate Judiciary Committee convened in June a hearing on the current health and societal concerns posed by cocaine and related sentencing policies. At that hearing, Grassley <u>discussed</u> the need to better understand distinct problems presented by crack and powder cocaine Grassley joined Sens. Durbin, Cory Booker (D-N.J.) and Mike Lee (R-Utah) in <u>submitting</u> an Amicus Brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in *Tarahrick Terry v. United States*, a case related to the interpretation of provisions of the *First Step Act* and the *Fair Sentencing Act of 2010*. The *Fair Sentencing Act*, authored by Durbin and cosponsored by Grassley, reduced the federal sentencing disparity between crack and powder cocaine from 100:1 to 18:1.

He then joined Sens. Durbin, Booker and Lee to introduce the bipartisan <u>Terry</u> <u>Technical Correction Act</u>, which clarifies that all offenders who were sentenced for a crack cocaine offense before the *Fair Sentencing Act of 2010* can apply for its retroactive application under Section 404 of the *First Step Act*, including individuals convicted of the lowest level crack offenses. Section 404 of the *First Step Act* allows crack cocaine offenders to request a sentence reduction pursuant to the *Fair Sentencing Act*.

Grassley joined Durbin again in <u>leading</u> a bipartisan group of Senate Judiciary Committee members on a letter to Federal BOP Director Michael Carvajal requesting answers to reports that BOP's inmate Trust Fund/Deposit Fund program operates with little oversight, enables federal inmates to avoid paying child support and other debts and fails to scrutinize inmate accounts for suspicious and potentially criminal activity.



The Senate passed the *Prison Camera Reform Act of 2021* after Grassley <u>introduced</u> the legislation with Sens. Jon Ossoff (D-Ga.) and Dick Durbin (D-III.). The legislation will require the Bureau of Prisons to ensure all correctional facilities have the security camera coverage necessary to protect the civil rights and safety of incarcerated people and staff.

DEFENSE OVERSIGHT:

Grassley <u>wrote twice</u> to Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin to <u>demand</u> that the department fully and finally respond to his oversight requests about potential changes in the Defense Department's approach to the Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure (JEDI) program. After more than two years of requesting change, Grassley <u>celebrated</u> the termination of the JEDI contract and continued to <u>seek</u> answers through an independent investigation into the faulty review of the 10 billion dollar contract.

Grassley joined over 30 of his Senate colleagues in introducing legislation requiring the Department of Defense (DOD) to take immediate action to enhance suicide prevention efforts. The bipartisan <u>Save Our Servicemembers</u> (S.O.S.) Act would direct DOD to evaluate the effectiveness of its suicide prevention efforts, improve data collection, reduce bureaucratic duplication and strengthen collaboration between offices.

After first proposing legislation eight years ago, Grassley once again joined Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) in <u>reintroducing</u> the *Military Justice Improvement Act* in <u>response</u> to reports of mishandled military sexual assaults. Grassley, with Gillibrand and Ernst, <u>called out</u> the DOD proposed timeline – of up to nine years – to implement the findings of the Independent Review Commission (IRC) on sexual assault to combat sexual assault and harassment in the military.



Grassley joined Sens. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Mike Lee (R-Utah) to introduce the <u>Audit the Pentagon Act of 2021</u>, which would automatically reduce the budget of any department within the Department of Defense that hasn't passed a financial statement audit beginning in fiscal year 2022.

Grassley introduced <u>an amendment</u> to the *National Defense Authorization Act* to require an independent commission to review and make recommendations on the financial management systems of the DOD to ensure that these systems can produce reliable transaction data. These systems are a major impediment to the DOD getting a clean audit opinion. This amendment was adopted and included in the final legislation passed by Congress.

DOJ/FBI:

Grassley has repeatedly <u>called on Congress</u> to call out all forms of political violence. He <u>invited Durbin</u> to broaden the scope of a hearing on domestic extremism to include a surge of riots in 2020 and <u>pushed federal law</u> <u>enforcement to provide data</u> on violence perpetrated by groups from across the political spectrum.

After a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on oversight of the Department of Justice (DOJ), Grassley called on U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland to <u>withdraw his memo to the FBI</u> and other parts of DOJ telling them to get involved with reviewing a supposed "spike in harassment, intimidation and threats of violence" against local school boards based on a letter from a national organization that has since apologized for sending it. The letter included mostly examples of unruly but nonviolent protest. Grassley believes the Garland memo has a dangerously chilling effect on free speech, which is at <u>the heart of democracy</u>, and Attorney General Garland's memo will deter parents from passionately advocating for their children.



This legislative session, Grassley and Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), ranking member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, <u>persistently</u> <u>contacted Attorney General Garland</u> to clear up inconsistencies in his responses to oversight inquiries regarding potential conflicts of interest in two ongoing investigations involving Hunter Biden.

In January, the senators <u>raised questions</u> about whether then-acting head of the Justice Department criminal division Nicholas McQuaid had any role in the department's ongoing investigation into Hunter Biden. Immediately prior to joining the department, McQuaid worked at the same law firm as Biden's criminal defense attorney, Christopher Clark. The Justice Department <u>failed</u> to answer specific questions about whether McQuaid is recused from the Biden investigation.

In June, the lawmakers <u>sought details</u> on any role that the Justice Department National Security Division employee Susan Hennessey has in Special Counsel John Durham's ongoing review of the origins of the department's Russian collusion investigation. Hennessey had previously publicly expressed a bias against that investigation. In contrast to the Justice Department's failure to answer questions about McQuaid's role in the Biden investigation, during testimony before the Judiciary Committee, Garland stated that Hennessey "has nothing whatsoever to do with the [Special Counsel] Durham investigation."

DRUG PRICES:

One of Grassley's top priorities is addressing the rising costs of prescription drugs. With Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) he reintroduced the <u>Safe and</u> <u>Affordable Drugs from Canada Act</u>, which would allow individuals to safely import prescription drugs from Canada, creating savings for consumers and bringing greater competition into the pharmaceutical market.

The pair also <u>reintroduced</u> the Preserving Access to Affordable Generics and Biosimilars Act and the Stop Significant and Time-wasting Abuse Limiting Legitimate Innovation of New Generics (Stop STALLING) Act to promote competition and reduce drug costs. These two <u>bills advanced</u> out of the Senate Judiciary Committee along with two other Grassley-backed bills: the



<u>Prescription Pricing for the People Act</u>, cosponsored with Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) and the Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Act.

Grassley joined Sens. Durbin (D-III.) and Angus King (I-Maine) to introduce the <u>Drug-price Transparency for Competition (DTC) Act</u>, a bill that would require price disclosures on advertisements for prescription drugs, to empower patients and reduce spending on medications.

Throughout 2021, Grassley <u>advocated for his bipartisan efforts</u> to <u>lower</u> <u>prescription drugs costs</u> with President Biden, Speaker Pelosi, Health & Human Services Secretary Becerra, Problem Solvers Caucus Health Care Working Group, <u>rank-and-file</u> Members of <u>Congress</u> and White House staff. In 2019, as then-chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, he held three hearings on prescription drug pricing followed by a mark-up of legislation. He co-authored the bipartisan <u>Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act</u>, which would save taxpayers \$95 billion, cap-out-of-pocket costs at \$3,100 for seniors, cap annual drug price increases at inflation and establish transparency and accountability for pharmaceutical companies, all without disrupting cures and innovation. He continues to seek opportunities to advance his legislation on a bipartisan basis.

ECONOMY:

Grassley with Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) <u>reintroduced an amendment</u> to the United States Constitution that would require the federal government to balance its budget each year. This amendment would put a stop to the current "status quo" of Congress spending far more money than the federal government takes in and would <u>place strict limitations</u> on the federal government's ability to increase taxes, raise the debt limit and carry out other actions that threaten our long-term fiscal sustainability.

Instead of creating a balanced budget, the Biden administration released its <u>bloated budget</u> by proposing the highest sustained levels of federal spending since World War II, further adding to the <u>growing debt</u> burden. After the President released his extensive budget, Senate Democrats unveiled their <u>reckless tax</u> and spend budget plan. Set at \$4.2 trillion, the budget would feed <u>the fires of inflation and hurt every American consumer by increasing marginal</u> tax rates on individuals and small businesses to levels not seen before the 1986 tax act.



As more information regarding the contents of the bill surfaced, Grassley and Republican Senate Finance Committee members urged Senate Majority Leader Schumer (D-N.Y.) to <u>abandon the Biden administration's</u> <u>unprecedented proposal</u> to expand the reporting of the private, confidential financial data of law-abiding Americans from financial institutions to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). In response to the lack of action, Grassley joined Sen. Tim Scott (R-S.C.) in introducing the <u>Prohibiting IRS Financial Surveillance</u> <u>Act</u> which would prevent the IRS from implementing Democrats' plan</u> to give the agency access to transaction information of virtually every American.

Grassley offered <u>two more amendments</u> during the budget process, both of which were rejected by Senate Democrats. The first amendment would have <u>prevented Democrats from enacting tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans</u> in high-tax states while middle income and disadvantaged families are left behind. The second amendment would <u>have prevented undocumented</u> <u>immigrants with criminal histories from obtaining legal status</u> in the United States.

Grassley joined Senate Finance Committee Republicans in <u>demanding a</u> <u>full, open markup to thoroughly and rigorously examine and debate</u> any forthcoming reckless tax-and-spend proposals in the Finance Committee's jurisdiction. He later joined Republican ranking members of all Senate committees that have received reconciliation instructions and are calling on Leader Schumer and Senate committee chairs to <u>hold legislative hearings</u>, and <u>markups with votes</u>, on Democrats' reckless taxing and spending legislation.

After the House of Representatives passed the massive tax-and-spending plan, Grassley released a <u>statement outlining his disapproval</u> of the bill taking the American economy further <u>down the path to fiscal ruin</u>.

Before the child tax credit (CTC) advance payment program was implemented, Grassley and Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) <u>requested information</u> from the IRS regarding the fulfillment of the program. As Democrats moved forward with implementing the CTC, Grassley warned of failed past policies that provide assistance without a work or job requirement, therefore <u>trapping Americans in</u> <u>soul-crushing government dependency</u>. Meanwhile, following disclosures of Americans' sensitive tax information in the media, Grassley led an effort to press the Justice Department and FBI for details about how the leaks occurred and what's being done to prevent future leaks. The senators sought details on the scope of the <u>unauthorized access of confidential</u> <u>taxpayer information</u>, whether a possible breach originated at the IRS and whether it was the result of an external hack or a deliberate leak from within the agency. Further, the senators inquired about <u>the timing of any possible breach</u>, when the government became aware of it and steps being taken to protect any investigation from political pressure.

As a senior member and former chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Grassley reintroduced the <u>Chris Allen Multiemployer Pension Recapitalization</u> <u>and Reform Act</u>. The legislation is based on a 2019 proposal to avert the collapse of critically underfunded multiemployer pension plans and reform rules for these plans to prevent future funding shortfalls within these important pillars of the American retirement system. Along similar lines, Grassley <u>put forward a motion</u> to push for structural fixes to troubled multiemployer pension plans in their partisan \$1.9 trillion COVID spending package, but Senate Democrats blocked it.

As <u>labor shortages</u> plagued the trucking industry and supply chain issues impacted Americans across the country, Grassley joined Ernst in <u>calling for</u> <u>more Americans to be eligible to obtain a commercial driver's license</u> (CDL) and operate commercial motor vehicles in interstate commerce. He also joined a letter to the heads of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), the General Services Administration (GSA) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to request immediate <u>action to transition federal workers back to in-person</u> operations.

ENERGY:

As a champion of renewable fuels and an all-of-the-above American energy policy, Grassley continued his extensive work to enact <u>responsible</u> energy policies throughout 2021. Much of Grassley's energy agenda focused on the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). Grassley worked extensively with Senate colleagues, President Biden and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to find ways forward on renewable energies and <u>fulfill integrity</u> to the RFS.



Grassley sent a <u>letter</u> to White House Climate Czar, Gina McCarthy, inviting her to visit Iowa and learn about the state's continued <u>leadership</u> in renewable fuel production and overall sustainable energy strategy.

Grassley joined bipartisan legislation led by Sens. Ernst and Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) to expand renewable fuel infrastructure through the <u>Renewable</u> <u>Fuel Infrastructure Investment and Market Expansion Act of 2021</u>. He also joined Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) in introducing legislation to support the biodiesel industry with the <u>Biodiesel Tax Credit Extension Act of 2021</u>. He joined Sens. Fischer (R-Neb.) and Tammy Duckworth (D-III.) to introduce the bipartisan <u>RFS Integrity Act of 2021</u>, which would provide more certainty for rural America by bringing transparency and predictability to EPA's small refinery exemption process.

While the beginning of 2021 looked <u>hopeful</u> for biofuels with President Biden's <u>commitments</u> to supporting the biofuel industry, rumors <u>swirled</u> of plans to undercut the RFS and side with Big Oil <u>instead</u> of farmers. After the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals struck down the 2019 EPA rule that allowed E-15 to be sold year-round, Grassley joined Sens. Fischer and Klobuchar in reintroducing the <u>Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act</u>, which would allow E-15 to be sold year-round again.

By August, reports had come out stating that the EPA was recommending lowering the minimum renewable fuels volumes that would be supplied to the markets in 2021. Even after Grassley and other Senators <u>called out</u> the EPA for siding with Big Oil, the Biden administration's EPA continued to <u>play with the</u> <u>RFS</u> and slashed Renewable fuel Volume Obligation (RVO) numbers for 2020 and 2021. This move further abandoned Iowa producers and environmentalists.

Grassley also called out <u>Biden</u> multiple times for his lack of promoting <u>clean</u> <u>energy</u> despite rhetoric focusing so much on climate change. Grassley joined with Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) and colleagues in requesting a <u>meeting</u> with Biden to discuss the RFS and promote biofuels as a key solution for America's energy and climate agenda.

HEALTH CARE:

Living in rural Iowa, Grassley understands the <u>importance</u> of access to health care close to home. He joined Sens. Tina Smith (D-Minn.), Ernst, John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) in introducing <u>legislation</u> to protect certain rural health clinics in Iowa from a reduction in reimbursement funds. The bipartisan *Rural Health Clinic Protection Act* was added to a health care extenders package that <u>passed</u> the U.S. Senate, U.S. House and signed into law by the President.

During the pandemic, the flexibility telehealth provided Americans was critical to maintaining overall well-being of the country. This year, Grassley cosponsored <u>CONNECT for Health Act</u> and <u>Protecting Rural Telehealth Access</u> <u>Act</u> ensuring that the continued telehealth flexibilities gained during the pandemic remain, and access to telehealth services provided by critical access hospitals in rural Iowa are protected.

Grassley and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) sent a letter to the Accredited Standards Committee (X12) urging them to finalize their <u>recommendation</u> that Medicare claims forms include the device identifier portion of a medical device's unique device identifier (UDI). UDIs are serial numbers used to identify specific types of medical devices, including implantable devices like pacemakers or artificial joints and provide critical information to patients.



Grassley, Sens. Bob Casey (D-Penn.) and Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) re-introduced bipartisan legislation encouraging pharmacists to serve older Americans in communities lacking easy access to doctors or where pharmacists are able to provide certain basic medical services. The <u>Pharmacy and Medically</u> <u>Underserved Areas Enhancement Act of 2021</u> encourages pharmacists to offer health care services such as health and wellness screenings, immunizations and diabetes management by authorizing Medicare payments for those services where pharmacists are already licensed under state law to provide them.

Grassley and Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) introduced the bipartisan <u>Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act</u> to help families access life-saving care for children with complex medical conditions. The legislation aims to facilitate access to care while retaining program safeguards and reducing regulatory burdens on providers. This legislation builds on Grassley's bipartisan Advancing Care for Exceptional (ACE) Kids Act that was <u>signed</u> into law in 2019. In October, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) <u>issued</u> its statutorily required guidance for states to implement ACE Kids Act.

Grassley and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) continued <u>calling</u> on the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to issue new regulations for over-the-counter (OTC) hearing aids <u>without delay</u>. In July, President Biden issued an Executive Order on Promoting Competition in the American Economy in <u>accordance</u> with their bill, the <u>Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act</u>, which was signed into law over four years ago. After the two senators repeatedly pressed for action by Democrat and Republican administrations, the FDA issued the <u>new OTC hearing aid</u> <u>proposed regulations</u> and it is expected the regulations will be finalized in 2022.

ILLICIT DRUGS:

As the opioid epidemic – fueled primarily by fentanyl and its analogues – <u>raged</u> on, Grassley introduced the <u>Temporary Extension of Fentanyl Scheduling</u> <u>Act of 2021</u> that extends for 14 months a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) order placing all substances that are substantially similar to fentanyl on Schedule I under the Controlled Substances Act. He sent a <u>letter</u> to Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) asking to advance an extension that provides necessary time for Congress and the administration to work toward a more permanent solution to address rapidly evolving opioid analogues. Ultimately, Congressional Democrats opted for a <u>five-month extension</u>, which was signed into law in May.

Grassley <u>sent</u> multiple <u>letters</u> to the Biden administration, urging the President and leaders of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to collaborate with Congress on a permanent solution to combatting deadly synthetic fentanyl, and pushed for them to be a <u>central focus</u> in the administration's crime and drug strategy. <u>After months</u> of calling on the Biden administration to get serious about combatting fentanyl knockoffs, the administration released a plan that makes permanent the Schedule I treatment of fentanyl analogues, but explicitly shields them from the existing penalty structure that has historically brought consistency to penalties for illicit drug offenses. <u>Rather than curbing trafficking</u> of fentanyl analogues, such a policy could have the opposite effect: encouraging the use of fentanyl analogues over other, less-deadly substances that carry steeper penalties. In part because of Grassley's dogged efforts and leadership, the lifesaving fentanyl scheduling authority has been extended multiple times, including in the most recent government funding package. Grassley also led lawmakers from both houses of Congress to reintroduce a framework to fight the rapid spread of deadly synthetic drugs, which can quickly be re-engineered to circumvent federal laws designed to outlaw them. The <u>Stop Importation and Manufacturing of Synthetic Analogues (SIMSA) Act</u> would allow for the temporary regulation of substances substantially similar to controlled drugs while more time-consuming testing, research and analysis can be performed.

Grassley joined Sen. Jon Ossoff (D-Ga.) to introduce bipartisan legislation to help rural communities combat opioid overdoses and fund community-based treatment programs. The <u>Rural Opioid Abuse Prevention Act</u> would help ensure rural communities experiencing a high level of opioid overdoses have the resources they need to respond to the crisis. The program aims to reduce opioid overdose deaths in high-risk rural communities while raising awareness about local opioid use and substance use disorder. The Senate <u>passed this bipartisan</u> <u>bill</u> to prevent opioid addiction, overdoses and deaths in rural communities.

Grassley joined Sens. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) to reintroduce the <u>Cannabidiol and Marijuana Research Expansion Act</u>, a bill to encourage scientific and medical research on marijuana and its compounds including cannabidiol, or CBD. This act passed the Senate in 2020.

While methamphetamine is not a new drug, traffickers are finding new ways to increase its potency and distribution. So, Grassley and Feinstein also partnered to reintroduce the <u>Methamphetamine Response Act</u>, a bill declaring methamphetamine an emerging drug threat which would require the ONDCP to develop, implement and make public a national plan to prevent methamphetamine addiction and overdoses from accelerating the already prevalent crisis. This bill also <u>passed the Senate</u> in 2021.

In July, Grassley, as Co-Chairman of the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control, held a hearing on the <u>federal response to the drug overdose</u> epidemic. He also held a <u>field hearing in Iowa</u> in October to examine the state's efforts in drug control, prevention and treatment efforts. He joined Chairman Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) in another hearing on the <u>nexus between the</u> <u>illicit drug trade</u> and corruption in November.

IMMIGRATION:

Since taking office, President Biden has advocated and put in place immigration policies that have created an <u>unprecedented crisis at the southern border</u>. As the number of <u>border crossings climbed higher</u>, Grassley <u>traveled to the Texas-Mexico border</u> with several of his Senate Republican colleagues to see the crisis for himself. He and Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) called on Judiciary Committee Chairman Dick Durbin (D-III.) to hold a <u>hearing on the crisis at the border</u> and hear testimony from Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and component agency officials charged with managing the crisis. At a <u>November hearing</u>, Grassley was finally able to question Secretary Mayorkas about the <u>unprecedented national security and humanitarian crisis</u> at the southern border. With the <u>lack of action from the Biden administration</u> to address the crisis at the border, the number of encounters with illegal immigrants at the southern border climbed to a historic high of over 1.7 million.

As they continued their <u>investigation into allegation</u>s of ongoing child abuse at federally-funded facilities, Grassley and Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) are asking the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for more information. He also joined Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) in sending a letter to President Biden seeking to understand the administration's position <u>on changes to the law governing the treatment of unaccompanied alien children</u> (UACs) who cross U.S. borders and the impact that law has on illegal immigration flows.



After media reports surfaced about the Biden administration considering settlement payments totaling more than \$1 billion to illegal immigrants impacted by the Trump-era zero tolerance enforcement policy, Grassley joined Sen. John Kennedy (R-La.) in <u>expressing their opposition to the plan</u> to President Biden. He teamed up with Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) to <u>press Attorney General Garland</u> on the issue and joined Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.) on an amendment to the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022* <u>blocking the plan to offer</u> <u>illegal immigrants</u> up to \$450,000 per person in taxpayer dollars to settle lawsuits resulting from those individuals' violating U.S. immigration law.

In August, Grassley joined Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) and others in questioning Secretary Mayorkas about DHS' <u>reckless decision to release tens of thousands</u> <u>of illegal immigrants</u>, including potentially dangerous criminals, into the country without a proper and complete Notice to Appear for formal removal proceedings in immigration court.

Grassley reintroduced legislation to help businesses comply with immigration laws by certifying the legal status of their workforce. The <u>Accountability Through</u> <u>Electronic Verification Act</u> would permanently authorize and expand the E-Verify program, an internet–based system that assists employers in determining whether current or prospective employees are authorized to work in the United States. The bill requires employers to use the program to determine workers' eligibility.

Grassley and Sen. Durbin sent a letter to the DHS <u>urging the agency to retain and</u> <u>expeditiously implement</u> the H-1B selection rule published on January 8, 2021, titled, "Modification of Registration Requirement for Petitioners Seeking To File Cap-Subject H-1B Petitions." The rule will protect American workers by ensuring that visas are first issued to employers offering the highest wages in the area of employment before being allocated to other petitioners.

Grassley and Sen. Durbin also criticized DHS's decision to <u>release additional H-2B</u> <u>temporary non-agricultural work visas</u> due to their long-standing concerns about the perverse incentives created by the H-2B program. During a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing regarding agricultural labor reform, Grassley questioned <u>Secretary Vilsack and Iowa hog farmer, Jen Sorenson</u> about issues with the current H-2A program and how to improve it.

INFRASTRUCTURE:

As Grassley makes his way around the state of Iowa on his 99 county tour, he hears directly from Iowans about concerns they have. A reoccurring concern has been the condition of the state's infrastructure. Throughout the year, Grassley <u>praised federal investments</u> in Iowa's infrastructure that fuel <u>economic</u> <u>growth</u> for the state and spoke to Congress about the <u>need for infrastructure</u> improvements in his home state. When the bipartisan infrastructure bill came up for a vote on the Senate floor, Grassley <u>voted to invest in Iowa's future</u>. After passing the House and being signed off by President Biden, this bill brings <u>much</u> <u>needed</u> funding to Iowa for <u>improvements</u> to roads, bridges, rural broadband, waterways and airports.

Grassley joined Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-III.) and Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), along with Reps. Cheri Bustos (D-III.-17) and Ashley Hinson (R-Iowa-O1), to lead a bicameral, <u>bipartisan letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</u> to prioritize the funding for construction of the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) on the Upper Mississippi River System (UMRS) with the \$2.5 billion for inland waterways provided in the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA).

Grassley and Ernst sent a <u>letter to U.S. Department of Agriculture</u> (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack sharing concerns with new scoring criteria for Rural Connectivity Pilot Program's (ReConnect) Round 3 that will adversely affect many of Iowa's broadband providers.



LAW ENFORCEMENT:

Throughout the year, Grassley often <u>spoke on the Senate floor</u> about the recruiting and morale difficulties in police and sheriff's departments across the country. He emphasized the devastating effects the "<u>defund the police</u>" movement has had on our communities, many of which of which have experienced <u>skyrocketing violent-crime rates</u>.

Grassley co-authored the <u>Protecting America's First Responders Act (PAFRA)</u> with Sen. Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) to better ensure that law enforcement and first responders who are disabled in the line of duty have prompt access to the benefits they've been promised.

Earlier this year, Grassley and Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) <u>called for</u> <u>full funding</u> for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program that is the leading source of criminal justice funding for state, local and tribal governments. He then co-authored the <u>Confidentiality Opportunities for Peer</u> <u>Support (COPS) Counseling Act</u> with Cortez Masto to encourage the adoption of law enforcement peer counseling programs across the country and ensure that the information disclosed during peer support counseling sessions by federal law enforcement officers is kept confidential.



Additionally, Grassley joined his colleagues to introduce the <u>Jaime Zapata and</u> <u>Victor Avila Federal Law Enforcement Protection Act</u>, a bill to ensure individuals who have killed or attempted to kill U.S. federal officers and employees serving abroad can be brought to justice and prosecuted in the United States.

During <u>National Police Week</u> in May, the Senate Judiciary Committee <u>advanced</u> a package of the aforementioned bills supporting America's law enforcement officers and their families. In June, the three bills <u>passed</u> the Senate, <u>Congress</u> in October and were <u>signed by the President</u> in November.

NATIONAL SECURITY:

After <u>ransomware attacks</u> disrupting multiple American industries and the U.S. economy, the Senate Judiciary Committee <u>held a hearing</u> on the increasing threat of more attacks. During the hearing, Grassley <u>illustrated</u> how ransomware attacks affect large and small businesses across the United States. Grassley and Ernst <u>sent a letter</u> to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) asking them to address the rise in ransomware attacks <u>within the agricultural industry</u> after two cyberattacks on Iowa grain cooperatives.

As the Biden administration began the removal of American troops from Afghanistan, Grassley <u>urged President Biden to evacuate all American citizens</u> and Afghan partners without respect to arbitrary timelines dictated by the Taliban. When <u>chaos followed</u> the withdrawal as the Taliban took over, Grassley pushed the Biden Administration to <u>ensure that terrorists or other national</u> <u>security threats were not infiltrating efforts</u> to evacuate Afghan nationals who assisted U.S. coalition forces during the war in Afghanistan. He also pushed the Justice Department and FBI to <u>detail efforts to detect and prevent travel</u> <u>by known terrorists</u> or terrorist recruits to and from the United States. Grassley worked with Senate Foreign Relations Committee Ranking Member Jim Risch (R-Idaho) to <u>hold the State Department accountable for an apparent lack of</u> <u>action</u> to help Americans and Afghan allies still stranded in Afghanistan.

At a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on <u>closing the detention facility at</u> <u>Guantanamo Bay</u>, Grassley fiercely questioned the lack of plan by the Biden administration and the possibility for that action to cause future terrorist attacks. Grassley partnered with Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) to call for an expansion of the scope of the audit of potential payments going to U.S. entities that have partnerships with genomic data companies with ties to the Chinese government. This includes a review of the Department of Health and Human Services' national security procedures throughout the coronavirus pandemic. In July, the HHS inspector general released the requested report showing that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services <u>does no national security</u> <u>risk assessment</u> when engaging the services of genetic testing and analysis firms that may have connections or partnerships with foreign governments, including the Chinese government.

This year, the Senate passed the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act of 2021 (USICA) which includes several of Grassley's previously-introduced proposals based on his oversight investigations. For example, Grassley focused on China's access to American research and academic institutions to <u>spread propaganda</u> and <u>abscond with U.S. intellectual property</u>. In response, USICA includes a provision that requires U.S. institutions of higher education to disclose any financial ties to the communist Chinese government and its affiliates, including research grants or arrangements with Confucius Institutes. This provision builds on <u>legislation</u> Grassley introduced to expose financial ties to China's Confucius Institutes.

Grassley joined Sen. Bob Menendez (D-N.J.) and others to <u>improve</u> <u>governmental transparency</u> regarding federal 9/11 investigations. The bipartisan September 11th Transparency Act requires federal agencies to conduct a declassification review of records related to the 9/11 attacks. On September 3, President Biden signed the act as an executive order.

Grassley <u>reintroduced legislation</u> to shine a light on efforts by foreign interests to influence American policy and public opinion. The <u>Foreign Agents Disclosure</u> <u>and Registration Enhancement Act</u> adds teeth to existing law aimed at ensuring public awareness of lobbying campaigns pushed by foreign powers.

PROTECTING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE:

Grassley joined Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) and 42 Senate colleagues in reintroducing the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act*. This legislation would provide common-sense protections for unborn children at 20 weeks after fertilization, a point at which there is significant scientific evidence that abortion inflicts tremendous pain on the unborn.

Grassley also joined Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) and 45 Senate colleagues in reintroducing the <u>No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance</u> <u>Full Disclosure Act</u>, which would make permanent the Hyde Amendment restrictions on using taxpayer dollars to fund abortions. He also joined Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.) and 46 other pro-life senators in sending a unified message to Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) pledging that they will vote to block any bill that would <u>undermine the Hyde Amendment</u> or any other pro-life protections.



PROTECTING THE SECOND AMENDMENT:

After a Senate Judiciary Committee <u>hearing on reducing gun violence</u>, Grassley joined Sens. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) to reintroduce legislation to protect Second Amendment rights, improve firearm safety and prevent guns from falling into the wrong hands. The <u>Protecting Communities</u> <u>and Preserving the Second Amendment Act of 2021</u> prevents gun violence by ensuring that relevant agencies and institutions accurately submit records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).

With Sens. Cornyn (R-Texas), Bill Hagerty (R-Tenn.) and Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), Grassley introduced the <u>Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act</u>. This legislation will allow individuals with concealed carry privileges in their home state to exercise those rights in any other state with concealed carry laws, while still abiding by that state's laws.

Grassley <u>personally went to the floor</u> and objected to a Democratic push to pass a universal background check bill that would prevent gun transfers, even within a family. Grassley objected to the unanimous consent request to bring up and pass the bill without a vote in the Senate, and offered an alternative measure providing for firearm and public safety.

As Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Grassley oversees the Biden administration's nominees for government agencies. After listening to the nominee for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), David Chipman, Grassley <u>urged the President to reconsider his nomination</u>. With <u>increased pressure from Grassley</u> and other Republicans, Chipman's nomination was withdrawn by Biden.

WHISTLEBLOWERS:

Grassley joined with Sens. Ernst, Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.) and Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisc.) in introducing the <u>CFTC Fund Management Act</u> to <u>address the risk of</u> <u>a potential cash shortage at the CFTC</u> related to the growth of the CFTC's highly successful whistleblower program. An amended version of the Act unanimously <u>passed the Senate</u> in May and after <u>passing the House</u> in June was signed into law by President Biden. The version signed into law makes temporary changes to the program and ensures that the CFTC's whistleblower office continues to have the funds it needs to remain operational while Congress works on permanent improvements for the CFTC whistleblower program.

After Grassley <u>sought watchdog reviews</u> of alleged ethics violations, leaking of market-sensitive information and whistleblower reprisal in April, the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General <u>confirmed an administrative</u> <u>investigation into the allegations</u> that Veterans Benefits Administration official Charmain Bogue violated laws and regulations governing conflicts of interest in her dealings with her husband's companies. After documents revealed significant obstruction of basic questions relating to criminal conflicts of interest and whistleblower retaliation at the VA, Grassley <u>demanded fresh answers</u> from Secretary Denis McDonough about the underlying allegations and VA's overarching obstruction.

Grassley continued to press the DOD on questions regarding the <u>alleged</u> <u>retaliatory revocation</u> of a former U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) employee's security clearance, leading to his eventual departure from the agency in 2019.

Grassley joined Sens. Tammy Duckworth (D-III.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and James Lankford (R-Okla.) to reintroduce bipartisan legislation to ensure federal law provides U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) civil servants with the same due process rights available to corporate employees who experience retaliation for blowing the whistle on nuclear safety violations. The bipartisan <u>Department of Energy and Nuclear Regulatory</u> <u>Commission Whistleblower Protection Act</u> would ensure DOE and NRC employees have a fair opportunity to enforce whistleblower protection rights under Section 211 of the Energy Reorganization Act (ERA) – precisely as Congress intended more than 15 years ago when it passed the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and added DOE and NRC as covered employers under Section 211 of the ERA.

Grassley demanded answers from the Indian Health Service (IHS) following the release of an <u>internal report detailing the agency's failure to do anything</u> <u>about repeated and well-founded allegations</u> that a pediatrician was sexually abusing young patients. The report also indicated that the whistleblowers who reported the violations were retaliated against while the abusive doctor was promoted. In his letter to IHS Acting Director Elizabeth Fowler, Grassley requested <u>information regarding the agency's plan</u> to ensure abuse like this does not happen in the future.

Grassley <u>led a bipartisan and bicameral</u> group of lawmakers seeking a review of the FBI's whistleblower protection rules as well as reports of retaliation against whistleblowers from the Government Accountability Office after the bureau and the Justice Department failed to implement new regulations to comply with more stringent protections enacted by Congress in 2016.



TWITTER

For updates directly from Senator Grassley, <u>follow him on Twitter at</u> @ChuckGrassley.

For additional news on his work for lowans in the U.S. Senate, <u>follow</u> @GrassleyPress on Twitter.

To keep up with Senator Grassley's work as Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, <u>follow @SenJudiciaryGOP on Twitter</u>.

FACEBOOK

To read about the work Senator Grassley is doing for Iowans and for updates on breaking news happening in the state, <u>follow him on Facebook at @Grassley</u>.

To follow Senator Grassley's work as Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, follow the committee on Facebook at @SenJudiciaryGOP.

INSTAGRAM

For behind-the-scenes photos while Senator Grassley is in Iowa and in Washington, make sure to <u>follow him on Instagram at @SenatorChuckGrassley</u>.

YOUTUBE

To watch any of Senator Grassley's speeches, remarks during committee hearings or television interviews, <u>check out his YouTube page here</u>.

MEDIUM

Each week Senator Grassley publishes a Q&A column that covers any news of the day that is especially important to Iowans. To read his Q&As, <u>visit his page on</u> <u>Medium here</u>.



