



SENATOR  
**MIKE CRAPO**

**117<sup>TH</sup>**  
**CONGRESS**  
IN REVIEW

2021-2022





# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>Welcome Letter .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>About Mike.....</b>	<b>4</b>
Personal History at a Glance .....	5
Awards .....	5
<b>Legislation .....</b>	<b>7</b>
Natural Resources.....	8
Support for Idaho Veterans.....	9
Foreign Affairs .....	13
Protecting Idahoans' Second Amendment Rights .....	14
Justice for Victims .....	17
Border Security .....	18
Supporting Idaho Children and Families.....	20
Fighting COVID Mandates .....	21
<b>Committees .....</b>	<b>24</b>
Finance.....	25
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.....	34
Budget.....	36

January 2023

Dear Fellow Idahoans:

Throughout the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress (2021-2022), I have pressed for meaningful legislative and policy changes for the betterment of our communities and country. This report contains a compilation of some of these important accomplishments we have worked together to advance.

We made progress with the Senate's passage of legislation I led to improve identification and treatment of illnesses related to veterans' exposure to toxic substances while on their tours of duty. A three-year reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program through Fiscal Year 2023 was signed into law, and we enacted legislation I authored to fix a technical error and preserve rural counties' SRS payment allocations.

As work continues to expand Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) Amendments eligibility to those in Idaho and other states who have suffered from cancers related to fallout from nuclear weapons testing during the Cold War period of the 1950s and 1960s, we successfully ushered into law an important 2-year extension of the RECA program. We also enacted legislation I backed to make progress in ensuring every dollar collected for crime victims is used to help them.

I became Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Committee at the beginning of the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, giving Idaho a strong voice in legislation relating to tax policy, social safety net and health care programs, and foreign trade agreements. I worked with colleagues on legislation to hold Russia accountable for its invasion of Ukraine; legislation to promote free and fair trade, particularly against China; legislation to strengthen and expand retirement savings; and proposals to strengthen mental health care in the United States.

Sometimes, progress is not only advancing legislation, but also stopping detrimental policy. I worked to protect taxpayers from many of the Biden Administration's inflationary tax-and-spend proposals, and prevented aggressive overreach from the agencies under the Finance Committee's jurisdiction, like the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). I will continue efforts to hold federal agencies within the Finance Committee's jurisdiction accountable to American taxpayers.

Thank you for your valued input on these and other efforts in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress. With your help and guidance, I will continue to push back against the overreach of the federal government, and work to tackle our growing federal debt while ensuring the long-term viability of programs for veterans and seniors.

Sincerely,



Mike Crapo  
United States Senator

## ABOUT MIKE



As a lifelong Idahoan and fifth-term U.S. Senator for Idaho, Mike Crapo has learned that a willingness to listen makes for a more effective leader and lawmaker. Mike's commonsense approach and collaborative, creative problem-solving style have enabled him to achieve lasting solutions to issues of importance to Idahoans and the nation.

- United States Senator, 1999-present
- United States Congressman, Idaho 2nd District, 1993-1998
- President Pro Tempore, Idaho State Senate, 1988-1992
- Senator, Idaho State Legislature, 1984-1992

Mike's sensible approach has earned him the respect of his colleagues, and he has been selected to serve in various leadership roles, including serving as Chief Deputy Whip among Senate Republicans. Mike's committee assignments for the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress are as follows:

- Ranking Member, **Senate Finance Committee;**
- **Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee;**
  - Securities, Insurance and Investment;
  - National Security and International Trade and Finance; and
  - Housing, Transportation and Community Development.
- **Senate Budget Committee**

Mike has also served on the Joint Committee on Taxation and several caucuses. Mike was a partner in the law firm of Holden, Kidwell, Hahn & Crapo, in addition to serving a one-year clerkship with the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals prior to private legal practice and his service in Congress.

## Personal History at a Glance

- Born in Bonneville County, Idaho, 1951
- Graduated from Idaho Falls High School, 1969
- Bachelor of Arts, Political Science; awarded by Brigham Young University, Summa Cum Laude, 1973
- Juris Doctorate; awarded by Harvard Law School, Cum Laude, 1977
- Eight years, Idaho State Senate (1984-1992)
- Six years, U.S. House of Representatives, Idaho 2<sup>nd</sup> District, 1993-1998 (3 terms)
- United States Senator, Idaho, 1999-present

## Awards

Senator Crapo is honored to represent the people of Idaho, and does so in a manner that reflects the values and traditions of Idahoans. During the course of his public service, he has been recognized by many organizations for his voting record and efforts to serve the people of Idaho. The following list includes a list of awards Senator Crapo received during the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress.

- National Fish Habitat Partnership award for recognition of leadership in supporting passage of the America's Conservation Enhancement Act (S. 3051) and support of the National Fish Habitat Partnership.
- Small Business Council of America's 2021 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Congressional Award. Presented annually to one Democrat and one Republican from each chamber.
- The American Life Sciences Innovation Council 2020 Champion of Health Care Innovation.
- Alliance for Patient Access 2021 Champion of Patient Access (presented by Idaho Academy of Family Physicians; Alzheimer's Association Greater Idaho Chapter' Idaho Senior Living Council).
- Faith and Freedom Coalition's "Friend of the Family" Award.
- State Financial Officers Foundation Look to the States Honors Award.

- American Psychological Association's Congressional Champion Award in recognition of commitment to improving access to behavioral health services to ensure that all individuals, including rural communities, receive quality care.
- Idaho National Laboratory's Advanced Reactor Summit's Meritorious Achievement award.
- National Council for Mental Wellbeing 2022 Legislator of the Year award.
- National Retail Federation 2022 Hero of Main Street award.
- American Clean Power 2022 Clean Power Champion for supporting trade measures that support renewable energy.
- National Federation of Independent Business Guardian of Small Business Award.
- Better Medicare Alliance Medicare Advantage Champion.
- National Association of Community Health Centers Distinguished Community Health Center Champion.
- Prevent Cancer Foundation 2022 Cancer Champion.
- Friend of the Farm Bureau Award.





## LEGISLATION

During the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, Senator Crapo sponsored **20** pieces of standalone legislation, **two** Senate Resolutions and **35** Amendments. Additionally, he co-sponsored **183** pieces of standalone legislation, **100** Senate Resolutions and **48** Amendments.



*Sen. Crapo addressing the Idaho state legislature*

## Natural Resources

### Stability for Rural Counties

- Senator Crapo championed legislation to extend **Secure Rural Schools (SRS)** payments for three years through Fiscal Year 2023. He continues to press for the long-term stability of the SRS program to ensure rural Idaho and Western counties have the consistent funding needed for essential services under the program.

### Blueprint for Conservation

- As a member of the Senate Western Caucus, Senator Crapo helped unveil the **“Blueprint for Conservation,” an outcome-based, holistic conservation proposal** that seeks to protect the environment and enhance Idahoans’ quality of life without harming the economy.

Some of the proposals outlined in the Blueprint include:

- Prioritizing meeting the vast restoration and management needs of federal lands instead of targeting state lands and private land owners.
- Avoiding merely relying on “conservation status” as a tool to cultivate conservation on public lands, instead collaborating with local communities to develop best practices that are site-specific and science-driven.
- Increasing focus on managing forest health, preventing and eradicating invasive species, addressing the overpopulation of wild horses and burros, providing appropriate resources for Superfund sites, encouraging public land visitation, reclaiming abandoned mines and orphan wells, enhancing access to landlocked and checkerboard patterns, encouraging biodiversity and species recovery, and protecting water infrastructure.
- Responsibly leveraging public-private partnerships and public lands by providing opportunities for grazing, hunting, logging and mineral production.



## Support for Idaho Veterans

- Senator Crapo has long worked to ensure federal policies respect veterans' service. Veterans enrich our communities with a deep sense of commitment to their fellow Americans and federal policies must adequately address their needs.

### *Raising Concerns About New Electronic Health Records System Hindering Veteran Care*

- In March 2022, the Office of the Inspector General released a report detailing coordination deficiencies following the Electronic Health Record (EHR) rollout at the Mann-Grandstaff U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center (VAMC) in Spokane, Washington, where some north Idaho veterans access care.
- Despite knowledge of the many problems hindering efficient care for veterans, the agency continued to rollout the new EHR system at other VAMCS, including a proposed rollout at the Boise VAMC.
- **Senator Crapo led the Idaho Delegation in raising concerns with VA Secretary Denis McDonough, and the rollout at the Boise VAMC has since been paused indefinitely.** He continues to press for timely resolution of outstanding issues on behalf of Idaho veterans and their families.

### *Legislation*

#### **Helping Unleash Benefits and Services (HUBS) for Veterans Act**

- Senator Crapo co-led the Helping Unleash Benefits and Services for Veterans Act. Currently, veterans must navigate a number of organizations and agencies to find the resources they need, an often confusing and time-consuming process. The HUBS for Veterans Act would authorize a five-year pilot program to provide matching grant funds to “network hubs,” non-profit organizations that offer access to multiple, wraparound services from one source.

#### **The Major Richard Star Act**

- Senator Crapo co-led the reintroduction of S. 344, the Major Richard Star Act, which would provide combat-wounded veterans with less than 20 years of service both their

disability compensation and retired pay. If enacted, this bill will affect roughly 50,000 medically retired and combat-injured veterans. Senator Crapo is dedicated to ensuring all active and retired military personnel receive the care and benefits they deserve.

## Toxic Exposure

- As an ardent supporter of America's veterans, Senator Crapo is committed to ensuring health and disability benefits are provided to veterans exposed to toxic substances while on their tours of duty. In March 2022, the Senate passed the bipartisan **Toxic Exposure Training Act**, which requires the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide health care personnel with improved education and training to identify, treat and assess the impact of illnesses related to toxic exposures.
- Senator Crapo co-sponsored four additional bills to address burn pit injuries and illness.
  - S. 927, the **Toxic Exposure in the American Military (TEAM) Act**;
  - S. 437, the **Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act**; and
  - S. 565, the **Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act**; and
  - S. 657, the **Presumption of Service Connection for Thailand Veterans Act**.

## Honoring America's Missing Servicemembers

- Obstacles prevent many families and caseworkers from accessing the records needed for recovering America's prisoners of war (POWs) and missing in action (MIA). According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, more than 81,500 Americans--including 360 Idahoans--remain unaccounted for from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, the Gulf Wars and other conflicts.
- Senator Crapo introduced **S. 5203, the Bring Our Heroes Home Act**, to consolidate all records related to missing personnel within a newly instituted records administration and require all government agencies to transmit any missing servicemember records to the National Archives and Records Administration. Senator Crapo has long supported various efforts to identify and recover all missing and unaccounted for American military personnel.



## Honoring Gold Star Families

- Gold Star Families shoulder the heavy price paid for the defense of our freedoms and the safety of Americans at home and abroad. While being a Gold Star family carries a deeply profound honor, it is one no family wishes to have.
- This Congress, Senator Crapo joined several colleagues in introducing the **Sergeant First Class Sean Cooley and Specialist Christopher Horton Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program Act**, which would create a fellowship program in the Senate to offer an opportunity for Gold Star family members to participate in the system of government for which their loved ones gave his or her life.

*“The Idaho Gold Star Families Memorial stands as a lasting place for all Americans to remember fallen servicemembers and the great sacrifice of the families who stood with them and will always love them.”*

– Congressional Record Statement submitted by the Idaho Congressional Delegation to honor the opening of the Idaho Gold Star Families Memorial Monument



Gold Star Families Memorial Monument

## Casework

Assisting Idaho’s veterans through casework is another critical component of Senator Crapo’s efforts to ensure veterans receive the care and benefits they have rightfully earned through their service to our country. Senator Crapo and his staff have worked on thousands of cases on behalf of veterans, active duty servicemembers and their families, with many yielding successful results.

- Since the start of the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, Senator Crapo’s office has secured more than **\$800,000 in disability benefits or covered medical bills for Idahoans.**

*“[Senator Crapo] was truly a blessing to our family. When others turned away, the office of Sen. Mike Crapo was there for us.”*

– Maxine Byers; October 30, 2022, Letter to the Editor of the Lewiston Tribune

- Some examples of casework stories are included below.

DISCLAIMER: Senator Crapo and his staff handle all casework matters with the utmost care and dedication to privacy and confidentiality, so personally identifiable information has not been included. In some cases where identifiable information is provided, the respective individual was honored publicly in the media, or submitted materials to the media on their own accord.

- A military retiree learned the date of his discharge from the U.S. Army Reserve had been erroneously recorded after he applied for his military retirement and was denied due to lack of service time. His case was reviewed expeditiously by the Army Review Board for Correction of Military Records and he was subsequently able to retire and enroll in TRICARE.
- A high-ranking U.S. Army retiree contacted Senator Crapo with frustrations about a paperwork error preventing her from a full retirement from the U.S. Army. She had more than 25 years of service. Her request for retirement was ultimately granted at the age of 84, and she received over \$175,000 in retroactive retirement benefits.
- A veteran’s record had been burned in the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) fire of 1973. He was not able to prove his service in the military for quite some time. He reached out to Senator Crapo and the NPRC was able to find a Certification of Military Service for this veteran who is now at peace knowing that when he passes, his service to our country will be recognized.



- Senator Crapo also helps ensure the dedication and service of Idaho veterans is recognized, which may mean advocating for awards veterans earned while on duty.
  - Senator Crapo presented the Bronze Star to Moscow resident Mike Wells for his heroic actions during Operation Goldwall in 2008.
  - Senator Crapo has presented many Purple Hearts to veterans, acknowledging their wounds and sacrifices made while defending our freedoms.



*Bronze Star recipient and Moscow resident, Mike Wells and his family*

## Foreign Affairs

### Botched Withdrawal from Afghanistan

America's longest war concluded in August 2021. The hasty withdrawal based on an arbitrary timeline and not on-the-ground intelligence resulted in the murder of 13 U.S. servicemembers.

- Immediately upon the botched withdrawal, Senator Crapo was **active in facilitating a number of successful private efforts to evacuate Americans and other key allies out of Afghanistan**. Senator Crapo has been active in efforts to ensure proper care and attention is given to those who served during this war, as well as other efforts to address outstanding issues related to the rushed withdrawal, including:
  - Signed a letter **urging the President to ensure all American citizens, allies and partners wishing to leave the country were safely evacuated**;
  - Joined 34 additional Senators in **calling on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to swiftly develop and conduct outreach to veterans of the Global War on Terrorism--especially those who served in Afghanistan--and provide them with mental health resources**; and
  - Co-sponsored the **Afghanistan Counterterrorism, Oversight, and Accountability Act**, authored by fellow U.S. Senator for Idaho Jim Risch, to impose oversight mechanisms to address outstanding issues related to the withdrawal.

*"They have served with valor and distinction."*

– U.S. Senator Mike Crapo

Senator Crapo thanks both diplomatic and military personnel charged with an impossible mission during the process, and continues to pray for the families and friends of the 13 brave servicemembers we lost in this endeavor. The sacrifices made by our servicemembers over the last 20 years cannot be overstated.



## Protecting Idahoans' Second Amendment Rights

Protecting Idahoans' Second Amendment rights is an ongoing priority for Senator Crapo. This past Congress, he worked to protect the rights of responsible gun owners and firearm manufacturers from burdensome regulations proposed by Democrats in Washington and from discrimination by financial service providers.

### Hearing Protection Act

- Senator Crapo led a group of 14 Senate colleagues in reintroducing the Hearing Protection Act, which would **reclassify suppressors to regulate them like a regular firearm**. The measure would benefit Idaho's recreational gun users and provide them better access to hearing protection equipment.

*"This legislation to remove burdensome regulations surrounding an accessory to a firearm is long overdue. Firearm suppressors are a safety device designed to make recreational shooting safer."*

– Lawrence Keane, Senior Vice President and General Counsel of the National Shooting Sports Foundation.



*“Over the last few years, we have seen a disturbing trend in the financial services industry involving the intentional discrimination of entire industries by the largest banks in the United States . . . Companies and customers complying with federal and state law must have access to credit and services based on their creditworthiness, rather than social or political pressure.”*

– Senator Crapo



### **The Fair Access to Banking Act**

- Senator Crapo is a co-sponsor of legislation that would prevent discrimination by banks and financial service providers against constitutionally-protected industries and law-abiding businesses, such as firearms manufacturers.

### **The Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL) Protection Act**

- In 2020, approximately 6,000 firearms were taken in nationwide FFL burglaries and robberies--a 43 percent increase from the previous year. The FFL Protection Act would address the increasing number of “smash-and-grab” thefts targeted at federally licensed gun dealers by:
  - Increasing the statutory maximum penalty for knowingly stealing any firearm in an FFL’s business inventory from 10 to 20 years;
  - Imposing a mandatory minimum sentence of 3 years for burglary from an FFL and 5 years for robbery from an FFL; and
  - Criminalizing the attempted theft of a firearm from a licensed importer, manufacturer, dealer or collector.

### **The Recreational Lands Self Defense Act**

- Under current law, an individual may carry a firearm on lands managed by the U.S. Department of Interior and U.S. Department of Agriculture, including National Parks and National Forests, as long as it is consistent with state law. This legislation would **restore Second Amendment rights of individuals recreating on lands managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** in line with these other practices.

## **Opposition to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Expanding Firearm Definitions and Creating National Gun Registry**

- Senator Crapo and 21 Senate colleagues introduced a Congressional Review Act (CRA) Joint Resolution of Disapproval to prohibit President Biden's DOJ from implementing a new rule to expand firearm definitions. The Biden Administration is seeking to institute a final rule redefining a "firearm" under federal law to not only mean a complete product, but also its individual parts.
- The new rule would also require those with Federal Firearms Licenses to retain records permanently, in effect, creating a national firearms registry. The current rule, which the Biden Administration seeks to change, allows for the disposal of records after 20 years.

## **Stopping the Ban of Traditional Ammo & Tackle**

- Senator Crapo co-sponsored a bill to prohibit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) from banning the use of traditional lead ammunition or tackle on public lands unless such action is supported by the best available science and state wildlife and fish agencies.



## Justice for Victims

### Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Fix Act

- Crime victims in Idaho and across our country deserve full access to resources after a traumatic experience. Ensuring funds intended for helping crime victims recover meet their mark is central to making progress in decreasing the impact of violent crime and supporting victims.
- For decades, the Victims of Crime Act has provided critical funding to victims' service organizations and direct compensation to victims of crime. This legislation ensures all fines, even those from non-prosecution agreements, go to help victims. While more must be done to ensure this fund is not subject to federal budgetary gimmicks, enactment of the VOCA Fix Act is progress in ensuring every dollar collected for crime victims is used to help them rather than used to fund other projects unrelated to crime victims' services.
- Senator Crapo was an initial co-sponsor of the Senate version of H.R. 1652, the VOCA Fix Act, which passed the Senate 100-0 and was signed into law in July 2021.

### Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) Amendments

- Senator Crapo is a longtime advocate for Idahoans affected by above-ground nuclear weapons testing that occurred in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. Many individuals who lived downwind of nuclear testing sites, known as "downwinders," have suffered negative health consequences. RECA was initially passed in 1990 as a means to compensate these individuals as well as those who mined, milled and transported uranium.
  - In March 2022, Senator Crapo, along with Senator Ben Ray Luján (D-New Mexico), led a bipartisan letter urging congressional leadership to extend RECA beyond its July 2022 expiration. Two months later, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed a **two-year extension of the program**, and it was signed into law on June 7, 2022.
  - Beyond extending RECA, Senator Crapo has worked to expand the program through the introduction of **S. 2798**. This bill will extend and expand eligibility under the current RECA program to include all those who have suffered from cancers related to fallout from above-ground nuclear weapons test that took place during the Cold War. The original program only covered individuals who lived in parts of Utah, Nevada and Arizona, and **this legislation would expand the geographic downwinder eligibility to include then-residents of Idaho**, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico and Guam.

## Border Security

The United States faces an unprecedented flow of illegal immigration at the southern border, and with it, a surge in drug smuggling and crime. Senator Crapo has consistently worked throughout the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress to support common-sense solutions to keep Idahoans safe.

### **The Protect American Taxpayer Dollars from Illegal Immigration Act**

- Following announcements President Biden had plans to spend upwards of \$1 billion to provide \$450,000 per person in taxpayer money for settlements to illegal immigrants, Senator Crapo co-sponsored legislation to block federal funds, including money from the Judgement Fund, from being used for these payments, which enrich illegal immigrants at the expense of hardworking American taxpayers and incentivize further illegal immigration.

### **The Strengthening Enforcement to Curtail Unlawful, Risky Entrance (SECURE) to Flights Act**

- Senator Crapo co-sponsored legislation to prevent the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Transportation and Security Administration (TSA) from allowing illegal immigrants to use immigration enforcement documents, such as arrest warrants, as identification when boarding commercial flights.

### **The Stop Fentanyl Border Crossings Act**

- Senator Crapo and fellow Idaho U.S. Senator Jim Risch co-sponsored legislation to expand Title 42 authority to turn back migrants to combat prolific drug smuggling across the U.S.-Mexico border.

***“This bill will help address the public health crisis facilitated by drug smuggling and enable our enforcement authorities on the border to keep a tighter grip on the record-breaking flow of illegal border crossings.”***

– Senator Crapo



## Extend Title 42 authority at the nation's southern border until February 2025.

- Senator Crapo co-sponsored this extension to help combat the unprecedented surge of illegal immigrants coming across the southern border.

## Keep Our Communities Safe Act

- This bill would close the legal loophole that requires immigration authorities to release back into the United States illegal aliens who have not been accepted for deportation to other countries after being detained for six months--a practice also referred to as "catch and release."





## Supporting Idaho Children and Families

- Enabling parents to be actively engaged in their children’s education provides the best outcome for students, and children deserve an education free from politically biased curriculum. Senator Crapo has fought to protect parents’ rights to be actively involved in their children’s education, including parents who have concerns about curriculum and inserting politics in the classroom. Some of his efforts during the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress include:
  - Joined a Senate resolution to **push back on the U.S. Department of Justice’s threats to use federal law enforcement resources to intimidate and silence law-abiding parents** wishing to express their dissatisfaction with school board decisions;
  - Demanded the Biden Administration withdraw a proposal that sought to **reorient the bipartisan American History and Civics Education programs** away from their intended purpose toward a politicized and divisive agenda;
  - Joined Republican colleagues in **actively pushing back against the Biden Administration’s radical Title IX re-interpretation**, which overrides existing state laws, ignores parental rights and undercuts equal opportunities for women and girls in education—including in athletics. In an effort to counter this extreme rule, he **co-sponsored S. 251, the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act**, which would protect athletic opportunities for women and girls by making it a violation of Title IX for schools to allow a biological male to compete in an athletic program designed for women or girls;
  - Raised concerns with the Biden Administration seeking to withhold federal funding for programs such as school meals from states it does not feel properly abide by its radical Title IX interpretation. A letter Senator Crapo signed to U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack emphasized that “the purpose of these programs is to feed children,” and that “in no way should this funding be contingent upon local school practices that are wholly irrelevant to that purpose;” and
  - Co-sponsored **S. 4892, the Parental Rights Over the Education and Care of Their (PROTECT) Kids Act**, to protect parental rights by preventing schools from concealing information about students’ education and well-being.

## Fighting Covid Mandates

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Senator Crapo fought adamantly to ensure the federal government stayed within its authorities entrusted by the Constitution. This is a fight he will continue in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress.

*“Thanks to Operation Warp Speed and American medical ingenuity, we had record vaccine development to combat the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic virus. Vaccines have historically proven to be vital to the public health goal of disease prevention, but a one-size-fits-all federal mandate on vaccines and private business practices is not a reasonable solution.”*

– Senator Crapo

- Below is a list of some of Senator Crapo’s efforts to fight against federal COVID-19 vaccine mandates:
  - Filed two separate resolutions under the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to nullify the Biden Administration’s vaccine mandates on private businesses and health care workers.
    - S.J.Res.29, the CRA resolution to nullify the private business mandate, passed the Senate on December 8, 2021, by a vote of 52-48.
    - S.J.Res.32, the CRA resolution to nullify the mandate on health care workers at certified Medicare and Medicaid facilities, passed the Senate on March 2, 2022, by a vote of 49-44.
  - During the consideration of a continuing resolution (CR) to provide short-term government funding through March 11, 2022, he voted in support of two separate amendments that would have prohibited federal funds from going toward the enforcement of COVID-19 mandates.
    - One amendment would have **prohibited funding for the federal employee vaccine mandate**, the **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) vaccine mandate** and the **U.S. Department of Defense vaccine mandate**.

- The other amendment would have **prohibited funding for schools and early childhood development facilities that enforce COVID-19 vaccine mandates on children**. Unfortunately, these amendments were not included in the final version of the CR.
- o During the consideration of the Fiscal Year 2022 omnibus appropriations legislation, he again voted in support of an amendment that would have prevented funding from being used to implement or enforce the following executive actions related to COVID-19 mandates:
  - The Occupational Safety and Health Administration rule that mandated vaccinations for employees at private businesses with more than 100 employees;
  - The executive order that mandated vaccinations for federal contractors;
  - The executive order that mandated vaccinations for federal employees;
  - The CMS rule that mandated vaccinations for federal employees; and
  - The memorandum from the Secretary of Defense that mandated vaccinations for all active duty and Ready Reserve Members.
- o Co-sponsored **S. 2879, the Stop Vaccine Mandates Act**, which would rescind the two executive orders that implement vaccination requirements for federal workers and federal contractors;
- o Joined a bicameral member amicus brief to the Supreme Court **opposing the Occupational Safety and Health Administration vaccine mandate rule**;
- o Signed a letter to the U.S. Department of Agriculture **expressing concerns with the federal worker mandate and its impact on the workforce, especially with regard to the next fire season**;
- o Signed a letter expressing concerns with the **vaccine mandate for essential workers at the U.S.-Canada border, which includes truck drivers**;
- o Co-sponsored **S. 3402, the Protecting Guides and Outfitters from Coronavirus Vaccine Mandates in the Great Outdoors Act**, which ensures outfitters and guides are not required to be vaccinated under the Administration's rule relating to federal contractors;
- o Co-sponsored **S. 3412, the Preventing Mandates on Toddlers Act**, which would



prohibit the use of federal funds from enforcing a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) interim final rule (IFR) that establishes vaccine and mask requirements for Head Start facilities;

- Signed two separate letters asking the Biden Administration to **overturn the IFR mandating vaccine and masks at Head Start facilities**;
- Co-sponsored a Congressional Review Act resolution of disapproval to **nullify the HHS IFR that establishes vaccine and mask requirements for Head Start Facilities**;
- Co-sponsored a CRA resolution to **nullify the federal travel mask mandate**;
- Signed a letter to the DOD **raising concerns about COVID vaccine military discharges**;
- Co-sponsored **S. 4172, the Allowing Military Exemptions, Recognizing Individual Concerns About New Shots (AMERICANS) Act**, which counters the Biden Administration's efforts to coerce and punish servicemembers who decline the COVID-19 vaccine;
- Co-sponsored **S. 4304, the Defending Freedom of Conscience for Cadets and Midshipmen Act**, which would protect cadets and midshipmen at the nation's various service academies from being punished for their choice not to receive the COVID-19 vaccine;
- Co-sponsored **S. 4499 to prohibit any COVID-19 vaccine requirement for National Guardsmen**;
- Co-sponsored **S. 4925, the Preserving the Readiness of our Armed Forces Act**, which would prohibit the involuntary separation of servicemembers for refusal of the COVID-19 vaccine until end strength goals are reached and ensures continued pay and benefits for National Guardsmen while religious and health accommodations are pending; and
- **Sent a letter to President Biden** requesting any penalties incurred from a servicemember's refusal to receive the COVID-19 vaccine be **expunged from their records**, and any servicemember or federal employee unfairly discharged or terminated due to these mandates be reinstated.

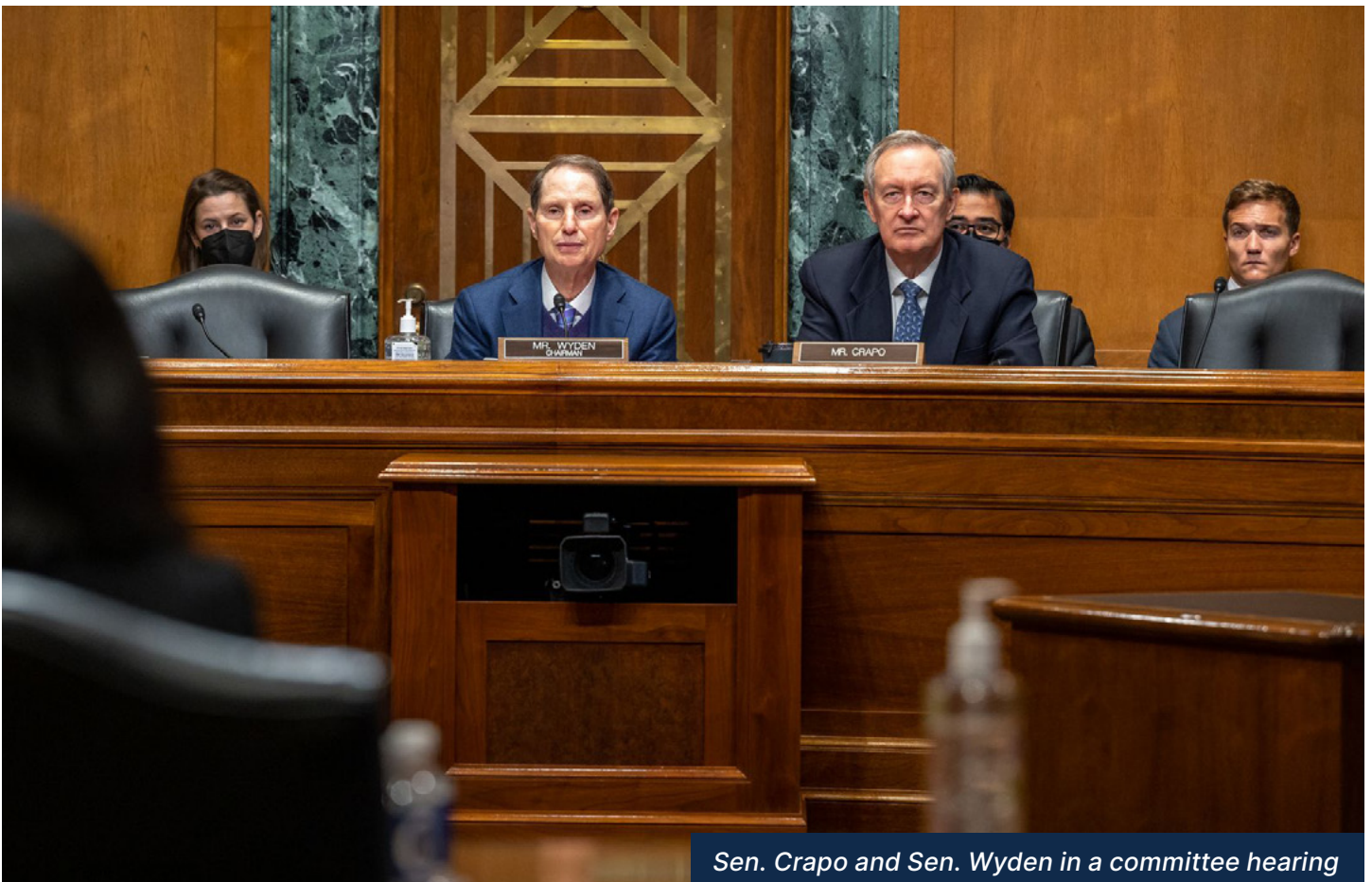
## COMMITTEES

Committees are an essential part of the legislative process. Senate committees provide oversight of federal governmental operations, identify issues suitable for legislative review, gather and evaluate information and recommend courses of action to the Senate.

Senator Crapo served on **three** committees during the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, including:

- **Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Committee;**
- **The Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee; and**
- **The Budget Committee.**

Senator Crapo also Chaired the Committee on Committees, which negotiated the process of assigning Republican senators to committees. The following are some highlights of his work on the committees.



*Sen. Crapo and Sen. Wyden in a committee hearing*

## Finance

In the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, Senator Crapo served as the top Republican member of the United States Senate Finance Committee, giving Idaho a strong voice in legislation relating to federal **tax policy**; federal social safety net and health care programs, including **Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid**; and the implementation and enforcement of foreign **trade agreements**.



### Protecting Americans from a Reckless Tax-and-Spend Agenda

As the economy headed toward an impressive post-pandemic rebound in 2021, the President and Congressional Democrats passed a partisan, multi-trillion-dollar spending package, the American Rescue Plan Act, overheating the economy and **causing inflation to skyrocket**. While families grappled with soaring gas prices and sticker shock in the grocery aisles, the White House and Congressional Democrats pursued an additional nearly \$5 trillion tax-and-spend package to finance partisan environmental and welfare priorities that would fundamentally alter the social fabric of America.





Senator Crapo’s leadership was instrumental in reducing the scope and damage the Administration attempted to inflict on American families and small businesses. Americans saw through the punitive tax hikes, budgeting gimmicks and reckless spending proposals that would have further fueled inflation, and the nearly \$5 trillion Build Back Better Act was rightfully defeated in December 2021. While Democrats eventually passed a pared down partisan tax and spending bill, Senator Crapo and colleagues worked hard to inform the public about its many harmful provisions, and the bill was ultimately slimmed down to \$767 billion, a far cry from the original \$4.9 trillion scope.

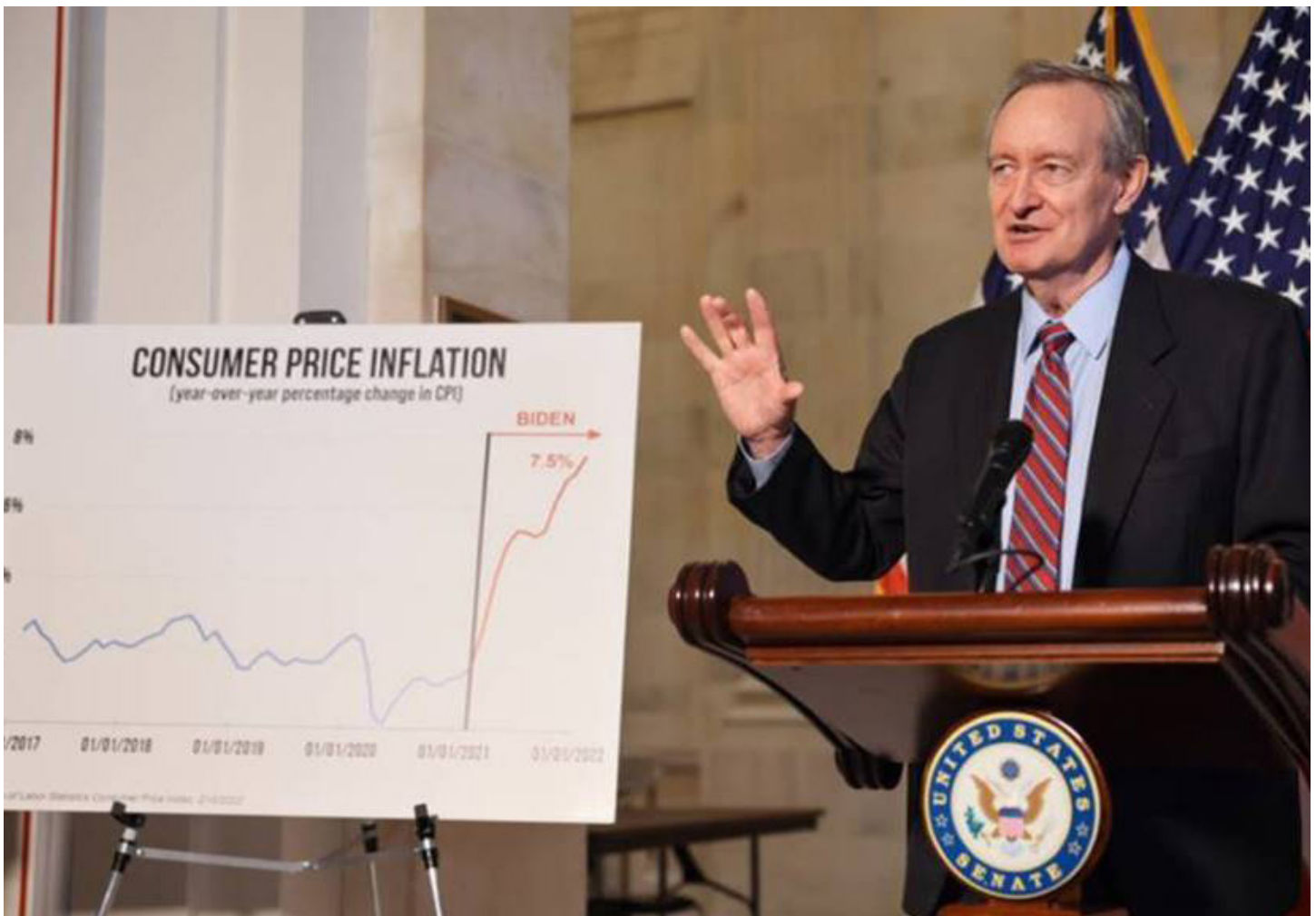
Among the many provisions Crapo prevented from becoming law:

- An **intrusive IRS bank reporting scheme** that would have required financial institutions to report on customer deposits and withdrawals, a huge violation of taxpayer privacy;
- A handout for politically-connected **trial lawyers** that would have effectively subsidized the rampant litigation that studies show increases the costs for all consumers;
- Attempts to raise the **State and Local Tax (SALT)** deduction cap, which would have been a windfall for the rich, using taxpayer dollars from low-tax states to subsidize wealthy people living in high-tax states;



- Efforts to eliminate the benefit of the step-up in tax basis, which prevents those who inherit large assets like a farm, ranch, or small business from being hit **with massive death taxes when assets are transferred** to an heir after the passing of a loved one; and
- Attempts to implement **a one-sided global minimum tax** on U.S. corporations that would greatly disadvantage American businesses against countries like China, and would have slammed American manufacturers as they continued to struggle with supply chain issues and record inflation.

Unfortunately, the damage from inflationary spending continues to hammer American families and businesses. As of December 2022, inflation remained at 40-year highs. Data from the Joint Economic Committee showed that from the time President Biden assumed office to December 2022, **Idahoans were paying \$819 more per month, or \$9,822 more per year, just to keep up with inflation.** In the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, Senator Crapo will continue to fight for pro-growth policies that rein in excessive government spending, keep taxes low, unleash American energy and secure America's global supply chains.



## Guarding Taxpayer Privacy

Ranking Member Crapo led Congressional Republicans in calling for investigations into how ProPublica obtained and published confidential and legally-protected taxpayer information, and several investigations remain ongoing. Senator Crapo will continue to press these agencies for answers so that law-abiding taxpayers can be assured their private information is secure.



## Prioritizing Customer Service and Protecting Taxpayers from Audit Risk

In 2021, millions of taxpayers waited over a year for their tax refund, sometimes spending days trying to connect with the IRS, and approximately 250 million calls to the IRS went unanswered.

- Senator Crapo succeeded in pushing the IRS to **delay certain deadlines** and **provide flexibility** during the 2021 and 2022 filing seasons, particularly as taxpayers coped with pandemic-era difficulties.

- Senator Crapo introduced legislation **to prevent the IRS from using any of the supersized \$80 billion of funding from the Inflation Reduction Act to increase audits on hardworking American taxpayers.**
- Senator Crapo led Finance Committee Republicans in demanding the IRS use that same massive funding boost **to prioritize clearing the backlog of returns and correspondence**, and expediently pay taxpayers who are owed a refund.

### Oversight of Pandemic Policies and Fraud

Trillions of taxpayer dollars supported assistance programs throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, warranting intense scrutiny of how the funds were used, as well as efforts to detect and prevent waste, fraud and abuse in various programs. Senator Crapo introduced several bills to ensure COVID-era programs helped to get people back to work; allowed states to determine how best to use funds allotted to them; and to bolster efforts to root out waste, fraud and abuse of taxpayer dollars.

- **Combatting COVID Unemployment Fraud Act of 2021:** A bill to prevent fraud in COVID unemployment programs, recover fraudulently paid benefits, and provide relief for taxpayers and victims of unemployment fraud.





- **Back to Work Bonus Act:** Legislation modeled after Idaho’s “Return to Work” bonus initiative to counteract enhanced federal unemployment benefits that discouraged workers from returning to jobs by providing a back-to-work bonus.
- **State Fiscal Flexibility Act:** A bill to eliminate a provision in the partisan American Rescue Plan Act that prevented states from using COVID relief funds to cut taxes, a measure that infringed on states’ authority to design their own fiscal policy.
- **Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act of 2022:** A bill to jumpstart efforts to claw back federal funds and pursue recovery of fraudulent payments by ensuring aggressive identification, investigation and prosecution of criminal fraud in pandemic unemployment programs.

### Promoting Free, Fair Trade

Free and fair trade is vital for Idaho’s \$4 billion export industry. Idaho’s agricultural products feed the nation and the world, but we could export even more products with more trade agreements and strong enforcement of existing agreements. In the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, Senator Crapo pushed for strong enforcement of our trade deals and supported policies to create a fairer climate for trade and expanded growth opportunities in the international marketplace for Idaho’s businesses and consumers.

- Senator Crapo introduced the bipartisan Trade Act of 2021 to provide a comprehensive approach to **combat China’s manufacturing imbalances**, threats to free and fair trade, and illicit activity which undermine America’s leadership in innovation. While the Senate passed the **Trade Act of 2021** by an overwhelming vote of 91-4.
- Senator Crapo led Finance Committee Republicans in **oversight efforts of the United States Trade Representative**, pushing the Administration to enforce existing trade agreements, like the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, and encourage the Administration to end its moratorium on new free trade agreements that would benefit America’s farmers.
- When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Senator Crapo quickly introduced legislation to **ban the import of energy products from Russia**, and to **suspend normal trade relations** with the Russia and Belarus. The legislation received unanimous support in the Senate, passing 100-0, delivering an unmistakable message to Putin: no relief until you stop your aggression and recognize Ukraine’s inalienable right to live free and choose its leaders.



- Record-breaking inflation and high gas and diesel prices have placed significant burdens on the agriculture industry over the last few years, in addition to costly supply-chain disruptions. In August 2022, Senator Crapo **led a news conference in Murtaugh on the inflationary pressures impacting Idaho's agriculture industry**, highlighting the toll Washington's out-of-control spending had taken on Idaho's farmers. He continues to fight against inflationary spending, and for trade policies that increase economic opportunities for Gem State producers.

### **Strengthening Semiconductor Supply Chains**

In June 2021, Senator Crapo introduced bipartisan legislation to strengthen U.S. semiconductor supply chains by incentivizing domestic manufacturing of this critical technology, the **Facilitating American-Built Semiconductors (FABS) Act**. Leveraging federal government incentives to bolster American companies and bring chip and semiconductor manufacturing back to the United States is critical, and the FABS Act created an investment tax credit to accomplish this goal and provide much-needed support to Idaho's semiconductor industry. The FABS Act was ultimately included in the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022, signed into law in August 2022.

### **Bolstering and Expanding our Retirement System**

Ranking Member Crapo worked closely with Chairman Ron Wyden (D-Oregon) to expand opportunities for Americans to increase their retirement savings and improve workers' long-term financial well-being through the **Enhancing Americans Retirement Now (EARN) Act**.

The bipartisan EARN Act strengthens retirement savings in a fiscally-responsible way by encouraging small businesses to adopt retirement plans; making it easier for part-time workers to participate in retirement plans; and providing workers and retirees the ability to save more and save longer. The bill also makes important changes that allow flexibility for emergencies, like penalty-free withdrawals for terminally-ill patients, domestic abuse survivors and those affected by federally declared disasters.

The EARN Act was unanimously advanced by the Finance Committee in June 2022, and was passed by the full Congress and signed into law as the **SECURE 2.0 Act** in December 2022.



## Health Care

Ensuring access to effective and affordable health care is one of the greatest challenges facing the health profession, insurers, and local, state and federal governments. The COVID-19 pandemic challenged institutional health care as America knows it, but it also demonstrated that certain health care flexibilities can result in faster incorporation of innovative items and services, and should be considered as permanent solutions in some cases.

Making our federal government health programs more innovative and responsive to the needs of patients and providers, including by allowing patients to receive services through telehealth, providing coverage for multi-cancer diagnostic tests, and updating our payment systems to appropriately reimburse providers remained top priorities for Senator Crapo in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress.

- The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the mental and behavioral health challenges confronted by millions of Americans each day. Senator Crapo worked closely with Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden (D-Oregon) on multiple discussion drafts to address shortcomings in the **mental health**, including on telehealth, on expanding the mental health care workforce, and better care integration of mental and physical health care services.

- **Telehealth** coverage is particularly important in rural states like Idaho, and has undoubtedly expanded access in underserved areas, improved care coordination and integration, and provided more privacy to patients to combat stigma. The Finance Committee took crucial steps toward modernizing telehealth coverage for mental health services in late 2020, and the Committee is continuing its work to build on that process.
- In the 117th Congress, Senator Crapo reintroduced the **Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act**, a bill to provide Medicare coverage for screening tests to save lives and costs to the health care system. The bipartisan legislation would ensure Medicare beneficiaries have **coverage for innovative tests that can detect multiple types of cancer** before symptoms develop. This has the potential to dramatically increase the survival rates for dozens of cancer-types, including those with few or no screening tests currently available.



Senator Crapo at a Senate Finance Committee Hearing

## Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

### Fighting Big Government Attempts to “Choke Off” Politically Disfavored Industries

- As former Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, Senator Crapo has repeatedly expressed concerns with the federal government’s attempts to choke off access to credit and capital for politically disfavored industries, such as oil and gas or firearms companies. This is a disturbing trend that has materialized in a number of different contexts over the last few years. The notion that federal regulators can, or should, use supervisory authorities to circumvent lawmakers and restrict capital to politically-disfavored industries is incredibly misguided, and lawfully-operating businesses must continue to reject this notion.
- During the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, Senator Crapo took a number of actions to challenge these efforts:
  - Wrote a letter to Chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Jelena McWilliams **requesting transparency steps taken to address concerns about “Operation Choke Point,”** an initiative in which Federal agencies pressured banks to “choke-off” politically disfavored industries’ access to payment systems and banking services;
  - Conducted advice and consent powers in **loudly rejecting a nominee to the U.S. Federal Reserve Board of Governors** who advocated for choking off legal, lawful industries, such as oil and gas companies. She withdrew her nomination;
  - Joined Republican colleagues in **condemning credit card CEOs over decisions to remove gun sales from being categorized as “general merchandise”** and instead placing gun sales in a separate, unique category;
  - Joined a letter criticizing Amalgamated Bank’s manipulation of an international standard-setting organization to force U.S. financial services firms to categorize gun purchases. The letter called the move an **indefensible attempt to target law-abiding Americans exercising their right** to purchase firearms and to enact far-left political goals;
  - Co-sponsored **S. 563, the Fair Access to Banking Act**, to prevent discrimination by banks and financial service providers against constitutionally-protected industries and and law-abiding businesses; and



- Co-sponsored **S. 1088, the Financial Institution Customer Protection Act**, to prohibit federal regulators from arbitrarily forcing bank institutions to terminate their relationships with legal businesses solely because the operations of the businesses are not in line with the view of the current administration.

### Financial Data Transparency Act

- Along with U.S. Senator Mark Warner (D-Virginia), Senator Crapo introduced **S. 4295, the Financial Data Transparency Act**. The bill was included in the Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act, and signed into law on December 23, 2022. The law requires financial regulators to develop common standards that promote the organization, readability and availability of financial data they collect from regulated institutions. It will make data easier for the public to use and for agencies to process, improving government transparency and accountability.

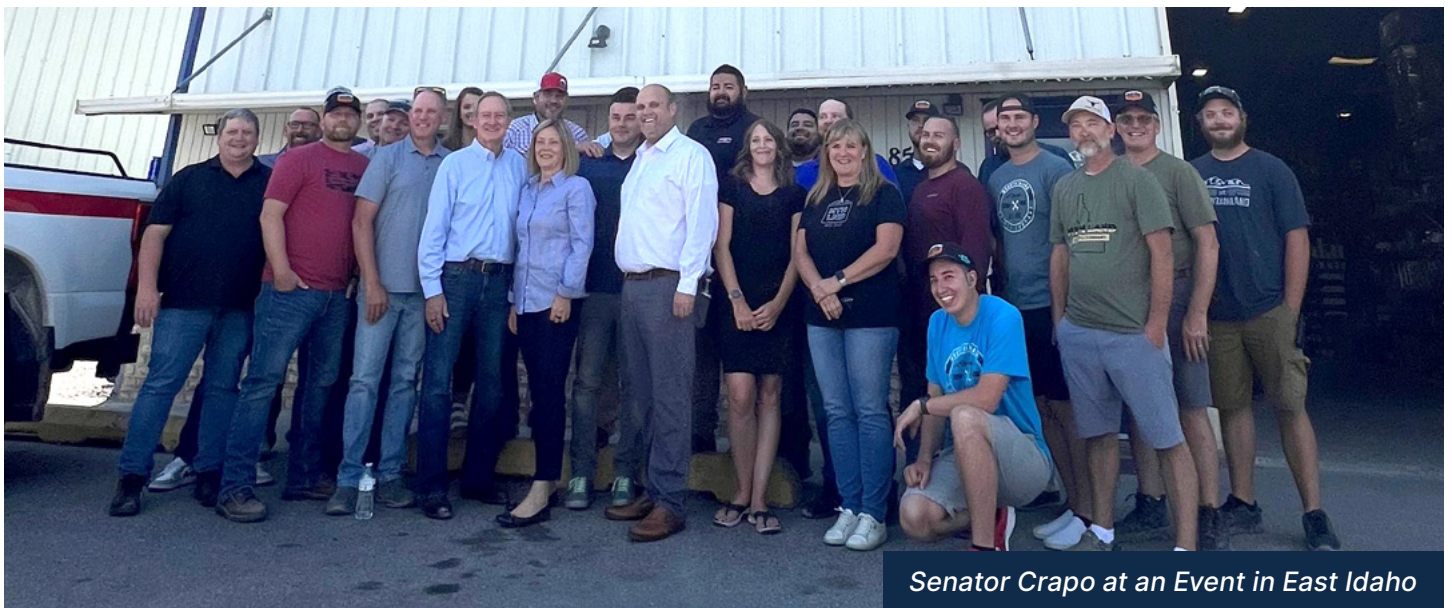
### Corporate Governance

- Senator Crapo is deeply concerned by the use of environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards in making financial decisions, especially with the federal government coercing industry to adopt such criteria. Additional disclosure requirements will only increase costs and administrative burdens for companies, stifling innovation and economic growth. During the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, Senator Crapo was active in several efforts to protect consumer choice and privacy and to pushback on ESG standards:
  - Led a **public roundtable with Idaho State Treasurer Julie Ellsworth** to discuss the pitfalls of ESG efforts;
  - Sent a letter to the Chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission **highlighting concerns surrounding proposed rules to mandate climate change disclosures**;
  - Co-sponsored **S. 4610, the Food and Energy Security Act**, which would prohibit federal financial or securities regulators from implementing any rule or guidance that would increase costs due to added burdens and requirements of complying with ESG standards.

## Budget

- The Budget Committee’s principal responsibility is to develop a concurrent resolution on the budget to serve as the framework for congressional spending, revenue and debt-limit legislation. Working in tandem with the House of Representatives, the Senate establishes a joint agreement, a “budget resolution,” that sets the spending levels for its specified timeframe. The Budget Committee tracks the appropriations and legislative processes throughout the year to ensure spending levels conform to the levels set forth in the resolution. Senator Crapo has authored and supported countless common-sense fiscal policies aimed at balancing the federal budget, including:
  - A **balanced budget amendment** to the U.S. Constitution requiring the President and Congress to enact annual balanced budgets and restrict federal spending to 18 percent of the Gross Domestic Product.
  - **S. 2463, the Zero Based Budget Act**, which would cut wasteful spending and reduce U.S. debt by requiring government agencies to justify their spending levels every six years with a zero-based budget and propose a reduction in expenditures by two percent.

During the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, Democrats pursued multiple Budget Resolutions through reconciliation, a special procedure that circumvents the usual budget process to unilaterally expedite the passage of partisan, reckless spending legislation. These resolutions amounted to trillions of dollars in deficit spending, and Senator Crapo voted against both resolutions. Addressing our national debt remains a top priority for Senator Crapo.



Senator Crapo at an Event in East Idaho

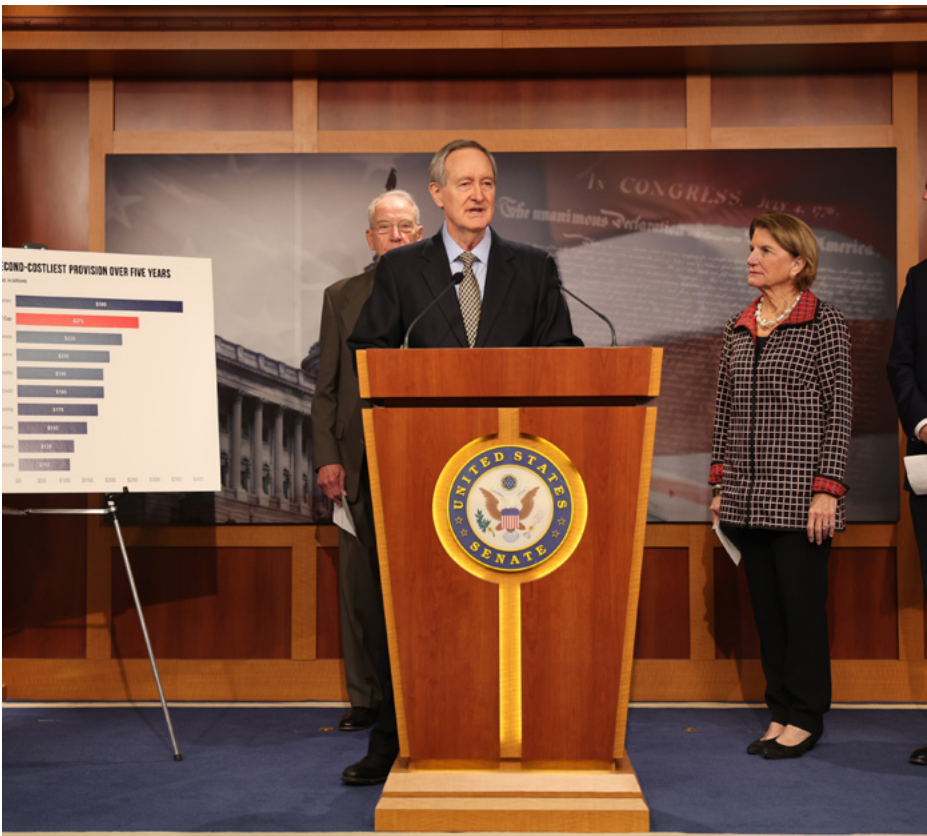
















**Boise**

251 E. Front St., Suite 205  
Boise ID, 83702  
Phone: (208) 334-1776  
Fax: (208) 334-9044



**Twin Falls**

202 Falls Ave., Suite 2  
Twin Falls, ID 83301  
Phone: (208) 734-2515  
Fax: (208) 733-0414

**Idaho Falls**

410 Memorial Dr., Suite 204  
Idaho Falls, ID 83402  
Phone: (208) 522-9779  
Fax: (208) 529-8367

**Washington, DC**

239 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-6142  
Fax: (202) 228-1375

**Pocatello**

275 S. 5th Ave., Suite 100  
Pocatello, ID 83201  
Phone: (208) 236-6775  
Fax: (208) 236-6935

**Coeur d' Alene**

610 Hubbard, Suite 209  
Coeur d' Alene, ID 83814  
Phone: (208) 664-5490  
Fax: (208) 664-0889

**[crapo.senate.gov](http://crapo.senate.gov)**

Email: [crapo.senate.gov/contact/email-me](mailto:crapo.senate.gov/contact/email-me)  
[facebook.com/mikecrapo](https://facebook.com/mikecrapo)  
[twitter.com/mikecrapo](https://twitter.com/mikecrapo)  
[instagram.com/mikecrapo/](https://instagram.com/mikecrapo/)  
[youtube.com/user/senatorcrapo](https://youtube.com/user/senatorcrapo)

**Lewiston**

313 'D' St., Suite 105  
Lewiston, ID 83501  
Phone: (208) 743-1492  
Fax: (208) 743-6484