

Representative Josh Harder

Working for the
Central Valley.

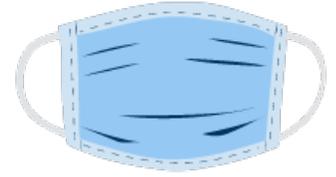


A mid-year report outlining Josh Harder's work for the Valley in 2020.

Responding to COVID-19

Fighting for Health Care

First and foremost this pandemic is a health crisis. Rep. Harder has directed his focus into three main categories to protect the Valley's health. First, he's working to protect seniors in nursing homes – pushing the Administration to provide more testing, introducing a comprehensive plan to protect staff and residents, and conducting oversight to ensure compliance with federal regulations. Second, he launched a PPE initiative after getting word that local hospitals and essential businesses were running out of protective equipment. Since its inception, Rep. Harder has delivered over 30,000 surgical masks and 5,000 face shields directly to workers. Finally, he launched a Latino COVID Task Force – Latinos make up less than half of Stanislaus County's population but 70% of cases. The Task Force focuses on identifying the causes of the disproportionate virus spread and takes targeted steps to address them such as scaling up outreach within Latino communities.



Protecting Our Economy



When the country sneezes, the Valley catches a cold - it's first to be hit, last to recover. Never is that more true than when it comes to economic recovery, especially for our lower-income workers and young people. That's why during this pandemic Rep. Harder has voted for and supported programs to protect Valley workers and businesses. Programs like the Paycheck Protection Program have saved over 70,000 Valley jobs so far. Rep. Harder's first bill became law during the pandemic - it provides tax credits to businesses that pay sick leave to employees who miss work due to the Coronavirus. In addition, Rep. Harder has introduced legislation and pushed for Valley specific solutions - like a bill to protect our state and local fairs from financial ruin and he successfully pushed the USDA to purchase \$20 million from walnut farmers who were already struggling from the trade war. He also successfully pushed to get an ag representative on the White House Coronavirus Task Force.

Staying Accessible During a Pandemic

Rep. Harder has hosted more than a dozen virtual public events, including 8 Telephone Town halls, 3 Facebook Live Town Halls, multiple webinars for small business owners and ag workers, and even drive-through office hours since the beginning of the pandemic.



By the Numbers



Rep. Harder has **returned more than \$3 million to Central Valley residents** who were getting the runaround from Social Security, EDD, and other agencies.

Rep. Harder has **helped more than 2,500 constituents in the Valley** cut through red tape.



Rep. Harder has introduced **44 bills**, specifically focused on Central Valley priorities, **18 of which have passed the House of Representatives.**

Rep. Harder held **8 telephone town halls** to keep constituents informed during the Coronavirus Pandemic.



Rep. Harder has **co-sponsored more bills with Republicans than ANY other Democrat** in the House of Representatives.



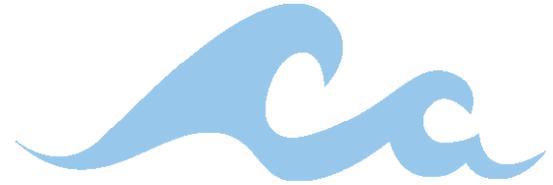
Fighting for Local Priorities in Washington

Health Care

Rep. Harder is continuing his fight to get care to Vietnam Veterans exposed to Agent Orange. His amendment to expand the list of eligible diseases passed the Senate as part of the annual defense bill. In addition to supporting the passage of the **Families First Coronavirus Act, CARES Act, and Heroes Act** - which have increased funding for local hospitals, testing, and PPE - Rep. Harder has introduced multiple bills to support increased access to health care during the pandemic. He's introduced the **Universal Coronavirus Vaccine Act** to ensure that when a vaccine is developed, it's free for everyone, regardless of insurance status, as well as the **Nursing Home Pandemic Safety Act** to ensure universal testing of all employees and residents at nursing homes across the country. The Heroes Act, which passed the House in May, included four Harder bills, including his **Stopping Doctor Shortages Act**, which could bring up to 10,000 doctors to California.

Jobs

Rep. Harder has been a leader in efforts to protect Valley jobs - and increase job opportunities during the pandemic. His **Paid Sick Leave Credit Act** was signed into law and provides a 100% tax credit for small businesses who pay their employees if they're out sick with Coronavirus. Rep. Harder also introduced legislation to create a Coronavirus Service Corps - to get young Americans back to work doing jobs that will help end the pandemic - like contact tracing and testing. Rep. Harder also successfully pushed to get farmers included in the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, so they can cover costs incurred by the Coronavirus.



Water

This year, Rep. Harder secured major Central Valley water wins in the annual appropriations bills. Water projects including Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir, Sites Reservoir, and the Los Vaqueros expansion project will be getting more than \$12 million across the projects. Rep. Harder has also introduced the **Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program Authorization Act** to ensure snowpack water can be more accurately measured and used.



Cutting Through Red Tape

Mary, Modesto

Like so many during the pandemic, Mary was getting the runaround from EDD. They kept asking her to send documents to verify her identity, then after she did, they'd mark her ineligible - even though she was eligible for benefits. Finally, after she'd gone back and forth with EDD for months, she called Rep. Harder. Our office fought and won to get her benefits started and got the \$10,400 in backpay she was owed.



John, Manteca



John had a series of heart attacks and required emergency care but the VA refused to cover the bills because it determined his heart attack, during which he flatlined, was not an emergency. Our office worked with Assemblymember Health Flora's office and together, we were able to get the VA to recognize his heart attacks as the emergencies they were, and cover John's medical expenses, totaling \$573,108.

Amina, Modesto

Amina and her husband received visas to come to the Valley, but their young daughters, both under 5, were not granted visas and forced to stay behind in a volatile area of Afghanistan with their grandmother and without protection. Our office pressed the Department of State to get the children their visas and was able to bring them home safely to their parents.

