

## A Month in Review: March

Congressman Don Bacon

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### Women's History Month

This month, I honored KETV's Rose Ann Shannon. After 45 years in broadcast news, KETV NewsWatch 7's Rose Ann Shannon retired from broadcast journalism. Rose Ann was a trailblazer who made history as Omaha's first female TV news director and led with integrity, hard work, and honesty. Best wishes Rose Ann! Watch my floor speech honoring Rose Ann [here](#).



### India Association of Nebraska

I enjoyed speaking with the India Association of Nebraska. Indians contribute a lot to our Omaha community and our nation, both culturally and by benefiting our economy through their hard work and efforts in education. They shared with me many of the shortcomings of our H-1B visa program and the impact on their families and local employers. I look forward to being strong voice in tackling these problems.

## School Safety Working Group



I am leading a newly formed School Safety Working Group in the House of Representatives. At my recent meeting with superintendents in the district on school security, we discussed various possible causes that may contribute to a violent mentality, as well as best scenarios for school safety. I will be using their insights and ideas to help the Working Group establish and review priorities, as well as look at possible legislation that will best support our schools and ensure they have the resources to protect students. [Listen](#) to my recent radio interview discussing the progress of the Working Group and importance of the recently passed and now law, the STOP School Violence Act. Read the Working Group's op-ed on how Congress is addressing these issues [here](#).

## Second Bill Passed the House

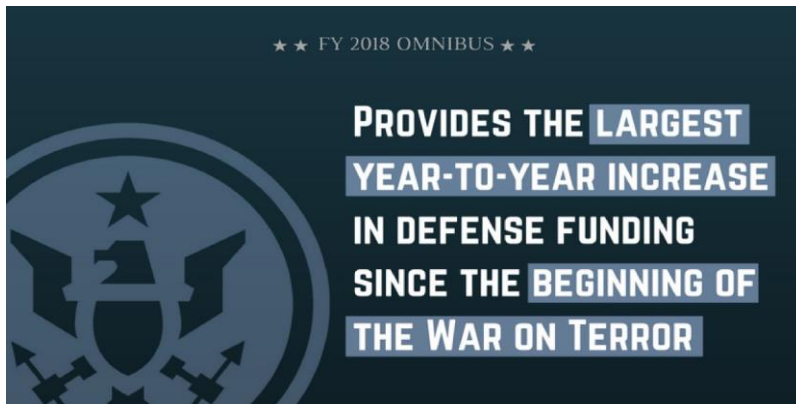
My bill, H.R. 5079 DHS (Department of Homeland Security) Field Engagement Accountability Act passed earlier this month through the House. This important legislation will bolster the partnership between DHS and fusion centers across the United States. H.R. 5079 has seven bipartisan cosponsors including House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Michael McCaul.

When I toured the Nebraska Information Analysis Center (NIAC), the sole fusion center in the state, I saw first-hand the critical role fusion centers play in the sharing of intelligence and counterterrorism information with local law enforcement agencies. In recent years, the Department of Homeland Security has made it a priority to provide more support and resources to fusion centers. I am glad to see this bill pass as it will build upon and reinforce these efforts. This bill will serve to strengthen the partnership between DHS and with those on the ground at fusion centers like the NIAC.

The DHS Field Engagement Accountability Act:

- **Provides for additional training and improvements for information sharing systems the Department makes available to fusion centers and other law enforcement agencies.**
- **Requires an agency-wide DHS engagement strategy with fusion centers to provide the support they need to protect the Homeland.**

- **Mandates the creation of performance metrics to hold DHS field personnel accountable as well as to ensure a greater level of transparency and stronger partnership are achieved.**



## Omnibus

For years, our men and women in uniform have been asked to fulfill their tasks and missions without the necessary funding, resources, and training. In the last year alone, we lost more servicemembers in training accidents than in

combat. The vote for the omnibus was a vote for our troops. A vote to provide an additional \$80 billion in national defense—the largest year-to-year increase for our defense in 15 years. A vote to give our servicemembers the resources they need to be successful on the battlefield. A vote to increase funding for defense programs that provide care for troops, military families, and retirees.

Let me be clear, I do not support the excess domestic spending in this bill. However, the alternative to this compromise would be a full-year continuing resolution (CR). A long-term CR would hurt our country and set our military back. I will continue to work to find solutions to balance the budget and get wasteful spending under control.

There are some common myths about the omnibus and I wanted to take this opportunity to clear them up:

**Myth:** The omnibus funds Planned Parenthood.

**FACT:** There is no money for Planned Parenthood in this bill. Period. There is no line item for Planned Parenthood. Throughout the last Administration, funds through Title X were granted to Planned Parenthood. However, this Administration has made it perfectly clear no Title X funds will be allocated to Planned Parenthood. Title X is fully funded at the levels requested by the Trump Administration. Community Health Centers can apply for these funds to continue providing care to patients.

**Myth:** The omnibus provides no money for the wall.

**FACT:** Included in the omnibus is a \$1.6 billion increase for border security funding. This allows 90 miles of border wall to be funded and provides funding for personnel, equipment and vehicles, and technology at the border.



**Myth:** Our military is the biggest it has ever been and does not need more funding.

**FACT:** Our military is in trouble. Less than half of the Navy aircraft can fly due to maintenance and spare parts issues. The Air Force is smaller than it has ever been and the average age of its aircraft is 27 years old. Only five of the 58 Brigade Combat teams are ready to fight tonight. Fatal aviation accidents are increasing and last year we experienced more deaths in training accidents than in combat.

These issues cannot be ignored. The omnibus provided the largest increase in defense funding in fifteen years and provides the necessary funding to bring our military's readiness levels back up. Finally, our military will be able to have the resources and training needed in today's world.

**Myth:** Our Second Amendment rights are undermined.

**FACT:** The Fix NICS Act which ensures federal and state authorities comply with existing law and report criminal history records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) is included in the omnibus, but there are no provisions that undermine the Second Amendment. A bill I support and have been vocal on, the STOP School Violence Act, also was included in this bill. The STOP School Violence Act provides increased funding for active shooter training and school infrastructure resources like metal detectors.



Sincere regards,



**Don Bacon**

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