Scott Taylor (VA-02) Research Report
The following report contains research on Scott Taylor, a Republican member of Congress in VA’s 2nd district. Research for this research book was conducted by the DCCC’s Research Department between August and October 2017. By accepting this report, you are accepting responsibility for all information and analysis included. Therefore, it is your responsibility to verify all claims against the original documentation before you make use of it. Make sure you understand the facts behind our conclusions before making any specific charges against anyone.

Scott Taylor
Republican Incumbent in Virginia’s 2nd Congressional District

Research Book – 2018
Last Updated October 2017

Prepared by the DCCC Research Department
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Thematics
**Significant Findings**

- Taylor has long been a man in a hurry...
  - Taylor was caught driving recklessly or speeding at least 10 times in Virginia.
  - In North Carolina, Taylor received a speeding ticket for driving 99 MPH in a 65 MPH zone.
  - As of August 2017, Taylor was associated with at least 18 criminal traffic violations.
- Taylor has established a pattern of running for office, then immediately plotting his next promotion.
  - 2008: Taylor ran for mayor of Virginia Beach and came in last place.
  - 2010: After his defeat in the mayoral campaign, Taylor ran for Congress and lost.
  - 2012-2013: When Taylor’s initial runs for office failed, he ran a dark money political attack group instead.
  - 2013: Taylor won election to the Virginia House Of Delegates.
  - 2015: Taylor ran unopposed for re-election to the House Of Delegates.
  - 2015: Within one month of winning re-election to the House of Delegates, Taylor began exploring a run for lieutenant governor before deciding to run for Congress.
  - 2016: Within four months of winning re-election to the House of Delegates, Taylor began running for Congress.
- Taylor cultivated powerful political backers.
  - Sheriff Ken Stolle and his “powerful” family backed Taylor over other Republicans in the 2016 race for Congress.
  - Taylor raised $1,342,501 over all his runs for office, including $112,132 in candidate self-loans.
  - Taylor has personally contributed at least $6,750 to political candidates & allies.
  - During his 2016 run for Congress and so far in his presumed 2018 run, Taylor has raised $87,700 from leadership PACs.
- Taylor was often hit with hundreds of thousands of dollars in judgments against his businesses for unpaid bills and once changed business names rather than pay.
  - 2016: Taylor’s primary opponent alleged Taylor and his businesses had approximately $1.5 million in judgments against them.
  - 2013: Taylor had a $828,255 judgment against him in Virginia Beach circuit court from an unspecified unpaid loan involving a 2008 real estate deal.
  - 2012: Taylor had a $147,272 judgment against his business “Anytime Fitness” for more than a year of unpaid rent. Taylor changed the gym’s name and address in order to avoid paying the judgment.
  - 2006: Taylor and a business partner failed to pay back a loan on a condominium project in Florida and were ordered to pay $620,000.
Taylor Was Caught Driving Recklessly Or Speeding At Least 10 Times In Virginia

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Taylor Has Long Been A Man In A Hurry...

Taylor Was Associated With Fourteen Traffic Infractions. “Records show that Taylor got 12 speeding tickets from 1999 to 2013. Three of those citations were for reckless driving in Virginia, which means going 20 mph or more above the speed limit. Taylor’s highest rate of speed, in a 2006 ticket issued in Rutherford County, N.C., was 99 mph in a 65 mph zone. Ironically, Taylor also got a ticket in Norfolk in 2008 for

[Nexis, Criminal Records Search, accessed 9/28/17]
impeding traffic, which means driving too slow. He was cited in 2007 for failing to yield the right of way in Virginia Beach. So there’s a total of 14 moving violations against Taylor and no record of any of the tickets being dismissed by a judge or resulting in punishments other than fines.” [Politifact, 5/23/16]

**Taylor Received A Speeding Ticket For Driving 99 MPH In A 65 MPH Zone**

*2006: Taylor Got A Ticket In North Carolina For Going 99 In A 65 MPH Zone.* “Taylor’s highest rate of speed, in a 2006 ticket issued in Rutherford County, N.C., was 99 mph in a 65 mph zone” [Politifact, 5/23/16]


**As Of August 2017, Taylor Was Associated With At Least 18 Criminal Traffic Violations**


**Politifact Reported That Between 1999 And 2013, Taylor Received Fourteen Moving Violations, Including Three Citations For Reckless Driving.** “Dean Petrone, a Forbes media consultant, sent us a list of court actions against Taylor that were found largely in a LexisNexis search of Taylor’s background. We confirmed the records on our own. […] Records show that Taylor got 12 speeding tickets from 1999 to 2013. Three of those citations were for reckless driving in Virginia, which means going 20 mph or more above the speed limit. Taylor’s highest rate of speed, in a 2006 ticket issued in Rutherford County, N.C., was 99 mph in a 65 mph zone. Ironically, Taylor also got a ticket in Norfolk in 2008 for impeding traffic, which means driving too slow. He was cited in 2007 for failing to yield the right of way in Virginia Beach. So there’s a total of 14 moving violations against Taylor and no record of any of the tickets being dismissed by a judge or resulting in punishments other than fines.” [Politifact, 5/23/16] *Note: No tickets were found in Virginia court records or Nexis after 2008. See Further Research.*

**None Of The Tickets Were Dismissed Or Resulted In Punishments Other Than Fines.** “So there’s a total of 14 moving violations against Taylor and no record of any of the tickets being dismissed by a judge or resulting in punishments other than fines. Records show Taylor was found guilty of driving violations by courts in five localities. Three of the courts were in Virginia: Norfolk, Virginia Beach and Northampton County. The two others were in Rutherford County, N.C., and Talbot County, Md. In seven instances, Taylor was found ‘guilty in absentia.’ That means he did not exercise his option to appear in court to dispute the ticket. The judges, in Taylor’s absence, heard the cases, found him guilty and assessed fines and court costs. That’s different from ‘failing to appear,’ which means a person was supposed to show up in court and did not.” [Politifact, 5/23/16]

**A Virginia Judge Issued A Warrant For Taylor’s Arrest For Failure To Appear But Taylor Was Cleared Of The Charge, Apparently Away On A Military Exercise**

*2004: A Judge Issued A Warrant For Taylor’s Arrest After A Charge Of Reckless Driving.* “This leads to the last part of Forbes’ statement -- that a warrant was issued for Taylor’s arrest. Records show there was one time, in March 2004, when a judge charged Taylor with failure to appear and later issued a bench warrant for his arrest. This happened in Virginia Beach General District Court, shortly after Taylor had been cited for reckless driving. Scott Weldon, Taylor’s campaign manager, told us Taylor, a former Navy SEAL, didn’t show up in court because he had been sent on a lengthy military training exercise. Records show that in June 2004, Taylor was cleared of the failure-to-appear charges.” [Politifact, 5/23/16]

**Records Showed Taylor Was Cleared Of The Failure-To-Appear Charges.** “Records show that in June 2004, Taylor was cleared of the failure-to-appear charges.” [Politifact, 5/23/16]
Taylor Campaign Manager Scott Weldon Said Taylor Missed Court Because He Had Been Sent To A Lengthy Military Training Exercise. “Scott Weldon, Taylor’s campaign manager, told us Taylor, a former Navy SEAL, didn’t show up in court because he had been sent on a lengthy military training exercise. Records show that in June 2004, Taylor was cleared of the failure-to-appear charges.” [Politifact, 5/23/16]

### Taylor Has Established A Pattern Of Running For Office, Then Immediately Plotting His Next Promotion

#### 2008: Taylor Ran For Mayor Of Virginia Beach & Came In Last Place Out Of Four

2008: Taylor Lost With 10% Of The Vote Against Will Sessoms, Jr, Who Received 39% Of The Vote, And Two Other Candidates. [Virginia Public Access Project, 11/4/08]

#### 2010: After His Defeat In The Mayoral Campaign, Taylor Ran For Congress & Lost, Coming In Fourth Place Out Of Six

2010: Taylor Ran For Congress & Lost With 8.1% Of The Vote Against Republican Candidate Scott Rigell, Who Received 39.5% Of The Vote, Coming In Fourth Place Out Of Six Republicans. [Virginia Department of Elections, 11/2/10]

#### 2012-2013: When Taylor’s Initial Runs For Office Failed, He Ran A Dark Money Political Attack Group Instead

Taylor Was President Of The Nonprofit “Special Operations OPSEC Education Fund,” Founded In 2012. “Taylor, 33, owns a gym, a real estate business and a security consulting firm, and he is president of the Special Operations OPSEC Education Fund, a nonprofit founded in 2012 to oppose the release of special operations information by the Obama administration following the death of Osama bin Laden.” [Virginian-Pilot, 6/12/13]

Taylor Claimed The Group Educated The Public About Careless Leaks Of Sensitive Military Information. “A group of military veterans and ex-intelligence officers, led by a former Navy SEAL in Virginia Beach, launched a campaign against President Barack Obama this week for what they consider careless leaks of sensitive military information and the president’s taking too much credit for the killing of Osama bin Laden. Scott Taylor, president of the Special Operations OPSEC Education Fund, which was set up as a nonprofit ‘social welfare organization,’ said the group isn’t taking sides in the presidential race but is raising the issue in an election year to draw attention to it. ‘We’re educating the public,’ said Taylor, an unsuccessful candidate in the 2nd Congressional District Republican primary two years ago. ‘We’re out here in the political season because it’s the only time that politicians pay attention.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 8/17/12]

2015: OPSEC’s 990 Described The Group As A “Non-Partisan Grassroots Advocacy Organization Focused On Protecting US Special Operations.” “Non-partisan grassroots advocacy organization focused on protecting US Special Operations Forces and organizations, optional for national intelligence assets and operatives from political exploitation and policies, and the misuse of classified others information that unnecessarily exposes them and their families to greater risk and reduces their effectiveness in keeping America safe.” [Foundation Center 990 Finder, accessed 3/7/18]

Note: 990s available online for OPSEC for the years 2012 and 2015 through the Foundation Center. Primary documents also saved on drive.

#### 2013: Taylor Won Election To The Virginia House Of Delegates
2013: Taylor Won With 56.3% Of The Vote Against Democratic Candidate William Dale, Who Received 43.5% Of The Vote. [Virginia Public Access Project, 11/5/13]

2015: Taylor Ran Unopposed For Re-Election To The House Of Delegates
[Virginia Public Access Project, 11/3/15]

2015: Within One Month Of Winning Re-Election To The House Of Delegates, Taylor Began Exploring A Run For Lieutenant Governor Before Deciding To Run For Congress

Taylor Had A Political Action Committee Called FROG PAC To Explore A Run For Lieutenant Governor

Taylor’s Political Action Committee Was Titled FROG PAC. “Republican Del. Scott Taylor reported the first big donation to his political action committee in an expected run for lieutenant governor. Andrew F. Jones of Salisbury, Md., gave Taylor’s FROG PAC a $25,000 donation on Monday.” [Virginian-Pilot, 12/8/15]

Taylor Reportedly Had $33,000 In A Political Action Committee He Had Set Up While Considering A Run For Lieutenant Governor. “Del. Scott Taylor, R-Virginia Beach, who also is seeking the GOP nomination, has $30,000 in his campaign fund and $33,000 in a political action committee he set up for a possible run for lieutenant governor.” [Daily Press, 4/1/16]

2016: Within Four Months Of Winning Re-Election To The House Of Delegates, Taylor Began Running For Congress

November 2016: Taylor Won Election To Congress

2016: Taylor Won With 61.3% Of The Vote Against Democratic Candidate Shaun Brown, Who Received 38.5% Of The Vote. [Virginia Public Access Project, 11/8/16]

February 2016: Taylor Paid For Robocalls Urging Republican Randy Forbes Not To Run In The Second Congressional Seat That Taylor Was Eyeing

Taylor Funded A Robocall Telling Voters To Urge Randy Forbes To Remain In The 4th District And Not Run In The 2nd. “State Del. Scott Taylor went directly to U.S. Rep. Randy Forbes’ Republican supporters in Chesapeake earlier this week, sponsoring more than 5,500 automated calls urging the voters to tell Forbes to run for re-election in his hometown rather than switch to the nearby 2nd Congressional District. Taylor, a Virginia Beach Republican seeking the 2nd District seat, wants to stop Forbes from switching from the 4th District, which he has represented in Congress since 2001. In the 75-second recorded message, a woman who calls herself ‘Erin’ refers to Forbes as ‘our congressman’ and says he ‘is the only Republican who can win our district.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/3/16]


Taylor Announced That His Campaign Paid For The Message At The End Of The Recording. “At the end of the message, Taylor is heard saying his campaign paid for the Sunday-night calls. Forbes is contemplating the switch because this year’s redrawing of congressional district boundaries has converted the 4th from a strong Republican region to one where Democrats have a majority.” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/3/16]
Taylor’s Campaign Spokesman Openly Took Credit For The Two Robocalls. “Scott Weldon, spokesman for Taylor’s campaign, acknowledged the calls were intended to spread his candidate’s views and reach people who might not know about Forbes’ quandary. ‘We obviously want people to know this is something that is being seriously entertained,’ Weldon said. Taylor conducted a separate push poll in Virginia Beach, where more than 2,400 GOP voters were contacted Sunday and Monday.” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/3/16]

Taylor Conducted A Second Poll Which Determined How Popular Taylor Would Be As A Candidate In The 2nd District. “Taylor conducted a separate push poll in Virginia Beach, where more than 2,400 GOP voters were contacted Sunday and Monday. Taylor, in a recorded message, introduced himself as a candidate, lambasted the current Congress and criticized Forbes for considering giving up his 4th District seat to run in the 2nd. The recipients were then asked whether, ‘based on what you know,’ they would support Taylor or Forbes. Ninety-five percent said they favored Taylor, according to RoboCent.” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/3/16]

Taylor Considered A Run For Lieutenant Governor Before Running For Congress When Scott Rigell Suddenly Decided To Retire

Taylor Was Exploring A Run For Virginia Lieutenant Governor Before Deciding To Run For Congress Directly After Rigell’s Surprise Retirement Announcement. “Taylor, a frequent critic of President Barack Obama’s foreign policy and Fox News guest, was exploring a potential run for lieutenant governor before switching to a congressional race right after Rigell’s unexpected retirement announcement.” [Washington Times, 6/3/16]

2017: Taylor Had His Eye On His Next Campaign

July 2017: Taylor Criticized Potential Democratic Opponent Dave Belote

After Democrat Dave Belote Announced For 2018 Race, Taylor Released A Statement Calling Him A “DC Lobbyist.” “In response to Belote’s announcement, Scott Weldon, Taylor’s political director, sent News 3 the following statement: ‘David Belote is a DC lobbyist who is now running for Congress. We have only seen him lobbying for federal dollars in DC and protesting with the Bernie Sanders wing of the Democratic Party. His views are far outside the mainstream on health care and many other issues facing our district, state, and nation.’” [CBS – 3 WTKR, 7/5/17]

January 2018: Rumors Circulated That Taylor Was Considering A Run For U.S. Senate Against Tim Kaine


After Being Asked Via A Facebook Comment If He Would Consider Challenging Senator Kaine, Taylor Replied That “This Kind Of Stuff [DACA Negotiations] Certainly Makes One Consider.” [Facebook, Scott Taylor for Virginia, 1/20/18] Note: Screenshot saved on drive.

Taylor Cultivated Powerful Political Backers

Sheriff Ken Stolle And His “Powerful” Family Backed Taylor Over Other Republicans

Washington Post: The Endorsement Of The “Powerful Stolle Family” Helped Taylor Win. “Taylor also painted Forbes as a carpetbagger - a label that resonated in Virginia Beach, where homegrown credibility is important. The endorsement of the powerful Stolle family also helped Taylor there.” [Washington Post, 6/15/16]
The Virginian-Pilot Reported That Virginia Beach Sheriff Ken Stolle Was “Among Taylor’s Most Vocal Supporters.” “Among Taylor’s most vocal supporters was Virginia Beach Sheriff Ken Stolle.” [Virginian-Pilot, 6/14/16]

Taylor Raised $1,415,194 And Spent $1,311,494 In His Various Runs For Office.

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<td>2010</td>
<td>Scott Taylor (Virginia 2nd Congressional District)</td>
<td>$72,693</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Scott Taylor (Mayor of Virginia Beach)</td>
<td>$82,556</td>
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Total: $1,415,194 $1,311,494


Taylor Loaned His Own Campaigns $112,132 And Repaid Himself $102,132

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[Federal Election Commission, Candidate and Committee Viewer, accessed 8/14/17; Virginia Public Access Project, accessed 8/14/17; Virginia Public Access Project, accessed 8/14/17]

Taylor Has Personally Contributed At Least $6,750 To Political Candidates & Allies

According to the National Institute on Money in State Politics, Taylor has given $4,850 to state-level candidates.

<table>
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<th>Candidate (Office Sought) or Committee</th>
<th>Party</th>
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<td>Ron Villanueva (Virginia House of Delegates)</td>
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Total $4,850

[National Institute on Money in State Politics, accessed 5/15/17]
According to an FEC individual contribution search, Taylor has given $1,900 to federal political candidates.

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Total $1,900

[FEC, individual contribution, 2/23/16]

**During His 2016 Run And 2018 Presumed Run For Congress, Taylor Raised $87,7000 From Leadership PACs**

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[Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 8/15/17]

**Taylor Has Been Hit With Hundreds Of Thousands Of Dollars In Judgments Against His Businesses For Unpaid Bills, And Once Even Changed Business Names Rather Than Pay**

**2016: Taylor’s Primary Opponent Alleged Taylor And His Businesses Had Approximately $1.5 Million In Judgments Against Them**

2016: A Mailer From Taylor’s Congressional Primary Opponent Randy Forbes’ Campaign Claimed Taylor And Two Associated Businesses Had Judgments Against Them For Unpaid Bills Totaling $1.5 Million. “The Forbes ad and mailer also said Taylor and two businesses had judgments against them for unpaid bills totaling $1.5 million. One of the cases involved a dispute over a 2006 Florida condominium project Taylor and a partner wanted to develop. […] A New Jersey federal judge ordered Taylor and his partner to pay the $620,000 balance of the fee. The other case, in Virginia Beach, involved a 2012 judgment of $149,000 in principal, interest and lawyers’ fees owed by Neptune Fitness LLC. Taylor was a principal in the firm at the time.” [Daily Press, 5/16/16]

**2013: Taylor Had A $828,255 Judgment Against Him In Virginia Beach Circuit Court From An Unspecified Unpaid Loan Involving A 2008 Real Estate Deal**

2013: The Virginian-Pilot: Taylor Had A $828,255 Judgment Against Him In Virginia Beach Circuit Court From An Unspecified Unpaid Loan. “[Taylor] lost his Colonial Oaks home to foreclosure in 2011 and last month received an $828,255 judgment against him in Virginia Beach Circuit Court stemming from an unpaid loan, according to city land and court records.” [Virginian-Pilot, 6/6/13]

Taylor Said He Expected The Judgment Would Be Paid Through Land Sales “He said he expects the judgment, from a 2008 real estate deal that went bust, will be repaid through sales of related land parcels.” [Virginian-Pilot, 6/6/13]
2012: Taylor Had A $147,272 Judgment Against His Business “Anytime Fitness” For More Than A Year Of Unpaid Rent

2013: Taylor Had A $147,272 Lien Against His Business “Anytime Fitness.” “Taylor’s attorney is due in Virginia Beach General District Court on June 13, two days after the primary election, for a hearing regarding a $147,272 judgment against Taylor’s business, Neptune Fitness, according to court records. A judge issued the order after the landlord for the Landstown Commons Shopping Center on Princess Anne Road sued Neptune Fitness, which operated as Anytime Fitness, for more than a year of unpaid rent, according to court records.” [Virginian-Pilot, 6/6/13; Virginia Beach General District Court, Case Number GV12057477-00, 12/17/12] Note: See document 121712 ANYTIME FITNESS JUDGMENT saved on drive.

Taylor Changed The Business’ Name And Location In Order To Avoid The Judgment, Which He Claimed Occurred Because His Property Manager Refused To Renegotiate The Rent. “Days before the order, Taylor sold the business to himself under a new name, Courthouse Fitness, and moved the gym to Holland Road, according to the documents and a post on the gym’s website. Now his attorney claims a levy on the gym equipment under the old business name is unenforceable, a point attorneys plan to argue during the hearing next week, according to the filings and attorney David Greer, who represents Landstown Commons. In a written statement, Taylor said the suit is ‘a business dispute and it will be resolved between the parties in court.’ He said it occurred because his property manager refused to renegotiate the rent.” [Virginian-Pilot, 6/6/13]

Taylor’s Attorney Argued That A Levy On The Gym Equipment Was Unenforceable Because Of The Gym’s New Name. “Days before the order, Taylor sold the business to himself under a new name, Courthouse Fitness, and moved the gym to Holland Road, according to the documents and a post on the gym’s website. Now his attorney claims a levy on the gym equipment under the old business name is unenforceable, a point attorneys plan to argue during the hearing next week, according to the filings and attorney David Greer, who represents Landstown Commons. In a written statement, Taylor said the suit is ‘a business dispute and it will be resolved between the parties in court.’ He said it occurred because his property manager refused to renegotiate the rent.” [Virginian-Pilot, 6/6/13]

2006: Taylor And A Business Partner Failed To Pay Back A Loan On A Condominium Project In Florida And Were Ordered To Pay $620,000

2006: Taylor And A Business Partner Failed To Pay Back A Loan On A Condominium Project In Florida And Were Ordered To Pay $620,000. “The Forbes ad and mailer also said Taylor and two businesses had judgments against them for unpaid bills totaling $1.5 million. One of the cases involved a dispute over a 2006 Florida condominium project Taylor and a partner wanted to develop. The case started when Taylor and his partner sued lenders for breach of contract when the lenders did not make a $31 million loan. The lenders replied that Taylor and his partner had not made the $99 million of pre-qualified sales of condo units that were a condition of the loan and had only paid a third of a $930,000 loan commitment fee. A New Jersey federal judge ordered Taylor and his partner to pay the $620,000 balance of the fee.” [Daily Press, 5/16/16] Note: See documents Scott Taylor New Jersey District Court Judgment 2007 and 052413 TAYLOR & SHERWOOD DEFAULT JUDGMENT and Further Research.

Taylor Claimed His Ability To Be Flexible Steered His Company Neptune Development Through A Downturn In The Real Estate Market: “I’m Not Afraid To Put Everything On The Line.” “During his eight years as a Navy SEAL, Scott Taylor picked up lessons he now uses in the business world. He knows how to draw up a plan of action, how to be flexible when conditions change and when to take calculated risks. As president and founder of Virginia Beach-based Neptune Development, Taylor, 28, has relied on those skills to steer his company through a sluggish real estate market. ‘I’m not afraid to put everything on the line, basically, and go into a deal if I think it makes sense,’ he said.” [Virginian-Pilot, 4/27/08]
The Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate Sector Was Taylor’s Top Contributing Sector To His Congressional Campaign Committee And Has Contributed $193,550.

[Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 8/15/17]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Communications/Electronics</td>
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<td>$11,900</td>
</tr>
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[Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 8/15/17]
Taylor Put His Party Bosses Over His Own Constituents

Significant Findings

✓ In Congress, Taylor sought to silence constituents who did not agree with him, in a potential violation of the First Amendment and House ethics rules.

✓ Taylor dismissed his own constituents at town hall meetings.

✓ Taylor was a staunch Trump supporter.

✓ On Charlottesville, Taylor echoed Trump’s rhetoric: “[Trump] talked about on both sides. Like I said, there was premeditated lawlessness on both sides” and also claimed that although the “responsibility lies with [hate groups] … that also doesn’t excuse lawlessness on any side for that matter.”

✓ Taylor is bad for Virginia seniors.

✓ Taylor wanted to raise the retirement age for Social Security eligibility; 122,000 Virginia 2nd district residents received social security benefits in 2016.

✓ Taylor voted to slash Medicare and against lowering out of pocket drug costs on seniors; 16,541 Virginia 2nd District residents receive Medicare benefits.

✓ The Republican tax bill, which Taylor voted for, culls funding for both Social Security and Medicare.

✓ Taylor is bad for Virginia women.

✓ Taylor stated the only exception for abortion should be if the woman’s life is in danger.

✓ Taylor voted to defund Planned Parenthood.

✓ Taylor voted against consideration of an amendment that prevented insurance plans from charging women higher premiums than men.

✓ Taylor is bad for Virginia health care.

✓ Taylor voted for the American Health Care Act – the Republican health care repeal bill.

✓ In February 2017, Taylor would not answer directly when asked if he had read the Republican health care plan.

✓ Taylor said Trump promised to help Republicans in competitive districts win in 2018 if they voted for the repeal bill.

✓ Taylor broke his promise on protecting people with pre-existing conditions by voting for AHCA.

✓ Taylor is bad for working families.

✓ Taylor voted for block a bill to increase the minimum wage to $15 per hour in seven years.

✓ Taylor voted for undermining worker protections by allowing private-sector employees to swap overtime pay for “comp time.”

✓ Taylor is bad for the environment.
Taylor admitted that climate change was real and a serious issue for Virginia Beach... but questioned how much of it was man-made and what there was to be done about it.

The New York Times reported that Taylor favored “narrower measures” to address the dangerous effects of climate change and that he was “wary of hobbling fossil-fuel companies.”

Taylor is bad for immigrants.

Taylor claimed he stood up to Trump on the “Muslim Ban,” but quietly voted to keep the ban in place.

Taylor supported rolling back DACA, saying DACA was “illegal.”

Taylor voted to ban sanctuary cities, despite there not being any sanctuary cities in his district.

Taylor is bad for Virginians’ voting rights.

Taylor said he “doesn’t have a big problem with [the White House] looking into” voter fraud... even though he admitted that “we don’t have massive voter fraud problem” in Virginia.

Taylor compared Trump’s voter fraud panel to the investigation into Russian interference in the election.

As Congressman, Taylor Sought To Silence Constituents Who Did Not Agree With Him, In A Potential Violation Of The 1st Amendment And House Ethics Rules

**Significant Findings**

- March 2017: Constituents accused Taylor of blocking their comments from his Facebook page.
- Taylor defended blocking “out of line” comments, blamed the Women’s March.
- The ACLU claimed Taylor may have violated First Amendment rights of constituents he blocked.
- Virginia Beach ministers called for an ethics investigation into Taylor’s use of his campaign social media accounts for official purposes.
- Taylor claimed his pages were not official.
- Taylor’s political director posted on the Facebook page, stated it was Scott Taylor’s “unofficial” page. But Taylor’s own congressional staff maintained the pages.
- Taylor’s “contact info” section listed official district office phone number and Taylor often used the page to promote his official duties, including posting videos of Taylor’s House floor speeches.
- Previously, Taylor posted multiple campaign-related posts on Facebook and Taylor’s “join my list” section referred to state delegate information.

**March 2017: Constituents Accused Taylor Of Blocking Constituents’ Comments From His Facebook Page**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taylor Defended Blocking “Out Of Line” Comments, Blamed The Women’s March</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taylor Defended Blocking Users Who Acted “Out Of Line” And Blamed Activist Groups That Sprang Up After The Women’s March For Disruptive Behavior. “Taylor said his staff is authorized to block users from his Facebook page if they act ‘out of line,’ and he complained that activist groups that sprang up from the Women’s March were organized to ‘disrupt’ public meetings and social media pages.” [Raw Story, 3/6/17]</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACLU Claimed Taylor May Have Violated First Amendment Rights Of Constituents He Blocked</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 2017: Virginia ACLU Sent Taylor A Letter Claiming That He Had Violated The First Amendment Rights Of His Constituents. “According to multiple complaints from Congressman Scott Taylor’s constituents, they were blocked or had their comments removed from Taylor’s government-sponsored social media, including his Twitter and Facebook pages, even though their comments didn’t contain any profane, threatening, or discriminatory language. We sent Taylor a letter explaining how his censorship of opposing viewpoints in a limited public forum violates his constituents’ rights to free speech.” [American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia, 6/22/17]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


| In A Separate Case, A Federal Court Ruled That The First Amendment Prohibited Public Officials From Blocking Any Social Media Users In Davison V. Loudoun County Board Of Supervisors. “This week, a federal court weighed in on the question in a case with obvious parallels to Trump’s. It determined that the First Amendment’s Free Speech Clause does indeed prohibit officeholders from blocking social media users on the basis of their views. Davison v. Loudoun County Board of Supervisors involved the chair of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, Phyllis J. Randall.” [Slate, 7/28/17] |

The ACLU Asserted That Taylor Might Have Violated The First Amendment. “However, the head of the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia said Wednesday that Taylor may be violating the Constitution’s First Amendment protection of free speech. Taylor and Weldon, who have conferred with House of Representatives administrators, disagree. They argue that constituents have many other ways, including another Facebook site, to speak to the lawmaker. The dispute, sparked by some members of local groups formed to oppose President Donald Trump’s administration, centers on one of Taylor’s two Facebook pages. He has removed several comments that he or Weldon decided were disagreeable from Taylor’s self-described unofficial political page that he started almost a decade ago.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/10/17]

| The State ACLU Stated That Taylor’s Personal Page Could Be Viewed As A Protected “Limited Public Forum.” “Claire Guthrie Gastañaga, executive director of the state’s ACLU, said Taylor’s personal page can be viewed as a protected ‘limited public forum’ that constituents use to reach their congressional representative. ‘It’s no different than a city council meeting,’ she said. ‘I think there are some pretty significant questions raised about whether he’s engaged in viewpoint discrimination in violation of the First Amendment in a limited public forum,’ Gastañaga said. ‘He was using the Facebook page as a place to meet his constituents and engage them. ... It means you cannot discriminate based on the content of the speech.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/10/17] |
Taylor Argued That There Was No Free-Speech Restrictions Because All Of His Constituents Could Reach Him Or His Staff. “Taylor argues there is no free-speech restriction because all of his constituents can reach him or his staff by many mediums including Facebook, email, traditional mail, telephone or a visit to his office. He acknowledged his decision to remove comments that he dislikes can upset opponents. ‘It’s the member’s discretion, and then of course you have to deal with your constituency,’ he said. The Congressional Research Service advised federal legislators in an October report that they can have ‘non-official social media accounts, such as campaign or personal accounts’ separate from their official web pages. Those non-official accounts can’t use government resources. Weldon, who said he is paid by Taylor’s campaign to be its part-time political director in addition to his full-time congressional job as Taylor’s communications director, noted he works on the unofficial page only while away from his government duties.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/10/17]


Members Of The Interdenominational Ministers Conference Led By President James Allen Sent A Letter To The Congressional Ethics Office Claiming That Taylor Used His Campaign Social Media Accounts For Official Purposes. “VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (WAVY) – Members of the Interdenominational Ministers Conference want the Office of Congressional Ethics to launch an investigation into the social media activity of Representative Scott Taylor. The group’s president, James Allen, sent a letter complaining that Rep. Taylor has used his campaign social media accounts for official purposes.” [WAVY, 4/12/17]

Allen Alleged That Taylor Was Violating A House Code Of Official Conduct Rule Stating That Members Should Behave In A Manner That Reflects Credibly On The House. “Allen sent a three-page letter and nine pages of what he calls evidence, to support his claim. ‘You can’t mix campaign and official business. If you do so, then you are violating a very important ethics rule,’ Allen said. ‘Basically all we’re asking Congressman Taylor to do is to make sure that he does things properly and by the rules of the Congressional office.’ According to the complaint, Allen alleges Representative Taylor is violating Rule 23 of the House Code of Official Conduct. It says members of the House shall behave at all times in a manner that shall reflect credibly on the House.” [WAVY, 4/12/17]

Taylor Called The Complainant A “Radical Liberal Activist With A Political Ax To Grind.” “The allegations made in the complaint are demonstrably false. Further, this complaint was filed by a radical liberal activist with a political ax to grind. He and those around him have repeatedly used up my staff’s time and taxpayer resources to advance their liberal political agenda.” [WAVY, 4/12/17]

Taylor Claimed His Pages Were Not Official

Taylor Had Two Facebook Pages, One Official And One He Called An “Unofficial Political Page.” “The dispute, sparked by some members of local groups formed to oppose President Donald Trump’s administration, centers on one of Taylor’s two Facebook pages. He has removed several comments that he or Weldon decided were disagreeable from Taylor’s self-described unofficial political page that he started almost a decade ago.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/10/17]

A Constituent Pointed To The Discrepancy Between Followers Of Taylor’s Unofficial And Official Accounts As Proof That Taylor Was Using His ‘Unofficial’ Account In An Official Capacity. “In the letter, Mehta also claimed that Taylor uses his unofficial social media accounts in an official capacity, citing the discrepancy in the number of followers his unofficial and official Facebook pages have – 56,000 to 2,000, respectively. ‘It is also evident that you communicate with your constituents in an official capacity on the unofficial page, discussing voting decisions, policy and descriptions/photos of public appearances in your official capacity as a congressman,’ Mehta wrote.” [Williamsburg Yorktown Daily, 6/29/17]
Taylor: “If You Want To Be Able To Come On My Unofficial Facebook And Troll It...Say Bad Things...And Be Offensive Or Abusive - I Don’t Think So.” “Taylor said his personal page is not a platform for his opponents to have free rein to speak out to its more than 55,000 followers. The page has been used regularly by Taylor and his supporters for election or legislative information, comments and news reports, as well as for offering live and recorded video of his town halls. ‘Every campaign in this nation does that. We have that discretion,’ he said. ‘If you want to be able to come on my unofficial Facebook and troll it ... say bad things ... and be offensive or abusive - I don’t think so.’ Taylor notes that his relatively new official page, which has just under 200 followers, does not remove comments as long as they don’t violate his standards for abuse or profanity. He said comments that offer different political views are not removed.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/10/17]

Taylor Said His Personal Page Was Not A Platform For Detractors, Though The Page Was Often Used To Promote Legislative Information And News Reports. “Taylor said his personal page is not a platform for his opponents to have free rein to speak out to its more than 55,000 followers. The page has been used regularly by Taylor and his supporters for election or legislative information, comments and news reports, as well as for offering live and recorded video of his town halls. ‘Every campaign in this nation does that. We have that discretion,’ he said. ‘If you want to be able to come on my unofficial Facebook and troll it ... say bad things ... and be offensive or abusive - I don’t think so.’ Taylor notes that his relatively new official page, which has just under 200 followers, does not remove comments as long as they don’t violate his standards for abuse or profanity. He said comments that offer different political views are not removed.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/10/17]

Political Director Claimed Taylor Was Within His Rights To Block Posts On His Personal Facebook. “Some opponents of Rep. Scott Taylor are crying foul that the Virginia Beach Republican is blocking their comments on his personal Facebook page. It’s true that some people’s comments or postings are removed, but Taylor is well within his rights to do so, his political director, Scott Weldon, said Wednesday. Democrats aren’t allowed to ‘rabble-rouse’ on the legislator’s personal page, Weldon said.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/10/17]

Political Director Defined The Unofficial Page As Taylor’s Campaign Page And Defended Blocking People: “Democratic Activists Do Not Get To Dictate The Dialogue About How Our Campaign Page Is Run, Period.” “100 percent of our constituents have official access to us via email, a physical office, phone lines, official social media, etc. We not only ask for the opinions of everyone, we also do not mind dissent from Rep. Taylor’s beliefs. That being said, if people are rude or abusive towards anyone on our unofficial political page we reserve the right to revoke their posting privileges; this has been the case with Republicans and Democrats. Furthermore, we do not shy away from those who disagree with us, this was clearly demonstrated during recent town halls and on the page itself. Lastly, democrat activists do not get to dictate the dialogue about how our campaign page is run, period.” [WAVY, 3/7/17]

Taylor Maintained A Facebook Page He Described As “Rep. Taylor’s Unofficial Political Page.” As of March 10th, 2017, under the “Story” section of the “About” page, it states: “This is Rep. Taylor’s unofficial political page.” Below is a screenshot of the page. [Scott Taylor campaign Facebook, accessed 3/10/17]
Taylor’s Political Director Posted On Facebook Page, Called It Scott Taylor’s “Unofficial” Page

March 7th, 2017: Taylor’s Political Director Posted On Campaign Facebook Page, Stated It Was Scott Taylor’s “Unofficial” Page. “Statement from Congressman Taylor’s political director Scott Weldon on individuals who disrupt our page: 100 percent of our constituents have official access to us via email, a physical office, phone lines, official social media, etc... We not only ask for the opinions of everyone, we also do not mind dissent from Rep. Taylor’s beliefs. That being said, if people are rude or abusive towards anyone on our unofficial political page we reserve the right to revoke their posting privileges; this has been the case with Republicans and Democrats. Furthermore, we do not shy away from those who disagree with us, this was clearly demonstrated during recent town halls and on the page itself. Lastly, democrat activists do not get to dictate the dialogue about how our campaign page is run, period.” Below is a screenshot of the post and a comment response. [Scott Taylor campaign Facebook, 3/07/17]

March 2017: Scott Weldon Listed As Rep. Taylor’s Communications Director. As of March 2017, Scott Weldon is listed as Rep. Taylor’s official-side Communications Director. [CQ Member Profiles, accessed 3/10/17]

But Taylor’s Own Congressional Staff Maintained The Pages

Scott Weldon Removed Disagreeable Comments From Taylor’s ‘Unofficial’ Page. “The dispute, sparked by some members of local groups formed to oppose President Donald Trump’s administration, centers on one of Taylor’s two Facebook pages. He has removed several comments that he or Weldon decided were disagreeable from Taylor’s self-described unofficial political page that he started almost a decade ago.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/10/17]

The Congressional Research Service Advised Legislators That They Can Have Unofficial Social Media Accounts But Those Cannot Use Government Resources. “The Congressional Research Service advised federal legislators in an October report that they can have ‘non-official social media accounts, such as campaign or personal accounts’ separate from their official web pages. Those non-official accounts can’t use government resources. Weldon, who said he is paid by Taylor’s campaign to be its part-time political director
in addition to his full-time congressional job as Taylor’s communications director, noted he works on the unofficial page only while away from his government duties.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/10/17]

**Weldon Was Simultaneously Taylor’s Campaign Political Director As Well As His Congressional Communications Director.** “Weldon, who said he is paid by Taylor’s campaign to be its part-time political director in addition to his full-time congressional job as Taylor’s communications director, noted he works on the unofficial page only while away from his government duties.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/10/17]

**Weldon Claimed That He Only Manned The Page While Away From His Government Duties.** “The Congressional Research Service advised federal legislators in an October report that they can have ‘non-official social media accounts, such as campaign or personal accounts’ separate from their official web pages. Those non-official accounts can’t use government resources. Weldon, who said he is paid by Taylor’s campaign to be its part-time political director in addition to his full-time congressional job as Taylor’s communications director, noted he works on the unofficial page only while away from his government duties.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/10/17]

**Taylor And His Staff Responded To Facebook Comments.** On February 3rd, 2017, Rep. Scott Taylor responded to a comment about his floor speech, defending his decision to do it, saying, “Clyde Gantt it took about 4min. And was not during prime floor time. I stand by my decision to do it and have zero regrets. But, thanks for your thoughts.” On February 7th, 2017, Rep. Taylor’s staff responded to a Facebook comment from the same post, saying, “Thank you for your comment. Rep Taylor is in the House of Representatives, not the Senate, therefore he does not vote on cabinet positions. Thank you, staff.” [Scott Taylor Facebook, 1/31/17]

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**March 7th, 2017: Taylor’s Political Director Posted On Campaign Facebook Page, Stated It Was Scott Taylor’s “Unofficial” Page.** “Statement from Congressman Taylor’s political director Scott Weldon on individuals who disrupt our page: 100 percent of our constituents have official access to us via email, a physical office, phone lines, official social media, etc... We not only ask for the opinions of everyone, we also do not mind dissent from Rep. Taylor’s beliefs. That being said, if people are rude or abusive towards anyone on our unofficial political page we reserve the right to revoke their posting privileges; this has been the case with Republicans and Democrats. Furthermore, we do not shy away from those who disagree with us, this was clearly demonstrated during recent town halls and on the page itself. Lastly, democrat activists do not get to dictate the dialogue about how our campaign page is run, period.” Below is a screenshot of the post and a comment response. [Scott Taylor campaign Facebook, 3/07/17]
March 2017: Scott Weldon Was Listed As Rep. Taylor’s Communications Director. As of March 2017, Scott Weldon is listed as Rep. Taylor’s official-side Communications Director. [CQ Member Profiles, accessed 3/10/17]

And Taylor’s “Contact Info” Section Listed Official District Office Phone Number

“Contact Info” Section Listed Official District Office Phone Number. As of March 10th, 2017, Scott Taylor’s campaign Facebook page refers visitors to his official district office’s phone number. Below are screenshots of his Facebook page and official website. [Scott Taylor campaign Facebook, accessed 3/10/17; Rep. Scott Taylor official website, accessed 3/10/17]

And Taylor Often Used The Page To Promote His Official Duties
February 21st, 2017: Posted Video Of Official Town Hall. On February 21st, 2017, Scott Taylor’s campaign Facebook posted video of his official Yorktown town hall. A screenshot of the post is below. [Scott Taylor campaign Facebook, 2/21/17]

February 14th, 2017: Posted Information About Official Town Hall, Invited People. On February 14th, 2017, Scott Taylor’s campaign Facebook posted information about an upcoming official town hall. According to the Virginian-Pilot, which the post links to, the town halls were for the official side. Below is a screenshot of the post. [Scott Taylor campaign Facebook, 2/14/17; The Virginian-Pilot, 2/14/17]
January 30th, 2017: Posted Facebook Live Of Official Town Hall. On January 30th, 2017, Scott Taylor’s campaign Facebook posted a Facebook Live stream of an official town hall event. Below is a screenshot of the post. [Scott Taylor campaign Facebook, 1/30/17]

![Facebook Live Town Hall Screenshot](image1)

Including Posting Videos Of Taylor’s House Floor Speeches


![House Floor Speech Screenshot](image2)


![House Floor Speech Screenshot](image3)
January 11th, 2017: Posted House Floor Speech. On January 11th, 2017, Scott Taylor’s campaign Facebook posted a speech he made from the House floor about the UN’s resolution on Israel. Below is a screenshot of the post. [Scott Taylor campaign Facebook, 1/11/17]

Previously, Taylor Posted Multiple Campaign-Related Posts On Facebook

September 26th, 2016: Posted General Campaign Fundraising Request. On September 26th, 2016, Scott Taylor’s campaign Facebook posted a fundraising request for the campaign. According to the post, “The countdown Continues! We have 2 days until an important fundraising deadline. We have already reached over half of our $50,000 goal. Do you think you can help me reach my goal with a $25, $50, $100, $500 or even $1,000 contribution today? Click the link below to give!” Below is a screenshot of the post. [Scott Taylor Facebook, 9/26/16]
May 30th, 2016: Posted Primary Campaign Event. On May 30th, 2016, Scott Taylor’s campaign Facebook posted the following: “Please share and invite your friends to this event at Eagles Nest Rockin Country Bar! This is our last campaign rally before the election! Come listen to Cheap Thrills VA, get some food/drinks, and support our campaign for Congress! This is about our future. Washington is broken and we need a fresh start! Vote Taylor for U.S. Congress June 14th”. A screenshot of the post is below. [Scott Taylor Facebook, accessed 5/30/16]

2013-17: Multiple Campaign And Official Events Posted In “Events” Section. From 2013 to 2017, in the “Events” section, Scott Taylor’s Facebook page had posted multiple campaign – both state and federal – events in addition to official events. Below is a screenshot of a few of the events. A full screenshot is also saved to the drive and can be accessed here. [Scott Taylor Facebook, accessed 3/10/17]
And Taylor’s “Join My List” Section Referred To State Delegate Information

“Join My List” Section Referred To State Delegate Information. “By submitting this form, you are granting: Scott Taylor for Delegate, 4001 Virginia Beach Blvd #117-, virginia beach, VA, 23452, US, http://www.scotttaylorva.com permission to email you.” Screenshot is below. [Scott Taylor Facebook, accessed 3/10/17]

Taylor Dismissed His Own Constituents At Town Hall Meetings

**Significant Findings**

- Taylor claimed most of the attendees at his town halls were Democrats.
Taylor criticized Democrats in the audience as rabble-rousers and “agitators.”

Taylor argued that the views of the town hall audiences were “not representative” of his district.

Taylor implied that Democratic protesters were stepping over the line.

Taylor compared negotiating with armed tribesmen in Yemen to talking with constituents at his town hall.

**Taylor Claimed Most Of The Attendees At His Town Halls Were Democrats**

Taylor: “…Most Of The Folks That Are In My Town Hall Are On The Other Side Of Me Politically.”

“TAYLOR: There’s definitely some strong feelings in my town halls for sure. And to be fair and to be factual, most of the folks that are in my town hall are on the other side of me politically. And that’s fine. Usually that’s the type of folks who show up to town halls, when they have a grievance. But there’s issues, of course, with the president.”

[CNN, 2/23/17] Note: Video not found. See further research.

Taylor: “We Had A Couple People That Are Actually From The Local Democrat Party Who Were Trying To Make People Cheer And Rabble-Rouse…I Can See Them Start To Try To Get The Crowd To Shout—Chant Unnecessarily, Not Even For Policies, But Just Chant.”

“TAYLOR: You did have a couple people -- we had a couple people that are actually from the local Democrat Party who were trying to make people cheer and rabble-rouse, if you will. And those kind of folks, you need to isolate them, because they’re -- you know, energy happens really quickly. CAVUTO: Well, how do you isolate -- how do you isolate them? TAYLOR: Call them out. Call them out. I’m from here, right? So, I know the people in that party. And I can see them start to try to get the crowd to shout -- chant unnecessarily, not even for policies, but just chant.”

[Fox News, 2/23/17]

**Taylor Criticized Democrats In The Audience As Rabble-Rousers And “Agitators”**

**Taylor Attributed The “Loudness” At His Town Hall To Democratic Activists: “I Think It Went Fine. This Is Pretty Much What I Expected. People Were Loud. We Had The Virginia Beach Democratic Party. They Were The Ones Initiating The Chanting.”**

“Rep. Scott Taylor will be hosting three town halls in the area this week. The first was held Monday inside Kempsville High School where Rep. Taylor fielded questions for about 90 minutes. The questions centered around the Affordable Care Act, the environment, President Trump’s ties to Russia and whether the president should release his tax returns. Congressman Taylor at times seemed to get rattled from the majority-Democrat crowd, which booed a lot of his answers. ‘I think it went fine. This is pretty much what I expected. People were loud. We had the Virginia Beach Democratic Party. They were the ones initiating the chanting,’ he said. ‘There are a lot of concerned people that didn’t vote for the president that feel they have legitimate issues and I feel some of them are legitimate too.’”

[CBS – 3 WTKR, 2/20/17]

**Taylor Criticized Democrats At His Town Hall: “I Saw A Lot Of Members Of The Virginia Beach Democratic Party…I’m Embarrassed By Their Tactics…Inciting People To Shout Over People.”**

“The audience was noticeably larger at U.S. Rep. Scott Taylor’s town hall Tuesday at Yorktown High School but avoided the verbal brawl that marred his forum Monday in Virginia Beach. Taylor was booed for some answers he gave to questions from the 900-plus people in the Yorktown audience and was applauded for others. But he endured considerably fewer shouts and catcalls than at Kempsville High School on Monday night. […] Taylor is convinced the protesters’ comments do not represent the views of most residents of the 2nd Congressional District. He blamed Democrats. ‘I saw a lot of members of the Virginia Beach Democratic Party. … I’m embarrassed by their tactics … inciting people to shout over people,’ he said.”

[Virginian-Pilot, 2/20/17]

**Taylor Said He Would Advise His Fellow Congressmen Who Held Town Halls That If A “Rabble Rouser” Seemed Intent On Disrupting To “Isolate Them” Until They Were Shamed Into Silence.**

“For example, Taylor said he’d counsel his colleague to wait silently whenever their room breaks out into sustained
Taylor Argued That The Views Of The Town Hall Audiences Were “Not Representative” Of His District

Taylor Called The Crowds Attending His Town Halls “Legitimate” But Added That Just Because It’s Real Doesn’t Mean The Views Of Town Hall Attendees Reflect Broader Popular Opinion: “It’s Not Representative Of My Whole District. It’s Just Not.” “Rep. Scott Taylor (R-Va.), who held three town halls on consecutive days this week in his coastal district also called his crowds ‘legitimate’ and compared it to the tea party unrest that swept House Republicans into power in 2010. But just because it’s real, he added, doesn’t mean the views of town hall attendees reflect broader popular opinion. ‘It’s not representative of my whole district. It’s just not,’ he said. ‘That being said, they’re just as important as anybody else in my district.’” [Politico, 2/23/17]

Taylor Implied That Democratic Protesters Were Stepping Over The Line

Taylor Claimed That A Protester Had Been Charged With Assault At One Of His Town Halls: “One Of My Protesters Was Charged With Assault…So What I’m Saying To You Is I Don’t Agree With The Behavior.” “BERMAN: You also say that protestors on either side will be serving in Congress -- you know, beside you -- and these protestors were not charged with assault as the new congressman was but I do get your point. You spoke out. You said -- you said -- TAYLOR: One of my protestors was charged with assault, sir, at one of my -- at one of my town halls, so what I’m saying to you is I don’t agree with the behavior. I think it’s unacceptable for an elected official. There’s no question about that. …He will deal with those consequences. And I will tell you that I wish that all leaders on both sides would call for a reduction in emotions and tensions across our nation. That is the right thing to do.” [CNN, 5/26/17] Note: Video not found. See further research.

Taylor Stated That He Wished Nancy Pelosi Criticized “Protesters That Are Out There That Are Also Stepping Over The Line In Protests On Her Side.” “BERMAN: You know, Paul Ryan said [Gianforte]’s going to be a valuable, conservative voice -- bygones. You know, has the bar been lowered here for what’s acceptable in our society? TAYLOR: Well, look, there’s no question that I’m not going to agree with a lot of things that Nancy Pelosi, but look, it’s tense out there and people need to be calm. And there’s no question that the behavior is unacceptable and he will pay for any consequences that come out of that, of course. So when I listen to that statement it’s very partisan, of course. I would wish that and hope that she would also say the same thing about some of the -- some protestors that are out there that are also stepping over the line in protests on her side. So I think the country, in general, has to -- has to calm down.” [CNN, 5/26/17] Note: Video not found. See further research.

Taylor Suggested That Local Media Coverage Of His First Town Hall Of Three Had Discouraged His Conservative Supporters From Attending The Other Two. “Taylor, aware that the next election will be different, scheduled three straight evenings of town hall meetings this week to help his constituents get to know their new congressman. Before taking questions Tuesday, he counseled the audience to avoid chanting and shouting so that everyone could be heard. He even suggested that local media coverage of Monday’s meeting had scared away some of his conservative supporters.” [Washington Post, 2/22/17]

Taylor Described The Last Of His Three Town Halls As “Calm…We Didn’t Have The Same Agitators Quite Frankly.” “CAMEROTA: Yes. OK. I want to get to a couple other issues with you, but first, about last night, you’re again, the constituents came loaded for bear. So, what did you do to lull them into submission? Because everybody described that town hall as much calmer. TAYLOR: Well, it was calm. You know, with the same concerns -- of course, there are folks there had the same legitimate concerns. I’m so appreciative they were there in the first place. They -- you know, we didn’t have the same agitators quite frankly. And you hear about agitators, it only takes a couple people to generate a lot of emotion in a room, right, no doubt about it.” [CNN, 2/23/17] Note: Video not found. See further research.
Taylor Compared Negotiating With Armed Tribesmen In Yemen To Talking With Constituents At His Town Hall

Taylor Likened Dealing With Constituents At His Town Hall To Negotiating With Armed Tribesmen In Yemen: “I’ve Dealt With A Lot Of Crowds Before… I Mean, Literally With AK 47s With People Pissed Off In The Arabian Desert.” “Listen, calm’s contagious, especially in events. So is crazy emotions,’ [Taylor] told POLITICO after the town hall, his third in three days across his northeastern Virginia district. ‘I think it’s important to be calm. My demeanor should always be calm.’ Not all of Taylor’s experience, of course, is replicable. ‘I’ve dealt with a lot of crowds before ... I mean, literally with AK 47s with people pissed off in the Arabian desert,’ he said, alluding to his service in Iraq and Yemen. ‘You understand very quickly how to read body language.’ But he said there are ‘mechanisms’ to reduce the likelihood of disruption and confrontation.” [Politico, 2/22/17]

Taylor Was A Stauch Trump Supporter

**Significant Findings**

- Taylor has been Trump’s most reliable vote in the Virginia delegation at 98.4 percent.
- Taylor has been spotted at the Trump Hotel Bar, on Air Force Once.
- Taylor repeatedly worked to protect Trump throughout the Russian investigation and against releasing Trump’s tax returns.
- Taylor repeatedly voted against addressing conflicts of interest in the Trump Administration.

Taylor Has Been Trump’s Most Reliable Vote In The Virginia Delegation At 98.4 Percent

FiveThirtyEight: Taylor Voted In Line With Trump’s Position 98.4% Percent Of The Time, The Highest Percentage Of All The Members Of The Virginia Delegation. [FiveThirtyEight, accessed 3/7/18]

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<th>Virginia Delegation Votes In Line With Trump</th>
<th>Party</th>
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<th>Trump Score</th>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbara Comstock</td>
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<td>VA-10</td>
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<td>87.9%</td>
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[TFiveThirtyEight, accessed 3/7/18]

Taylor Has Been Spotted At The Trump Hotel Bar, On Air Force Once

Taylor Went To The Trump Hotel Bar. “Speaking of the Trump Hotel, I bump into—last night, at the bar—at the Trump Hotel at about four, five o’clock, I guess it was about five, I was sitting there with former Speaker of the
House of Georgia, Mark Burkholder, and in comes Scott Taylor, and I says, ‘Scott, you gotta come on my show tomorrow.’ And so here he is. Scott, good to have you with us, man. [TAYLOR] ‘Good morning, John, and great to see you at the Trump Hotel as well. Always have a good time there.’” [WHKT, 9/8/17] Note: Recording saved on drive.

Taylor Travelled With Trump On Air Force One To Newport News To Commission The USS Gerald R. Ford Aircraft Carrier. “And the perks rarely cross party lines. When Trump traveled to Newport News, Va., to commission the USS Gerald R. Ford aircraft carrier, he brought along GOP Reps. Rob Wittman (Va.) and Scott Taylor (Va.). But Democratic Rep. Bobby Scott (Va.), who represents the district, wasn’t invited.” [The Hill, 9/7/17]

Taylor Repeatedly Worked To Protect Trump Throughout The Russian Investigation

Taylor Claimed He Supported A Bipartisan Congressional Investigation Into Russia But Voted Repeatedly To Block One

Taylor On An Investigation Into Russian Interference In The Election: “I Do Support This Investigation Because I Think It’s Responsible And They Feel Like It’s Necessary.” “RUHLE: Congressman, I want to talk about Russia for a moment. You said last night you fully supported an investigation into Russia meddling in our election. How about step two? Would you support that investigation if the focus shifted to the president’s ties to Moscow? TAYLOR: Well, what I will tell you right now, and — and I think this is the responsible thing to say is, listen, the — the intelligence community has a — a duty with oversight and if they feel it’s necessary to provide oversight over the executive branch, then they should do so. And of course, they had a classified meeting with the FBI and bipartisan. They came out and said that this — this warrants further — an investigation, a bipartisan one. And two, Russia meddling into — into this election. I think that’s important. I’m not gonna speak on hypotheticals. I’m happy to come back on your program and answer where I am if that — something like that does come up. But I — I do support this investigation because I think it’s responsible and they feel like it’s necessary. So, let’s see what they find.” [MSNBC, 2/21/17]

As Of May 2017, Taylor Had Voted Seven Times Against Establishing A Commission To Look Into Russian Interference In The Election. [HR 1343, Vote #215, 4/4/17; HRes 233, Vote #203, 3/29/17; HRes 229, Vote #197, 3/28/17; HRes 156, Vote #115, 3/1/17; HRes 123, Vote #93, 2/15/17; HRes 116, Vote #90, 2/14/17; HRes 33, Vote #26, 1/10/17]

Taylor Dismissed The “Hysteria” Over Russian Interference And Claimed “Regular American Folks” Were Not Interested In Knowing More

Taylor Said There Was “A Lot Of Hysteria And Overplaying From The Other Side” And That “Regular American Folks” Were “Not So Swept Up.” “At the same time, there’s a lot of hysteria and overplaying from the other side as well, too. You know, I talked to a lot of folks that are just on the street, regular American folks, who may not watch cable news, for example, and they’re not so swept up and they’re not so hell bent on every single thing being a Russian conspiracy. They want to see results.” [CNN, 7/17/17]

Taylor Said He Opposed The Appointment Of An Independent Investigator

Taylor Said He Was Not Supportive Of An Independent Investigation With A Special Prosecutor Into The Trump-Russia Investigation. “BLITZER: That explains why Darrell Issa, who was the chairman of the Government Oversight Committee, over the weekend came out in favor of a special prosecutor, an independent investigation, completely independent. He’s a Republican. Are you with him on that? TAYLOR: I’m not yet. Not yet. I have been very clear on several programs I’m not there yet. I’m confident in the FBI. I’m confident in their investigation. I’m confident in Senator Mark Warren and Burr, who believe they have a reason to look further into it. And we will see what happens. If they get more, some other information, which as you heard both the chairman,
Nunes, as well as Schiff come out and say there is nothing there yet. One of them said there is nothing yet. The other one said there is nothing there yet. If something comes, then we will talk about it then.” [CNN, 2/27/17]

Taylor: “I Don’t Want This To Devolve Into A Witch-Hunt, Obviously.” “BLITZER: Because the argument is that if nothing wrong occurred, no one on the president’s campaign did anything wrong in having inappropriate contacts with Russian operatives, what’s the problem? Go ahead and have your investigation, check it all out, and the administration if they did nothing wrong will be cleared. TAYLOR: What I will tell you is, I don’t want this to devolve into a witch-hunt, obviously. And there is some partisanship at play here.” [CNN, 2/27/17]

Taylor Would Not Commit To The Need For An Independent Investigation Into Comey’s Firing

Taylor Claimed That “Republican Or Democrat…They Have To Have The Confidence Of The American People For Objective Investigations. And I’m Not Saying That There Has To Be An Independent One At This Moment But We’ll See.” “I don’t know — I don’t think — look, as I said before, I mean, the FBI — I don’t want them to become political, right — this political football — on either side — CUOMO: Right. TAYLOR: — Republican or Democrat, you know. They have to have the confidence of the American people for objective investigations. And I’m not saying that there has to be an independent one at this moment but we’ll see. You know, like I said, there’s two concerns I have. One, a president has to have confidence in his director — that his prerogative or hers and, we have to have the confidence in the process for the American people. Let’s see who gets appointed next so the Senate, in a bipartisan way, can have confidence that they will carry out an objective investigation.” [CNN, 5/12/17]

Taylor Said If Trump Failed To Appoint An “Independent And Nonpolitical” Successor To Comey, Then “A Select Committee Or Special Prosecutor” Might Be Necessary. “Director Comey made missteps, but if they were significant enough for his dismissal, it should have happened months ago,’ [Taylor] said, adding that he has seen no evidence of Trump administration officials colluding with Russia. He warned that if Trump fails to appoint an ‘independent and nonpolitical’ replacement for Comey then ‘a select committee or special prosecutor’ might be necessary.” [Washington Post, 5/10/17]

After Trump Revealed Classified Information To Russian Diplomats, Taylor Said Trump’s “Stumbles” Showed Trump Was Not “Perfect,” But “I Think He’s Still Fit To Be President”

Taylor: “There Was Some Stumbles This Week, And There Will Be More Stumbles. There Always Are With Every President. So, The Answer Is No, I Think He’s Still Fit To Be President. […] Is He Perfect? Absolutely Not. But No One Is.” “There’s no question that there were some stumbles this week. No question about it. He talked about classified information, I would be a complete hypocrite if I said that it is not worrisome for leaking of classified information, to put people’s live in jeopardy, and obviously shake alliances. […] I haven’t lost my confidence in the president to be our president. Look, I just haven’t. So, there was some stumbles this week, and there will be more stumbles. There always are with every president. So, the answer is no, I think he’s still fit to be president. […] Is he perfect? Absolutely not. But no one is.” [CNN, Erin Burnett OutFront, 5/19/17] Note: No video found.

HEADLINE: “Trump Revealed Highly Classified Information To Russian Foreign Minister And Ambassador.” [Washington Post, 5/15/17]

HEADLINE: “Donald Trump’s Son-In-Law Jared Kushner ‘Person Of Interest In Russia Investigation.’” [Independent, 5/19/17]

Taylor Defended Trump’s Right To Fire Comey

Taylor On Comey’s Firing: “A President Has To Have Confidence In His Director.” “TAYLOR: I don’t know — I don’t think — look, as I said before, I mean, the FBI — I don’t want them to become political, right — this political football — on either side — CUOMO: Right. TAYLOR: — Republican or Democrat, you know. They
have to have the confidence of the American people for objective investigations. And I’m not saying that there has to be an independent one at this moment but we’ll see. You know, like I said, there’s two concerns I have. One, a president has to have confidence in his director — that his prerogative or hers and, we have to have the confidence in the process for the American people. Let’s see who gets appointed next so the Senate, in a bipartisan way, can have confidence that they will carry out an objective investigation.” [CNN, 5/12/17]

**Taylor Defended The Legality Of Trump’s Choice To Remove Comey As Trumps “Prerogative.”** “CUOMO: There is a meaningful silence coming from the GOP leadership about this clear deception from the White House as to why James Comey was fired. […] What do you make of this obvious disconnect between what we were told this was about and now what the president says it was really about? TAYLOR: There certainly is a disconnect in messaging. But what I will say of the front end — it is important to say this. But it is the prerogative of the president. CUOMO: Yes. TAYLOR: The director serves at his — at his pleasure. CUOMO: True. TAYLOR: And he can remove him. That is his legal authority, for sure. Yes, the messaging is off; the timing is off. And you — I know that folks will report things on all stations on either side. And Democrats will say things. Republicans will say things. But in the end it is his prerogative. He serves at his pleasure.” [CNN, 5/12/17]

**Taylor: “There Has Been Zero Evidence Of Collusion With Russia”**

**Taylor: “There Has Been Zero Evidence Of Collusion With Russia.”** “Reps. Scott Taylor, R-Virginia Beach, and Robert C. ‘Bobby’ Scott, D-Newport News, and Democratic Sens. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine all raised questions about the timing of the firing. Taylor said Democrats must stop ‘politicizing this firing as they were calling for Comey’s dismissal as well and there has been zero evidence of collusion with Russia’ but also said the decision is troubling.”[Daily Press, 5/11/17]

**Taylor Claimed Other Countries Had Also Interfered In The Election**

**Taylor: “[Interference In The Election] Is From Other Countries, Too! We Know That For A Fact.”** “CUOMO: Whatever political problems [Trump] has with the intelligence community, do you have any reason to question the intelligence community’s conclusions about Russian interference in the election? TAYLOR: No, I don’t have any reason to. And I think, you know, a couple things there. You know, the President said — he admitted that it could have been from Russia, it could have been from other countries. It is from other countries, too! We know that for a fact.” [CNN, 7/6/17; Youtube, 7/6/17]

**Taylor: “I Believe That [Russia] [Was] Attempting To Mess With Our Election, I Do. I Think That Other Countries Were As Well.”** “CABRERA: Is the president to blame by calling it a hoax, by calling it a witch hunt, by not taking it seriously and not — and not believing his Intelligence Community who concluded that Russia was behind the election meddling? TAYLOR: Let me say what I believe. I believe that they were attempting to mess with our election, I do. I think that other countries were as well. And I think that it’s going to be sophisticated moving forward, which is why we have to have a policy.” [CNN, 7/16/17]

**Taylor Repeatedly Voted Against Releasing Trump’s Tax Returns**

**Shot: Taylor: “I Think” Trump “Should” Release His Tax Returns**

**When Asked If Trump Should Release His Tax Returns, Taylor Replied, “I Think He Should. I Think It’s A Reasonable Request.”** “CAMEROTA: I do want to mention. I want to get to that. But what’s your answer to whether or not the president should release his tax returns? TAYLOR: I think he should. I think it’s certainly a reasonable request.” [CNN, 2/23/17]

**Chaser: Taylor Said Trump Was Not Obligated To Release His Tax Returns**
Taylor Admitted That It Was “Certainly A Reasonable Request” That Trump Should Release His Tax Returns But “He Doesn’t Have To.” “CAMEROTA: I do want to mention. I want to get to that. But what’s your answer to whether or not the president should release his tax returns? TAYLOR: I think he should. I think it’s certainly a reasonable request. He doesn’t have to. But I think he should, sure.” [CNN, 2/23/17]

Taylor: “It’s Up To The American People To Hold Him Accountable For That, Of Course, At The Ballot Box If They Think That’s The Biggest Issue.” “It’s up to the American people to hold him accountable for that, of course, at the ballot box if they think that’s the biggest issue. But the reality is, whether you want to see it or not, he’s still the president and he still will be the president even if he shows it.” [CNN, 2/23/17]

Lime: Taylor Repeatedly Voted Against Releasing Trump’s Tax Returns

- Voted To Kill A Motion To Require President Trump To Disclose His Tax Returns. [Motion, Vote #292, 6/7/17; CQ Floor Votes, 6/7/17]
- Voted To Require Major Party Candidates For President To Release Three Most Recent Tax Returns. [HR 305 (HRes 275), Vote #224, 4/26/17; CQ, 4/26/17]
- Voted To Kill A Motion To Require President Trump To Disclose His Tax Returns. [Motion, Vote #219, 4/5/17; CQ Floor Votes, 4/5/17]
- Voted To Kill A Motion To Require President Trump To Disclose His Tax Returns. [Motion, Vote #201, 3/28/17; CQ Floor Votes, 3/28/17]
- Voted To Block Consideration Of Requiring Trump To Disclose His Tax Returns. [H Res 230, Vote #199, 3/28/17; CQ, 3/28/17]
- Voted To Block Consideration Of A Vote Appealing A Ruling That Forcing Trump To Disclose His Tax Returns Is Not A House Privilege. [Motion, Vote #182, 3/22/17; CQ, 3/22/17]
- Voted To Kill A Motion To Require President Trump To Disclose His Tax Returns. [Motion, Vote #161, 3/15/17; CQ Floor Votes, 3/15/17]
- Voted To Kill A Motion To Require President Trump To Disclose His Tax Returns. [Motion, Vote #128, 3/7/17; CQ Floor Votes, 3/7/17]
- Voted To Block Consideration Of Bill To Require Any Candidate Of A Major Political Party To Release Three Years Of Federal Income Tax Returns. [H Res 150, Vote #103, 2/28/17; Office of the Democratic Leader, 115th Congress Previous Questions, 2/28/17]
- Voted To Kill A Motion To Require President Trump To Disclose His Tax Returns. [Motion, Vote #101, 2/27/17; CQ Floor Votes, 2/27/17]
- Voted To Block Consideration Of The Presidential Tax Transparency Act. [H Res 55, Vote #62, 1/24/17; Office of the Democratic Leader, 115th Congress Previous Questions, 1/24/17]

Taylor Repeatedly Voted Against Addressing Conflicts Of Interest In Trump’s Administration

Taylor Voted To Block The House Of Representatives From Investigating Trump’s Potential Conflicts Of Interest. In April 2017, Taylor voted for “Woodall, R-Ga., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 280).” Upon defeat of the motion, Democrats planned to offer a resolution that, “would direct certain officials of the Trump Administration to provide information to the House of Representatives that will enable the House to meet its constitutional responsibility to conduct oversight of the Trump Administration by investigating potential conflicts of interests of President Donald J. Trump.” A vote yes was a vote against the Democrats’ resolution. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 230-193. [HRes 280, Vote #229, 4/27/17; CQ, 4/27/17]

Taylor Did Not Vote On Consideration Of An Amendment Prohibiting The President From Making Public Communications About Or Advocating For His Business Interests. In March 2017, Taylor did not vote on the “Jayapal, D-Wash., motion to recommit the bill to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee with instructions to report it back immediately with an amendment that would prohibit the president from making public
communications that refer to a business in which the president has an equity interest and would prohibit the president from publically advocating on behalf of such business interests.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 189-232. [HR 1004, Vote #125, 3/2/17; CQ, 3/2/17]

Taylor Voted Against Recommitting The SCRUBS Act With An Amendment Exempting Rules Related To Conflict Of Interest And Bribery. In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Raskin, D-Md., motion to recommit the bill to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee with instructions to report it back immediately with an amendment that would exempt from the bill’s provisions rules related to laws governing potential conflicts of interest and financial disclosures for executive branch employees, and would exempt rules related to bribery.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 190-235. [HR 998, Vote #113, 3/1/17; CQ, 3/1/17]

Taylor Voted To Block Consideration Of A Bill To Address The Financial Conflicts Of Interest Of The President. In January 2017, Taylor voted for the “Democratic Previous Question would amend the rule to allow for consideration of H.R. 371, to address financial conflicts of interest of the President and Vice President.” The previous question passed 232-168. A vote against the previous question would have allowed the bill to be considered. [H Res 40, Vote #32, 1/11/17; Office of the Democratic Leader, 115 th Congress Previous Questions, 1/11/17]

Taylor’s 2 nd Vote In Congress Was Cast To Elect Paul Ryan Speaker Of The House

Taylor Voted For Rep. Paul Ryan For Speaker Of The House


On Charlottesville, Taylor Stood With Trump

Significant Findings

✓ Taylor echoed Trump’s words on the Charlottesville March violence: “[Trump] talked about on both sides. Like I said, there was premeditated lawlessness on both sides.”

✓ Then, one day later, Taylor said Trump comments on Charlottesville were “disappointing and a failure of leadership.”

✓ Taylor stated that although the “responsibility lies with [hate groups]… that also doesn’t excuse lawlessness on any side for that matter.”

Taylor Echoed Trump’s Rhetoric About Charlottesville: “There Was Premeditated Lawlessness On Both Sides”

Taylor: “[Trump] Talked About On Both Sides. Like I Said, There Was Premeditated Lawlessness On Both Sides.” “I think, you know, [Trump] talked about on both sides. Like I said, there was premeditated lawlessness on both sides. That should be reported in the press and one of you had a guest who I think was trying to get that out I think a couple of minutes ago, but that should be. The facts should certainly be reported.” [CNN via Youtube, Virginia2RawFootage, 8/15/17]
Then, One Day Later, Taylor Said Trump Comments On Charlottesville Were “Disappointing And A Failure Of Leadership”

Taylor: “Today’s Statement By President Trump At His Press Conference Were Disappointing And A Failure Of Leadership…” “Today’s statements by President Trump at his press conference were disappointing and a failure of leadership, which starts at the top, with him. I hope the President will focus on bringing people together and to challenge hate in the strongest unequivocal terms moving forward. There is no home for hate here in Virginia or America.” [U.S. Rep. Scott Taylor, Press Release, 8/16/17]

Taylor: “The Responsibility Lies With [Hate Groups]. But That Also Doesn’t Excuse Lawlessness On Any Side For That Matter”

Taylor: “The Nazis, The KKKs…the Responsibility Lies With Them. But That Also Doesn’t Excuse Lawlessness On Any Side For That Matter.” “Like I said, there was premeditated lawlessness on both sides. […] The facts should certainly be reported. That does not alleviate the responsibility of the Nazis, the KKKs, the groups that organized this to cause problems. There’s no question about it, the responsibility lies with them. But that also doesn’t excuse lawlessness on any side for that matter.” [CNN via Youtube, Virginia2RawFootage, 8/15/17]

Taylor Is Bad For Virginia Seniors

Taylor Wanted To Raise The Retirement Age For Social Security And Medicare Eligibility; 122,000 Virginia 2nd District Residents Received Social Security Benefits In 2016

Taylor Said He Began Drafting Legislation To Raise The Retirement Age For Social Security Within Days Of His Election

November 2016: Upon Winning Congressional Seat, Taylor Claimed That He Was Already Writing Legislation To Raise The Social Security Age By Three Years. “Republican state Del. Scott Taylor won Virginia’s 2nd Congressional District seat, outdoing Democratic community activist Shaun Brown to join the House of Representatives. […] Afterward, he told reporters he’s already drafting legislation to raise the age to qualify for government entitlements such as Social Security by three years for individuals currently younger than 41, and he plans to look at mandated budget cuts called sequestration.” [Virginian-Pilot, 11/8/16]

Taylor Promised That His Constituents Could “Expect [Him] To Look At Entitlement Reform And Raising The Age.” “[Taylor] said 2nd District voters can expect him to leap into that and a couple of other signature issues right off the bat. ‘They can expect me to look at entitlement reform and raising the age,’ Taylor said.” [Daily Press, 11/8/16]

Taylor On Social Security And Medicare: “We Need To Raise The [Retirement] Age.” “Scott Taylor, a former U.S. Navy SEAL and now real estate investor, has represented Virginia Beach’s 85th District in the Virginia House of Delegates since 2014. Taylor has taken aim at so-called entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare, saying he’d push Congress to take a good hard look at them. ‘Obviously entitlements are the big elephant in the room that nobody wants to talk about,’ Taylor said. ‘I believe my generation, 40 and under, will have to step up to the plate to reform entitlements to say, ‘Look, we’re living longer, we have more time, we need to raise the retirement age up three years.’” [Daily Press, 11/6/16]

February 2017: Taylor Said He Wanted To Raise The Minimum Retirement Age For Younger Generations

February 2017: Taylor Said He Wanted To Raise The Minimum Retirement Age For Social Security For Younger Generations. “To free up more defense funds, Taylor said he and other Republicans want to reduce spending on some government assistance, such as food stamps, and potentially cut outdated military programs.
Looking more broadly, Taylor said he also supports raising the minimum age for Social Security benefits for younger generations in order to keep the program solvent.” [Washington Times, 2/12/17]

**2016: 122,269 Residents Of Virginia’s 2nd District Received Some Social Security Benefits**

**2016: 122,269 Residents Of Taylor’s District Received Social Security Benefits Worth Nearly $155,811.** [Social Security Administration, Congressional Statistics, December 2016]

In Taylor’s District, Social Security Beneficiaries Include 91,625 Seniors; 117,460 Were Retirees. Of the 112,950 social security beneficiaries in Taylor’s district, 91,625 were aged 65 or older; 117,460 were retirees. [Social Security Administration, Congressional Statistics, December 2016]

**Taylor Voted To Raise Out Of Pocket Drug Costs On Seniors; 16,541 Virginia 2nd District Residents Received Medicare Benefits**

**2017: Taylor Voted Against Consideration Of An Amendment Lowering Out-Of-Pocket Drug Costs For Seniors**

Taylor Voted Against Consideration Of An Amendment Lowering Out-Of-Pocket Drug Costs For Seniors. In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “Demings, D-Fla., motion to recommit the bill to the House Judiciary Committee with instructions to report back immediately with an amendment that would exempt regulations that significantly lower seniors’ out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs under Medicare Part D. It would remove the bill’s provision that would effectively overturn two Supreme Court decisions that require federal courts to defer to an agency’s interpretation of the underlying law or rule when considering challenges to agency rules.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 190-233. [HR 5, Vote #44, 1/11/17; CQ, 1/11/17]

**2016: 16,541 Residents Of Virginia’s 2nd District Received Some Medicare Benefits**

**2016: 16,541 Residents Of Taylor’s District Received Medicare Benefits.** [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2016 Congressional District Report]

**Taylor Is Bad For Virginia Women**

**Taylor Stated The Only Exception For Abortion Should Be If The Woman’s Life Is In Danger**

**2010: Taylor Opposed Abortion And Said That The Only Exceptions For Abortion Should Be In The Case That The Woman’s Life Is In Danger.** “While all oppose abortion, how they define ‘pro-life’ varies. […] Scott Taylor of Virginia Beach said the only exception should be when the woman’s life is in danger.” [Virginian-Pilot, 5/31/10]

**Taylor Voted To Defund Planned Parenthood**

**2017: Taylor Voted For The American Health Care Act – The Republican Health Care Repeal Bill**

**2017: Taylor Voted For The American Health Care Act – The Republican Health Care Repeal Bill – Which Would Defund Planned Parenthood.** In May 2017, Taylor voted for “Passage of the bill that would make extensive changes to the 2010 health care overhaul law […] It would prohibit federal funding to any entity, such as Planned Parenthood, that performs abortions and receives more than $350 million a year in Medicaid funds.” The bill was passed by a vote of 217-213. [HR 1628, Vote #256, 5/4/17; CQ, 5/4/17]
Taylor Voted For Reversing Obama Rule Preventing States From Withholding Grants From Planned Parenthood. In February 2017, Taylor voted for overturning “an Obama-era rule banning states from denying federal funds to Planned Parenthood and other health care providers that perform abortions. The rule was designed to prohibit states from witholding family planning funding from providers for reasons other than their ability to offer family-planning services.” The resolution was passed by a vote of 230-188. [HJRes 43, Vote #99, 2/16/17; USA Today, 2/16/17]

Taylor Actively Voiced Support For Defunding Planned Parenthood: “Two Dozen Other Facilities In The Area Provide Eight Times More Services”

2017: Taylor Said He Supported Eliminating All Federal Funding For Planned Parenthood. “Questioners in the audience of roughly 750 people pressed Rep. Scott W. Taylor (Va.), a former state lawmaker and Navy SEAL, on President Trump’s connections to Russia and the specifics of what pieces of the Affordable Care Act he wants to keep. They rained down a chorus of boos when he said he opposes federal funding for Planned Parenthood.” [Washington Post, 2/22/17]

Taylor Argued That “Two Dozen Other Facilities In The Area Provide Eight Times More Services For Women.” “When asked about Planned Parenthood, Taylor, who was elected in November, was booed when he said he supported stopping all the organization’s federal funding. Two dozen other facilities in the area provide eight times more services for women, Taylor said, adding that ‘none of those facilities spend money attacking people politically.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/21/17]

Taylor Voted Against Consideration Of An Amendment That Prevented Insurance Plans From Charging Women Higher Premiums Than Men

Taylor Voted Against Consideration Of An Amendment That Prevented Insurance Plans From Charging Women Higher Premiums Than Men. In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “Schakowsky, D-Ill., motion to recommit the bill to the House Energy and Commerce Committee with instructions to report back immediately with an amendment that would state that the bill could not be interpreted to allow health insurance plans to charge women higher premiums than they charge men.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 187-235. [HR 7, Vote #64, 1/24/17; CQ, 1/24/17]

Taylor Is Bad For Virginia Health Care

**Significant Findings**

- Taylor voted the party line in favor of the AHCA.
- February 2017: Taylor would not answer directly when asked if he had read the Republican health care plan.
- Taylor said Trump promised to help Republicans in competitive districts win in 2018 if they voted for the repeal bill.
- Taylor broke his promise on protecting people with pre-existing conditions by voting for AHCA.

Taylor Voted For The American Health Care Act – The Republican Health Care Repeal Bill
May 2017: Taylor Voted For The American Health Care Act – The Republican Health Care Repeal Bill. In May 2017, Taylor voted for “Passage of the bill that would make extensive changes to the 2010 health care overhaul law, by effectively repealing the individual and employer mandates as well as most of the taxes that finance the current system. It would, in 2020, convert Medicaid into a capped entitlement that would provide fixed federal payments to states and end additional federal funding for the 2010 law’s joint federal-state Medicaid expansion. It would prohibit federal funding to any entity, such as Planned Parenthood, that performs abortions and receives more than $350 million a year in Medicaid funds. As amended, it would give states the option of receiving federal Medicaid funding as a block grant with greater state flexibility in how the funds are used, and would require states to establish their own essential health benefits standards. It would allow states to receive waivers to exempt insurers from having to provide certain minimum benefits, would provide $8 billion over five years for individuals with pre-existing conditions whose insurance premiums increased because the state was granted a waiver to raise premiums based on an individual’s health status, and would create a $15 billion federal risk sharing program to cover some of the costs of high medical claims.” The bill was passed by a vote of 217-213. [HR 1628, Vote #256, 5/4/17; CQ, 5/4/17]

Taylor Voted To Begin The Process Of Repealing Affordable Care Act. “The House of Representatives began the process of dismantling the Affordable Care Act on Friday, approving a budget resolution on a mostly party line vote. The vote was 227-198. The Senate passed the measure earlier this week. It allows Republicans on Capitol Hill to use a process known as ‘budget reconciliation’ to roll back major parts of the health care law. Top Republican leaders are also saying they plan to move to replace Obamacare along the same track, but they are still struggling to come up with the details on how it will work.” [S Con Res 3, Vote #58, 1/13/17; CNN, 1/3/17]

February 2017: Taylor Would Not Answer Directly When Asked If He Had Read The Republican Health Care Plan

When Asked If He Had Seen The New Republican Health Care Plan, Taylor Replied, “It’s Not That Simple.” “BALDWIN: And just even back -- if you go back to mid-January and ‘The Washington Post’ interviewed the president and he said at the time he was nearing completion of a plan. I’m getting different stories from Republicans on the Hill and when this actually happens. Congressman, have you seen the plan? TAYLOR: It’s not that simple. BALDWIN: It’s not. TAYLOR: There’s a nuanced answer here, of course. And people don’t want to hear that. And I will say, repeal and replace sounds like one thing, right? It sounds very quick. It sounds easy. It’s not. BALDWIN: But the president did say he had a plan. I’m just going by the president’s words. TAYLOR: Let me finish. BALDWIN: OK. TAYLOR: It doesn’t matter what -- I’m not in the executive branch. I’m in the legislative branch. So, what I will tell you is, there’s reconciliation. There’s executive actions and then there’s legislation. And it is imperative that my party, who overwhelmingly was sent across the nation into power, right? So, people have confidence in us.” [CNN, Newsroom, 2/22/17] Note: No video found.

March 2017: Taylor Said Trump Promised To Help Republicans In Competitive Districts Win In 2018 If They Voted For The Repeal Bill

Taylor Claimed That Trump Told Republicans On The Fence That If They Were In Competitive Districts And Voted For The Bill, He’d Help Them Win Re-Election. “Freshman Rep. Scott Taylor, R-2nd, backs the bill. His district is centered in Virginia Beach. ‘There are those who say this bill doesn’t do 100 percent of what they want it to do; I believe 85 percent of something in the right direction is much better than nothing,’ he said in a statement on his website. After Trump briefed House Republicans on Tuesday, Taylor said in an interview, a few members who were on the fence may have shifted to a ‘yes’ vote. Trump told them if they were in competitive districts and voted for the bill, he’d help them win re-election, Taylor said.” [Roanoke Times, 3/22/17]

Taylor Broke His Promise On Protecting People With Pre-Existing Conditions By Voting For AHCA

RHETORIC: Taylor Repeatedly Promised To Protect People With Pre-Existing Conditions

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Politifact Found That AHCA “Would Weaken Protections” For Those With Pre-Existing Conditions, “Would Allow States To Give Insurers The Power To Charge People Significantly More.” “An ad by the American Action Network says that under the American Health Care Act ‘people with pre-existing conditions are protected.’ The only kernel of truth here is that the amendment has language that states insurers can’t limit access to coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions. However, the ad omits that the House GOP health plan would weaken protections for these patients. The legislation would allow states to give insurers the power to charge people significantly more if they had a pre-existing condition. While Republicans point to the fact that those patients could get help through high-risk pools, experts question their effectiveness. Current law does not allow states to charge people with pre-existing conditions significantly more. We rate this claim Mostly False.” [Politifact, 5/24/17]

Washington Post Fact Check On AAN Ad Found Claim That Bill “Protected” Those With Preexisting Conditions To Be “Misleading.” “‘Protected’ is an odd word choice here. As we have noted, people with preexisting conditions would not be denied coverage. But if they have a gap in coverage, they still could face higher, unaffordable premiums for a year. (Much would depend on what individual states do.) So this is misleading language.” [Washington Post, 5/24/17]
**Washington Post: CBO Found That People With Pre-Existing Condition Would Be Far From “Protected” By AHCA, Undermining Claims Made By GOP Leaders.** “The CBO found that while insurers could not deny coverage to sick Americans, they would be far from being ‘protected.’ In states that choose to waive certain insurance coverage mandates as allowed under the GOP bill, the report stated, ‘people who are less healthy (including those with preexisting or newly acquired medical conditions) would ultimately be unable to purchase comprehensive nongroup health insurance at premiums comparable to those under current law, if they could purchase it at all.’ […] The analysis undermines not only the claims made by GOP leaders, but also shows that their bill could, by undoing what is perhaps the Affordable Care Act’s single most popular provision, throw consumers back into insurance markets where their ability to purchase affordable insurance would depend on their health.” [Washington Post, 5/26/17]

**Politifact: MacArthur Amendment Would Allow Health Insurers In Some States “To Charge Sicker People More,” And Overall “Seems To Weaken Existing Protections For People With Pre-Existing Conditions.”** “Trump said of the GOP health care amendment, ‘Pre-existing conditions are in the bill.’ The amendment says that health insurers can’t limit access to coverage for people with pre-existing conditions, but that insurers can charge people more if states agree. In some states, health insurers would be able to charge sicker people more. And experts warn that high-risk pools -- the mechanisms meant to keep premiums lower for sick people -- might not be effective. Overall, the latest proposal seems to weaken existing protections for people with pre-existing conditions, not strengthen them. We rate the statement Mostly False.” [Politifact, 5/1/17]

**9 News Colorado: 30 Million People With Pre-Existing Conditions Could Be Impacted By Waivers For Community Rating, Depending On What Their State Decides To Do.** “The second waiver deals with people who let their coverage lapse for 63 days or more in a year. This one would let insurance companies take a person’s health into account when deciding how much he or she should pay in premiums for one year. It could be a substantial jump in price if someone had a chronic illness or disease, but it will depend on what his or her state decides to do. How many people might that affect? The Commonwealth Fund estimated 30 million adults had a gap in coverage like that in 2016.” [9 News Colorado, 6/6/17]

**FiveThirtyEight: CBO Found That “Many People With Pre-Existing Conditions Would Be Priced Out Of The Marketplace Where The Waivers Are Used.”** “The CBO’s findings align with what many health policy experts expected: Many people with pre-existing conditions would be priced out of the marketplace where the waivers are used. The CBO doesn’t say where exactly it thinks that will happen, but it estimates that the waivers would affect areas where about one-sixth of the U.S. population lives.” [FiveThirtyEight, 5/24/17]

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**The Virginian-Pilot Editorial Board Called The AHCA A “Deeply Cynical And Reckless Ploy”**

**The Virginian-Pilot: [ACA Repeal] “Is A Deeply Cynical And Reckless Ploy… The Senate…May Not Follow In The Irresponsible Footsteps Of The Other Chamber, But It Cannot Erase What The House—including Reps. Taylor And Wittman—Voted To Do.”** “THE CONGRESSIONAL Budget Office recently confirmed suspicions that the American Health Care Act passed by the House last month is an irresponsible farce, little better than its previous iteration. […] So it’s a gamble: Republicans are betting that they can deliver lower premiums and substantial tax cuts while millions of Americans lose their insurance coverage and programs that serve the poorest among us are hacked. It is a deeply cynical and reckless ploy, as the CBO makes clear. The Senate, which now has the bill, may not follow in the irresponsible footsteps of the other chamber, but it cannot erase what the House -- including Reps. Taylor and Wittman -- voted to do.” [Virginian-Pilot, Editorial Board editorial, 6/1/17]

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**Taylor Is Bad For Working Families**

**2017: Taylor Voted To Block Increasing The Minimum Wage To $15 Per Hour In Seven Years**
Taylor Voted To Block A Bill To Increase The Minimum Wage To $15 Per Hour In Seven Years. In June 2017, Taylor voted for a motion to order the previous question. A yes vote would block consideration of “H.R. 15, The Raise The Wage Act., which would give workers the raise they deserve, and increase the federal minimum wage to $15 an hour within 7 years.” The bill passed 235-190. [HR 3003, Vote #331, 6/28/17; CQ, 6/28/17; DemocraticLeader.gov, accessed 9/12/17]

Taylor Voted To Undermine Worker Protections By Allowing Private-Sector Employees To Swap Overtime Pay For ‘Comp Time’

Taylor Voted To Allow Private-Sector Employees To Swap Overtime Pay For ‘Comp Time.’ In May 2017, Taylor voted for “Passage of the bill that would allow private-sector employers to provide non-exempt employees compensatory time off at a rate of 1.5 hours per hour of overtime work. To be eligible, employees would be required to have worked at least 1,000 hours in a 12-month period. Employees would be limited to 160 hours of compensatory time and employers would be required to provide monetary compensation by Jan. 31, for any unused compensatory time accrued during the preceding year. The bill’s provisions would sunset five years after enactment.” The bill was passed by a vote of 229-197. [HR 1180, Vote #244, 5/2/17; CQ, 5/2/17]

NBC News: Democrats Opposed The Bill, Saying It Weakened Worker Protections And Could Allow Employers, Who Would Have Final Say On Scheduled Comp Time, To “Kick The Can Down The Road On Money You Earned Putting In Extra Hours.” “The House of Representatives passed a bill Tuesday that would allow employees to swap overtime pay for “comp time,” a rules change congressional Republicans have tried to push through for more than two decades. [...] Where do the Democrats stand? They really don’t like this bill. Many progressives in the House argue that the proposal would chip away at protections for hardworking Americans and undermine the Fair Labor Standards Act. The measure, among other rules, would give employers the final say on when comp time can be used. In other words, House Dems fear, your boss could conceivably kick the can down the road on money you earned putting in extra hours. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a fierce advocate for workers’ rights, blasted the bill as a ‘disgrace.’” [NBC News, 5/3/17]

Taylor Voted Against Blocking Protections From The Bill For Employees Who Receive Seven Or More Sick Days From Their Employers, Which Can Be Used To Seek Care For Pre-Existing Medical Conditions. In May 2017, Taylor voted against “Scott, D-Va., motion to recommit the bill to the House Education and the Workforce Committee with instructions to report it back immediately with an amendment that would exempt from the bill’s provisions employees who receive seven or more sick days from their employer.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 192-234. [HR 1180, Vote #243, 5/2/17; CQ, 5/2/17]

Taylor Voted To Waive Certain Rules Making It Easier For The House To Pass A Bill To Allow Employees To Trade Overtime Pay For Comp Time. In May 2017, Taylor voted for “Adoption of the rule (H Res 299) that would allow private-sector employers to provide non-exempt employees compensatory time off at a rate of 1.5 hours per hour of overtime work. It would waive, through the legislative day of May 5, 2017, the two-thirds vote requirement to consider legislation on the same day it is reported from the House Rules Committee. It also would provide for consideration of measures under suspension of the rules on the legislative days of May 4 and May 5, 2017.” The rule was adopted by a vote of 230-193. [HR 1180 (HRes 299), Vote #241, 5/2/17; CQ, 5/2/17]

Taylor Is Bad For The Environment

2017: Taylor Said Climate Change Was Real And A Serious Issue For Virginia Beach…

Taylor: “On The Shore We Can See That, We Can See It Eroding…So It Is Absolutely An Issue That I Acknowledge Needs Work.” “Taylor said he agrees that climate change, recurrent flooding and sea-level rise are issues that need attention. ‘On the Shore we can see that, we can see it eroding, whether you’re on the barrier islands or on Tangier Island, as well as Virginia Beach, as well as Norfolk. So it is absolutely an issue that I acknowledge needs work,’ he said.” [Delmarva Daily Times, 2/25/17]
…But Questioned How Much Of It Was Man-Made And What There Was To Be Done About It

Taylor Admitted That Climate Change And The Sinking Of Virginia Beach Was “Real” And “Absolutely A Problem” But Asked “How Much Is Man Responsible For It And How Much Can Man Do About It?” “As for the sinking of his district, he said it’s ‘absolutely a problem.’ But he has no specific plans for how to address it. ‘Is climate change real? Of course it is. It’s changing, and we have an issue with flood resiliency down in our area,’ Taylor said. ‘I think the question, more importantly, is how much is man responsible for it and how much can man do about it? And that’s where the argument is.’” [Environment and Energy Daily, 1/31/17]

HEADLINE: “Military Hero Not Quite Ready For War On Climate Change.” [Environment and Energy Daily, 1/31/17]

Taylor Was A Member Of The Bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus

Taylor Was A Member Of The Bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus. [Citizen’s Climate Lobby, Climate Solutions Caucus Membership, accessed 3/7/18]

Republican Members Scored Low On Their Environmental Votes, As Per The League Of Conservation Voters. “Republican members of the bipartisan ‘Climate Solutions Caucus’ scored an average of just 16 percent on scorecard released Tuesday by League of Conservation Voters that tracks how lawmakers voted on major environmental issues last year. The group, which now counts 35 Republicans in its ranks along with an equal number of Democrats, was formed to great fanfare in 2016 with hope it could break through congressional gridlock on climate legislation. But it’s drawn criticism as being a vehicle to help politically endangered Republicans burnish their green credentials without having to take hard votes. ‘Republicans are using the caucus to provide cover to hide their extreme anti-environmental record,’ said Alex Taurel, the Washington-based environmental group’s deputy legislative director. ‘What we need is action, not just talk.’” [Bloomberg, 2/27/18]

The League Of Conservative Voters: “Republicans Are Using The Caucus To Provide Cover To Hide Their Extreme Anti-Environmental Record.” “Republican members of the bipartisan ‘Climate Solutions Caucus’ scored an average of just 16 percent on scorecard released Tuesday by League of Conservation Voters that tracks how lawmakers voted on major environmental issues last year. […] ‘Republicans are using the caucus to provide cover to hide their extreme anti-environmental record,’ said Alex Taurel, the Washington-based environmental group’s deputy legislative director. ‘What we need is action, not just talk.’” [Bloomberg, 2/27/18]


New York Times: Taylor Was “Wary Of Hobbling Fossil-Fuel Companies, But Favor[Ed] Narrower Measures To Address Dangerous Environmental Conditions.” “For years, climate change activists have faced a wrenching dilemma: how to persuade people to care about a grave but seemingly far-off problem and win their support for policies that might pinch them immediately in utility bills and at the pump. […] Representative Scott Taylor of Virginia, a Republican whose district hugs the Atlantic Coast, said his constituents were growing more sensitive to the implications of climate change, including voters who lean to the right. Mr. Taylor, who is a member of the climate caucus, said he was still wary of hobbling fossil-fuel companies, but favors narrower measures to address dangerous environmental conditions. […] ‘We have to deal with issues like sea level rise and flooding and resiliency,’ Mr. Taylor said, cautioning, ‘I don’t think we’re there, in a bipartisan way, for comprehensive action.’” [New York Times, 9/14/17]

Taylor Voted Against Striking A Provision From The NDAA Stating Climate Change Poses A Threat To National Security. In July 2017, Taylor voted against: “Perry, R-Pa., amendment that would eliminate the bill’s provision that would express the sense of Congress that climate change is a direct threat to national security, and
would eliminate the provision that would require the secretary of Defense to report to Congress on vulnerabilities to military installations and combatant commands resulting from climate change-related effects.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 185-234. [H R 2810, Vote #368, 7/13/17; CQ, 7/13/17]

**Taylor Is Bad For Immigrants**

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<th>Taylor Claimed He Stood Up To Trump On The “Muslim Ban,” But Quietly Voted To Keep The Ban In Place</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>March 2017: Taylor Claimed Trump’s Immigration Order Was A “Muslim Ban” And That It Was “Unconstitutional”</strong></td>
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<td>Taylor: “I Disagreed With Him Publicly On A Muslim Ban. It’s Unconstitutional. The Implementation Of The Order Was Very Bad.” “The president is certainly imperfect. I’m going to agree with him on many things, and I’m going to disagree. And I’m not going to be bashful when I disagree with him — particularly the immigration order that came down. I agree with stronger vetting, but I disagreed with him publicly on a Muslim ban. It’s unconstitutional. The implementation of this order was very bad. I’m on an equal branch of government, and we’re there to provide oversight of the executive branch sometimes. If I agree with the president, I’ll say it, but if I don’t I’ll say it.” [Task and Purpose, 3/12/17]</td>
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<td><strong>June 2017: Taylor Said Trump’s Executive Order On Immigration Was Not A “Muslim Ban” And Voted To Protect It</strong></td>
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<td>HEADLINE: “GOP Lawmaker Argues Trump’s Call For Increased Travel Restrictions Not A ‘Muslim Ban.’” [Washington Times, 6/5/17]</td>
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<td>Taylor: “I Do Not Support A Muslim Ban. I’d Be The First One To Stop And Say That’s Unconstitutional And That’s Wrong.” “I understand emotions are running high, but when I read that document it doesn’t tell me that it’s a Muslim ban,’ Taylor said. ‘I do not support a Muslim ban. I’d be the first one to stop and say that’s unconstitutional and that’s wrong.’ The executive order legitimately addressed concerns about state-sponsored terrorism in the affected countries, Taylor said. The White House should be criticized, however, for moving too quickly to put in motion the ban without preparation, he said. It was wrong to first say the ban included those with green cards or permanent U.S. resident status and then to reverse that interpretation. ‘But then it was corrected,’ Taylor said. ‘I’m hopeful that moving forward the White House learned a lesson. ... It’s up to them to gain the trust of the public.”’ [Virginian-Pilot, 1/30/17]</td>
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<td><strong>Taylor Voted To Block Consideration Of An Act Nullifying Trump’s Immigration Executive Order.</strong> In January 2017, Taylor voted for the “Newhouse, R-Wash., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and the possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 70).” According to Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi’s office, “The Democratic Previous Question would amend the rule to allow for consideration of HR 724, the Statue of Liberty Values Act of 2017, which provides that President Trump’s Immigration Executive Order shall have no force or effect.” A vote for the previous question was a vote in support of the executive order. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 236-183. [HRes 70, Vote #68, 1/30/17; CQ, 1/30/17; Democratic Leader—Previous Questions, 1/30/17]</td>
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| **Taylor Voted To Block Consideration Of An Act Nullifying Trump’s Immigration Executive Order.** In February 2017, Taylor voted for the “Cole, R-Okla., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and the possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 74).” According to Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi’s office, “The Democratic Previous Question would bring up HR 724, the Statue of Liberty Values Act, offered by Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, which would give the Republican Congress a second chance in as many days to defund and rescind President Trump’s unconstitutional and dangerous ban.” A vote for the previous question was a...
vote in support of the executive order. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 230-188. [HRes 74, Vote #74, 2/2/17; CQ, 2/2/17; Democratic Leader—Previous Questions, 2/2/17]

**Taylor Supported Rolling Back DACA, Saying DACA Was “Illegal”**

Taylor: “It Was Illegal For President Obama To Create This Program… President Trump Is Right To Put The Authority Back Into The Hands Of Congress.” “While benevolent and well intended, it was illegal for President Obama to create this program; a President does not create laws. Therefore, President Trump is right to put the authority back into the hands of Congress. I believe Congress should create, negotiate, and pass a law protecting those in this stateless limbo, which should contain disincentives to future illegal immigrants from attempting the same and border security measures.” [Office of Rep. Scott Taylor, Press Release, 9/5/17]

**Taylor Voted To Ban Sanctuary Cities**

Taylor Voted To Ban Sanctuary Cities. In June 2017, Taylor voted for: “Passage of the bill that would prohibit federal, state and local governments from restricting any federal, state, or local government entity or official from complying with immigration laws or from assisting federal law enforcement entities or officials in their enforcement of such laws. The bill would allow the Homeland Security Department to issue detainers for arrests of individuals in violation of “any criminal or motor vehicle law” in cases where there is probable cause to believe such individual is an “inadmissible or deportable alien,” and would revoke eligibility for certain federal law enforcement grants for states and cities found not to be in compliance with the bill’s provisions.” The bill passed 228-195. [HR 3003, Vote #342, 6/29/17; CQ, 6/29/17]

New York Times: The No Sanctuary For Criminals Act “Broadens The Pool Of Money That Cities Could Lose For Not Cooperating With Federal Immigration Officials.” “One of the House bills, known as the No Sanctuary for Criminals Act, potentially broadens the pool of money that cities could lose for not cooperating with federal immigration officials. It also seeks to indemnify local law enforcement officials who detain immigrants on behalf of the federal authorities from lawsuits, making the federal government the defendant in such cases. The bill passed 228 to 195.” [New York Times, 6/29/17]

The National Fraternal Order Of Police Opposed The No Sanctuary For Criminals Act. “Some law enforcement officials have also expressed concerns with the legislation. The National Fraternal Order of Police came out against the sanctuary cities bill this week. In a letter to House leadership, the group’s national president, Chuck Canterbury, said, ‘Law enforcement officers do not get to pick and choose which laws to enforce, and must carry out lawful orders at the direction of their commanders and the civilian government that employs them.’” [New York Times, 6/29/17]

ACLU: HR 3003 Would Violate 4th Amendment Protections Against Detention Without Due Process Or Probable Cause. “And the American Civil Liberties Union said the sanctuary cities bill violates the Fourth Amendment by requiring local law enforcement to hold people without due process or probable cause when requested by immigration agents.” [New York Times, 6/29/17]

Taylor Voted For Consideration Of A Bill To Ban Sanctuary Cities. In June 2017, Taylor voted for: “Adoption of the rule (H Res 414) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill (HR 3003) that would prohibit federal, state and local governments from restricting any federal, state, or local government entity or official from complying with immigration laws or from assisting federal law enforcement in its enforcement of such laws.” The bill passed 235-190. [HR 3003, Vote #332, 6/28/17; CQ, 6/28/17]

There Was Only One Sanctuary Area In Virginia, Chesterfield County, Located In The 4th Congressional District. [Center for Immigration Studies, 8/25/17]
Taylor Is Bad For Virginians’ Voting Rights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taylor Said He “Don’t Have A Big Problem With [The White House] Looking Into” Voter Fraud</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Taylor:</strong> “I Don’t Believe [There Is Widespread Voter Fraud]. But I Don’t Know. And I Don’t Have A Big Problem With Them Looking Into It.” <strong>CAMEROTA:</strong> But just for your -- but just for your opinion, since you’re in Congress, do you think that there’s widespread voter fraud? TAYLOR: I don’t believe so. But I don’t know. And I don’t have a big problem with them looking into it.” [CNN, 7/3/17; Youtube, Act Now 2017, 7/3/17]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Taylor:</strong> “We All Know [Voter Fraud] Does Exist.” “We don’t have massive voter fraud. There’s been some instances here, of course. And it’s something that’s important and should be important to everyone to look into, route out any potential voter fraud. But sure, I think it’s important to show some evidence that -- for mass voter fraud. We all know it does exist, and we should certainly take precautions to keep the integrity of our elections in this country.” [CNN, 2/13/17; Youtube, Trump White House, 2/22/17]</td>
</tr>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>…Even Though Taylor Admitted That “We Don’t Have Massive Voter Fraud” In Virginia</th>
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<td><strong>2017: Taylor:</strong> “We Don’t Have Massive Voter Fraud” In Virginia. <strong>CAMEROTA:</strong> President Trump, one of his top advisors, Stephen Miller, went on the Sunday shows and claimed again, without providing any evidence, that there was vast voter fraud during those past presidential elections. Do you believe that? TAYLOR: Well, I can see -- and I represent the 2nd District of Virginia, and I don’t know. We don’t have massive voter fraud. There’s been some instances here, of course.” [CNN, 2/13/17; Youtube, Trump White House, 2/22/17]</td>
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<tr>
<th>Taylor Compared Trump’s Voter Fraud Panel To The Investigation Into Russian Interference In The Election</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Taylor Compared Trump’s Voter Fraud Investigation To “Looking Into Russian Meddling In An Election.”</strong> “CAMEROTA: … there’s not widespread voter fraud. TAYLOR: You say that, but that’s... CAMEROTA: Because of the numbers, I mean, I’m just reporting the data. TAYLOR: You say that. You say that, but what’s the problem in looking to [sic] it? Just like what’s the problem of looking to [sic] Russian meddling in an election? I don’t see a problem with that; I think it’s important to do so. So you know...” [CNN, 7/3/17; Youtube, Act Now 2017, 7/3/17]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Taylor: At Home In The Swamp

Significant Findings

✓ Taylor headed the “Special Operations OPSEC Education Fund.”

✓ OPSEC included members of the Birther movement who openly called for extra-judicial actions to depose Barack Obama from the presidency.

✓ The group ran ads in battleground states before the 2012 election attacking President Obama on national security issues.

✓ OPSEC was a dark money group and refused to reveal its donors.

✓ Taylor took $14,000 from the telecom industry before voting to let them sell customers’ private data without their permission.

✓ Taylor defended his vote, arguing it was not fair to restrict internet providers from collecting & selling customers’ private data without permission.


✓ Taylor rented a luxury apartment with rooftop pool with Capitol view, minutes’ walk from the Hill.

Taylor Helped Found A Dark Money Political Group With Ties To The Birther Movement & Members Who Advocated Extrajudicial Removal Of Barack Obama From Office

Taylor Was The President Of The “Special Operations OPSEC Education Fund”

Taylor Was President Of The Nonprofit “Special Operations OPSEC Education Fund,” Founded In 2012. “Taylor, 33, owns a gym, a real estate business and a security consulting firm, and he is president of the Special Operations OPSEC Education Fund, a nonprofit founded in 2012 to oppose the release of special operations information by the Obama administration following the death of Osama bin Laden.” [Virginian-Pilot, 6/12/13]

OPSEC Spokesperson Chad Kolton Served In The Bush Administration

OPSEC Spokesperson Chad Kolton Worked At Republican PR Company HDMK And Was A Former Public Affairs Staffer In For The Director Of National Intelligence. “A group that says it is comprised of former special operations and CIA officers which is criticizing the president and Obama administration officials over national security leaks and the raid that killed Osama bin Laden is getting PR support from GOP-aligned PR shop HDMK. Chad Kolton, an HDMK partner and former public affairs staffer in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and FEMA, is Spokesman for the group, called the Special Operations OPSEC Education Fund.” [O’Dwyer’s, 8/20/12]

OPSEC Member Ben Smith Was Part Of The Birther Movement

Member Of OPSEC Ben Smith Was A Birther And Said Of Obama: “You Are An Imposter, You Are A Muslim...You Are The Manchurian President And May You Go Back To The Country You Were Born In When You Are Deposed You Little, Little Man (And Take All Your Communist Sympathizers With You.” “The founder of OPSEC, ex-SEAL Scott Taylor, is a Republican who ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 2010 in Virginia. Other members of the group are tea party adherents and birthers such as Ben Smith, another ex-Navy
Press, Paul Vallely, who appears in the group birther who denies I was born here, despite evidence to the contrary.

Smith Also Stated That Obama Wore “Some Bad Tan Lotion Because He Looked Like An Old Bruised Banana Which Made Me Think That Harry Belafonte Was Walking Out To Give His Rendition Of ‘Day-O’ Before ‘Ole Suck And Blow’ Was To Come Out And Enlighten Us With His Blasphemous Spew.” According to news reports, Mr. Smith, commenting on the 2012 State of the Union address, had referred to President Obama as ‘the Heir Communist-in-Chief Hussein Mao-Bama.’ He also claimed that during the address the president wore ‘some bad tan lotion because he looked like an old bruised Banana which made me think that Harry Belafonte was walking out to give his rendition of ‘Day-O’ before ‘ole suck and blow’ was to come out and enlighten us with his blasphemous spew.’” [Telegram, op-ed by Clive McFarlane, 8/27/12]

Smith: “You Are An Imposter, You Are A Muslim (Cassius Clay, Lew Alcindor, Barry Soetoro), You Are The Manchurian President And May You Go Back To The Country You Were Born In When You Are Deposed You Little, Little Man (And Take All Your Communist Sympathizers With You).” “Foreign Policy’s Josh Rogin today reported that the lead spokesman for OPSEC Education Fund, former Navy SEAL Ben Smith has not only been a “spokesman for the Tea Party Express, he has a long record of writings that seek to portray the president as a foreign-born imposter bent on driving a socialist-Marxist agenda. Following the president’s January 2012 State of the Union Address, Smith wrote on his Facebook page, ‘This speech was given by the Heir Communist-in-Chief Hussein Mao-bama.’ Smith then wrote that Obama had used ‘some bad tan lotion because he looked like an old bruised Banana which made me think that Harry Belafonte was walking out to give his rendition of ‘Day-O’ before ‘ole suck and blow’ was to come out and enlighten us with his blasphemous spew.’ ‘You are an Imposter, You are a Muslim (Cassius Clay, Lew Alcindor, Barry Soetoro), You are the Manchurian President and may you go back to the country you were born in when you are deposed you little, little man (and take all your communist sympathizers with you),’ Smith wrote. ‘You insult everything that was considered American. May you and your administration be a lesson to history and your posterity be lost to the rebirth of AMERICAN PATRIOTISM!” [ABC News, 8/21/12]

Taylor On Birthers Within OPSEC: “Our Group, It’s Very Diverse.” “VAN SUSTEREN: I suspect one of the sort of the -- what the president is zeroing in on is that there’s at least one member of your group who’s been quite vocal who is a member of the birther movement and has put some rather insulting things on his Facebook page about President Obama. And I suspect that he was really sort of speaking to that person. I think that’s sort of your -- I suspect that that’s what he’s driving at. Do you not agree? TAYLOR: Well, let me say that our response is, in our group, it’s very diverse. We have Obama donors, president supporters, and we have folks, of course, that are Republican. I would say that generally, the military, although it’s diverse, probably is a little bit conservative.” [Fox News Network, 8/21/12]

Associated Press: Retired Major General Paul Vallely Was Also A “Birther.” ‘I don’t take these folks too seriously,’ President Barack Obama told the newspaper The Virginian-Pilot on Monday. ‘One of their members is a birther who denies I was born here, despite evidence to the contrary.’ Special Ops OPSEC member ret. Maj. Gen. Paul Vallely, who appears in the group’s film, has publicly questioned Obama’s birth in Hawaii.” [Associated Press, 8/22/12]

Vallely Believed That The American People Should Have Risen Up To Depose Obama Rather Than Waiting On The Courts To Address The “Birther” Issue. “Maj. Gen. Paul Vallely, a Vietnam veteran who retired from the U.S. Army in 1993, has gotten considerable attention in the last few months as a ‘birther’ proponent. He’s even flirted with a supporter’s suggestion that he and Trump form the 2012 GOP ticket. Vallely doesn’t believe Americans should wait on the courts for the ‘birther’ issue to take hold, but should rise up as one and just tell the Obama administration it’s time to go.” [United Press International, 4/24/17]
August 2012: OPSEC Claimed It Planned To Run Ads In Six Presidential Battleground States

August 2012: OPSEC Said It Had Raised $1 Million To Run Ads In Six Presidential Battleground States.
Kolton told the Wall Street Journal that the group had raised close to $1 million as of August to run ads in six battleground states. Although it claims to be a nonpartisan effort, its CEO, Scott Taylor, a former Navy SEAL who ran for Congress as a Republican in 2010, has said President Obama is responsible for security leaks and is taking too much credit for the bin Laden raid.” [O’Dwyer’s, 8/20/12]

October 2012: OPSEC Aired Ads During The Broadcast Of ‘SEAL Team 6,’ Two Days Before The Election.
“As the political propaganda controversy surrounding Harvey Weinstein’s ‘SEAL Team Six: The Raid of Osama bin Laden’ continues, OPSEC (Operation Security) told to FOX411 that it will air ads in key battleground markets during its broadcast on the National Geographic Channel two days before the election.” [Fox News, 10/26/17]

Taylor: “As Soon As We Heard The Film Was Slanted To Promote [Obama]...We Knew We Had To Do Something.” “After learning of the suspicious timing and [Harvey] Weinstein’s instruction to make the President a key character in the movie that spotlights the detailed process that went into the killing of bin Laden, OPSEC, a group of former Intelligence officers and Special Operations members concerned with the impact of increasing informational leaks, immediately sought approval to run their commercial ‘Bump in the Road.’ […] ‘As soon as we heard the film was slanted to promote (Obama) and conveniently come out just before the election, making him the President look strong on foreign policy and national security we knew we had to do something,” Taylor told us. ‘The Obama administration has grossly exploited bin Laden’s death, and all the leaked information has hindered operations and put lives at risk.’” [Fox News, 10/26/17]

October 2012: In A TV Ad, Taylor Accused President Obama Of “Playing Politics With National Security And American Lives”

VIDEO: October 2012: Taylor Accused President Obama Of “Playing Politics With National Security And American Lives.” “President Obama wanted credit after our military killed bin Laden. Highly classified secrets were leaked, endangering real heroes and their families. But when terrorists kill SEALs and diplomats in Libya, this administration doesn’t tell the truth about what happened and the president says it’s just a bump in the road. There is nothing acceptable about playing politics with national security and American lives. Aren’t some things more important than politics?” Special Ops OPSEC Education Fund is responsible for the contents of this advertising.” [Youtube, OPSECTeam, 10/3/12]

OPSEC Was A Dark Money Group Which Refused To Reveal Its Donors

OPSEC Filed As A Social Welfare Group And As Such Was Able To Keep Its Donors’ Information Private.
“Opsec president Scott Taylor is a former Republican congressional candidate. Another supporter and spokesman, Chad Kolton, was a former intelligence spokesman under Bush. Finally, one of the ex-CIA officials appearing in the group’s 22-minute long introductory documentary is Paul Vallely, who has publicly cast doubt on the authenticity of Obama’s birth certificate. […] With Opsec the position is less clear. The group has filed its financial status as a social welfare group. Under American campaign finance laws that means it can keep its donors’ identities private. It has, however, raised $1m of backing so far and has appealed for public donations in the wake of its launch. […] The initial documentary, which is presented with flashy graphics and is slickly produced, is meant to get people talking. Opsec aims to follow up its launch with TV adverts in Virginia, Florida, Ohio, Colorado, North Carolina and Nevada - all key battleground states.” [Guardian, 8/16/12]

2015: OPSEC’s 990 Described The Group As A “Non-Partisan Grassroots Advocacy Organization Focused On Protecting US Special Operations.” “Non-partisan grassroots advocacy organization focused on protecting US Special Operations Forces and organizations, optional for national intelligence assets and operatives from political exploitation and policies, and the misuse of classified others information that unnecessarily exposes them.
and their families to greater risk and reduces their effectiveness in keeping America safe.” [Foundation Center 990 Finder, accessed 3/7/18]

Note: 990s available online for OPSEC for the years 2012 and 2015 through the Foundation Center. Primary documents also saved on drive.

OPSEC Received Almost $2 Million In Donations

2012: 990 Filings For OPSEC Revealed That It Had Received $1,817,287 In Donations. [990, Special Operations OPSEC Education Fund Inc, accessed 3/7/18]

2015: 990 Filings For OPSEC Revealed That It Had Received $56,823 In Donations. [990, Special Operations OPSEC Education Fund Inc, accessed 3/7/18]

OPSEC Claimed On Its 990 Filing That It Was Not Engaging In Political Campaign Activities

2015: OPSEC Claimed On Its 990 Filing That It Was Not Engaging, Directly Or Indirectly In Political Campaign Activities. “Did the organization engage, directly or indirectly, in political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? No.” [990, Special Operations OPSEC Education Fund Inc, accessed 3/7/18]

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Note: More analysis of OPSEC’s 990s needed. Possible ethics violation. See further research.

2015: OPSEC Released An Ad Criticizing Hillary Clinton For The Situation In Benghazi And The Group Pressure Washington To Continue The Investigation Into Benghazi

From 2012 On, Taylor’s Group OPSEC Spearheaded A Campaign To Force Congress To Investigate The Death Of Tyrone Woods And Other Others At Benghazi. “OPSEC, a group consisting of former special forces officers, has been involved since the Benghazi attacks happened, beginning its push in October by sending out a releases and an ad called “Bump in the Road” that was critical of the administration’s Benghazi response. […] OPSEC’s multi-pronged lobbying campaign also brought a face to the issue coordinating a Capitol Hill visit of Charles Woods, Ty Woods’ father, asking lawmakers to investigate his son’s death in Benghazi. […] Taylor said that the despite the months without gaining traction they never stopped. ‘We weren’t getting any coverage from mainstream media and we understand that,’ Taylor said. ‘We weren’t going to stop.’” [Politico, 5/15/13; Youtube, OPSEC, 9/10/15]

Taylor: Clinton “Did Nothing To Help Prevent The Deaths Of Four Americans In Benghazi.” “If Hillary Clinton wants to run for president she’s not going to be able to continue hiding from the fact that she did nothing to help prevent the deaths of four Americans in Benghazi,” said Scott Taylor, president of OPSEC, which this week is publishing a report highly critical of her actions during the Libya event.” [Reuters, 2/11/14]

OPSEC Called For A Special Congressional Investigation Into The Matter. “The report, entitled ‘Breach of Duty: Hillary Clinton and Catastrophic Failure in Benghazi,’ says that due to a lack of due diligence by Congress, the ‘full story about Hillary Clinton’s deadly failure of leadership may never be completely told.’ It calls for a special congressional investigation of the affair.” [Reuters, 2/11/14]

Note: See section on OPSEC.
Taylor Took $14,000 From The Telecom Industry Before Voting To Let Them Sell Customers’ Private Data Without Customer Permission

After Banking $14,000 From The Telecommunications Industry In 2016…

2016 Election Cycle: Taylor Received $14,000 From The Telecom Services Industry. [Open Secrets, accessed 9/21/17]

…Taylor Voted To Allow Internet Providers To Use Consumer Data Without Permission

Taylor Defended His Vote To Allow Internet Service Providers To Collect Massive Amounts Of Private Data Without Consumer Permission. “Thousands of constituents of Rep. Scott Taylor are receiving automated phone calls lambasting his vote to allow internet providers to use or sell consumer data without their permission. […] Taylor defended his vote in a Thursday phone interview. […] The internet legislation would revoke Federal Communications Commission rules that prohibit internet providers such as Verizon and Comcast from collecting and selling customer information – including online browsing habits, Social Security numbers and other data – without customer permission.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/30/17]

Taylor Voted For Consideration Of Nullification Of A Rule Requiring Internet Providers To Obtain Permission From Customers Before Using Or Selling Their Information. In March 2017, Taylor voted for “adoption of the rule (H Res 230) that would provide for House floor consideration of the joint resolution that would disapprove and nullify a Federal Communications Commission rule that requires broadband internet service providers to obtain affirmative permission from customers to use or share their sensitive information.” The rule was adopted by a vote of 231-189. [H.Res 230, Vote #200, 3/28/17; CQ, 3/28/17]

Taylor Defended His Vote, Arguing It Was Not Fair To Restrict Internet Providers From Collecting & Selling Customers’ Private Data Without Permission

Taylor Argued That It Was Not Fair To Target Providers While Companies Like Facebook And Google Collected Information Without Consumer Permission. “Taylor argued that massive amounts of personal information already are collected without consumer permission by other widely used internet operations, including Facebook and Google. It’s not fair to target providers while others are free to collect information, he said. Some consumer activists say providers can learn much more about consumers because they can see the people customers email and the sites they visit.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/30/17]

Taylor Accused The Democratic Party Of Being “Hypocritical” For Not Objecting To Providers Collecting Information Before Obama Banned The Practice: “They Had Zero Problems With It Before December.” “Taylor defended his vote in a Thursday phone interview. He also accused the Democratic Party of being ‘hypocritical’ for not objecting when the providers were collecting information for years until the Obama administration passed rules banning the practice in the months before leaving office. ‘They had zero problems with it before December,’ Taylor said.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/30/17]

2014-2017: Taylor Made $241,920 In Taxpayer Funded Salaries

2017: Taylor Made $174,000 As A Member Of U.S. Congress

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Salary</th>
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<td>2017</td>
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<td>Total:</td>
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2014-2017: Taylor Made $67,920 As A Member Of The Virginia House Of Delegates

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<tr>
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<td>$17,640</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$67,920</strong></td>
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[Taylor 2016 Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed 7/14/17; Daily Press, 11/18/14]
July 2017: Taylor Castigated CNN For Covering President Trump’s Tweets


Taylor: “You Guys Are Getting Played, Man.” “TAYLOR: I’ve been critical of the president’s tweets before. I think that -- but if I could give objective advice to you, I think you -- I think you guys are getting played, man. I think every time he does this, you guys overreact -- and I say ‘You guys,’ I mean the media in general -- you overreact, and you play right into his hands. I mean, this is -- ironically, CNN reported on him learning politics from the World Wrestling Federation in 2015. And now you’re, like, ‘Oh, my God, he’s inciting violence.’ I just don’t -- I don’t think any American -- most Americans, excuse me, certainly some, maybe, but most Americans out there believe that he’s inciting violence from a WWF clip.” [CNN, New Day, 7/2/17] (VIDEO)

Note: Video saved on drive.

August 2017: CNN Panel About The Removal Of Confederate Statues

Taylor Criticized “Racial Politics” As “Not What This Nation Needs”

Taylor: “…I Think That We—That Politics Of Identity, Racial Politics, Tribal Politics, Quite Frankly, Are Not What This Nation Needs.” “I think the second press conference was strong and hit the right note but the third one was not. But at the same time I think it’s important that we—that politics of identity, racial politics, tribal politics, quite frankly, are not what this nation needs. And anyone who’s espousing them I think are wrong.” [CNN, State of the Union, 8/20/17] (VIDEO)

When Bakari Sellars Suggested Taylor Might Not Understand His Perspective On Confederate Monuments As A Black Man, Taylor Angrily Replied, “Don’t Talk Condescendingly To Me”

Taylor: “Don’t Talk Condescendingly To Me…I’m Comfortable Having These Conversations.” “SELLARS: And to have a statue of a someone like a Robert E. Lee, to have a statue of someone like a Pitchfork Ben Tillman, or John C. Calhoun, whose name by the way was John C. Kill-Hoon, to have these individuals just revered—do you understand how a black—you may not, but as a black man, let me tell you, that is very, very painful. TAYLOR: Don’t condescend—don’t talk condescendingly to me. SELLARS: --No, I’m not. But I’m just saying that that is very painful and the reason that it’s painful and the reason that it’s painful is because— TAYLOR: --I’m comfortable having these conversations…” [CNN, State of the Union, 8/20/17] (VIDEO)

Defense Of Trump

August 2017: Taylor Claimed That Trump Was Not A Racist And That It Was “Wrong To Say That”

Taylor: “I Don’t Believe The President’s A Racist. I Think That’s The Wrong Thing To Say For Folks…Don’t Think That He’s A Racist. I Think That’s Wrong To Say That.” “TAYLOR: I don’t believe the president’s a racist. I think that’s the wrong thing to say for folks. I think, you know, [Trump] talked about on both sides. Like I
said, there was premeditated lawlessness on both sides. That should be reported in the press and one of you had a
guest who I think was trying to get that out I think a couple of minutes ago, but that should be. The facts should
certainly be reported. That does not alleviate the responsibility of the Nazis, the KKKs, the groups that organized this
to cause problems. There’s no question about it, the responsibility lies with them. But that also doesn’t excuse
lawlessness on any side for that matter. So I don’t know if he was trying to say that, I’m just not sure, you know. I
don’t think that he’s a racist. I think that’s wrong to say that. [CNN, Newsroom, 8/15/17] (VIDEO)

May 2017: Taylor Refused To Condemn Republicans On Their Silence After Comey Firing

Taylor Refused To Condemn The Silence Of Republican Leadership On Comey’s Firing: “I’m Not Gonna Speak For Anybody Or Condemn Anybody On Either Side.” “CHRIS CUOMO: Nothing from GOP leadership of any meaning. […] They are staying quiet here. Is this the time for quiet? TAYLOR: They’ll have to decide that. I mean—I’m not gonna speak for anybody or condemn anybody on either side. There’s certainly people that are speaking out on both sides. I’ve heard both of them. I don’t think—look, as I said before—I mean, the FBI—I don’t want them to become political, right? This political football.” [CNN, New Day, 5/14/17] (VIDEO)

February 2017: Taylor’s Adversarial Town Halls


Note: Video saved on drive.

Audio

September 2017: Taylor Was Spotted At The Trump Hotel Bar

Taylor Went To The Trump Hotel Bar. “Speaking of the Trump Hotel, I bump into—last night, at the bar—at the Trump Hotel at about four, five o’clock, I guess it was about five, I was sitting there with former Speaker of the House of Georgia, Mark Burkholder, and in comes Scott Taylor, and I says, ‘Scott, you gotta come on my show tomorrow.’ And so here he is. Scott, good to have you with us, man. [TAYLOR] ‘Good morning, John, and great to see you at the Trump Hotel as well. Always have a good time there.’” [WHKT, 9/8/17] Note: Recording saved on drive.

Images
### General

**HEADLINE:** “Rep. Scott Taylor Embraces His Conservative Edge; Key Figure Among Trump Advisors.”  
[Republican Standard, 9/4/17]

**HEADLINE:** “6 months In, Rep. Scott Taylor Is Trying To Elevate His Status In Congress However Possible.”  
[Virginian-Pilot, 7/8/17]

### LGBT Issues

**HEADLINE:** “WATCH: Freshman GOP Lawmaker And Former Navy SEAL Walks A Careful Line On Transgender Troops.”  
[The Hill, 9/26/17]

### AHCA Bad Coverage

**HEADLINE:** “The GOP’s All-Out War On Obamacare.”  
[Virginian-Pilot, 6/1/17]

[Virginian-Pilot, 6/1/17]

**HEADLINE:** “Rep. Taylor Said He’ll Vote For GOP Bill TO Replace Obamacare.”  
[Virginian-Pilot, 3/22/17]

**LETTER:** “Taylor In Lock-Step With Trump.”  
[Virginian-Pilot, 5/16/17]

### Election To Congress

**HEADLINE:** “With Forbes’s Defeat, Virginia’s Delegation To Congress Grows Less Experienced.”  
[Washington Post, 6/15/16]

### Town Halls

**HEADLINE:** “Taylor’s Town Hall Draws Feisty Crowd; Congressman Had Hoped Constituents Would ‘Rise Above The Divide’ But The Crowd – 1,000 Strong – Had Other Ideas.”  
[Virginian-Pilot, 2/21/17]

### Ethics Controversies

**HEADLINE:** “Congressman Taylor Called Out At Town Hall For ‘Blocking’ Constituents On Social Media.”  
[Williamsburg Yorktown Daily, 3/6/17]

**HEADLINE:** “Virginia ACLU To Rep. Taylor: Stop Blocking Constituents.”  
[Williamsburg Yorktown Daily, 6/29/17]
Personal & Professional History
Biography

This section provides background information on Taylor’s personal life, including education, personal finances, criminal and civil record, and other areas. Searches were conducted with various local media in Maryland and Virginia, media outlets including the Virginian-Pilot and Hampton Roads’ Daily Press, as well as a number of other online resources, including Lexis-Nexis.

Birth Date

Taylor Was Born On June 27th, 1979


Early Life

Taylor Said He Was Raised By A Single Mother In Hebron, Maryland

Taylor Said He Was Raised By A Single Mother In The Small Town Of Hebron. “Scott was raised on the Delmarva Peninsula in a little town named Hebron in Maryland. Scott was raised by a single mother.” [Scott Taylor, accessed 8/18/17]

Taylor: “I Always Describe Myself As Being From The Eastern Shore Of Maryland. I Never Forget My Home.” “I’m really proud of where I came from,” Taylor said. ‘I always describe myself as being from the Eastern Shore of Maryland. I never forget my home. These are some of the best people in the world, and I will do anything I can to give back to them.” [Delmarva Daily Times, 11/3/12]

Taylor Claimed He Was Working On A Farm By Age Eleven And “On A Dangerous Path”

Taylor Claimed “To Help Makes Ends Meet,” He “Began Working On A Farm At 11 Year Old.” “To help make ends meet, Scott began working on a farm at 11 years old and soon thereafter was introduced to the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program of America.” [Scott Taylor, accessed 8/18/17]

Politico: Taylor “Detailed His Own Difficult Childhood... Already On A Dangerous Path In Life At 11 Years Old.” “Taylor also noted that he detailed his own difficult childhood - raised by a single mother and already on a dangerous path in life at 11 years old. It was partly to introduce himself to constituents who may not know him, he said, but also to emphasize that not all members of Congress are from ‘elite’ backgrounds living charmed lives. It was a story, he said, that helped put the crowd at ease.” [Politico, 2/22/17]

Taylor Claimed He Was Charged With “Malicious Destruction of Property And Breaking And Entering” While Working On A Local Farm At 11 Years Old, And Put On Probation. “He had been raised on the Eastern Shore of Maryland by his single mother, and was working on a nearby farm when a man in a dark suit – a local detective – took him to the police station. There, Taylor was charged with malicious destruction of property, and breaking and entering. ‘My mom must’ve been so proud when she learned that her 11-year-old son was on probation,’ said Taylor.” [Regent Alumni, 11/10/15]

Taylor Claimed He Filed His First Federal Tax Return At Age 11. “Raised by his mother on Maryland’s Eastern Shore, Taylor worked farms baling hay and picking vegetables to help out at home. He filed his first federal tax return at 11. He began investing in stocks his senior year of high school.” [Virginian-Pilot, 4/27/08]
Taylor Credited His ‘Big Brother’ Andrew Jones, From Big Brothers Big Sisters, For Teaching Him “To Put A Napkin In My Lap And How To Maneuver Stock Options And Everything In Between”

Taylor Enrolled In Big Brothers Big Sisters As A Little Brother, Where He Met Mentor Andrew Jones. “Checkmate: a mentor walks in. Taylor was enrolled in the Big Brother Big Sisters program and was introduced to the man who’d change the trajectory of his life, Andrew Jones.” [Regent Alumni, 11/10/15]

Taylor Said Jones “Taught Me To Put A Napkin In My Lap And How To Maneuver Stock Options And Everything In Between.” “‘[Jones] taught me to put a napkin in my lap and how to maneuver stock options and everything in between,’ said Taylor. ‘We don’t have to navigate through the chaos of life on our own.’” [Regent Alumni, 11/10/15]

Regent University Alumni Newsletter: “Jones Became An Ever-Present Mentor In Taylor’s Life.” “Jones became an ever-present mentor in Taylor’s life; and was the first person he called when he was injured during a mission as a SEAL sniper in Ramadi, Iraq. Without his encouragement, Taylor said he may not have had the tenacity to get through the training and the infamous ‘hell week’ SEALs undergo.” [Regent Alumni, 11/10/15]

Education

1997: Taylor Graduated From Mardela High School


2001: Taylor Attended Coastline Community College


2014: Taylor Received A Degree From Harvard Extension School

Taylor Earned A Bachelor’s Degree At Harvard Extension School Through The G.I. Bill

Taylor Was Featured In A Harvard Publication About Extension School Alumni. “Harvard Extension School alumni Brian Mast A.L.B. ‘16 and Scott Taylor A.L.B. ‘14 were recently elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. […] Taylor, a retired Navy SEAL, was elected to Virginia’s 2nd congressional district as a Republican. Since 2013, he has served as a delegate in the Virginia House of Delegates representing the 85th District since completing his bachelor of liberal arts degree in International Relations at Harvard Extension School.” [Harvard Gazette, 11/21/16]

According To His LinkedIn, Taylor Used His G.I. Bill Benefits To Earn His Degree In International Relations From Harvard Extension School. “Scott used his GI Bill education benefits to earn a bachelor’s degree
in International Relations from Harvard University’s Extension School and is currently pursuing his masters there in the same field.” [LinkedIn, accessed 8/18/17]

## Career

The following provides a brief overview of Taylor’s professional career:

### Political
- 2017-Present: Congressman, VA-2
- 2014-2017: Delegate, 85th District, Virginia House of Delegates
- 2010: Failed bid for VA-2 congressional seat
- 2008: Failed bid for Virginia Beach mayor

### Professional
- 2004-Present: President, Neptune Development
- 2005-Present: President, Neptune Associates

### Military
- 1997-2005: U.S. Navy SEAL with SEAL Team Four
  - 1999-2001: Education Department Head, Foxtrot Platoon; Columbia, Ecuador, Trinidad, and Puerto Rico
  - 2001-2003: Engineering Department Head, Echo Platoon; Chile, Peru, Bolivia, Panama, Puerto Rico, and other Caribbean islands
  - 2003-2005: Lead officer of sniper marksmanship and reconnaissance cell, deployed to Iraq as a Navy SEAL sniper, Baghdad, Ramadi, Iraq

### Real Estate Career

**Taylor Bought His First House At 19 And Began Investing In Real Estate.** “Taylor, 34, has lived in Virginia Beach since age 19. He served as a SEAL for eight years, including in Iraq and South and Central America. Taylor was raised in Maryland and started working at age 11, he said. He bought his first house at 19 and began investing in real estate.” [Virginian-Pilot, 10/29/13]

**Taylor Lived In Virginia Beach Since The Age Of 19.** “Taylor, 34, has lived in Virginia Beach since age 19. He served as a SEAL for eight years, including in Iraq and South and Central America. Taylor was raised in Maryland and started working at age 11, he said. He bought his first house at 19 and began investing in real estate.” [Virginian-Pilot, 10/29/13]

**Taylor Took Out A Loan At 19 And Rented Rooms In A House To Fellow SEALS.** “At 19, Taylor took out a VA loan to buy his first house, renting rooms to fellow SEALs to make mortgage payments. From there, he began buying small rental properties at the Beach. In 2005, his final year as a SEAL, Taylor scored Neptune Development’s first major deal - a $6 million project to buy and convert the Captain’s Quarters Hotel at the Oceanfront into condos - renamed Playa Rana, Spanish for ‘frog beach.’ Pulling it off, he said, ‘was very risky because I had sold a bunch of real estate that I had acquired over the years.’ As the economy limps through a credit crunch and flagging home sales, Taylor said Neptune must be flexible. The company now is buying less expensive residential properties and fixing them up as rentals instead of trying to sell them. ‘There’s ways to make money in every market,’ he said.” [Virginian-Pilot, 4/27/08]

**2005: Taylor, Some Friends, And A Norfolk Developer Were Partners In Converting Hotel Into A 42-Unit Condominium Complex.** “Scott Taylor has been investing in real estate for six years, so when he leaves the Navy SEALs in a few weeks, it’s unlikely he’ll be a proverbial fish out of water. Taylor, some friends and Norfolk
Taylor Said Pulling It Off Was “Very Risky Because I Had Sold A Bunch Of Real Estate That I Had Acquired Over The Years.” “In 2005, his final year as a SEAL, Taylor scored Neptune Development’s first major deal - a $6 million project to buy and convert the Captain’s Quarters Hotel at the Oceanfront into condos - renamed Playa Rana, Spanish for ‘frog beach.’ Pulling it off, he said, ‘was very risky because I had sold a bunch of real estate that I had acquired over the years.’ As the economy limps through a credit crunch and flagging home sales, Taylor said Neptune must be flexible. The company now is buying less expensive residential properties and fixing them up as rentals instead of trying to sell them. ‘There’s ways to make money in every market,’ he said.” [Virginian-Pilot, 4/27/08]

After Leaving The Military, Taylor Became A Real Estate Broker. “After leaving the military in 2005, Taylor became a real estate broker, earned an international relations degree from Harvard University’s Extension School and served in the Virginia House of Delegates.” [Washington Times, 2/12/17]

2013: The Virginian-Pilot Reported That Taylor Was The Principal Broker Of A Real Estate Company. “Today, he is president of a security consulting firm, principal broker of a real estate company and owner of a gym. Taylor is president of Special Operations OPSEC Education Fund, a nonprofit founded last year to oppose the release by the Obama administration of special operations information after Osama bin Laden’s death. ‘I have a vested interest in Virginia,’ Taylor said. ‘My family is here; my business is here. I want to see Virginia grow and thrive, and I’d like to see Virginia leading the nation as it has since the beginning of our history.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 10/29/13]
Taylor Claimed He Negotiated With Armed Tribesman During His Time In Yemen. “[Taylor’s] life experiences up until this point - being raised by a single mother, working on a farm at a young age, being a part of the Big Brother program, serving as a Navy SEAL and spending time in Yemen negotiating with armed tribesmen - taught him what it means to serve a cause greater than yourself and see clarity in chaos.” [Virginian-Pilot, 4/28/17]

Taylor Was Working In Yemen During The Arab Spring As A Security Consultant. “As a security consultant after leaving the Navy, Taylor made several trips to Yemen over three and a half years, including during the Arab Spring.” [Congressional Quarterly Magazine, 11/8/16]

1997-2005: Taylor Served As A Navy SEAL

Taylor Spent Eight Years In The Navy


Delmarva Daily Times: That Taylor Spent Eight And A Half Years In The U.S. Navy. “Taylor, who spent eight-and-a-half-years in the Navy, will share his experiences as a Navy SEAL and bring unique first-person insight to the existing relationships between the United States and select nations in the Middle East.” [Delmarva Daily Times, 1/13/12]

Taylor Served As A Navy SEAL, Petty Officer 2nd Class. “OCCUPATION: Real estate broker; author; state delegate for 85th District, 2013 to present. PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE: Navy SEAL (petty officer 2nd class), 1998-2005.” [Virginian-Pilot, 6/5/16]

Taylor Was Injured In Iraq While Searching For Insurgents

Taylor Injured Himself In Iraq Falling through The Floor Of A Vacant Building While Looking For Insurgents. “As a Navy SEAL, Scott Taylor helped capture bomb makers in Iraq’s seedy neighborhoods in Ramadi. He protected American convoys with sniper missions. And on his last stint in Iraq, he fell 20 feet through the floor of a dark, vacant building while searching for insurgents. Taylor suffered broken ribs, a concussion and a collapsed lung.” [Miami Herald via Archive.org, 2/12/17]

Foreclosures, Bankruptcies, And Criminal Violations

Taylor Was Associated With Fourteen Traffic Infractions. “Records show that Taylor got 12 speeding tickets from 1999 to 2013. Three of those citations were for reckless driving in Virginia, which means going 20 mph or more above the speed limit. Taylor’s highest rate of speed, in a 2006 ticket issued in Rutherford County, N.C., was 99 mph in a 65 mph zone. Ironically, Taylor also got a ticket in Norfolk in 2008 for impeding traffic, which means driving too slow. He was cited in 2007 for failing to yield the right of way in Virginia Beach. So there’s a total of 14 moving violations against Taylor and no record of any of the tickets being dismissed by a judge or resulting in punishments other than fines.” [Politifact, 5/23/16]

2006: Taylor Got A Ticket In North Carolina For Going 99 In A 65 MPH Zone. “Taylor’s highest rate of speed, in a 2006 ticket issued in Rutherford County, N.C., was 99 mph in a 65 mph zone” [Politifact, 5/23/16]


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Politifact Reported That Between 1999 And 2013, Taylor Received Fourteen Moving Violations, Including Three Citations For Reckless Driving. “Dean Petrone, a Forbes media consultant, sent us a list of court actions against Taylor that were found largely in a LexisNexis search of Taylor’s background. We confirmed the records on our own. […] Records show that Taylor got 12 speeding tickets from 1999 to 2013. Three of those citations were for reckless driving in Virginia, which means going 20 mph or more above the speed limit. Taylor’s highest rate of speed, in a 2006 ticket issued in Rutherford County, N.C., was 99 mph in a 65 mph zone. Ironically, Taylor also got a ticket in Norfolk in 2008 for impeding traffic, which means driving too slow. He was cited in 2007 for
failing to yield the right of way in Virginia Beach. So there’s a total of 14 moving violations against Taylor and no record of any of the tickets being dismissed by a judge or resulting in punishments other than fines.” [Politifact, 5/23/16] Note: No tickets were found in Virginia court records or Nexis after 2008. See Further Research.

| None Of The Tickets Were Dismissed Or Resulted In Punishments Other Than Fines. “So there’s a total of 14 moving violations against Taylor and no record of any of the tickets being dismissed by a judge or resulting in punishments other than fines. Records show Taylor was found guilty of driving violations by courts in five localities. Three of the courts were in Virginia: Norfolk, Virginia Beach and Northampton County. The two others were in Rutherford County, N.C., and Talbot County, Md. In seven instances, Taylor was found ‘guilty in absentia.’ That means he did not exercise his option to appear in court to dispute the ticket. The judges, in Taylor’s absence, heard the cases, found him guilty and assessed fines and court costs. That’s different from ‘failing to appear,’ which means a person was supposed to show up in court and did not.” [Politifact, 5/23/16] |

| A Virginia Judge Issued A Warrant For Taylor’s Arrest For Failure To Appear But Taylor Was Cleared Of The Charge, Apparently Away On A Military Exercise |

2004: A Judge Issued A Warrant For Taylor’s Arrest After A Charge Of Reckless Driving. “This leads to the last part of Forbes’ statement -- that a warrant was issued for Taylor’s arrest. Records show there was one time, in March 2004, when a judge charged Taylor with failure to appear and later issued a bench warrant for his arrest. This happened in Virginia Beach General District Court, shortly after Taylor had been cited for reckless driving. Scott Weldon, Taylor’s campaign manager, told us Taylor, a former Navy SEAL, didn’t show up in court because he had been sent on a lengthy military training exercise. Records show that in June 2004, Taylor was cleared of the failure-to-appear charges.” [Politifact, 5/23/16]

| Records Showed Taylor Was Cleared Of The Failure-To-Appear Charges. “Records show that in June 2004, Taylor was cleared of the failure-to-appear charges.” [Politifact, 5/23/16] |

| Taylor Campaign Manager Scott Weldon Said Taylor Missed Court Because He Had Been Sent To A Lengthy Military Training Exercise. “Scott Weldon, Taylor’s campaign manager, told us Taylor, a former Navy SEAL, didn’t show up in court because he had been sent on a lengthy military training exercise. Records show that in June 2004, Taylor was cleared of the failure-to-appear charges.” [Politifact, 5/23/16] |

| Judgments, Liens, And Bankruptcies |

| Taylor Had Multiple Judgments And Liens Against His Businesses |

2016: Taylor’s Primary Opponent Alleged Taylor And His Businesses Had Approximately $1.5 Million In Judgments Against Them

2013: Taylor Had A $828,255 Judgment Against Him In Virginia Beach Circuit Court From An Unspecified Unpaid Loan Involving A 2008 Real Estate Deal
2013: The Virginian-Pilot: Taylor Had A $828,255 Judgment Against Him In Virginia Beach Circuit Court From An Unspecified Unpaid Loan. “[Taylor] lost his Colonial Oaks home to foreclosure in 2011 and last month received an $828,255 judgment against him in Virginia Beach Circuit Court stemming from an unpaid loan, according to city land and court records.” [Virginian-Pilot, 6/6/13]

According To The Court, The Judgment Was Against Taylor And Patrick Sherwood. (Virginian Pilot, 6/6/13)

According To The Court, The Judgment Was Against Taylor And Patrick Sherwood. (Virginia Beach Circuit - Civil Division, Case Number CL1000282-00)

| Case Number: | CL1000282-00 |
| Filing Type: | Complaint - Civil - All |
| Number of Plaintiff(s): | 2 |
| Number of Defendant(s): | 2 |
| Time: | 08:23:10 |

If there are more than three plaintiffs or defendants as indicated under “Number of Plaintiffs” or “Number of Defendants” in the table above, please contact the court for the additional party information.

Plaintiffs:
- Plaintiff: BALDWIN, RUFUS
- Attorney: STENHOUSE, ROBERT C

Defendants:
- Defendant: TAYLOR, SCOTT W
  - Attorney: 
- Defendant: SHERWOOD, PATRICK H
  - Attorney: 

Hearing:
- Date: 08/24/12
- Time: 9:30 AM
- Type: Default Judgment

[Virginia Beach District Circuit Court, accessed 10/24/17]

2006: Taylor And Patrick Sherwood Failed To Pay Back A Loan On A Condominium Project In Florida And Were Ordered To Pay $620,000. “The case started when Taylor and his partner sued lenders for breach of contract when the lenders did not make a $31 million loan. The lenders replied that Taylor and his partner had not made the $99 million of pre-qualified sales of condo units that were a condition of the loan and had only paid a third of a $930,000 loan commitment fee. A New Jersey federal judge ordered Taylor and his partner to pay the $620,000 balance of the fee.” [Daily Press, 5/16/16] Note: See documents Scott Taylor New Jersey District Court Judgment 2007 and 052413 TAYLOR & SHERWOOD DEFAULT JUDGMENT and Further Research.

Taylor Said He Expected The Judgment Would Be Paid Through Land Sales “He said he expects the judgment, from a 2008 real estate deal that went bust, will be repaid through sales of related land parcels.” [Virginian-Pilot, 6/6/13]

2012: Taylor Had A $147,272 Judgment Against His Business “Anytime Fitness” For More Than A Year Of Unpaid Rent

2013: Taylor Had A $147,272 Lien Against His Business “Anytime Fitness.” “Taylor’s attorney is due in Virginia Beach General District Court on June 13, two days after the primary election, for a hearing regarding a $147,272 judgment against Taylor’s business, Neptune Fitness, according to court records. A judge issued the order after the landlord for the Landstown Commons Shopping Center on Princess Anne Road sued Neptune Fitness, which operated as Anytime Fitness, for more than a year of unpaid rent, according to court records.” [Virginian-Pilot, 6/6/13; Virginia Beach General District Court, Case Number GV12057477-00, 12/17/12] Note: See document 121712 ANYTIME FITNESS JUDGMENT saved on drive.
Taylor Changed The Business’ Name And Location In Order To Avoid The Judgment, Which He Claimed Occurred Because His Property Manager Refused To Renegotiate The Rent. “Days before the order, Taylor sold the business to himself under a new name, Courthouse Fitness, and moved the gym to Holland Road, according to the documents and a post on the gym’s website. Now his attorney claims a levy on the gym equipment under the old business name is unenforceable, a point attorneys plan to argue during the hearing next week, according to the filings and attorney David Greer, who represents Landstown Commons. In a written statement, Taylor said the suit is ‘a business dispute and it will be resolved between the parties in court.’ He said it occurred because his property manager refused to renegotiate the rent.” [Virginian-Pilot, 6/6/13]

Taylor’s Attorney Argued That A Levy On The Gym Equipment Was Unenforceable Because Of The Gym’s New Name. “Days before the order, Taylor sold the business to himself under a new name, Courthouse Fitness, and moved the gym to Holland Road, according to the documents and a post on the gym’s website. Now his attorney claims a levy on the gym equipment under the old business name is unenforceable, a point attorneys plan to argue during the hearing next week, according to the filings and attorney David Greer, who represents Landstown Commons. In a written statement, Taylor said the suit is ‘a business dispute and it will be resolved between the parties in court.’ He said it occurred because his property manager refused to renegotiate the rent.” [Virginian-Pilot, 6/6/13]

2011: Taylor Lost His Colonial Oaks Home To Foreclosure

2011: Taylor Lost His Colonial Oaks Home To Foreclosure. “Taylor has a driving record that includes speeding tickets and a reckless driving conviction, but his more recent struggles have been financial. He lost his Colonial Oaks home to foreclosure in 2011 and last month received an $828,255 judgment against him in Virginia Beach Circuit Court stemming from an unpaid loan, according to city land and court records.” [Virginian-Pilot, 6/6/13]

Taylor Blamed The Downturn In The Real Estate Market. “Taylor said when the real estate market tanked, he simply lost too much money to keep his home, which he no longer lived in but kept as a rental property.” [Virginian-Pilot, 6/6/13]

2006: Taylor And A Business Partner Failed To Pay Back A Loan On A Condominium Project In Florida And Were Ordered To Pay $620,000

2006: Taylor And A Business Partner Failed To Pay Back A Loan On A Condominium Project In Florida And Were Ordered To Pay $620,000. “The Forbes ad and mailer also said Taylor and two businesses had judgments against them for unpaid bills totaling $1.5 million. One of the cases involved a dispute over a 2006 Florida condominium project Taylor and a partner wanted to develop. The case started when Taylor and his partner sued lenders for breach of contract when the lenders did not make a $31 million loan. The lenders replied that Taylor and his partner had not made the $99 million of pre-qualified sales of condo units that were a condition of the loan and had only paid a third of a $930,000 loan commitment fee. A New Jersey federal judge ordered Taylor and his partner to pay the $620,000 balance of the fee.” [Daily Press, 5/16/16] Note: See documents Scott Taylor New Jersey District Court Judgment 2007 and 052413 TAYLOR & SHERWOOD DEFAULT JUDGMENT and Further Research.

Taylor Claimed His Ability To Be Flexible Steered His Company Neptune Development Through A Downturn In The Real Estate Market: “I’m Not Afraid To Put Everything On The Line.” “During his eight years as a Navy SEAL, Scott Taylor picked up lessons he now uses in the business world. He knows how to draw up a plan of action, how to be flexible when conditions change and when to take calculated risks. As president and founder of Virginia Beach-based Neptune Development, Taylor, 28, has relied on those skills to steer his company through a sluggish real estate market. I’m not afraid to put everything on the line, basically, and go into a deal if I think it makes sense,” he said.” [Virginian-Pilot, 4/27/08]
Voter Registration & History

According to Votebuilder, Taylor’s voting history is as depicted below:

Virginia: Taylor Voted 14 Times In Federal Elections And Primaries Since 1997, The First Year He Was Eligible To Vote:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scott Taylor Virginia Voting History</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
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<td>2012</td>
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<td>2001</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Political Donations

According to the National Institute on Money in State Politics, Taylor has given $4,850 to state-level candidates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Candidate (Office Sought) or Committee</th>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/30/15</td>
<td>Lee Scott Lingamfelter (Virginia House of Delegates)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/30/15</td>
<td>Ron Villanueva (Virginia House of Delegates)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/16/15</td>
<td>Ottinger for Senate (Virginia State Senate)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/30/15</td>
<td>Friends of Bill DeSteph for Senate (Virginia State Senate)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/7/12</td>
<td>Ron Villanueva (Virginia House of Delegates)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/30/12</td>
<td>Glenn Davis, Jr. (Virginia House of Delegates)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/21/11</td>
<td>Chris Stolle (Virginia House of Delegates)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/6/11</td>
<td>Benito Loyola, Jr. (Virginia State Senate)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/31/11</td>
<td>Jeffrey Linde McWaters (Virginia State Senate)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/31/11</td>
<td>Ron Villanueva (Virginia House of Delegates)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total $4,850
According to an FEC individual contribution search, Taylor has given $1,900 to federal political candidates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Candidate/Committee</th>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/23/16</td>
<td>Zinke for Congress</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/10/15</td>
<td>Republican Party of Virginia</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/5/15</td>
<td>Scott Rigell for Congress</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/31/15</td>
<td>Scott Rigell for Congress</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/18/12</td>
<td>Duncan D. Hunter for Congress</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$1,900</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[FEC, individual contribution, 2/23/16]
Personal Finance

In 2016, Taylor had an estimated net worth of between $349,661 and -$1,636,860.

According to Taylor’s federal personal financial disclosures, his annual unearned income was between $50,006 and $151,000. Taylor’s assets totaled between $1,267,016 and $3,180,000. Taylor had between $1,000,001 and $5,000,000 in liabilities.

NOTE: For detailed descriptions of Taylor’s personal financial disclosures by year, see Appendix I – Personal Financial Disclosures. For primary documents, see Personal Financial Disclosures folder.

Taylor’s Federal Personal Financial Disclosure Summary

NOTE: For detailed descriptions of Taylor’s personal financial disclosures by year, see Appendix I – Personal Financial Disclosures. For primary documents, see Personal Financial Disclosures folder.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Salary</th>
<th>Asset Value</th>
<th>Unearned Income</th>
<th>Liabilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Min</td>
<td>Max</td>
<td>Min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$32,640</td>
<td>$1,267,016</td>
<td>$3,180,000</td>
<td>$50,015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$17,640</td>
<td>$1,051,004</td>
<td>$5,116,000</td>
<td>$120,004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Liabilities

September 2015: Taylor Owed Between $1,000,001 And $5,000,000 In “Mortgage On Rental Properties.” Taylor reported that he had incurred between $1,000,001 and $5,000,000 in “mortgage on rental properties” from First Union Bank in Virginia Beach, VA. [Taylor 2016 Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed 7/14/17]

October 2015: Taylor Had A Loan For Between $500,001 And $1,000,000 For Properties Held By Assurance Properties. Taylor reported that he had between $500,001 and $1,000,000 in liabilities and listed the creditor as Assurance Properties LLC. He described the liability as “a loan for properties held in Assurance Properties for which I am personally liable.” [Taylor 2016 Candidate Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed 5/16/16]

Unearned Income

2016: Taylor Made Between $50,015 And $151,000 In Unearned Income. [Taylor 2016 Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed 7/14/17]

Taylor’s Unearned Income Included Between $45,009 And $135,000 In Rent From 10 Properties Owned By Assurance Properties. [Taylor 2016 Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed 7/14/17]

Taylor’s Unearned Income Included Between $5,001 And $15,000 In Rent On A Piper Arrow Aircraft. [Taylor 2016 New Member Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed 7/14/17] See Further Research for unresolved questions related to Taylor’s ownership of the aircraft.

2015: Taylor Made Between $120,004 And $1,065,200 In Unearned Income. [Taylor 2016 Candidate Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed 5/16/16]
Taylor Unearned Income Included Between $100,001 And $1,000,000 In Real Estate Commissions. [Taylor 2016 Candidate Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed 5/16/16]

Taylor’s Unearned Income Included Between $15,001 And $50,000 In Rent From Properties Owned By Assurance Properties. [Taylor 2016 Candidate Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed 5/16/16]

Taylor’s Unearned Income Included Between $5,001 And $15,000 In Book Income. [Taylor 2016 Candidate Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed 5/16/16]

Note: Earned income was not required to be disclosed on Taylor’s 2015 PFD. The earned income number for 2015 was pulled from information about Virginia State Delegate salaries. It is unclear why Taylor reported getting $32,640 in earned income from the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2016. See Further Research.

2015–2017: Taylor Made $224,280 In Taxpayer Funded Salaries

2017: Taylor Made $174,000 As A Member Of U.S. Congress

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taylor Salary, U.S. House</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Salary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$174,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>$174,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


2014-2017: Taylor Made $50,280 As A Member Of The Virginia House Of Delegates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taylor Salary, Virginia House of Delegates</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Salary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$32,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$17,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$17,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>$67,920</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Taylor 2016 Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed 7/14/17; Daily Press, 11/18/14]

Associated Entities

As of August 2017, Taylor was potentially associated with the following entities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assurance International</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neptune Associates, Inc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neptune Development, Inc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neptune Rehab, Inc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neptune Fitness, Inc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anytime Fitness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courthouse Fitness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor Enterprises, LLC, S</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Nexis Comprehensive Person Report, accessed 8/15/17]

Political Career

This section provides an overview of Taylor’s political career, from 2008 to 2017.
Rep. Scott W. Taylor is a Republican member of Congress representing Virginia’s 2nd congressional district, a district he has represented since 2017. According to February 2017 FEC filings, Taylor was apparently planning to run for re-election in 2018. As of May 2017, no Democratic candidates had announced plans to run.

In 2008, Taylor made his first foray into politics via a failed bid for mayor of Virginia Beach. In 2010, he was a candidate for Virginia’s 2nd congressional district, losing out to Scott Rigell. Taylor served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 2014 to 2017. Soon after winning the 2016 election for Virginia’s 2nd congressional district, he resigned from his House of Delegates seat, effective the day he took office in Congress.

Taylor has been involved in several contentious Republican primary elections. During Taylor’s 2016 bid for U.S. Congress, Taylor’s Republican opponent Randy Forbes attacked Taylor for his numerous speeding reckless driving tickets and his business liens. In the 2014 Republican primary for a Virginia House of Delegates seat, Taylor’s opponent Gary Byler released illicit Facebook messages allegedly between Taylor and a prostitute. The messages also referred to drug use. After winning the election, Taylor filed a multi-million dollar defamation suit against Byler. The suit was settled out of court.

### Committees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>U.S. Congress</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>2016-Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security</td>
<td>2016-Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Appropriations: Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch</td>
<td>2016-Present</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Congressman Scott Taylor, accessed 7/25/17]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Virginia House of Delegates</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Counties, Cities and Towns</td>
<td>2014-2016</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>2014-2016</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Virginia’s Legislative Information System, accessed 7/25/17]

### Caucuses

Taylor is a member of, but not limited to, the following caucuses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>U.S. Congress</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>115th Class Caucus</td>
<td>2016-Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bi-Partisan Congressional Pro-Life Caucus</td>
<td>2016-Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Congressional Air Force Caucus</td>
<td>2016-Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Congressional Army Caucus</td>
<td>2016-Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Congressional Brain Injury Task Force</td>
<td>2016-Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Congressional Central America Caucus</td>
<td>2016-Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Congressional Children’s Health Care Caucus</td>
<td>2016-Present</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Congressional Coast Guard Caucus 2016-Present
Congressional Cyber Security Caucus 2016-Present
Congressional Mentoring Caucus 2016-Present
Congressional Military Mental Health Caucus 2016-Present
Congressional National Guard and Reserve Components Caucus 2016-Present
Congressional Shipbuilding Caucus 2016-Present
Congressional Small Business Caucus 2016-Present
Congressional Special Operations Forces Caucus 2016-Present
Congressional Submarine Caucus 2016-Present
Congressional Veterans Jobs Caucus 2016-Present
Mental Health Caucus 2016-Present
Congressional Navy & Marine Corps Caucus 2016-Present
Autism Caucus 2016-Present
Warriors Caucus 2016-Present
Small Brewers Caucus 2016-Present
Climate Solutions Caucus 2016-Present

[Congressman Scott Taylor, accessed 7/25/17]

Campaigns

Election History

2016: Taylor Won With 61.3% Of The Vote Against Shaun Brown

2016: Taylor Won With 61.3% Of The Vote Against Democratic Candidate Shaun Brown, Who Received 38.5% Of The Vote. [Virginia Public Access Project, 11/8/16]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 Virginia 2nd Congressional District General Election</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Candidate</td>
<td>Vote Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Taylor (R)</td>
<td>190,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaun Brown (D)</td>
<td>119,440</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Virginia Public Access Project, 11/8/16]

2016: Taylor Won With 52.6% Of The Vote Against His Republican Primary Opponents

2016: Taylor Won With 52.6% Of The Vote Against Randy Forbes And Pat Cardwell. [New York Times, 6/14/16]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 Virginia 2nd Congressional District Republican Primary</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Candidate</td>
<td>Vote Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Taylor</td>
<td>21,403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randy Forbes</td>
<td>16,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat Cardwell</td>
<td>2,773</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[New York Times, 6/14/16]

Previous Elections

2015: Taylor Was Unopposed In The 85th District House Of Delegates General Election

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015 Virginia House of Delegates 85th District General Election</th>
<th>Vote Total</th>
<th>Vote Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scott Taylor</td>
<td>9,406</td>
<td>93.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Virginia Department of Elections, 11/3/17]

2015: Taylor Was Unopposed In The 85th District House Of Delegates Republican Primary

2015: Taylor Was Unopposed In The 2015 85th District House Of Delegates Republican Primary. [Virginia Department of Elections, accessed 5/12/17]

2013: Taylor Won The 85th District House Of Delegates Election With 56.3% Of The Vote Against William Dale

2013: Taylor Won With 56.3% Of The Vote Against Democratic Candidate William Dale, Who Received 43.5% Of The Vote. [Virginia Public Access Project, 11/5/13]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013 Virginia House of Delegates 85th District General Election</th>
<th>Vote Total</th>
<th>Vote Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scott Taylor (R)</td>
<td>11,041</td>
<td>56.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Dale (D)</td>
<td>8,528</td>
<td>43.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Virginia Public Access Project, 11/5/13]

2013: Taylor Won The District 85 House Of Delegates Republican Primary Election With 46.1% Of The Vote

2013: Taylor Won With 46.1% Of The Vote Against Gary Byler And Thomas Waters. [Virginia Public Access Project, 6/11/13]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013 Virginia House of Delegates 85th District Republican Primary</th>
<th>Vote Total</th>
<th>Vote Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scott Taylor</td>
<td>1,341</td>
<td>46.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Byler</td>
<td>1,024</td>
<td>35.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeremy Waters</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Virginia Public Access Project, 6/11/13]

2010: Taylor Lost With 8.1% Of The Vote Against His Republican Primary Opponents

2010: Taylor Lost With 8.1% Of The Vote Against Republican Candidate Scott Rigell, Who Received 39.5% Of The Vote, And Other Republican Candidates. [Virginia Department of Elections, 11/2/10]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2010 Virginia 2nd Congressional District Republican Primary</th>
<th>Vote Total</th>
<th>Vote Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scott Rigell</td>
<td>14,396</td>
<td>39.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Loyola, Jr.</td>
<td>9,762</td>
<td>26.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bert Mizusawa</td>
<td>6,342</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Taylor</td>
<td>2,950</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Sandlin</td>
<td>1,620</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed Maulbeck</td>
<td>1,372</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2008: Taylor Came In Last Place With 10% Of The Vote

2008: Taylor Lost With 10% Of The Vote Against Will Sessoms, Jr, Who Received 39% Of The Vote, And Other Candidates. [Virginia Public Access Project, 11/4/08]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Vote Total</th>
<th>Vote Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will Sessoms, Jr. (I)</td>
<td>66,914</td>
<td>39.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meyera Oberndorf (I)</td>
<td>56,878</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Moss (I)</td>
<td>27,056</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Taylor (I)</td>
<td>19,159</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Virginia Public Access Project, 11/4/08]

2018 Run For Re-Election

Taylor Criticized Dave Belote As A “DC Lobbyist”

After Democrat Dave Belote Announced For 2018 Race, Taylor Released A Statement Calling Him A “DC Lobbyist.” “In response to Belote’s announcement, Scott Weldon, Taylor’s political director, sent News 3 the following statement: ‘David Belote is a DC lobbyist who is now running for Congress. We have only seen him lobbying for federal dollars in DC and protesting with the Bernie Sanders wing of the Democratic Party. His views are far outside the mainstream on health care and many other issues facing our district, state, and nation.’” [CBS – 3 WTKR, 7/5/17]

September 2017: McClatchy: Taylor Faced A Primary Challenge As A Result Of His “Vocal Support” Of President Trump

McClatchy: Taylor Faced A Primary Challenge Built On Vocal Support For Trump. “Last October, Alabama Rep. Martha Roby joined dozens of fellow Republicans in disavowing candidate Donald Trump after that infamous tape of his vulgar comments about women surfaced. Nearly a year later, some of her Trump-loving constituents still haven’t forgiven her. […] Caught up in the clash are incumbents like Mark Sanford of South Carolina and Virginia’s Reps. Barbara Comstock and Scott Taylor – all of whom face primary challenges built on vocal support for the polarizing president.” [McClatchy, 9/13/17]


Conservative Radio Host Said Taylor And Comstock Would Lose Their Seat In Primary Challenges If The Voted For A “Clean Amnesty Bill.” [WHKT, 9/14/17] (AUDIO)


Richmond Times-Dispatch Speculated Taylor Might Run For Higher Office

Richmond Times-Dispatch Editorial Questioned If Taylor Would “Make The Quantum Leap To Statewide Office.” “The party does have congressional officeholders who might make the quantum leap to statewide office: Barbara Comstock, Rob Wittman, perhaps even Scott Taylor or Morgan Griffith. It also commands a substantial majority in the House of Delegates — although that could shrink too if Ralph Northam wins the race for governor. But Virginia Republicans lack a clear set of heavy hitters who could yank control of the party back from the
Stewart wing — and yank control of the state back from Democrats.” [Richmond Times-Dispatch, Editorial, 9/13/17]

2016 General Election For Virginia’s 2nd Congressional Seat

November 2016: Taylor Resigned From The House Of Delegates After He Was Elected To Congress

Governor McAuliffe Called A Special Election For Taylor’s Seat After He Resigned After Being Elected To Congress. “Governor McAuliffe declared a special election on Tuesday for several soon-to-be vacant General Assembly seats. One of the vacancies will be of Republican Delegate Scott Taylor from the Virginia House of Delegates District 85. McAuliffe scheduled a special election in January, for Virginia Beach voters to replace delegate Taylor. Taylor resigned from the State House of Delegates, after being elected to Congress.” [CBS – 3 WTKR, 11/29/16]

October 2016: The Virginian-Pilot Endorsed Taylor In The General Election But Noted That He Had A “Modest Record In Richmond”

Virginia-Pilot Endorsed Taylor For Congress In The General Election But Noted That He Had A “Modest Record In Richmond.” “A former Navy SEAL, Taylor spent most of the primary season, in which he faced off with 4th District incumbent U.S. Rep. Randy Forbes, claiming that he was a different type of Republican and that his party was a big tent, welcome to all who embraced a conservative philosophy. Also like Rigell, Taylor seems to believe that small changes add up; that transactions can be transformational, as he describes it. As such, he avoids discussion of sweeping policy proposals in favor of tweaking language or removing regulations. Taylor’s modest record in Richmond seems to reflect that approach. His continued support of GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump may give voters pause, and his penchant for relentless self-promotion may be off-putting, but Taylor can succeed if he picks up Rigell’s moderate conservative mantle.” [Virginian-Pilot, 10/30/16]


After Congressional Republican Primary Win, Taylor Said He Would Spend The Coming Months Reaching Out To People “Black, White, Brown, Gay, And Straight...To Figure Out What We Need To Do.” “Del. Scott W. Taylor, R-Virginia Beach, stunned Rep. J. Randy Forbes, R-4th, Tuesday night in the 2nd District Republican primary, thwarting the 15-year representative’s effort to stay in Congress by switching to a more favorable district. […] Taylor said he will spend the coming months crisscrossing the district and reaching out to people all over - ‘black, white, brown, gay, and straight ... to figure out what we need to do. We’re going to unify this district and we are going to win in November.’” [Richmond Times Dispatch, 6/14/16]

2016 Republican Primary Against Randy Forbes


Sheriff Ken Stolle And His “Powerful” Family Backed Taylor Over Other Republicans

Washington Post: The Endorsement Of The “Powerful Stolle Family” Helped Taylor Win. “Taylor also painted Forbes as a carpetbagger - a label that resonated in Virginia Beach, where homegrown credibility is important. The endorsement of the powerful Stolle family also helped Taylor there.” [Washington Post, 6/15/16]
The Virginian-Pilot Reported That Virginia Beach Sheriff Ken Stolle Was “Among Taylor’s Most Vocal Supporters.” “Among Taylor’s most vocal supporters was Virginia Beach Sheriff Ken Stolle.” [Virginian-Pilot, 6/14/16]

February 2016: The Daily Kos Reported Stolle Paid For Robocalls Telling Forbes Not To Change Districts To Run In The 2nd. “Some local Republicans, though, aren’t happy about Forbes carpetbagging into their neighborhood, and one notable pol, state Del. Scott Taylor, had already kicked off a bid of his own. Another, Virginia Beach Sheriff Ken Stolle, paid for robocalls urging people to tell Forbes he should stay put. That effort obviously didn’t work, and as an incumbent whose built up lots of seniority, Forbes should be able to bring some considerable firepower to bear on this race.” [Daily Kos, 2/8/16]

The Virginian-Pilot Reported That Stolle Opposed Forbes Making The Switch. “Some others, including Virginia Beach Sheriff Ken Stolle, a Republican, oppose Forbes making the switch, saying the district should choose one of its own.” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/3/16]

January 2016: Stolle Urged Forbes Not To Switch Districts In An Email. “Virginia Beach Sheriff Ken Stolle urged U.S. Rep. Randy Forbes on Friday to abandon any consideration of switching districts to run for election in the 2nd Congressional District. […] Stolle wrote in a letter emailed Friday to Forbes that leaving a district he has represented since 2001 was a bad idea. […] Stolle said he’s aware of Forbes’s seniority but argues that’s not as important as district voters electing one of their own to Congress.” [Virginian-Pilot, 1/22/16]

The National Journal Reported That Forbes Sent A Letter To Forbes Urging Him Not To Run In The 2nd District. “Virginia Beach Sheriff Ken Stolle (R) wrote a letter to Rep. Randy Forbes (R) urging him to run in the 4th District, rather than jump to the 2nd District. Stolle said a district switch would be a ‘betrayal,’ adding that the 2nd District needs to be represented by someone from the district.” [National Journal, 1/26/16]

Taylor Accused Primary Opponent Randy Forbes Of Trying To Illegally Advocate For Redrawing The Congressional District To Make It More Favorable For Him

Taylor Accused Primary Opponent Forbes Of Lobbying Governor McAuliffe To Redraw Forbes Into The District. “State Del. Scott Taylor, headed for a primary battle with U.S. Rep. Randy Forbes in an open congressional district, said Friday that a surrogate for Forbes tried to get Gov. Terry McAuliffe’s office to draw Forbes into the district. Former U.S. Rep. Tom Davis made the call. Davis on Friday said he was simply inquiring on his own and not at the direction of Forbes. The Forbes campaign vehemently denied involvement, calling the accusation ‘outrageous,’ ‘irresponsible’ and ‘patently false.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/12/16]

Taylor Made The Accusations On “The John Fredericks Show” Radio Program And Claimed His Governor McAuliffee Had Told Him That Himself. “Taylor made his comments on the radio on ‘The John Fredericks Show’ after Fredericks asked him about the situation. (Listen to the audio.) ‘I talked to someone high up in the administration who told me that they got a call from a (Forbes) surrogate that basically said, ‘We will give you the 4th District (and) stop the lawsuit if you draw Mr. Forbes into the 2nd District.’” Taylor said he spoke directly with McAuliffe on Thursday about a call to McAuliffe’s office. ‘Yesterday, the governor himself told me ... that someone was calling his office trying to draw the congressman into the 2nd District,’ Taylor said. ‘The governor himself has told me this.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/12/16]

McAuliffe Confirmed That He Had Received Calls About Redrawing Congressional District Lines. “McAuliffe said Friday evening that more than one person has contacted his office recently about a plan to redraw congressional district lines. ‘I have no interest. We’re not redrawing the lines. I’ve told everybody that,’ he said. ‘The public doesn’t want politicians sitting around carving up lines to benefit politicians.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/12/16]
Form Northern Virginia Republican Congressman Davis Claimed That He Had Made The Call Out Of Interest And Forbes Had Had Nothing To Do For It. “Davis, the former GOP congressman from Northern Virginia, said Taylor is off base. He said that about a week to 10 days ago, he called an administration official whom he declined to name to simply ask whether the governor would be open to the possibility of redrawing lines. The General Assembly is in session until March 12. ‘It was just a theoretical thing,’ he said. ‘Randy knew nothing about it.’ He added: ‘I thought Scott was running for lieutenant governor.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/12/16]

Davis: “I Thought Scott Was Running For Lieutenant Governor. ‘‘It was just a theoretical thing,’ he said. ‘Randy knew nothing about it.’ He added: ‘I thought Scott was running for lieutenant governor.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/12/16]

Taylor Paid For Robocalls Urging Republican Randy Forbes Not To Run In The Second Congressional Seat That Taylor Was Eyeing

Taylor Funded A Robocall Telling Voters To Urge Randy Forbes To Remain In The 4th District And Not Run In The 2nd. “State Del. Scott Taylor went directly to U.S. Rep. Randy Forbes’ Republican supporters in Chesapeake earlier this week, sponsoring more than 5,500 automated calls urging the voters to tell Forbes to run for re-election in his hometown rather than switch to the nearby 2nd Congressional District. Taylor, a Virginia Beach Republican seeking the 2nd District seat, wants to stop Forbes from switching from the 4th District, which he has represented in Congress since 2001. In the 75-second recorded message, a woman who calls herself ‘Erin’ refers to Forbes as ‘our congressman’ and says he ‘is the only Republican who can win our district.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/3/16]


Taylor Announced That His Campaign Paid For The Message At The End Of The Recording. “At the end of the message, Taylor is heard saying his campaign paid for the Sunday-night calls. Forbes is contemplating the switch because this year’s redrawing of congressional district boundaries has converted the 4th from a strong Republican region to one where Democrats have a majority.” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/3/16]

Taylor’s Campaign Spokesman Openly Took Credit For The Two Robocalls. “Scott Weldon, spokesman for Taylor’s campaign, acknowledged the calls were intended to spread his candidate’s views and reach people who might not know about Forbes’ quandary. ‘We obviously want people to know this is something that is being seriously entertained,’ Weldon said. Taylor conducted a separate push poll in Virginia Beach, where more than 2,400 GOP voters were contacted Sunday and Monday.” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/3/16]

Taylor Conducted A Second Poll Which Determined How Popular Taylor Would Be As A Candidate In The 2nd District. “Taylor conducted a separate push poll in Virginia Beach, where more than 2,400 GOP voters were contacted Sunday and Monday. Taylor, in a recorded message, introduced himself as a candidate, lambasted the current Congress and criticized Forbes for considering giving up his 4th District seat to run in the 2nd. The recipients were then asked whether, ‘based on what you know,’ they would support Taylor or Forbes. Ninety-five percent said they favored Taylor, according to RoboCent.” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/3/16]

Taylor Attacked Forbes For Choosing To Run In The 2nd District Rather Than Remaining In The Newly Redistricted 4th

In A Radio Ad Taylor Called Forbes “Coward. Deserter. Quitter” For Running In The 2nd Instead Of The 4th District. “[In contrast, Forbes opted to run in the 2nd instead of the district he has represented for eight terms, the 4th, after a court-imposed elections map made the district much more favorable to a Democrat. […] Again the move was fodder for Taylor: ‘Coward. Deserter. Quitter. These are the words people use to describe Randy Forbes abandoning his own people to save himself. He doesn’t live in our district, and he can’t even vote for himself,’ he said in a radio ad.” [Washington Post, 6/15/16]
Taylor Called Forbes A “Political Opportunist” Who Was Acting “Cowardly” By Running In The 2nd District. “Rather than seek re-election in his home district, Forbes opted to run in the neighboring 2nd District after incumbent Rep. Scott Rigell announced his retirement. But the move opened Forbes up to fierce criticism from Taylor, who called Forbes a political opportunist who was acting ‘cowardly’ by running in a supposedly easier district. Taylor cast himself as a Washington outsider and said Tuesday that his most effective campaign message was that he would who would help fix a ‘broken’ political system if elected. ‘Washington is broken and we need a fresh start,’ Taylor said.” [Associated Press, 6/15/16]

Forbes Released A Mailing Claiming That Taylor Had A Long Criminal Record

Forbes Claimed In A Campaign Mailing That Taylor Had Been “Convicted In At Least Four Different Courts Across The County, At Times Failing To Even Appear, And Having A Warrant Issued For His Arrest.” “U.S. Rep. Randy Forbes recently mailed out an attack brochure in Virginia’s 2nd Congressional District accusing his Republican primary opponent -- state Del. Scott Taylor of Virginia Beach -- of flouting the law. […] Underneath, Forbes makes four negative claims about his opponent’s personal and professional behavior. The first one says ‘Scott Taylor has been convicted in at least four different courts across the country, at times failing to even appear, and having a warrant issued for his arrest.’” [Politifact, 5/23/16]

Forbes released a mailing that Taylor had also repeatedly violated election law.

A Forbes Ad Claimed That Taylor Had Violated Federal Election Law 19 Times. “In addition, the Forbes ad and the mailer said Taylor violated federal election law 19 times. The Federal Election Commission issued 17 notices that a committee Taylor set up in 2009 to run for Congress had failed to file financial reports after 2010, its online records show. While the committee notified the commission it was closing down in 2010, a paperwork glitch kept it in the commission’s system, generating the failure to file notices until last year, Taylor campaign spokesman Scott Weldon said.” [Daily Press, 5/17/16]

A Forbes Ad Claimed Taylor And Two Businesses Had Judgments Against Them For Unpaid Bills Totaling $1.5 Million. “The Forbes ad and mailer also said Taylor and two businesses had judgments against them for unpaid bills totaling $1.5 million.” [Daily Press, 5/17/16]


Taylor Used A “Common Three-Letter Text-Message Abbreviation For Excrement” After Forbes Used A Personal Facebook Photo Of Taylor’s In A Web Ad Claiming Taylor Was Unfit For Office. “With four weeks to go until the June 14 primary, the bickering ramped up with a web ad aired by Rep. Randy Forbes, R-Chesapeake, accusing Del. Scott Taylor, R-Virginia Beach, of being unfit for office. That prompted Taylor to fire back that Forbes was ‘shameless’ and ‘despicable’ for using a photo of Taylor, drink in hand, that was taken from a personal Facebook account and cropped so that Taylor appeared to be making an aggressive, in-your-face gesture. In a tweet during the weekend, Taylor was blunter, using a common three-letter text-message abbreviation for excrement to describe Forbes. ‘You know what it means,’ Taylor said, when asked if his tweet was meant to read that way.” [Daily Press, 5/17/16]

Taylor Claimed The Photo Had Been Taken From A Facebook Album Commemorating The Life Of A Fallen SEAL Friend. “[Taylor] said he was infuriated because the photo used in the web ad was taken -- he said stolen -- from a Facebook album put together to celebrate the life of his best friend, Kevin Houston, after his 2011 death in Afghanistan. Houston, 35, a member of the Navy’s elite Hampton Roads-based SEAL Team 6, was one of 38 American and Afghan service members to die in the shooting down of a Chinook helicopter in Wardak province, Afghanistan. ‘That the chairman of the congressional prayer caucus would go this far to keep his place in power ... it’s over the top, and I don’t mind calling him out,’ Taylor said.” [Daily Press, 5/17/16]
2016 Potential Run For Lieutenant Governor

Taylor Considered A Run For Lieutenant Governor Before Running For Congress When Scott Rigell Suddenly Decided To Retire

Taylor Was Exploring A Run For Virginia Lieutenant Governor Before Deciding To Run For Congress Directly After Rigell’s Surprise Retirement Announcement. “Taylor, a frequent critic of President Barack Obama’s foreign policy and Fox News guest, was exploring a potential run for lieutenant governor before switching to a congressional race right after Rigell’s unexpected retirement announcement.” [Washington Times, 6/3/16]

Taylor Had A Political Action Committee Called FROG PAC To Explore A Run For Lieutenant Governor

Taylor’s Political Action Committee Was Titled FROG PAC. “Republican Del. Scott Taylor reported the first big donation to his political action committee in an expected run for lieutenant governor. Andrew F. Jones of Salisbury, Md., gave Taylor’s FROG PAC a $25,000 donation on Monday.” [Virginian-Pilot, 12/8/15]

Taylor Reportedly Had $33,000 In A Political Action Committee He Had Set Up While Considering A Run For Lieutenant Governor. “Del. Scott Taylor, R-Virginia Beach, who also is seeking the GOP nomination, has $30,000 in his campaign fund and $33,000 in a political action committee he set up for a possible run for lieutenant governor.” [Daily Press, 4/1/16]

2013 General Election For The Virginia House Of Delegates 85th District Seat Against Bill Dale

Taylor Said Dale’s Attack On His Real Estate Liens Were A Smear-Attempt And Disregarded The State Of The Real Estate Market

Taylor Responded To His Opponent Bringing Up His Real Estate Judgments And Called The Attack “A Desperate Attempt To Try To Smear Me And Not Look At The Real Estate Market.” “Recently, Dale has criticized Taylor for the court judgments against him. Dale referred to a $147,272 judgment in Virginia Beach General District Court against Taylor’s business, Neptune Fitness, for unpaid rent and an $828,255 judgment in Virginia Beach Circuit Court stemming from an unpaid loan from a real estate deal in 2008 that went bust. Dale also pointed to a 2010 judgment in federal court in New Jersey against Taylor’s business, Neptune Development II, for $620,000. Taylor called Dale’s effort a ‘desperate attempt to try to smear me and not look at the real estate market.’ Taylor, who also has said his opponent is ‘out of touch’ with the concerns of voters, pointed instead to Dale’s campaign finances: ‘He’s speaking about managing a budget, and his campaign is thousands of dollars in debt.’ In his delegate committee funds, Dale has about $5,000 on hand and owes $10,000 in loans he lent to his campaign. Dale said that Taylor also self-financed in the primary. Taylor in April repaid $20,000 he had lent himself.” [Virginian-Pilot, 10/29/13]

2013 Republican Primary For The Virginia House Of Delegates 85th District Seat Against Gary Byler

2013-2014: Gary Byler Accused Taylor Of Being Involved With A Prostitute And Using Drugs

A Byler Campaign Consultant Provided The Virginian-Pilot With Screenshots Of Facebook Messages Incriminating Taylor With A Prostitute And Using Illegal Drugs. “Allegations involving a prostitute and illicit drug use are rapidly turning the race for a Virginia Beach House of Delegates seat into a nasty primary contest. Former Navy SEAL Scott Taylor casts himself as the aggrieved party, accusing fellow Republican candidate Gary Byler’s campaign of orchestrating online ‘falsehoods and fabrications’ against him. […] The images were peddled to the media - a paid Byler consultant provided the Facebook screen grabs to The Virginian-Pilot in an April 1 email. The newspaper didn’t report on them at the time, deeming the information questionable.” [Virginian-Pilot, 4/26/13]
The Alleged 2012 Facebook Messages Were Between Taylor And A 21-Year-Old Woman And Contained An Exchange About An “Intimate Rendezvous And Marijuana Use.” “The sordid affair, and the resulting digital whodunit over the veracity of Facebook messages, leave voters with plenty to ponder ahead of the June 11 GOP primary to nominate a candidate for an office that pays $17,640 annually. While much of this story remains murky, at its core, it’s an example of what political combatants are willing to do to potentially harm a foe. At issue are screen shots of alleged 2012 Facebook exchanges between Taylor and a 21-year-old Newport News woman in which an intimate rendezvous and marijuana use are discussed. Rumors about online interactions between Taylor and the woman have spread in political circles for weeks.” [Virginian-Pilot, 4/26/13]

Taylor Blasted Byler For Publicizing The Incident And Denied Its Veracity. “Byler and Taylor say they had a phone conversation about them around that time but agree on little else in this episode. ‘He’s responsible and accountable for his campaign,’ said Taylor, a Fox News contributor who previously ran for Beach mayor and Congress. ‘Once he was made aware, he should have taken action and fired people. This is exactly the type of gutter politics ... that we do not want in our country.’ [...] Instead of letting it go, Taylor is making a political gamble by taking the offensive against Byler. Taylor says Facebook images showing him conversing with the woman said to be a prostitute are doctored. He says he had no knowledge of her, or online messages she purportedly sent him, until recently.” [Virginian-Pilot, 4/26/13]

The Woman Claimed That Her Account Had Been Compromised And She Had Never Had Physical Contact With Taylor. “The woman, whose name the newspaper is withholding, told The Pilot that her Facebook account was compromised and said she didn’t send the disputed messages to Taylor. She denies having any physical contact with Taylor or offering to sell her story for cash, though she admits to having been involved in the sex trade. According to Hampton General District Court records, the woman has a conviction for marijuana possession dating to 2011, as well as some traffic citations.” [Virginian-Pilot, 4/26/13]

A Consultant Employed By Byler Sent Screen Shots Of The Facebook Messages To The Virginian Pilot. “The images were peddled to the media - a paid Byler consultant provided the Facebook screen grabs to The Virginian-Pilot in an April 1 email. The newspaper didn’t report on them at the time, deeming the information questionable. It appears they also were shopped to politicos. Bill Dale, the Democratic candidate in the 85th District, said he received an email a few weeks back offering similar information about Taylor for $500.” [Virginian-Pilot, 4/26/13]

Taylor Filed A Defamation Suit Against Byler

March 2014: Taylor Filed A $5 Million Lawsuit Claiming His Opponent And His Opponent’s Campaign Associate Fabricated And Spread False Rumors About Taylor. “Virginia Beach Del. Scott Taylor on Thursday filed a lawsuit against primary campaign rival Gary C. Byler, claiming that the attorney and several others connected with his campaign intentionally fabricated and spread false information about Taylor during their spring 2013 electoral contest. The $5 million lawsuit, filed in Virginia Beach Circuit Court, stems from last year’s Republican primary election for the 85th House District.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/21/14]

Spring 2013: Taylor Won The Republican Primary For The Virginia Beach House Of Delegates Seat. “The $5 million lawsuit, filed in Virginia Beach Circuit Court, stems from last year’s Republican primary election for the 85th House District. The race turned ugly early, with accusations flying between Byler and Taylor, an entrepreneur and former Navy SEAL. Taylor defeated Byler and a third candidate, Regent University administrator Jeremy Waters, and went on to win the seat representing part of Virginia Beach.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/21/14]

The Court Case Claimed “The Distribution Of the False Materials Were Calculated To Hold Mr. Taylor Up To Public Scorn.” “‘The distribution of the false materials were calculated to hold Mr. Taylor up to public scorn, hatred and ridicule and injure his reputation and good standing in the community to prevent his winning the primary election,’ the lawsuit claims. Mudslinging continued throughout the campaign. Each candidate attacked the
Taylor Argued The Accusation He Had Been Involved With A Prostitute And Used Illegal Drugs Had Tarnished His Reputation And Business Prospects. “But Taylor said the accusations made during the race - including that he had a sexual relationship with a prostitute and used illegal drugs - have stayed with him, marring his first legislative session this year and tarnishing his reputation with constituents, neighbors and potential business clients. The defamation suit also names several people it claims worked on Byler’s campaign: political consultants Kyle P. Adams and Gerald C. Scimeca, businessman and party operative Curtis D. Colgate, and campaign manager Austin Chambers.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/21/14]

Byler And His Associates All Denied Taylor’s Allegations. “Byler, Colgate, Adams and Scimeca have denied Taylor’s allegations in subsequent court filings and have asked that a judge dismiss the lawsuit. The responses said they did not generate the Facebook messages and had no reason to believe the information was false. Court documents hint at the ongoing bitterness between the parties. Taylor’s ‘reputation was already so bad there was no harm,’ Colgate’s attorney wrote.” [Virginian-Pilot, 5/23/14]

Byler’s Associates Filed Defamation Counter-Suits, Which Taylor Said Had No Merit. “Scimeca filed one of the countersuits against Taylor, alleging the delegate has defamed him by accusing him of lying, including during radio interviews. The accusations have prevented him from getting jobs since the election, the countersuit says. ‘Taylor’s statements defamed Mr. Scimeca by publicly stating he is deceitful, dishonest, unethical, unprofessional, incompetent, willing to commit fraud on the electorate, potentially criminal and deserving of being fired from his position as Byler’s campaign consultant,’ the countersuit says. ‘Taylor’s statements falsely and viciously cast Mr. Scimeca in the most despicable light in the public eye and within the political and professional community.’ Chambers, too, is suing Taylor, accusing him of reneging on a deal to omit Chambers from the defamation suit if he agreed to meet with Taylor’s attorneys, which the filing says he did. He is seeking $6 million in damages and fees. Taylor said neither countersuit has merit.” [Virginian-Pilot, 5/23/14]

Taylor Accused Byler’s Campaign Of Fabricating Illicit Facebook Messages Between Taylor And The Alleged Prostitute. “According to a copy of the civil complaint provided by Taylor and confirmed by his attorneys, Byler’s campaign fabricated illicit Facebook messages between Taylor and an alleged prostitute and dropped them to reporters and party officials in early 2013. The messages talked about engaging in sexual activity and illegal drug use and were included on fliers distributed throughout the district, the filing says. […] Taylor said at the time that he had never met the alleged prostitute and would seek legal action against whoever was behind the attack.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/21/14]

Forensic Investigation Confirmed That The Facebook Messages Were False. “The woman told The Pilot her Facebook account had been compromised. A forensic report proved the messages were fakes, the lawsuit says. Taylor is represented by attorneys Conrad Shuma in the community to prevent his winning the primary election,’ the lawsuit claims.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/21/14]

Taylor: “…No One Should Have To Run The Risk Of Responding To Any False And Defamatory Accusation, Much Less Accusations That Rise To The Level Of Criminal Conduct.” “Taylor also was the subject of personal attacks on Twitter and in emails sent by newly formed political action committees. ‘It’s something that I hear about to this day,’ Taylor said this week. ‘Politics certainly is not for the faint of heart, and candidates for any office can expect to endure the rough and tumble of a spirited campaign,’ he added in a written statement. ‘But no one should have to run the risk of responding to any false and defamatory accusation, much less accusations that rise to the level of criminal conduct.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/21/14]
February 2014: After Winning The Election, Taylor Attempted To Create A Bill To Make It Illegal To Impersonate Someone Online

Taylor Sponsored An Unsuccessful Bill That Would Have Made It Illegal To Impersonate Someone Online. “A House subcommittee Friday postponed action on a bill that would have made it illegal to impersonate someone online for the purpose of harassing him or her. […] Harassing someone by computer is a misdemeanor. Taylor proposed making it a felony to also impersonate the person in the process. The committee incorporated the bill into a similar proposal by Del. Todd Gilbert, a Shenandoah County Republican. They then carried the measure over to the 2015 legislative session, rendering it dead for the year, and plan to ask the Virginia State Crime Commission to study the issue. Committee members voiced concerns that, as drafted, the legislation may not have adequately addressed the problem. While Taylor’s personal experiences spawned his proposal, he said he also worries about cyberbullying and the effect the behavior could have on other Virginians, such as hindering someone from getting a job. ‘This got me thinking,’ he said. ‘I’m a public figure, I’m a big boy, but what about people who aren’t?’” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/1/14]

Taylor Said That The Online Harassment Bill Came Out Of His Own Experience: “As Somebody Who’s Been A Victim Of This Very Thing, It’s Very Harassing.” “Freshman Del. Scott Taylor, a Virginia Beach Republican, said he started looking into the state’s harassment-by-computer laws after he experienced just that during his campaign for the House of Delegates. He said someone posed as him online and created Facebook pages, Twitter accounts and political groups to make him look bad, even accusing him of using drugs and being involved with prostitutes. When he took the issue to law enforcement, they found a loophole in the law, Taylor told the House Criminal Law Subcommittee. ‘As somebody who’s been a victim of this very thing, it’s very harassing,’ he said.” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/1/14]

June 2015: Taylor Settled The $5 Million Defamation Suit

Taylor Settled The Defamation Suit He Brought Against His Primary Opponent Gary Byler And Several Of His Associates. “Del. Scott Taylor has settled a $5 million lawsuit accusing his 2013 primary campaign rivals of defamation. A Circuit Court order dismissing the claim last week says the terms are confidential. The defendants were primary opponent Gary C. Byler and several supporters of his campaign. The agreement included the dismissal of two countersuits against Taylor. The squabble stemmed from the nasty 2013 race for the Republican nomination for the 85th District seat in the House of Delegates. Taylor won but in the lawsuit claimed he suffered permanent damage to his reputation because of false information spread by his opponents. That included allegations of drug use and involvement with a prostitute, according to the March 2014 lawsuit.” [Virginian-Pilot, 6/5/15]

The Terms Of The Settlement Were Confidential. “Del. Scott Taylor has settled a $5 million lawsuit accusing his 2013 primary campaign rivals of defamation. A Circuit Court order dismissing the claim last week says the terms are confidential. The defendants were primary opponent Gary C. Byler and several supporters of his campaign. The agreement included the dismissal of two countersuits against Taylor.” [Virginian-Pilot, 6/5/15]

Taylor: “[The Settlement] Sends The Message That There’s A Line That You Shouldn’t Cross, And Reputation Is Important For Everyone.” “Taylor, an entrepreneur and former Navy SEAL, also declined to talk about further details. But ‘it sends the message that there’s a line that you shouldn’t cross, and reputation is important for everyone,’ he said. ‘Hopefully, something like this will encourage good people to run for office as opposed to discourage them.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 6/5/15]

Virginian-Pilot: Defendants Signed A Statement Saying They Believed The Information About Taylor Was True At The Time And Apologized “For The Embarrassment…Caused.” “As part of the settlement, several defendants signed a statement saying they believed the information about Taylor was true at the time, according to part of the statement provided by Taylor. When they realized it was not, they apologized ‘for the embarrassment the use of the information caused,” it said.” [Virginian-Pilot, 6/5/15]
December 2016: Taylor’s Legislative Director Scott Weldon Was Denied Membership In The Chesapeake GOP As A Result Of Negative Statements He Had Made Against Randy Forbes In 2014 Race. “The Chesapeake GOP voted to reject Scott Weldon’s application to join the city branch in mid-October, four months after he orchestrated the winning 2nd Congressional District race of state Del. Scott Taylor. The snub came after a senior member of Forbes’ congressional staff urged an Oct. 13 party gathering to reject Weldon because of statements he made about Forbes. [...] Chesapeake GOP Chairwoman Carole de Triquet acknowledged this week that many members were upset with Weldon’s comments ‘about our beloved congressman.’ [...] It was a ‘rough campaign,’ she said, but Taylor’s ‘name-calling was something I haven’t seen.’ Weldon said she was ignoring Forbes’ own attacks.” [Virginian-Pilot, 12/8/16]

2013: Taylor Falsely Claimed Retiring Delegate Bob Tata Endorsed Him When Tata Had Endorsed Byler

Taylor Issued A Statement Proclaiming That Retiring Delegate Bob Tata Had Endorsed Him. “Republicans Gary Byler and Scott Taylor have shown they can disagree on almost anything in pursuit of a legislative seat - even the endorsement of the man they hope to succeed. Tensions between two of the three candidates in the race flared again Saturday morning when Taylor issued a statement proclaiming an endorsement by retiring Del. Bob Tata, whose backing Byler first touted in March. The statement from Taylor’s campaign said Tata consented to the endorsement over his distaste for the negative tone pervading the 85th House District contest.” [Virginian-Pilot, 6/9/13]

Tata Confirmed That He Had Endorsed Byler, Though He Was “Supportive Of Both Candidates.” “Not so fast, replied Byler, an attorney and longtime GOP activist. His campaign fired off a response to what it called Taylor’s ‘false endorsement’ claim in an email containing scans of two letters signed by Tata affirming his support for Byler. Tata, reached by phone at his residence later Saturday, settled the dispute: He said he still endorses Byler, but is supportive of both candidates. ‘They’re both good candidates,’ he said. ‘So, you know, you could flip a coin, but the Byler family has lived in the Kempsville area for years.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 6/9/13]

Taylor Admitted That Tata Had Never Rescinded His Endorsement Of Byler. “Del. Barry Knight, a Beach Republican supporting Taylor, said Tata approved the endorsement statement that went through several drafts when Knight and Taylor visited Tata’s Kempsville home Friday evening. Knight and Taylor acknowledge Tata, 83, never rescinded his endorsement of Byler. But they insist he authorized the use of his name in support of Taylor. ‘Scott Taylor is the candidate in this race people in our community can count on to solve their problems,’ reads the five-paragraph statement attributed, in part, to Tata.” [Virginian-Pilot, 6/9/13]

2010 Congressional Campaign

During The Republican Primary For Virginia’s 2nd Congressional District, Scott Rigell Accused Scott Taylor And Another Republican For Plagiarizing The Content Of Their Joint Congressional Reform Plan

Scott Rigell Accused Republican Rivals In The Primary Ben Loyola And Scott Taylor For Stealing His Nine-Point Congressional Reform Plan. “Scott Rigell, a candidate for Congress in Virginia’s 2nd District, is accusing two rivals in the Republican primary of stealing and passing off as their own a detailed nine-point congressional reform plan that Rigell is developing with federal candidates in other states.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/27/10]

Taylor And Loyola Denied The Accusation And Stated The Proposal They Released Together Was Their Own Work. “Candidates Ben Loyola and Scott Taylor denied the accusation, saying a proposal they released earlier this week in an unusual joint announcement was their own work.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/27/10]

Taylor And Loyola Released A Nine-Point “Contract On Congress” A Day Before Rigell’s Unveiling Of The Plan Was Scheduled. “Rigell and his staff said they have been working privately since mid-February with as many as nine other candidates nationwide to develop a proposal that includes congressional term limits, freezing legislators’ pay if they fail to pass a budget on time, and requiring them to use the same health care benefits they
might approve for other Americans. The Rigell campaign provided the latest draft of its plan, dated March 11. It called for nine specific changes and included tentative plans for an unveiling in Washington. It was e-mailed on March 16 to the out-of-state candidates, according to Rigell’s campaign. On Monday, a day before Rigell’s tentative unveiling was scheduled, Loyola and Taylor sent e-mails to their supporters and news organizations announcing a ‘Contract on Congress’ that proposed the same nine measures listed in the same order as the Rigell effort, with some minor variations." [Virginian-Pilot, 3/27/10]

Taylor And Loyola Stated That They Could Not Offer Details Of How They Developed Their Plan. “Loyola and Taylor said in separate interviews Friday that they could not offer details of how they developed their own plan or when they decided to make it public. Taylor said the pair had been working on it for ‘a little while’ but declined to be more specific. ‘There’s no purpose for me giving details on any of this stuff,’ Loyola said. ‘I don’t have a specific date for it.’ Loyola and Taylor said they have talked about some of the proposals while campaigning and have mentioned them on their campaign Web sites before their Monday announcement. ‘I put all my stuff on the Web,’ Loyola said. ‘I’ve been talking about these things since last July.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/27/10]

Taylor Criticized Republican Frontrunner For Congress Rigell For Being A “Republican In Name Only”

2010: During The Republican Primary For The 2nd Congressional Seat, Taylor Attacked His Opponent For Donating To Hillary Clinton: “Send A Navy SEAL, Not A RINO.” “Scott Taylor, a former Navy SEAL and one of six Republicans challenging Rep. Glenn Nye (D), is trying to raise money by drawing attention to a donation the leading GOP candidate once made to Barack Obama. ‘Send a Navy SEAL, not a RINO,’ Taylor’s campaign said in a Wednesday e-mail to supporters. In Taylor’s eyes, the race’s ‘Republican in name only’ is Scott Rigell, an automotive executive and GOP activist who gave $1,000 to Obama in March 2008 as he was battling Hillary Rodham Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination. ‘Scott Taylor’s opponent in this race is a big money donor and has self-funded a large portion of his campaign. This is the two year anniversary of our opponent’s endorsement of Barack Obama’s policies with a $1,000.00 donation,’ Taylor’s campaign wrote. Rigell has said he made the donation to stop Clinton, not aid Obama.” [Roll Call, 3/11/10]

Taylor Said That He Thought The Republican Primary For Congress “[Was] Going To Get Ugly”

Taylor Reported That The Republican Primary “[Was] Going To Get Ugly” And Then Clarified That His Campaign Would Run An Issue-Based Positive Campaign But That He “Absolutely [Thought] It [Would] Get Ugly.” “The Hampton-Roads Virginia Pilot (1/29, Bartel) reports ‘for the first time in 30 years,’ Republicans in VA2 will hold a primary among its six candidates June 8 to decide who will face off against Rep. Glenn Nye (D). Candidate Scott Taylor said the primary ‘is going to get ugly,’ but added ‘My campaign will run an issue-based positive campaign, but I absolutely think it will get ugly.’ Candidate Bert Mizusawa disagreed with Taylor’s view, but acknowledged a primary will be expensive but ‘it’s the most competitive and it’s the most American’ way to have an election. One reason why the VA2 GOP Committee chose the primary over a one-day party canvass or a district convention is because it would allow citizens in the military to vote absentee for a nominee.” [Frontrunner, 1/29/10]

Taylor Claimed He Wanted To Give Congress Some “Backbone”

Taylor Stated That He Wanted To Give Congress Some “Backbone”: “If We Continue To Elect Cookie-Cutter Politicians We’ll Continue To Get Cookie-Cutter Results.” “Just more than a week before primary elections in Virginia, the six Republicans vying for the party mantle are forgoing sleep and pushing to connect with voters. […] For months, Ben Loyola, Ed Maulbeck, Bert Mizusawa, Scott Rigell, Jessica Sandlin and Scott Taylor have crisscrossed the district, which includes parts of Hampton and Norfolk, and all of Virginia Beach and the Eastern Shore. […] Taylor, another former Navy SEAL who now runs a real estate business and a local gym, has name recognitions after a run for Virginia Beach mayor in 2008. He said he wants to go to Washington to give Congress some ‘backbone. If we continue to elect cookie-cutter politicians we’ll continue to get cookie-cutter results,’ Taylor said.” [Daily Press, 5/30/10]
### 2008 Mayoral Campaign

**Taylor Ran Unsuccessfully For Mayor Of Virginia Beach And For Congress**

Taylor Ran For Mayor Of Virginia Beach In 2008 And For Congress In The 2nd District In 2010. “Taylor was first elected to the House of Delegates in 2013. The Iraq War veteran ran for mayor of Virginia Beach in 2008 and sought the Republican nomination for Congress in the 2nd District in 2010. Rigell won the 2010 nomination and went on to defeat Rep. Glenn Nye, a Democrat.” [Richmond Times-Dispatch, 1/16/16]

### Fundraising

**Taylor Raised $1,415,194 And Spent $1,311,494 In His Various Runs For Office.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Candidate (Office Sought) or Committee</th>
<th>Raised</th>
<th>Spent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Scott Taylor (Virginia 2nd Congressional District)</td>
<td>$870,984</td>
<td>$806,017</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Scott Taylor (Virginia House of Delegates 85th District seat)</td>
<td>$107,347</td>
<td>$77,311</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Scott Taylor (exploratory committee for 2017 Virginia Lieutenant Governor run)</td>
<td>$39,850</td>
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<td>Scott Taylor (Virginia House of Delegates 85th District seat)</td>
<td>$241,764</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Scott Taylor (Virginia 2nd Congressional District)</td>
<td>$72,693</td>
<td>$64,797</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Scott Taylor (Mayor of Virginia Beach)</td>
<td>$82,556</td>
<td>$82,554</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,415,194</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,311,494</strong></td>
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### OPSEC

#### Significant Findings

- Taylor headed the “Special Operations OPSEC Education Fund.”

- Despite the fact that the group claimed to be apolitical, group members had ties to the Bush Administration and the Birther movement.

- Taylor defended the presence of a Birther in the group and criticized Obama for dismissing the group on those grounds.

- OPSEC claimed that President Obama was responsible for national security leaks and took too much credit for the bin Laden raid.

- The group ran ads in battleground states before the 2012 election.

- OPSEC was a financially opaque group due to its status as a nonprofit.

- Obama was dismissive of the group.

- Veterans and high-ranking military personnel, including an active-duty general, criticized OPSEC.
Taylor Was The President Of The “Special Operations OPSEC Education Fund” (OPSEC)

Taylor Was The President Of The Nonprofit “Special Operations OPSEC Education Fund,” Founded In 2012. “Taylor, 33, owns a gym, a real estate business and a security consulting firm, and he is president of the Special Operations OPSEC Education Fund, a nonprofit founded in 2012 to oppose the release of special operations information by the Obama administration following the death of Osama bin Laden.” [Virginian-Pilot, 6/12/13]

Taylor Claimed The Group Educated The Public About Careless Leaks Of Sensitive Military Information. “A group of military veterans and ex-intelligence officers, led by a former Navy SEAL in Virginia Beach, launched a campaign against President Barack Obama this week for what they consider careless leaks of sensitive military information and the president’s taking too much credit for the killing of Osama bin Laden. Scott Taylor, president of the Special Operations OPSEC Education Fund, which was set up as a nonprofit ‘social welfare organization,’ said the group isn’t taking sides in the presidential race but is raising the issue in an election year to draw attention to it. ‘We’re educating the public,’ said Taylor, an unsuccessful candidate in the 2nd Congressional District Republican primary two years ago. ‘We’re out here in the political season because it’s the only time that politicians pay attention.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 8/17/12]

OPSEC Spokesperson Chad Kolton Served In The Bush Administration

OPSEC Spokesperson Chad Kolton Worked At Republican PR Company HDMK And Was A Former Public Affairs Staffer In For The Director Of National Intelligence. “A group that says it is comprised of former special operations and CIA officers which is criticizing the president and Obama administration officials over national security leaks and the raid that killed Osama bin Laden is getting PR support from GOP-aligned PR shop HDMK. Chad Kolton, an HDMK partner and former public affairs staffer in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and FEMA, is Spokesman for the group, called the Special Operations OPSEC Education Fund.” [O’Dwyer’s, 8/20/12]

OPSEC Member Ben Smith Was Part Of The Birther Movement

Member Of OPSEC Ben Smith Was A Birther And Said Of Obama: “You Are An Imposter, You Are A Muslim...You Are The Manchurian President And May You Go Back To The Country You Were Born In When You Were Deposed You Little, Little Man (And Take All Your Communist Sympathizers With You.)” “The founder of OPSEC, ex-SEAL Scott Taylor, is a Republican who ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 2010 in Virginia. Other members of the group are tea party adherents and birthers such as Ben Smith, another ex-Navy SEAL, who said the following of President Obama: ‘You are an imposter, you are a Muslim...You are the Manchurian president and may you go back to the country you were born in when you are deposed you little, little man (and take all your communist sympathizers with you.)’” [Telegram, op-ed by Clive McFarlane, 8/27/12]

Smith Also Stated That Obama Wore “Some Bad Tan Lotion Because He Looked Like An Old Bruised Banana Which Made Me Think That Harry Belafonte Was Walking Out To Give His Rendition Of `Day-O’ Before `Ole Suck And Blow’ Was To Come Out And Enlighten Us With His Blasphemous Spew.” According to news reports, Mr. Smith, commenting on the 2012 State of the Union address, had referred to President Obama as ‘the Heir Communist-in-Chief Hussein Mao-Bama.’ He also claimed that during the address the president wore ‘some bad tan lotion because he looked like an old bruised banana which made me think that Harry Belafonte was walking out to give his rendition of `Day-O’ before `ole suck and blow’ was to come out and enlighten us with his blasphemous spew.’” [Telegram, op-ed by Clive McFarlane, 8/27/12]

Smith: “You Are An Imposter, You Are A Muslim (Cassius Clay, Lew Alcindor, Barry Soetoro), You Are The Manchurian President And May You Go Back To The Country You Were Born In When You
Are Deposed You Little, Little Man (And Take All Your Communist Sympathizers With You).” “Foreign Policy’s Josh Rogin today reported that the lead spokesman for OPSEC Education Fund, former Navy SEAL Ben Smith has not only been a “spokesman for the Tea Party Express, he has a long record of writings that seek to portray the president as a foreign-born imposter bent on driving a socialist-Marxist agenda. Following the president’s January 2012 State of the Union Address, Smith wrote on his Facebook page, ‘This speech was given by the Heir Communist-in-Chief Hussein Mao-bama.’ ‘Smith then wrote that Obama had used ‘some bad tan lotion because he looked like an old bruised Banana which made me think that Harry Belafonte was walking out to give his rendition of ‘Day-O’ before ‘ole’ suck and blow’ was to come out and enlighten us with his blasphemous spew.’ ‘You are an Imposter, You are a Muslim (Cassius Clay, Lew Alcindor, Barry Soetoro), You are the Manchurian President and may you go back to the country you were born in when you are deposed you little, little man (and take all your communist sympathizers with you),’ Smith wrote. ‘You insult everything that was considered American. May you and your administration be a lesson to history and your posterity be lost to the rebirth of AMERICAN PATRIOTISM!”’ [ABC News, 8/21/12]

Taylor Brushed Aside Fox Anchor Greta Van Susteren’s Question About Birthers Within The Group: “Well, Let Me Say That Our Response Is, In Our Group, It’s Very Diverse.” “VAN SUSTEREN: I suspect one of the sort of the -- what the president is zeroing in on is that there’s at least one member of your group who’s been quite vocal who is a member of the birther movement and has put some rather insulting things on his Facebook page about President Obama. And I suspect that he was really sort of speaking to that person. I think that’s sort of your -- I suspect that that’s what he’s driving at. Do you not agree? TAYLOR: Well, let me say that our response is, in our group, it’s very diverse. We have Obama donors, president supporters, and we have folks, of course, that are Republican. I would say that generally, the military, although it’s diverse, probably is a little bit conservative.” [Fox News Network, 8/21/12]

The Associated Press Reported That Retired Major General Paul Vallely Was Also A “Birther.” “I don’t take these folks too seriously,’ President Barack Obama told the newspaper The Virginian-Pilot on Monday. ‘One of their members is a birther who denies I was born here, despite evidence to the contrary.’ Special Ops OPSEC member ret. Maj. Gen. Paul Vallely, who appears in the group’s film, has publicly questioned Obama’s birth in Hawaii.” [Associated Press, 8/22/12]

Vallely Believed That The American People Should Have Risen Up To Depose Obama Rather Than Waiting On The Courts To Address The “Birther” Issue. “Maj. Gen. Paul Vallely, a Vietnam veteran who retired from the U.S. Army in 1993, has gotten considerable attention in the last few months as a ‘birther’ proponent. He’s even flirted with a supporter’s suggestion that he and Trump form the 2012 GOP ticket. Vallely doesn’t believe Americans should wait on the courts for the ‘birther’ issue to take hold, but should rise up as one and just tell the Obama administration it’s time to go.” [United Press International, 4/24/17]

Taylor Claimed OPSEC Included “Folks From Both Sides,” Most Of Whom Were “Probably Apolitical”

Taylor Claimed That OPSEC Had “Folks From Both Sides Of The Aisle. In Fact, Most Of Them Are Probably Apolitical.” “[JUAN] WILLIAMS: Well, is there political motivation behind the ad. TAYLOR: No. You know, it’s interesting of course that whoever opposes this is trying to paint it as though it’s just a GOP arm or something like that. When, in fact, we have folks from both sides of the aisle. In fact, most of them are probably apolitical.” [Fox News Network, O’Reilly Factor, 8/17/12]
ran for Congress as a Republican in 2010, has said President Obama is responsible for security leaks and is taking too much credit for the bin Laden raid.” [O’Dwyer’s, 8/20/12]

October 2012: OPSEC Aired Ads During The Broadcast Of ‘SEAL Team 6,’ Two Days Before The Election. “As the political propaganda controversy surrounding Harvey Weinstein’s ‘SEAL Team Six: The Raid of Osama bin Laden’ continues, OPSEC (Operation Security) told to FOX411 that it will air ads in key battleground markets during its broadcast on the National Geographic Channel two days before the election.” [Fox News, 10/26/17]

Taylor: “As Soon As We Heard The Film Was Slanted To Promote [Obama]...We Knew We Had To Do Something.” “After learning of the suspicious timing and [Harvey] Weinstein’s instruction to make the President a key character in the movie that spotlights the detailed process that went into the killing of bin Laden, OPSEC, a group of former Intelligence officers and Special Operations members concerned with the impact of increasing informational leaks, immediately sought approval to run their commercial ‘Bump in the Road.’ […] ‘As soon as we heard the film was slanted to promote (Obama) and conveniently come out just before the election, making him the President look strong on foreign policy and national security we knew we had to do something,” Taylor told us. ‘The Obama administration has grossly exploited bin Laden’s death, and all the leaked information has hindered operations and put lives at risk.’” [Fox News, 10/26/17]

October 2012: In A TV Ad, Taylor Accused President Obama Of “Playing Politics With National Security And American Lives”

VIDEO: October 2012: Taylor Accused President Obama Of “Playing Politics With National Security And American Lives.” “President Obama wanted credit after our military killed bin Laden. Highly classified secrets were leaked, endangering real heroes and their families. But when terrorists kill SEALs and diplomats in Libya, this administration doesn’t tell the truth about what happened and the president says it’s just a bump in the road. There is nothing acceptable about playing politics with national security and American lives. Aren’t some things more important than politics?” Special Ops OPSEC Education Fund is responsible for the contents of this advertising.” [Youtube, OPSECTeam, 10/3/12]

OPSEC Released A 22-Minute Video Titled “Dishonorable Disclosures”

OPSEC Released A 22-Minute Video Titled “Dishonorable Disclosures” Detailing The Military Failures Of The Obama Administration. “The OPSEC group, which has almost $1 million in undisclosed financial support, initially centered its campaign on a 22-minute video titled ‘Dishonorable Disclosures’ that is offered on the Web, Taylor said. It also will pay for television ads in several states, he said. Taylor, a SEAL from 1998 to 2005, said OPSEC’s members include former SEALs, other former members of U.S. special operations forces, and retired Marines and Central Intelligence Agency officials who say that leaks are endangering troops and weakening national security.” [Virginian-Pilot, 8/17/12]

Taylor Contributed Commentary To The Video, Claiming The President Had Publicized Details About The Bin Laden Raid Too Quickly. “The OPSEC video, which included commentary from several veterans, including Taylor, as well as news clips and snippets of Obama’s comments, criticized the president for moving too quickly to publicize the raid and disclose details after Navy SEALs killed bin Laden in Pakistan in May 2011.” [Virginian-Pilot, 8/17/12]

The Video Claimed OPSEC’s Mission Was To Stop Obama And Other Politicians From “Leaking” Information About The Bin Laden Raid And Other Missions For Political Gain. “A web video featuring former special forces officers accuses President Barack Obama of taking too much credit for the killing of Osama bin Laden and allowing classified information about the raid to become public. The ad also includes former Navy SEALs. The organization behind the ad, the Special Operations OPSEC Education Fund, has posted the 22-minute web video on its website. […] Over a picture of Obama, the video’s narrator says that the group’s mission is to stop politicians from using sensitive intelligence about the bin Laden raid and other clandestine programs for political benefit. In a series of interviews, former military and intelligence officers
accuse Obama of seeking political gain by disclosing successful secret operations. ‘As a citizen, it is my civic duty to tell the president to stop leaking information to the enemy,’ says Benjamin Smith, identified in the video as a former Navy SEAL. ‘It will get Americans killed.’” [CNN, 8/17/12]

Taylor Criticized Obama For Taking Too Much Credit For The Bin Laden Raid: “…To The Level Of Credit They Have Taken, It’s Pretty Gross.” “The leader of a group of politically active special operations veterans who oppose President Barack Obama said Friday that the level of credit the president is claiming for the raid that killed Osama bin Laden is ‘pretty gross.’ ‘I absolutely believe that the president, as should any president who presided over this type of operation, should get some credit,’ said Scott Taylor, a former Navy SEAL, speaking on CNN’s ‘Starting Point.’ ‘But to the level of credit they have taken, it’s pretty gross.’” [Politico, 8/17/12]

Funding

OPSEC Was A Financially Opaque Group Due To Its Status As A Nonprofit

OPsec president Scott Taylor is a former Republican congressional candidate. Another supporter and spokesman, Chad Kolton, was a former intelligence spokesman under Bush. Finally, one of the ex-CIA officials appearing in the group’s 22-minute long introductory documentary is Paul Vallely, who has publicly cast doubt on the authenticity of Obama’s birth certificate. […] With Opsec the position is less clear. The group has filed its financial status as a social welfare group. Under American campaign finance laws that means it can keep its donors’ identities private. It has, however, raised $1m of backing so far and has appealed for public donations in the wake of its launch. […] The initial documentary, which is presented with flashy graphics and is slickly produced, is meant to get people talking. Opsec aims to follow up its launch with TV adverts in Virginia, Florida, Ohio, Colorado, North Carolina and Nevada - all key battleground states.” [Guardian, 8/16/12]

Criticism Of OPSEC

Obama Dismissed OPSEC’s Claims, Citing The Presence Of A Birther Within The Group

Obama Said He Did Not “Take These Folks Too Seriously,” Citing The Presence Of A Birther Within The Group. “‘I don’t take these folks too seriously,’ President Barack Obama told the newspaper The Virginian-Pilot on Monday. ‘One of their members is a birther who denies I was born here, despite evidence to the contrary.’ Special Ops OPSEC member ret. Maj. Gen. Paul Vallely, who appears in the group’s film, has publicly questioned Obama’s birth in Hawaii.” [Associated Press, 8/22/12]

Taylor Called Obama’s Statements “Condescending And Belittling To A Group That Has Collectively Literally Hundreds Of Years Of Service To This Nation.” “VAN SUSTEREN: Well, it certainly seems that there’s now -- I mean, you put out the video, then President Obama says he didn’t take you guys too seriously. And now it’s your turn, I guess, right? TAYLOR: Well, I think this is a two-part answer. First, I would say that with all due respect to the president, I think his statements were condescending and belittling to a group that has collectively literally hundreds of years of service to this nation. And the second part of the answer is I think that his dismissive statements actually mean the opposite because I think that he understands that the American people know that this kind of group has the authority and the knowledge to speak on the impacts of these leaks on troops on the ground and much more credibility than a campaign spokesperson.” [Fox News Network, 8/21/12]

Other Veterans & Military Personnel Criticized OPSEC

Joint Chiefs Chairman General Martin Dempsey Criticized OPSEC For Using The Uniform For Partisan Politics. “Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey called out a group of special operations veterans for wading
into politics with a video claiming President Barack Obama has taken too much credit for the killing of Osama bin Laden. ‘If someone uses the uniform, whatever uniform it is, for partisan politics, I’m disappointed by that, because I think it does erode that bond of trust that we have with the American people,’ Dempsey told Fox News in a video posted Wednesday. Dempsey said he wouldn’t comment on whether the group’s criticism is valid, but said ‘it’s not useful’ and that the military should ‘remain apolitical.’ ‘That’s how we remain our bond of trust with the American people,’ he said. ‘The American people don’t want us to be another special interest group. I mean they just don’t want that. In fact, I think it confuses them.’” [Politico, 8/22/12]

Taylor: “We Have A First Amendment Right To Be Able To Speak Out, And We Feel As Though We’re Doing The Right Thing.” “Scott Taylor, one of the former Navy SEALs in the group, defended the video to Fox News’ Greta van Susteren on Tuesday, saying of Dempsey: ‘He’s active duty, we are not. We’re now citizens and we have a First Amendment right to be able to speak out, and we feel as though we’re doing the right thing.’” [Politico, 8/22/12]

U.S. Army Special Forces Major Fernando Lujan Criticized Activist Veterans For Disrespect To The Commander In Chief. “A group of retired special operations and CIA officers who claim President Barack Obama revealed secret missions and turned the killing of Osama bin Laden into a campaign centerpiece are coming under criticism from some of their own. Some special operations officers say the activist veterans are breaking a sacred military creed: respect for the commander in chief. ‘This is an unprofessional, shameful action on the part of the operators that appear in the video, period,’ U.S. Army Special Forces Maj. Fernando Lujan wrote on his Facebook page, to a chorus of approval from colleagues.” [Associated Press, 8/22/12]

Retired Navy SEAL Captain Rick Woolard: “I Would Prefer That SEALs And Other Special Operators Would Sit Down And Shut The Hell Up.” “They have a good point. I wish there was better OPSEC (operational security), and fewer leaks,’ said retired Navy SEAL Capt. Rick Woolard, who commanded several SEAL units. ‘But I would prefer that SEALs and other special operators would sit down and shut the hell up.”’ [Associated Press, 8/22/12]

U.S. Special Operations Command Head & Bin Laden Raid Leader Adm. Bill McRaven On OPSEC: “It Was The President Of The United States That Shouldered The Burden For This Operation, That Made The Hard Decisions.” “Special Ops OPSEC’s 20-minute video selectively edits the speech Obama delivered after the bin Laden raid, deleting the times he thanked the intelligence and military teams for the operation, and ending on reverberating repletion of his phrase ‘I directed.’ Taylor says the president’s use of the word ‘I’ overshadowed his few lines thanking the team. […] The head of U.S. Special Operations Command sees it differently. ‘Make no mistake about it, it was the president of the United States that shouldered the burden for this operation, that made the hard decisions,’ the leader of the raid, Adm. Bill McRaven, said at this summer’s Aspen Security Forum.” [Associated Press, 8/22/12]

The Atlantic On OPSEC’s Lack Of Credibility: “The Veterans’ Partisan Excesses And Absurd Public Remarks Are Turning Them Into A Laughingstock With The Special Forces Community.” “The four-month assault by former Navy SEALs and Special Forces operatives against President Obama’s handling of the Osama bin Laden raid had the potential to discredit the president’s signature foreign policy achievement, but the veterans’ partisan excesses and absurd public remarks are turning them into a laughingstock within the special forces community. […] Then came former Navy SEAL Ben Smith, a spokesman for the OPSEC Education Fund, which has taken out ads and a 22-minute film to attack the president. Smith rather likes posting remarks on his Facebook page calling the president inflammatory nicknames like ‘Heir Communist-in-Chief Hussein Mao-bama.’ […] Other Special Ops OPSEC members such as ret. Maj. Gen. Paul Vallely have also publicly questioned Obama’s Hawaiian birth, creating a situation where retired members of the special forces community felt compelled to renounce the group.” [Atlantic, 8/22/10]
Extreme Rhetoric

Note: Left for future research.
Ethics

Significant Findings

- 2017: Taylor rented his district office for almost $5,000 a month from a luxury office building in downtown Virginia Beach.

- Taylor said the crowds of people at his town halls did not represent the majority views of his district.
  - Taylor claimed that most of his town hall constituents were Democrats.
  - Taylor admitted that there were no “paid protestors” at his town halls.
  - Taylor compared talking to constituents at his town halls with negotiating with armed tribesmen in Yemen.

- Constituents protested Taylor’s Virginia Beach office in support of the Affordable Care Act.

- Taylor condemned Greg Gianforte’s assault of a reporter but said that Montanans had clearly chosen to elect him.

- Taylor would not say whether Trump’s tweets constituted official presidential statements.

- Taylor accused CNN of being biased against Trump.

- Taylor has a proven record of misusing his unofficial and official social media accounts and blocking constituents’ access to his Facebook and Twitter.
  - Taylor campaign social media accounts used and promoted official resources.

- Taylor potentially violated campaign finance rules in using his state campaign funds to aid his congressional campaign.

- Taylor employed his nephew to work for his campaign.

- While in the Virginia House of Delegates, Taylor tried to lower property taxes, which may have directly benefited his real estate business.

Town Halls & Access Issues

2017: Taylor Rented Space In A Luxury Office Building In Virginia Beach

The Virginian-Pilot Reported That Taylor Had Leased A 2,750 Square Foot Office In An Upscale Office Building In Virginia Beach. “Congressman Scott Taylor leased 2,750 square feet of office space in the Divaris-leased and -managed One Columbus Center at 283 Constitution Ave., Virginia Beach. Michael Divaris, Vivian Turok and Krista Costa handled negotiations on behalf of the landlord, Columbus Tower LLC. Congressman Taylor was represented by Jason Oliver and Alex Divaris.” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/27/17]
Taylor’s Website Listed The 1 Columbus Center Office As His Virginia Beach District Office. [Congressman Scott Taylor, accessed 9/29/17]

According To The Virginia State Corporation Commission, Columbus Center Office LLC Was Registered To A David Faggert. [Commonwealth of Virginia State Corporation Commission, 6/22/03]

Faggert Was A Real Estate Attorney With Faggert & Frieden Law Firm In Virginia Beach. [Faggert & Frieden, P.C., accessed 3/7/18]

Taylor Held Three Town Halls In Early 2017

February 2017: Taylor Held Three Highly Combative Town Halls

The Virginian-Pilot Reported That “Three Nights Of Confrontational Questions From Unhappy Constituents Haven’t Caused Rep. Scott Taylor To Temper His Conservative Views.” “Three nights of confrontational questions from unhappy constituents haven’t caused Rep. Scott Taylor to temper his conservative views. Nor is he going to step up criticisms of President Donald Trump. ‘I’m not sure they’ve changed very much, to be honest with you,’ Taylor said Friday. But the Virginia Beach Republican stressed he doesn’t take lightly the large turnouts at his recent town halls, or people’s comments. More than 1,800 filled three venues last week with hundreds more unable to get inside. While Taylor was the focus of their questions, he acknowledged that many were there because of angst over Trump’s behavior and policies. ‘There’s definitely concern and energy,’ said Taylor, who plans to conduct more town halls before summer’s end. ‘I knew that and that’s why we did this. We knew there was energy there pent up. People wanted to release it and their voices heard.’ […] In the noisier sessions, Taylor endured shout-outs or boos when he explained why he supported repealing and replacing Obamacare.” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/27/17]

Attendance At Taylor’s Town Halls Was Heavy

The Economist Reported That Almost 1,000 Locals Waited To Attend Taylor’s Town Hall And There Were Long Lines. “Consider the long lines of constituents wrapped around a high school in Virginia Beach on February 20th, sacrificing their time on a public holiday to meet their Republican congressman, Scott Taylor. Undistracted by a mild, golden-hued evening worthy of early summer, almost 1,000 locals waited in line for seats.” [Economist, 2/23/17]

700 People Filled The Auditorium And 200 Waited Outside. “Finally, a striking number of the 700 people filling the auditorium (a further 200 waited outside) queried the cost of providing Secret Service protection each time Mr Trump spends the weekend at his Florida estate, or for the president’s grown sons when they go on business trips, for instance to open a golf club in Dubai—a ‘disgusting’ expense, one constituent said.” [Economist, 2/23/17]

Many Constituents Were Turned Away From Taylor’s Virginia Beach Town Hall Because Of A Fire Code. “Representative Scott Taylor is hosting a series of town hall meetings this week in Virginia, and they have already turned testy. With his Eastern Shore appearance set for Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Eastern Shore Community College in Melfa, Taylor has already endured a barrage of questions during his Monday night meeting in Virginia
Beach. […] At Taylor’s Virginia Beach meeting, hundreds of people showed up over an hour early to wait in line, but many were still turned away due to the fire code. People who made it into the auditorium had questions about Russia, Trump’s taxes, Obamacare and much more. ‘We are here, because I believe everyone should have a seat at the table,’ explained Scott Taylor. People traveled from the Peninsula, Norfolk, and even Suffolk to hear what Taylor and other members of the community had to say.” [Daily Times, 2/22/17]

Taylor On Safety At Town Hall Events: “There Are Legitimate Safety Concerns.” “CAVUTO: Yes, I noticed you were doing that. But a lot of your colleagues, Congressman, have had it with this and being set up or becoming a piñata. So, some have canceled it. In the case of one New Jersey congressman, I think he entertaining only telephone questions. I’m not sure of the details on that, so, please don’t hold me to that, but that they’re getting twice shy by these developments. What do you think of that? TAYLOR: Well, you know, let me first say, of course -- and I spoke to a lot of members of Congress. And there are legitimate safety concerns. And that’s something that they have to make sure that they’re equipped and everything is and people will be safe for that.” [Fox News Network, 2/23/17]

According To Taylor, The Question-Asking Process Was Random

Taylor Claimed That He Had Constituents Write Down Their Questions But The Question-Asking Process Was Random. “TAYLOR: Well, our third town hall was last night. […] So, there are certainly techniques on where people ask questions, how you get them to ask questions. For example, instead of just giving the microphone to a crowd, we had people write it on index cards. And, randomly, we would pull out, pull out there, and we would answer the questions.” [Fox News, 2/23/17]

A Constituent Of Taylor’s Claimed That She And Many Others Did Not Get To Ask Their Questions. “I attended U.S. Rep. Scott Taylor’s town hall at York High School. I reside in the 2nd Congressional District. I stood in line in the cold for an hour. I submitted my one allowed written question. I sat in the auditorium listening to Congressman Taylor’s answers that often lacked specificity. What I was not allowed to do was ask my question. Many others were also denied this right. It should have been obvious to Rep. Taylor and his staff that we were concerned about the current administration’s actions and wanted answers. Several speakers, both male and female, actually cried as they asked their questions. If Rep. Taylor truly cared about our concerns, he would have remained on that stage until every question was answered. That would have been democracy in action. He seems to forget that he works for us, even those who do not support his agenda. Pam Pouchot, Yorktown.” [Daily Press, Letter to the Editor, 2/25/17]

Taylor Promised That Constituents Whose Questions Were Not Addressed During The Town Hall Would Be Addressed In Writing. “U.S. Rep. Scott Taylor’s first town hall meeting with his Eastern Shore of Virginia constituents was filled to capacity nearly an hour before it began, leaving more than 50 people unable to get into the Eastern Shore Community College in Melfa. […] Attendees submitted their questions in writing before the town hall, and Taylor pledged that constituents whose written questions did not get answered during the event will get an answer in writing.” [Delmarva Daily Times, 2/23/17]

Taylor Claimed Most Of The Attendees At His Town Halls Were Democrats

Taylor: “...Most Of The Folks That Are In My Town Hall Are On The Other Side Of Me Politically.” “TAYLOR: There’s definitely some strong feelings in my town halls for sure. And to be fair and to be factual, most of the folks that are in my town hall are on the other side of me politically. And that’s fine. Usually that’s the type of folks who show up to town halls, when they have a grievance. But there’s issues, of course, with the president.” [CNN, 2/23/17]

Taylor: “We Had A Couple People That Are Actually From The Local Democrat Party Who Were Trying To Make People Cheer And Rabble-Rouse...I Can See Them Start To Try To Get The Crowd To Shout—Chant Unnecessarily, Not Even For Policies, But Just Chant.” “TAYLOR: You did have a couple people -- we had a couple people that are actually from the local Democrat Party who were trying to make
people cheer and rabble-rouse, if you will. And those kind of folks, you need to isolate them, because they’re -- you know, energy happens really quickly. CAVUTO: Well, how do you isolate -- how do you isolate them? TAYLOR: Call them out. Call them out. I’m from here, right? So, I know the people in that party. And I can see them start to try to get the crowd to shout -- chant unnecessarily, not even for policies, but just chant.” [Fox News, 2/23/17]

**Taylor Criticized Democrats In The Audience As Rabble-Rousers And “Agitators”**

*Taylor Attributed The “Loudness” At His Town Hall To Democratic Activists: “I Think It Went Fine. This Is Pretty Much What I Expected. People Were Loud. We Had The Virginia Beach Democratic Party. They Were The Ones Initiating The Chanting.”* “Rep. Scott Taylor will be hosting three town halls in the area this week. The first was held Monday inside Kempsville High School where Rep. Taylor fielded questions for about 90 minutes. The questions centered around the Affordable Care Act, the environment, President Trump’s ties to Russia and whether the president should release his tax returns. Congressman Taylor at times seemed to get rattled from the majority-Democrat crowd, which booed a lot of his answers. ‘I think it went fine. This is pretty much what I expected. People were loud. We had the Virginia Beach Democratic Party. They were the ones initiating the chanting,’ he said. ‘There are a lot of concerned people that didn’t vote for the president that feel they have legitimate issues and I feel some of them are legitimate too.’” [CBS – 3 WTKR, 2/20/17]

*Taylor Criticized Democrats At His Town Hall: “I Saw A Lot Of Members Of The Virginia Beach Democratic Party…I’m Embarrassed By Their Tactics…Inciting People To Shout Over People.”* “The audience was noticeably larger at U.S. Rep Scott Taylor’s town hall Tuesday at Yorktown High School but avoided the verbal brawl that marred his forum Monday in Virginia Beach. Taylor was booed for some answers he gave to questions from the 900-plus people in the Yorktown audience and was applauded for others. But he endured considerably fewer shouts and catcalls than at Kempsville High School on Monday night. […] Taylor is convinced the protesters’ comments do not represent the views of most residents of the 2nd Congressional District. He blamed Democrats. ‘I saw a lot of members of the Virginia Beach Democratic Party. … I’m embarrassed by their tactics … inciting people to shout over people,’ he said.” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/20/17]

*Taylor Said He Would Advise His Fellow Congressmen Who Held Town Halls That If A “Rabble Rouser” Seemed Intent On Disrupting To “Isolate Them” Until They Were Shamed Into Silence. “For example, Taylor said he’d counsel his colleague to wait silently whenever their room breaks out into sustained applause or jeers - rather than attempt to talk over protests. But if a ‘rabble rouser’ seems intent on disrupting, he’s got another strategy: ‘you isolate them’ until they’re shamed into silence.”* [Politico, 2/22/17]

**Taylor Conceded Some Town Hall Attendees Were “Organically Concerned”**

*Taylor: “There Are A Lot Of Concerned People That Didn’t Vote For The President That Feel They Have Legitimate Issues And I Feel Some Of Them Are Legitimate Too.”* “Rep. Scott Taylor will be hosting three town halls in the area this week. The first was held Monday inside Kempsville High School where Rep. Taylor fielded questions for about 90 minutes. The questions centered around the Affordable Care Act, the environment, President Trump’s ties to Russia and whether the president should release his tax returns. Congressman Taylor at times seemed to get rattled from the majority-Democrat crowd, which booed a lot of his answers. ‘I think it went fine. This is pretty much what I expected. People were loud. We had the Virginia Beach Democratic Party. They were the ones initiating the chanting,’ he said. ‘There are a lot of concerned people that didn’t vote for the president that feel they have legitimate issues and I feel some of them are legitimate too.’” [CBS – 3 WTKR, 2/20/17]

*Taylor: “ Virginia Beach Democrats [Were] Inciting Shouts And Everything.”* “TAYLOR: We have a third one tonight, like you said. And you showed some video there where I actually mentioned the V.B. Virginia Beach Democrats and actual particular name, because I live here. I know folks here. And they were certainly some organization with them and some inciting shouts and everything. And that’s fine, no problem. There have been -- there are some folks who have come organically who have never been engaged before. And that’s a good thing.” [CNN, 2/22/17]
Taylor: “I Don’t Agree With Folks In The Other Party Organizing Things To Specifically Shout People Down.” “BALDWIN: I’m listening to you. And I hear your stand there. There are people there. How dangerous is it to have the president lump all these people together as organized by liberal activists, which is precisely what he did in that tweet? TAYLOR: Look, I don’t agree with that statement, his statement. I don’t agree with that. I don’t agree with folks in the other party organizing things to specifically shout people down. I think both of those things are dangerous. And it puts the safety of people who are just simply trying to express their concerns at risk.” [CNN, 2/22/17]

Taylor Differentiated Between Protesters And Constituents Who Were “Organically Concerned.”
“BALDWIN: Let me just ask you more broadly on the folks who are showing up. Again, you have town hall number three tonight. And you have the White House and with the president’s tweet and even Sean Spicer saying half of these people have valid issues, but half of them, he said, are some professional manufactured protesters. How dangerous is that sort of language? Or do you agree with the president, with the White House on their criticism of these people? TAYLOR: Well, I don’t know where they’re getting their data from. I’m not sure. I haven’t spoken to them. BALDWIN: But you have been there. TAYLOR: I can only speak for my district. BALDWIN: Yes. TAYLOR: That’s what I’m saying. I can speak for my district. I tell you, sure, there’s the local opposition party, faithful opposition has organized, has shouted, stuff like that. There are a couple of people who I can point them out to you who are trying to incite the crowd and make them shout. That being said, there are also plenty of people who are organically concerned. They’re concerned. They’re coming out to these town halls to express these opinions. And I think that’s great that they’re concerned. And I want to hear them. I want them to have a seat at the table. And I want to listen to them. So, I want to hear them and listen to them, but not be shouted... (CROSSTALK)” [CNN, 2/22/17]

Taylor: “There Are A Couple Of People Who I Can Point Them Out To You Who Are Trying To Incite The Crowd And Make Them Shout. That Being Said, There Are Also Plenty Of People Who Are Organically Concerned.” “TAYLOR: I can speak for my district. I tell you, sure, there’s the local opposition party, faithful opposition has organized, has shouted, stuff like that. There are a couple of people who I can point them out to you who are trying to incite the crowd and make them shout. That being said, there are also plenty of people who are organically concerned. They’re concerned. They’re coming out to these town halls to express these opinions. And I think that’s great that they’re concerned. And I want to hear them. I want them to have a seat at the table. And I want to listen to them. So, I want to hear them and listen to them, but not be shouted…” [CNN, 2/22/17]

Taylor Said He Did Not Notice “Paid Protesters” At His Town Hall

Taylor Admitted That He Did Not Notice Any “Paid Protesters.” “CAVUTO: But are they part of your district, Congressman? Are they allowed to be there or is something -- we always get these reports. TAYLOR: Yes. CAVUTO: I don’t know what is true, where people just sort of flood these events and they’re not even from the said district of the congress man or woman. TAYLOR: Well, we were certainly -- you have to be careful, of course. You want everybody to participate. There are -- sometimes people get left out, of course. But I didn’t see any paid protesters. I’m not aware of that. There were some organic folks that have never been involved before, which is good. That’s a good thing.” [Fox News, 2/23/17]

Taylor Said He Saw “Agitators” But “[Had] No Evidence Of Any Paid Protesters In My Area For Sure.” “COOPER: You know, Some Republicans have suggested that some of the angry crowds are paid protesters, which frankly is the same argument Democrats made against Tea Party protesters back in 2009. Is that what you’re seeing or to you is the anger real? Are these folks from your district from the area who have real concerns? TAYLOR: Well, thanks for having me tonight. I really appreciate it. I have no evidence of any paid protesters in my area for sure. [...] We had a couple folks that were there that were agitators that literally were like trying to get the crowd going as you very well know, it doesn’t take much in a room like that to sort of get emotions going.” [CNN, 2/23/17]
Taylor Called The Crowds Attending His Town Halls “Legitimate” But Added That Just Because It’s Real Doesn’t Mean The Views Of Town Hall Attendees Reflect Broader Popular Opinion: “It’s Not Representative Of My Whole District. It’s Just Not.” “Rep. Scott Taylor (R-Va.), who held three town halls on consecutive days this week in his coastal district also called his crowds ‘legitimate’ and compared it to the tea party unrest that swept House Republicans into power in 2010. But just because it’s real, he added, doesn’t mean the views of town hall attendees reflect broader popular opinion. ‘It’s not representative of my whole district. It’s just not,’ he said. ‘That being said, they’re just as important as anybody else in my district.’” [Politico, 2/23/17]

Taylor Implied That Democratic Protesters Were Stepping Over The Line

Taylor Stated That He Wished Nancy Pelosi Criticized “Protesters That Are Out There That Are Also Stepping Over The Line In Protests On Her Side.” “BERMAN: You also say that protestors on either side will be serving in Congress -- you know, beside you -- and these protestors were not charged with assault as the new congressman was but I do get your point. You spoke out. You said -- you said -- TAYLOR: One of my protestors was charged with assault, sir, at one of my -- at one of my town halls, so what I’m saying to you is I don’t agree with the behavior. I think it’s unacceptable for an elected official. There’s no question about that. ...He will deal with those consequences. And I will tell you that I wish that all leaders on both sides would call for a reduction in emotions and tensions across our nation. That is the right thing to do.” [CNN, 5/26/17]

Taylor Suggested That Local Media Coverage Of His First Town Hall Of Three Had Discouraged His Conservative Supporters From Attending The Other Two. “Taylor, aware that the next election will be different, scheduled three straight evenings of town hall meetings this week to help his constituents get to know their new congressman. Before taking questions Tuesday, he counseled the audience to avoid chanting and shouting so that everyone could be heard. He even suggested that local media coverage of Monday’s meeting had scared away some of his conservative supporters.” [Washington Post, 2/22/17]

Taylor Described The Last Of His Three Town Halls As “Calm…We Didn’t Have The Same Agitators Quite Frankly.” “CAMEROTA: Yes. OK. I want to get to a couple other issues with you, but first, about last night, you’re again, the constituents came loaded for bear. So, what did you do to lull them into submission? Because everybody described that town hall as much calmer. TAYLOR: Well, it was calm. You know, with the same concerns -- of course, there are folks there had the same legitimate concerns. I’m so appreciative they were there in the first place. They -- you know, we didn’t have the same agitators quite frankly. And you hear about agitators, it only takes a couple people to generate a lot of emotion in a room, right, no doubt about it.” [CNN, 2/23/17]
Taylor Likened Dealing With Constituents At His Town Hall To Negotiating With Armed Tribesmen In Yemen: “I’ve Dealt With A Lot Of Crowds Before…I Mean, Literally With AK 47s With People Pissed Off In The Arabian Desert.” “Listen, calm’s contagious, especially in events. So is crazy emotions,” [Taylor] told POLITICO after the town hall, his third in three days across his northeastern Virginia district. ‘I think it’s important to be calm. My demeanor should always be calm.’ Not all of Taylor’s experience, of course, is replicable. ‘I’ve dealt with a lot of crowds before ... I mean, literally with AK 47s with people pissed off in the Arabian desert,’ he said, alluding to his service in Iraq and Yemen. ‘You understand very quickly how to read body language.’ But he said there are ‘mechanisms’ to reduce the likelihood of disruption and confrontation.” [Politico, 2/22/17]

The Virginian-Pilot Praised Taylor For Holding Town Halls But Stated That It Seemed Hollow To Praise A Member Of Congress For Simply Being Publically-Accessible

The Virginian-Pilot Commended Taylor For Holding Town Halls But Noted That “It Does Seem, However, Ridiculous To Commend Him Or Any Elected Official For Holding A Forum In Which Members Of The Public Are Invited To Share Their Concerns.” “FRESHMAN U.S. Rep. Scott Taylor deserves credit for hosting a series of town halls in the 2nd Congressional District this week, taking advantage of the legislative recess to touch base with his constituents. He knew full well what would greet him in the Kempsville High School auditorium on Monday: an agitated, anxious and angry public eager to vent on the first public official to give them a microphone. Yet Taylor stood before them nonetheless. It does, however, seem ridiculous to commend him or any elected official for holding a forum in which members of the public are invited to share their concerns. […] The nationally nasty mood somehow makes Taylor’s willingness to schedule three events -- Monday in Virginia Beach, Tuesday in Yorktown and Wednesday in Melfa -- seem like an act of political courage, when it’s just a man doing his job.” [Virginian-Pilot, Editorial Board Op-Ed, 2/23/17]

March 2017: Constituents Protested Outside Taylor’s Office In Support Of The Affordable Care Act

WAVY News Reported That Constituents Who Supported The Affordable Cart Act “Met At Town Center To Encourage Taylor To Not Support The Repeal Of The Affordable Care Act.” “Supporters of the Affordable Care Act gathered outside of Congressman Scott Taylor’s Virginia Beach office Thursday. Around 30 people met at Town Center to encourage Taylor to not support the repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Republicans unveiled a healthcare plan on Monday that would replace the ACA and moved to immediately repeal it. […] One of the organizers for the protest says the group will continue to return to Congressman Taylor’s office until their voices are heard. ‘There are issues that need to be fixed. Fix those issues, don’t repeal it,’ said Kimberly Tucker. ‘We will be heard tonight or we will be heard on Election Day.’” [WAVY, 3/9/17]

Protesters In Virginia Beach Staged A “Die-In” In Protest Of The ACA Vote And Criticized Taylor For His Support Of The Bill. “A group of protesters laid on the ground for seven minutes in the Virginia Beach Town Center Wednesday night. The seven minutes represented the seven years the Affordable Care Act has been in place. Thursday the U.S. House of Representatives will vote on a new health care bill supported by President Donald Trump and House Speaker Paul Ryan. ‘If this bill passes 24 million Americans will lose their health insurance. In (Rep.) Scott Taylor’s district alone 23,000 people will lose their health insurance,’ said Ron Roe with progressive political group Indivisible. ‘Some of them will not be able to get the care they need, some of them will not be able to get emergency care that they need.’ The group marched in a circle for around a half hour before lying down on the pavement holding signs. Many also criticized Republican Congressman Scott Taylor for his support of the bill.” [WTKR, 3/22/17]

Reaction To Gianforte Assault
Taylor Claimed Gianforte’s Actions Were Unacceptable But That Montanans Had Voiced Their Choice

Taylor On The Gianforte Assault: “There’s No Question That The Behavior Is Unacceptable...But, Montanans Spoke Very Clearly.” “JOHN BERMAN, CNN HOST: The results are in and Greg Gianforte, the Republican candidate in Montana’s special election for an open House seat, he is headed to Washington. Accusations of body slamming a reporter and a misdemeanor assault charge are going with him. [...] My question to you, are you proud to serve with Greg Gianforte? REP. SCOTT TAYLOR, (R) VIRGINIA, APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, FORMER NAVY SEAL: Good morning. It’s good to be with you. Look, Montana spoke very clearly who they want to represent them in Washington so we have to honor that. There’s no question that the behavior is unacceptable. [...] But I will tell you that it’s unacceptable behavior and to say otherwise is -- would be false, obviously. But, Montanans spoke very clearly.” [CNN, 5/26/17]

Media Relations

Taylor Would Not Commit To Whether Trump’s Tweets Constituted Official Presidential Statements

Taylor Quibbled: “Well, That’s—I Know There Are Two Accounts There. There’s One That’s Unofficial; There’s One That’s Official”

Taylor Would Not Answer Directly When Asked If Trump’s Private Tweets Constituted Official Presidential Statements. “CAMEROTA: Right, so I mean... [07:02:00] TAYLOR: Here you are, and I’ve watched your -- hold on a second, I’ve watched your segments, and you keep talking about this. There’s tons of news out there. Let’s talk about real issues. CAMEROTA: Yes. We’ve been told these are official presidential statements. Is the Twitter account of POTUS an official statement or not? TAYLOR: Well, that’s -- I know that there are two accounts there. There’s one that’s unofficial; there’s one that’s official. CAMEROTA: It is from the official president of the United States account. So is this a presidential statement? TAYLOR: Listen, as I -- as I said to you, I would -- I would prefer the president not make some of these tweets. I’ve been critical on CNN, as well, too.” [CNN, 7/3/17; Youtube, Act Now 2017, 7/3/17]

Taylor Distanced Himself From Trump’s Hostility Towards The Media

The Washington Post Reported That Taylor Said That Trump Was “100 Percent” Wrong To Call The Media An “Enemy Of The American People.” “Taylor distanced himself from Trump’s most controversial positions. He dismissed as impractical building a wall along the entire U.S.-Mexico border. He said Trump was ‘100 percent’ wrong to call the media an ‘enemy of the American people.’ He aligned himself on Russia policy with traditional hawks such as House Speaker Paul D. Ryan (R-Wis.), Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Homeland Security Secretary John F. Kelly.” [Washington Post, 2/22/17]

Taylor Stated, “I Do Not Believe Established News Organizations Are Fake News” But That “You Could Argue” That “Some Have A Slant.” “Taylor was also asked about ‘fake news’ and whether he thought a free press was the ‘enemy of the people,’ as President Donald Trump said in a recent tweet. ‘I do not believe established news organizations are fake news,’ Taylor said. ‘Do some have a slant? Yes, I think you could argue that 100 percent.’ Democracy does not work without a free press to act as a check on those in power, he said.” [Daily Press via Personal PAC, 2/22/17]

Taylor Said That Trump Was Wrong To Accuse Journalists Of Being “Enemies Of The American People” And That The News Media Was “Necessary For Democracy To Function.” “The congressman drew applause when he said President Donald Trump was wrong to accuse journalists of being ‘enemies of the American people.’ The news media ‘is necessary for democracy to function,’ he said. ‘I condemn that speech. I think it’s the wrong message to send.”’ [Virginian-Pilot, 2/21/17]
Taylor: “I Believe The Press Is Here To Hold People Accountable For Being Honest.” “The first question of the evening came from 10-year-old Mayson Driscoll of Cape Charles, who said she believes in honesty ‘and I wonder why our president does not.’ Taylor in his response said he believes in the watchdog role of the media. ‘I believe the press is here to hold people accountable for being honest,’ he said. Taylor said he ‘can’t answer (for) anybody else why they wouldn’t be honest, but I think people should be held accountable, whether it’s the president, whether it’s me, whether it’s anyone, if we’re dishonest. So I promise to always be honest with you.’” [Delmarva Daily Times, 2/23/17]

…And Yet, Taylor Accused CNN Of Bias In Several Confrontational Interviews


Taylor Criticized The Media’s Response After Trump’s Tweet About Wrestling With CNN: “I Think You Guys Are Getting Played, Man. I Think Every He Does This, You Guys Overreact...And You Play Right Into His Hands.” “CAMEROTA: Let’s talk about this tweet. The president retweeted this WrestleMania stuff of him punching somebody with a CNN logo on their head. The -- it appears that the origin of that video was from the Reddit account of somebody with just sickening anti-Semitic and racist rants on their account. What’s your response to this? TAYLOR: Well, I don’t -- I don’t know anything about what you just said in terms of whose account it was or anything like that. I have no idea. I’ve been critical of the president’s tweets before. I think that -- but if I could give objective advice to you, I think you -- I think you guys are getting played, man. I think every time he does this, you guys overreact -- and I say ‘You guys,’ I mean the media in general -- you overreact, and you play right into his hands. I mean, this is -- ironically, CNN reported on him learning politics from the World Wrestling Federation in 2015. And now you’re, like, ‘Oh, my God, he’s inciting violence.’ I just don’t -- I don’t think any American -- most Americans, excuse me, certainly some, maybe, but most Americans out there believe that he’s inciting violence from a WWF clip.” [CNN, 7/3/17; Youtube, Act Now 2017, 7/3/17]

Taylor Told Camerota, “You Guys, You’ve Got To Start Reporting Real News”

Taylor Castigated The Press For Covering Trump’s Tweets: “…I Just Think That You Guys, You’ve Got To Start Reporting Real News. This Is Not Really News.” “I just think that this plays right -- you guys are playing right into his hands. You overreact. And then what he -- and then what he’s able to -- he’s able to use that politically. And I just think that you guys, you’ve got to start reporting really [sic] news. This is not really news.” [CNN, 7/3/17; Youtube, Act Now 2017, 7/3/17]

Taylor: “You’re Actually Falling Into A Trap By Covering Tweets All The Time. There’s A Lot Of News Out There.” “TAYLOR: I’m actually just giving you, you know, objective advice. You’re actually falling into a trip [sic] by covering tweets all the time. There’s a lot of news out there. There’s a lot of news out there to cover. [...] I’m just giving you advice. I think you’re falling into a trap.” [CNN, 7/3/17; Youtube, Act Now 2017, 7/3/17]

Taylor Claimed That The Media Was Disproportionately Producing Negative Reports About Trump

Taylor Echoed Trump’s Statements About The Media’s Treatment Of Him: “…What I’d Like For You To Do The Next Segment You Have Is Put The Numbers Up Of Your Negative Coverage, As Well, Too.” “CAMEROTA: Thank you. I accept your career advice. But I’m curious, are you saying that we should begin now ignoring all the president’s tweets, because really, the vast majority of them are frivolous... TAYLOR: That’s not what I’m saying. CAMEROTA: ... are frivolous as we’ve shown you, with the numbers? You think that we should just start ignoring the president’s tweets? TAYLOR: What I’d -- OK, what I’d like for you to do the next segment you have is put the numbers up of your negative coverage of the president, as well, too.” [CNN, 7/3/17; Youtube, Act Now 2017, 7/3/17]
Taylor Repeatedly Urged Camerota To “Cover The News”: “You’re Not Covering The News. Cover The News. […] There’s A Lot Of News Out There. Cover That. Cover The News.” “TAYLOR: The last three [segments] are all about these tweets. You’re not covering the news. Cover the news. CAMEROTA: And how do we know -- and how... TAYLOR: You cover the tweets, you should do that. Cover the news, too. CAMEROTA: Congressman -- good. How do we know when the presidential tweet is newsworthy? TAYLOR: You’ve got -- like I just said, your whole segment is all about this. CAMEROTA: How do we know? Just give me the road map. TAYLOR: There’s a lot of news out there. Cover that. Cover the news. CAMEROTA: How do we know when the president’s tweet is newsworthy? TAYLOR: As I just said, you’ve covered his tweet. You’ve covered it over and over and over and over again.” [CNN, 7/3/17; Youtube, Act Now 2017, 7/3/17]

Taylor Accused Camerota Of Over-Covering Trump’s Tweet: “You’ve Covered It Over And Over And Over And Over Again.” “TAYLOR: As I just said, you’ve covered his tweet. You’ve covered it over and over and over and over again.” [CNN, 7/3/17; Youtube, Act Now 2017, 7/3/17]

Taylor Blasted Amanpour For Calling Trump’s Immigration Order A “Muslim Ban”

Taylor Claimed Amanpour Calling Trump’s Immigration Order A “Muslim Ban” Was “Irresponsible.” “TAYLOR: Well, listen, I think that -- first of all, let me finish one thing and I will get -- I will absolutely answer that specifically because I think there are issues with that. I appreciate Alberto [Mora]. I really do appreciate his opinion. But as he said—he did not say that it was a Muslim ban which you said was. And I think that it’s irresponsible of you to say that because you’re also fomenting problems as well too. (Crosstalk) AMANPOUR: Oh, Scott. Oh, Scott. Come on, we’re playing word games. TAYLOR: It’s irresponsible of you. Irresponsible.” [CNN Video, 1/31/17; CNN Transcripts, 1/30/17]

Taylor Wrote A Facebook Post Castigating Amanpour For “Irresponsible Journalism And Fanning The Flames.” “Rep. Taylor pushes back on Christiane Amanpour on irresponsible journalism and fanning the flames. No matter if you support or oppose the executive order, journalists should not frame their segments with their own political views or make definitive statements about text, using rhetoric as the source for the statement, as opposed to the actual text.” [Scott Taylor Facebook, 2/1/17]

Social Media Misuse

**March 2017: Constituents Accused Taylor Of Blocking Constituents’ Comments From His Facebook Page**


Taylor Defended Blocking Users Who Acted “Out Of Line” And Blamed Activist Groups That Sprang Up After The Women’s March For Disruptive Behavior. “Taylor said his staff is authorized to block users from his Facebook page if they act ‘out of line,’ and he complained that activist groups that sprang up from the Women’s March were organized to ‘disrupt’ public meetings and social media pages.” [Raw Story, 3/6/17]

The ACLU Asserted That Taylor Might Have Violated The First Amendment. “However, the head of the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia said Wednesday that Taylor may be violating the Constitution’s First Amendment protection of free speech. Taylor and Weldon, who have conferred with House of Representatives administrators, disagree. They argue that constituents have many other ways, including another Facebook site, to speak to the lawmaker. The dispute, sparked by some members of local groups formed to oppose President Donald Trump’s administration, centers on one of Taylor’s two Facebook pages. He has removed several comments that he or Weldon decided were disagreeable from Taylor’s self-described unofficial political page that he started almost a decade ago.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/10/17]

Taylor Had Two Facebook Pages, One Official And One Self-Described As Unofficial. “The dispute, sparked by some members of local groups formed to oppose President Donald Trump’s administration, centers on one of Taylor’s two Facebook pages. He has removed several comments that he or Weldon decided were disagreeable from Taylor’s self-described unofficial political page that he started almost a decade ago.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/10/17]

A Constituent Pointed To The Discrepancy Between Followers Of Taylor’s Unofficial And Official Accounts As Proof That Taylor Was Using His ‘Unofficial’ Account In An Official Capacity. “In the letter, Mehta also claimed that Taylor uses his unofficial social media accounts in an official capacity, citing the discrepancy in the number of followers his unofficial and official Facebook pages have – 56,000 to 2,000, respectively. ‘It is also evident that you communicate with your constituents in an official capacity on the unofficial page, discussing voting decisions, policy and descriptions/photos of public appearances in your official capacity as a congressman,’ Mehta wrote.” [Williamsburg Yorktown Daily, 6/29/17]

Taylor: “If You Want To Be Able To Come On My Unofficial Facebook And Troll It...Say Bad Things...And Be Offensive Or Abusive - I Don’t Think So.” “Taylor said his personal page is not a platform for his opponents to have free rein to speak out to its more than 55,000 followers. The page has been used regularly by Taylor and his supporters for election or legislative information, comments and news reports, as well as for offering live and recorded video of his town halls. ‘Every campaign in this nation does that. We have that discretion,’ he said. ‘If you want to be able to come on my unofficial Facebook and troll it ... say bad things ... and be offensive or abusive - I don’t think so,’ Taylor notes that his relatively new official page, which has just under 200 followers, does not remove comments as long as they don’t violate his standards for abuse or profanity. He said comments that offer different political views are not removed.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/10/17]

Taylor Said His Personal Page Was Not A Platform For Detractors, Though The Page Was Often Used To Promote Legislative Information And News Reports. “Taylor said his personal page is not a platform for his opponents to have free rein to speak out to its more than 55,000 followers. The page has been used regularly by Taylor and his supporters for election or legislative information, comments and news reports, as well as for offering live and recorded video of his town halls. ‘Every campaign in this nation does that. We have that discretion,’ he said. ‘If you want to be able to come on my unofficial Facebook and troll it ... say bad things ... and be offensive or abusive - I don’t think so.’ Taylor notes that his relatively new official page, which has just under 200 followers, does not remove comments as long as they don’t violate his standards for abuse or profanity. He said comments that offer different political views are not removed.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/10/17]

Political Director Scott Weldon Claimed Taylor Was Within His Rights To Block Posts On His Personal Facebook. “Some opponents of Rep. Scott Taylor are crying foul that the Virginia Beach Republican is blocking their comments on his personal Facebook page. It’s true that some people’s comments or postings are removed, but Taylor is well within his rights to do so, his political director, Scott Weldon, said Wednesday. Democrats aren’t allowed to ‘rabble-rouse’ on the legislator’s personal page, Weldon said.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/10/17]

Weldon Defined The Unofficial Page As Taylor’s Campaign Page And Defended Blocking People: “Democratic Activists Do Not Get To Dictate The Dialogue About How Our Campaign Page Is Run,
Period.” “100 percent of our constituents have official access to us via email, a physical office, phone lines, official social media, etc. We not only ask for the opinions of everyone, we also do not mind dissent from Rep. Taylor’s beliefs. That being said, if people are rude or abusive towards anyone on our unofficial political page we reserve the right to revoke their posting privileges; this has been the case with Republicans and Democrats. Furthermore, we do not shy away from those who disagree with us, this was clearly demonstrated during recent town halls and on the page itself. Lastly, democrat activists do not get to dictate the dialogue about how our campaign page is run, period.” [WAVY, 3/10/17]

Weldon Removed Disagreeable Comments From Taylor’s ‘Unofficial’ Page. “The dispute, sparked by some members of local groups formed to oppose President Donald Trump’s administration, centers on one of Taylor’s two Facebook pages. He has removed several comments that he or Weldon decided were disagreeable from members of local groups formed to oppose President Donald Trump’s administration, centers on one of Taylor’s two Facebook pages. He has removed several comments that he or Weldon decided were disagreeable from Taylor’s self-described unofficial political page that he started almost a decade ago.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/10/17]

The Congressional Research Service Advised Legislators That They Can Have Unofficial Social Media Accounts But Those Cannot Use Government Resources. “The Congressional Research Service advised federal legislators in an October report that they can have ‘non-official social media accounts, such as campaign or personal accounts’ separate from their official web pages. Those non-official accounts can’t use government resources. Weldon, who said he is paid by Taylor’s campaign to be its part-time political director in addition to his full-time congressional job as Taylor’s communications director, noted he works on the unofficial page only while away from his government duties.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/10/17]

Weldon Was Simultaneously Taylor’s Campaign Political Director As Well As His Congressional Communications Director. “Weldon, who said he is paid by Taylor’s campaign to be its part-time political director in addition to his full-time congressional job as Taylor’s communications director, noted he works on the unofficial page only while away from his government duties.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/10/17]

Weldon Claimed He Only Manned The Page While Away From His Government Duties. “The Congressional Research Service advised federal legislators in an October report that they can have ‘non-official social media accounts, such as campaign or personal accounts’ separate from their official web pages. Those non-official accounts can’t use government resources. Weldon, who said he is paid by Taylor’s campaign to be its part-time political director in addition to his full-time congressional job as Taylor’s communications director, noted he works on the unofficial page only while away from his government duties.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/10/17]

The State ACLU Stated That Taylor’s Personal Page Could Be Viewed As A Protected “Limited Public Forum.” “Claire Guthrie Gastañaga, executive director of the state’s ACLU, said Taylor’s personal page can be viewed as a protected ‘limited public forum’ that constituents use to reach their congressional representative. ‘It’s no different than a city council meeting,’ she said. ‘I think there are some pretty significant questions raised about whether he’s engaged in viewpoint discrimination in violation of the First Amendment in a limited public forum,’ Gastañaga said. ‘He was using the Facebook page as a place to meet his constituents and engage them. ... It means you cannot discriminate based on the content of the speech.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/10/17]

Taylor Argued That There Was No Free-Speech Restrictions Because All Of His Constituents Could Reach Him Or His Staff. “Taylor argues there is no free-speech restriction because all of his constituents can reach him or his staff by many mediums including Facebook, email, traditional mail, telephone or a visit to his office. He acknowledged his decision to remove comments that he dislikes can upset opponents. ‘It’s the member’s discretion, and then of course you have to deal with your constituency,’ he said. The Congressional Research Service advised federal legislators in an October report that they can have ‘non-official social media accounts, such as campaign or personal accounts’ separate from their official web pages. Those non-official accounts can’t use government resources. Weldon, who said he is paid by Taylor’s campaign to be its part-time political director in addition to his full-time congressional job as Taylor’s communications director, noted he works on the unofficial page only while away from his government duties.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/10/17]

April 2017: Virginia Beach Ministers Called For An Ethics Investigation Into Taylor’s Use Of His Campaign Social Media Accounts For Official Purposes

Members Of The Interdenominational Ministers Conference Led By President James Allen Sent A Letter To The Congressional Ethics Office Claiming That Taylor Used His Campaign Social Media Accounts For Official Purposes. “VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (WAVY) – Members of the Interdenominational Ministers Conference want the Office of Congressional Ethics to launch an investigation into the social media activity of Representative Scott Taylor. The group’s president, James Allen, sent a letter complaining that Rep. Taylor has used his campaign social media accounts for official purposes.” [WAVY, 4/12/17]

Allen Alleged That Taylor Was Violating A House Code Of Official Conduct Rule Stating That Members Should Behave In A Manner That Reflects Credibly On The House. “Allen sent a three-page letter and nine pages of what he calls evidence, to support his claim. ‘You can’t mix campaign and official business. If you do so, then you are violating a very important ethics rule,’ Allen said. ‘Basically all we’re asking Congressman Taylor to do is to make sure that he does things properly and by the rules of the Congressional office.’ According to the complaint, Allen alleges Representative Taylor is violating Rule 23 of the House Code of Official Conduct. It says members of the House shall behave at all times in a manner that shall reflect credibly on the House.” [WAVY, 4/12/17]

Taylor Issued A Statement In Response Lambasting The Complainant As A “Radical Liberal Activist With A Political Ax To Grind.” “The allegations made in the complaint are demonstrably false. Further, this complaint was filed by a radical liberal activist with a political ax to grind. He and those around him have repeatedly used up my staff’s time and taxpayer resources to advance their liberal political agenda.” [WAVY, 4/12/17]

June 2017: The American Civil Liberties Union Of Virginia Stated That Taylor Had Violated His Constituents’ First Amendment Rights

June 2017: Virginia ACLU Sent Taylor A Letter Claiming That He Had Violated The First Amendment Rights Of His Constituents. “According to multiple complaints from Congressman Scott Taylor’s constituents, they were blocked or had their comments removed from Taylor’s government-sponsored social media, including his Twitter and Facebook pages, even though their comments didn’t contain any profane, threatening, or discriminatory language. We sent Taylor a letter explaining how his censorship of opposing viewpoints in a limited public forum violates his constituents’ rights to free speech.” [American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia, 6/22/17]


July 2017: A Federal Court Ruled That Public Officials Could Not Block Social Media Users Because Of Their Criticism

A Federal Court Ruled That The First Amendment Prohibited Public Officials From Blocking Any Social Media Users In Davison V. Loudoun County Board Of Supervisors. “This week, a federal court weighed in on the question in a case with obvious parallels to Trump’s. It determined that the First Amendment’s Free Speech Clause does indeed prohibit officeholders from blocking social media users on the basis of their views. Davison v. Loudoun County Board of Supervisors involved the chair of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, Phyllis J. Randall.” [Slate, 7/28/17]
Despite House Ethics Rules, Taylor’s Campaign Account Shared And Promoted Official Resources

Taylor Maintained A Facebook Page He Described As “Rep. Taylor’s Unofficial Political Page”

Taylor Maintained A Facebook Page He Described As “Rep. Taylor’s Unofficial Political Page.” As of March 10th, 2017, under the “Story” section of the “About” page, it states: “This is Rep. Taylor’s unofficial political page.” Below is a screenshot of the page. [Scott Taylor campaign Facebook, accessed 3/10/17]

![Facebook Page Screenshot](https://example.com/screenshot)

March 7th, 2017: Taylor’s Political Director Posted On Campaign Facebook Page, Stated It Was Scott Taylor’s “Unofficial” Page

March 7th, 2017: Taylor’s Political Director Posted On Campaign Facebook Page, Stated It Was Scott Taylor’s “Unofficial” Page. “Statement from Congressman Taylor’s political director Scott Weldon on individuals who disrupt our page: 100 percent of our constituents have official access to us via email, a physical office, phone lines, official social media, etc... We not only ask for the opinions of everyone, we also do not mind dissent from Rep. Taylor’s beliefs. That being said, if people are rude or abusive towards anyone on our unofficial political page we reserve the right to revoke their posting privileges; this has been the case with Republicans and Democrats. Furthermore, we do not shy away from those who disagree with us, this was clearly demonstrated during recent town halls and on the page itself. Lastly, democrat activists do not get to dictate the dialogue about how our campaign page is run, period.” Below is a screenshot of the post and a comment response. [Scott Taylor campaign Facebook, 3/07/17]

March 2017: Scott Weldon Listed As Rep. Taylor’s Communications Director

March 2017: Scott Weldon Listed As Rep. Taylor’s Communications Director. As of March 2017, Scott Weldon is listed as Rep. Taylor’s official-side Communications Director. [CQ Member Profiles, accessed 3/10/17]
Taylor’s “Contact Info” Section Listed Official District Office Phone Number

“Contact Info” Section Listed Official District Office Phone Number. As of March 10th, 2017, Scott Taylor’s campaign Facebook page refers visitors to his official district office’s phone number. Below are screenshots of his Facebook page and official website. [Scott Taylor campaign Facebook, accessed 3/10/17; Rep. Scott Taylor official website, accessed 3/10/17]

2017: Scott Taylor’s Staff Responded To Facebook Comments

Scott Taylor And His Staff Responded To Facebook Comments. On February 3rd, 2017, Rep. Scott Taylor responded to a comment about his floor speech, defending his decision to do it, saying, “Clyde Gantt it took about 4min. And was not during prime floor time. I stand by my decision to do it and have zero regrets. But, thanks for your thoughts.” On February 7th, 2017, Rep. Taylor’s staff responded to a Facebook comment from the same post,
saying, “Thank you for your comment. Rep Taylor is in the House of Representatives, not the Senate, therefore he does not vote on cabinet positions. Thank you, staff.” [Scott Taylor Facebook, 1/31/17]

March 7th, 2017: Rep. Taylor’s Political Director Posted On Campaign Facebook Page, Stated It Was Scott Taylor’s “Unofficial” Page. “Statement from Congressman Taylor’s political director Scott Weldon on individuals who disrupt our page: 100 percent of our constituents have official access to us via email, a physical office, phone lines, official social media, etc... We not only ask for the opinions of everyone, we also do not mind dissent from Rep. Taylor’s beliefs. That being said, if people are rude or abusive towards anyone on our unofficial political page we reserve the right to revoke their posting privileges; this has been the case with Republicans and Democrats. Furthermore, we do not shy away from those who disagree with us, this was clearly demonstrated during recent town halls and on the page itself. Lastly, democrat activists do not get to dictate the dialogue about how our campaign page is run, period.” Below is a screenshot of the post and a comment response. [Scott Taylor campaign Facebook, 3/07/17]

March 2017: Scott Weldon Was Listed As Rep. Taylor’s Communications Director. As of March 2017, Scott Weldon is listed as Rep. Taylor’s official-side Communications Director. [CQ Member Profiles, accessed 3/10/17]
February 21st, 2017: Posted Video Of Official Town Hall

February 21st, 2017: Posted Video Of Official Town Hall. On February 21st, 2017, Scott Taylor’s campaign Facebook posted video of his official Yorktown town hall. A screenshot of the post is below. [Scott Taylor campaign Facebook, 2/21/17]
February 14th, 2017: Posted Information About Official Town Hall, Invited People

February 14th, 2017: Posted Information About Official Town Hall, Invited People. On February 14th, 2017, Scott Taylor’s campaign Facebook posted information about an upcoming official town hall. According to the Virginian-Pilot, which the post links to, the town halls were for the official side. Below is a screenshot of the post. [Scott Taylor campaign Facebook, 2/14/17; The Virginian-Pilot, 2/14/17]

January 31st, 2017: Posted Video Of House Floor Speech


January 30th, 2017: Posted Facebook Live Of Official Town Hall

January 30th, 2017: Posted Facebook Live Of Official Town Hall. On January 30th, 2017, Scott Taylor’s campaign Facebook posted a Facebook Live stream of an official town hall event. Below is a screenshot of the post. [Scott Taylor campaign Facebook, 1/30/17]
January 13th, 2017: Posted House Floor Speech


January 11th, 2017: Posted House Floor Speech

January 11th, 2017: Posted House Floor Speech. On January 11th, 2017, Scott Taylor’s campaign Facebook posted a speech he made from the House floor about the UN’s resolution on Israel. Below is a screenshot of the post. [Scott Taylor campaign Facebook, 1/11/17]
2016: Taylor Posted Multiple Campaign-Related Posts On Facebook

September 26th, 2016: Posted General Campaign Fundraising Request. On September 26th, 2016, Scott Taylor’s campaign Facebook posted a fundraising request for the campaign. According to the post, “The countdown Continues! We have 2 days until an important fundraising deadline. We have already reached over half of our $50,000 goal. Do you think you can help me reach my goal with a $25, $50, $100, $500 or even $1,000 contribution today? Click the link below to give!” Below is a screenshot of the post. [Scott Taylor Facebook, 9/26/16]

May 30th, 2016: Posted Primary Campaign Event. On May 30th, 2016, Scott Taylor’s campaign Facebook posted the following: “Please share and invite your friends to this event at Eagles Nest Rockin Country Bar! This is our last campaign rally before the election! Come listen to Cheap Thrills VA, get some food/drinks, and support our campaign for Congress! This is about our future. Washington is broken and we need a fresh start! Vote Taylor for U.S. Congress June 14th”. A screenshot of the post is below. [Scott Taylor Facebook, accessed 5/30/16]
2013-17: Multiple Campaign And Official Events Posted In “Events” Section. From 2013 to 2017, in the “Events” section, Scott Taylor’s Facebook page had posted multiple campaign – both state and federal – events in additional to official events. Below is a screenshot of a few of the events. A full screenshot is also saved to the drive and can be accessed here. [Scott Taylor Facebook, accessed 3/10/17]

Taylor’s “Join My List” Section Referred To State Delegate Information

“Join My List” Section Referred To State Delegate Information. “By submitting this form, you are granting: Scott Taylor for Delegate, 4001 Virginia Beach Blvd #117-, virginia beach, VA, 23452, US, http://www.scotttaylorva.com permission to email you.” Screenshot is below. [Scott Taylor Facebook, accessed 3/10/17]
2008: Taylor Got Press Coverage For Using Social Media, Especially To Appeal To Women

HEADLINE: “Long-Shot Candidate Taps Social Networking Sites To Broaden His Appeal.” [Virginian-Pilot, 10/11/08]

Taylor Utilized Social Media In 2009 Run For Governor And Focused On Reaching The Female Population: “Registered Women Vote More Than Registered Men.” “Scott Taylor wants to be mayor, and he’s an underdog. He’s up against Meyera Oberndorf, the 20-year incumbent who’s got name recognition spilling out of her high-top red Converse. And John Moss with his anti-tax legionnaires. And as if that weren’t enough, he’s also trying to beat back Will Sessoms, a former City Council member who’s got campaign funds bulging from his vest pockets. But on his MySpace page, Taylor’s got something that the others don’t. He’s got ‘Perfect Dark Amazon.’ He’s got ‘Dominican Dyme,’ showing a mile of leg and spilling something other than campaign funds from her breast pockets. He’s got Audrey, whose photo could get you in trouble if you check it out on a work computer. He’s got Annie and Jennifer and Patsy. ‘You think I haven’t noticed?’ Taylor said, when asked about his online supporters. Then he slipped back into political mode. ‘Registered women vote more than registered men.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 10/11/08]

Taylor Had MySpace, Facebook, MiGente, Twitter, Digg, Black Planet, Moses, Asian Avenue, And Meetup Pages. “Taylor’s a 30-year-old former Navy SEAL who’s making more of the Internet than any of the other candidates. He has campaign pages on MySpace, Facebook, MiGente (Spanish-language, which he speaks). He’s on Twitter, Digg, Black Planet, Moses, Asian Avenue and Meetup.com. Taylor’s got subtly gelled hair and sideburns long enough to be in but not so long as to keep him out of business meetings. His campaign photo seems pulled from the pages of Esquire or GQ. He wouldn’t want any of that to imply he’s not serious about being mayor. He’s done a video blog while riding an HRT bus about the shortcomings of mass transit. He’s working on one with a small-business owner. Who better to represent veterans, he says, than a veteran?” [Virginian-Pilot, 10/11/08]
December 2015: One Month Before Taylor Announced His Congressional Bid, State Committee Paid $700 In Travel And Lodging For “Political Meetings”

December 14th: Scott Taylor For Delegate Spent $714.73 To Host A Party At The Omni Homestead Resort During The 2015 Republican Advance

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[Virginia Department of Elections Campaign Finance, 12/14/15]


The Republican Advance Was The “Premier Event For Republicans In Virginia” And The “Unofficial Kickoff Of The 2016 Presidential Campaign.” “The 2015 Republican Party of Virginia Advance, which is expected to draw over 500 Republican activists, legislators, and statewide leaders, is the premier event for Republicans in Virginia and will be the unofficial kickoff of the 2016 presidential campaign in the Commonwealth. The 2015 Republican Party of Virginia Advance will be held at the beautiful Omni Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, Virginia. This year’s Advance will feature breakout sessions led by the business and advocacy communities and legislative leaders. We hope that you will be able to join event Chairmen Ed Gillespie and Pete Snyder, the Virginia Congressional Delegation, over 30 legislators, special guest Ambassador John Bolton, and other notable Republicans participating in this year’s Advance. It’s our time in Virginia!” [Republican Party of Virginia press release, via Republican Party of Virginia Beach, 11/17/15]

Taylor Hosted A Party At His Omni Homestead Hospitality Suite. “Delegate Scott Taylor - former Navy SEAL, Iraq War veteran, author, and entrepreneur - would like to welcome former U.S. Ambassador to the United States, John Bolton, as Keynote speaker Friday at the Republican Advance. Delegate Taylor is also announcing Ambassador Bolton as his special guest, after the keynote speech, at his hospitality suite 1420. This year the GOP expects to draw over 500 Republican activists, legislators, and statewide leaders at The Omni Homestead Resort. If you are attending, please make sure to stop by and say hello!” [Scott Taylor Press Release, via Peninsula Tea Party, 12/8/15]

The Richmond Times-Dispatch Reported That Taylor Hosted A Party At The Event. “In politics, it’s not hard to tell the folks who are thinking of running for something. They’re usually the ones giving stuff away. Witness the 2015 Republican Party of Virginia Advance at The Omni Homestead — the annual holiday gathering for hundreds of GOP loyalists, elected officials, and the people who love and make money working for them. […] Del. Scott Taylor, R-Virginia Beach, Sen. Bryce E. Reeves, R-Spotsylvania, and Northern Virginia businessman Pete Snyder hosted parties.” [Richmond Times-Dispatch, 12/12/15]

The Event Was A Common Way For Potential Candidates To “Make Their Presence Known.” “Witness the 2015 Republican Party of Virginia Advance at The Omni Homestead — the annual holiday gathering for hundreds of GOP loyalists, elected officials, and the people who love and make money working for them. […] Other announced and prospective statewide candidates made their presence known at the weekend event, springing for space in the posh resort’s suites and salons to entertain would-be supporters.” [Richmond Times-Dispatch, 12/12/15]
The Omni Homestead Was A Luxury Hotel And Resort In Hot Springs, Virginia. “REST AND REJUVENATE IN HISTORIC BEAUTY: Discover the luxury of a historic Virginia resort. Experience the Southern hospitality and elegant charm that have made The Omni Homestead Resort a premier destination for 23 U.S. presidents dating back to the 18th century. With more than 2,000 acres of timeless comforts and modern amenities all under one roof, our Hot Springs, Virginia accommodations are the perfect getaway for business and leisure traveling.” [Omni Hotels & Resorts, accessed 5/12/17]

The Attorney General Defined State Campaign Expenditures As Money Disbursed “For The Purpose Of Expressly Advocating The Election Or Defeat Of A Clearly Identified Candidate.” “The permitted uses of campaign funds are found in § 24.2-945.1(A), where the General Assembly defines the term ‘expenditure’ to mean money and services of any amount, and any other thing of value, paid, loaned, provided, or in any other way disbursed by any candidate, campaign committee, political committee, or person for the purpose of expressly advocating the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate. The candidate or his treasurer must keep detailed and accurate accounts of all expenditures, and report every contribution and expenditure on the candidate campaign finance disclosure form.” [Virginia Department of Elections, Attorney General’s Explanation of Personal Use, accessed 5/11/17]

November 2015: Taylor Was Considering A Run For Lieutenant Governor. “I will explore a run for Lieutenant Governor of #Virginia. Share this video. We need you. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BinbPo_Ip10 … @VA_GOP #Gop #Tcot #RVA.” [Scott Taylor, Twitter, 11/11/15]

HEADLINE: “Virginia Beach Dels. Glenn Davis, Scott Taylor Considering Run For Lieutenant Governor.” [Virginian-Pilot, 11/10/15]

Taylor Announced That He Would Be “Opening Up A PAC” To Explore A Run For Lieutenant Governor Of Virginia. “JOHN FREDERICKS: Now, Delegate Taylor, big announcement today. We understand that you have made the decision to seek statewide office. TAYLOR: John, thanks for asking. I have made a decision. We were asked to consider it. We talked to leadership and folks around here and family and friends and donors and everything. It was very positive, so today I’m announcing that we are opening up a PAC and we will be exploring a run for lieutenant governor of Virginia.” [John Fredericks Show, Youtube, 11/11/15]

Taylor Established FROG PAC To Explore His Lieutenant Governor Run. “Del. Scott W. Taylor, R-Virginia Beach, a former Navy SEAL and frequent guest on Fox News, stood by a table piled with copies of his new book, ‘Trust Betrayed: Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and the Selling Out of America’s National Security.’ Taylor said he is ‘leaning very strongly’ toward running for lieutenant governor and recently set up Frog PAC, as a play on frogman, the term for elite Navy SEAL divers.” [Daily Press, 12/13/15]

FROG PAC Made No Payments To Omni Homestead. [Virginia Department of Elections Campaign Finance Reports, 5/12/17]

January 19th, 2016: Taylor Opened FROG PAC. [Virginia Department of Elections Campaign Finance Reports, accessed 5/22/17]

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[Virginia Department of Elections Campaign Finance Reports, 7/15/16; 4/15/16; 1/19/16]

FROG PAC Disbursed $39,850, Including A $25,000 Contribution Refund.
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<td>Forest Consulting Services</td>
<td>Accounting and reporting services</td>
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<td>2/17/16</td>
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<td>Jones, Andrew F.</td>
<td>Refund of contribution</td>
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<td>2/17/16</td>
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<td>Scott Taylor for Congress</td>
<td>Campaign contribution</td>
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<td>$100</td>
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<td>Weldon, James</td>
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<td>$3,500</td>
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<td>1/8/16</td>
<td>$750</td>
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<td>Creative Direct</td>
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<td>State Corporation Commission</td>
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</table>

[Virginia Department of Elections Campaign Finance Reports, 7/15/16; 4/15/16; 1/19/16]

**John G. Selph Was The Treasurer For Scott Taylor For Congress.** [FEC, accessed 5/22/17]

**July 15th, 2016: Taylor Closed FROG PAC.** [Virginia Department of Elections Campaign Finance Reports, accessed 5/22/17]

Taylor’s Facebook Reported That “The Weekend Was Highly Successful With A Ton Of New Supporters From Around The Commonwealth Signing On For A Lieutenant Governor Run.” “Team Taylor had a blast at the Republican Party of Virginia Advance this weekend. Delegate Taylor signed a lot of books, shook a lot of hands, and spent a lot of one on one time with activists. The weekend was highly successful with a ton of new supporters from around the Commonwealth signing on for a Lieutenant Governor run. #Virginia.” [Scott Taylor, Facebook, 12/13/15]

A Virginia Beach Constituent Asked On Facebook Who Was Paying For The Event, To Which Taylor Replied, “Sponsors And Private Donors.” [Scott Taylor, Facebook, 12/13/15]
December 2015: State Committee Paid Scott Weldon – Who Would Become Federal Committee Campaign Manager In February 2016 – For Campaign Consulting

December 2015: Weldon Was Paid By State Committee For Campaign Consulting

December 2015: State Committee Paid J. Scott Weldon $3,500 For Campaign Consulting. [Virginia Department of Elections Campaign Finance Reports, 12/15/15]

February 17th, 2016: Weldon Began Receiving Payments From Federal Committee For Campaign Consulting

February 17th: Federal Committee Recorded Its First Payment To James Weldon For “Campaign Consulting – Staff.” [FEC, 2/17/16]

  Weldon’s Full Name Is James Scott Weldon. [Nexis, accessed 5/12/17]

  Weldon Served As Federal Committee Campaign Manager “For The Primary And The General.” “Job title: Communications director for Rep. Scott Taylor, R-Va…I was Scott’s campaign manager for the primary and the general.” [Washington Examiner, 1/28/17]

January 2016: Taylor Announced His Candidacy For Virginia’s 2nd Congressional District

January 15th: Taylor Announced His Candidacy For Virginia’s 2nd Congressional District

January 15th, 2016: Taylor Announced That He Was Officially Running For Congress. “VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (WAVY) — Virginia Beach delegate Scott Taylor says he’s running for congress. He hopes to win Representative Scott Rigell’s soon-to-be empty seat. Taylor made the official announcement on the John Fredericks radio show Friday morning. The former Navy SEAL has also been considering a run for Lieutenant Governor in 2017.” [WAVY, 1/15/16]

  January 14th, 2016: 2nd District Rep. Scott Rigell Announced That He Was Not Running For Re-Election. [WKTR, 1/14/16]

  Rigell’s Retirement Announcement Appeared To Have Been A Surprise. “Republican Rep. Scott Rigell is retiring from Virginia’s 2nd District, leaving a competitive open seat for his party to defend. The news, first
reported by the Virginian-Pilot, was a surprise to some people who have worked closely with the congressman in the past.” [Roll Call, 1/14/16]

Rigell Admitted That The Idea Had Privately “Been Rumbling For A Couple of Months.” “U.S. Rep. Scott Rigell, a three-term congressman from Virginia Beach, surprised supporters and colleagues Thursday by announcing he will not seek re-election this year. […] He decided Tuesday that he wouldn’t run again, but the idea ‘had been rumbling for a couple of months.’ Recent conversations with his wife sealed it, he said.” [Virginian-Pilot, 1/14/16]

Rigell Claimed He Was Retiring Because He Believed In Term Limits And He Felt That He Had Accomplished What He Had Set Out To Accomplish. “We have been the driving force that has reduced discretionary spending. […] I mention that accomplishment because the five-year point of service is, to me, a point of decision: has a meaningful difference been made and it’s time go home, or is serving in Congress a career and the hope is to serve much longer. Given the two alternatives, my belief in term limits, and in reflecting upon what my team and I have accomplished, I am at peace about coming home.” [Scott Rigell press release via Bull Elephant, 1/14/16]

January 14th, 2016: Taylor Announced Privately That He Was Running For Congress. “We have learned that within an hour after Rigell’s announcement this afternoon, the General Assembly’s Virginia Beach delegation gathered in Sen. Frank Wagner’s office to discuss what it meant for them. Our understanding is that the most notable development arising out of that meeting was Del. Scott Taylor’s (R-Virginia Beach) private announcement to his colleagues and staff that he was going to run for the now-open seat, setting aside—for now—his Lieutenant Governor ambitions.” [Bull Elephant, 1/14/16]

January 25th: Taylor Officially Filed Statement Of Candidacy

January 25th, 2016: Taylor Filed A Statement Of Candidacy With The FEC. [FEC, received 2/4/16]

November 2016: After His Election To Congress, Taylor Resigned His Delegate Seat

November 2016: Upon Election To Congress, Taylor Resigned From The Virginia House Of Delegates. “Governor McAuliffe declared a special election on Tuesday for several soon-to-be vacant General Assembly seats. One of the vacancies will be of Republican Delegate Scott Taylor from the Virginia House of Delegates District 85. McAuliffe scheduled a special election in January, for Virginia Beach voters to replace delegate Taylor. Taylor resigned from the State House of Delegates, after being elected to Congress.” [WTKR, 11/29/16]


In 2016, State Committee Made $37,000 In Expenditures – Almost As Much As It Spent On Taylor’s Delegate Re-Election In 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Period</th>
<th>Date Filed</th>
<th>Contributions Received</th>
<th>Expenditures</th>
<th>Ending Balance</th>
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<tr>
<td>1/1/16 to 6/30/16</td>
<td>7/15/16</td>
<td>$14,593</td>
<td>$29,040.55</td>
<td>$16,377.47</td>
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<td>1/1/16 to 12/31/16</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$8,236.55</td>
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<td>10/01/15 to 10/22/15</td>
<td>10/26/15</td>
<td>$2,250.00</td>
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<td>11/27/15 to 12/31/15</td>
<td>1/19/16</td>
<td>$19,076.82</td>
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<td>7/1/16 to 12/31/16</td>
<td>1/17/17</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$8,236.55</td>
<td>$8,140.92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2016 Total: $14,593 $37,277.10
9/01/15 to 9/30/15 | 10/15/15 | $2,600.00 | $0 | $20,503.13
7/1/15 to 8/31/15 | 9/14/15 | $3,530.00 | $4,007.99 | $17,903.13
5/28/15 to 6/30/15 | 7/15/15 | $2,575.00 | $5,125.91 | $18,381.12
4/1/15 to 5/27/15 | 7/8/15 | $23,167.94 | $3,870.71 | $20,932.03
1/1/15 to 3/31/15 | 4/14/15 | $4,543.00 | $3,940.71 | $1,634.80

2015 Total: $69,617.76 $39,825.25

[Virginia Department of Elections Campaign Finance Reports, 1/17/17; 7/15/16; 1/19/16; 12/3/15; 10/26/15; 10/15/15; 9/14/15; 7/15/15; 7/8/15; 4/14/15]

February 2016: State Committee Paid For Robocalls In The Congressional District

January 14th: Republican Blog Reported “Activists” Had Received Poll Calls Gauging Support For Taylor’s Bid

A Republican Blog Claimed Taylor Conducted A Robocall On January 14th To Determine His Campaign’s Viability. “A number of TBE readers have indicated Taylor made a robocall in Virginia Beach earlier this evening in which polled activists about whether they would support his run for Congress.” [Bull Elephant, 1/14/16]

The Bull Elephant Could Not Verify Who Sponsored The Call. “It seems highly unlikely that Taylor has a federally-compliant PAC established already, so we are certainly curious about how this robocall was paid for. Those with whom we’ve spoken who received the call said it did not have any ‘Paid for by’ disclaimers. [UPDATE: From the comments, there is a suggestion that the calls did indeed have a disclaimer; it remains unclear what committee would have paid for it, though.] I hope Taylor was properly advised on how to stay on the right side of campaign finance laws here, as a campaign finance violation right off the bat is no way to start a run for Congress.” [Bull Elephant, 1/14/16]

February 3rd: The Virginian-Pilot Reported On A RoboCall Attacking Taylor’s Congressional Primary Opponent

The RoboCall Urged Voters To Call Forbes’ Office And Tell Him “To Fight For Us” And “Not Run Off To Virginia Beach Because It Might Be Easier To Get Elected Over There.” “Good evening. This is Erin calling about our congressman, Randy Forbes. Reports in the Virginian-Pilot and around Virginia are saying that our own congressman, Randy Forbes, is planning to abandon Chesapeake Republicans and the 4th District to instead run for Congress in Virginia Beach in the 2nd District. There is even an editorial cartoon in the Virginian-Pilot’s [indistinct] issue today. Randy has been elected to Congress by Chesapeake eight times. If Randy abandons us and surrenders our district to the Democrats, we will likely be represented by ultra-liberal Democrat Senator Don McEachin from Richmond. That’s just wrong. Don McEachin can’t represent Chesapeake families. Randy is the only Republican who can win our new district. Over the years we’ve invested millions of dollars, time, and energy in Randy Forbes, and we have fought for him during past campaigns. Call Randy’s office here in Chesapeake at 382-0080. Tell Randy you want him to fight for Chesapeake Republicans and don’t give our district to the Democrat. This is a time when Randy needs to fight for us, not run off to Virginia Beach because it might be easier to get elected over there. Leaders put themselves at risk for their people, not the other way around. Please press 1 if you want Randy Forbes to run to be our congressman and fight for us. Press 2 if you want Randy to leave Chesapeake Republicans behind and go run for Congress in Virginia Beach. Again, call Randy Forbes to stay and fight for us. Don’t abandon us. Randy’s number is 382-0080.” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/3/16] (160203 TAYLOR ROBOCALL.mp3)

Taylor Spokesperson Scott Weldon Said “We” Paid For It To Influence The Congressional Primary

Virginian-Pilot: Taylor Spokesperson Scott Weldon Acknowledged Paying RoboCent To Conduct RoboCalls “Intended To Spread [Taylor’s] Views” In Relation To His Congressional Campaign. “In this case, the Chesapeake voters were asked whether they wanted Forbes to ‘run to be our congressman and fight for us’ or ‘leave Chesapeake behind and go run for Congress in Virginia Beach.’ Of the 5,557 calls, 437 people answered the
question, with 97 percent saying Forbes should stay, according to a report by RoboCent, a Virginia Beach-based autodial firm hired by Taylor. Scott Weldon, spokesman for Taylor’s campaign, acknowledged the calls were intended to spread his candidate’s views and reach people who might not know about Forbes’ quandary. ‘We obviously want people to know this is something that is being seriously entertained,’ Weldon said.” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/3/16]

The RoboCall Urged Chesapeake Voters To Tell Randy Forbes To Remain In The 4th District Rather Than Switch To The 2nd. “State Del. Scott Taylor went directly to U.S. Rep. Randy Forbes’ Republican supporters in Chesapeake earlier this week, sponsoring more than 5,500 automated calls urging the voters to tell Forbes to run for re-election in his hometown rather than switch to the nearby 2nd Congressional District. Taylor, a Virginia Beach Republican seeking the 2nd District seat, wants to stop Forbes from switching from the 4th District, which he has represented in Congress since 2001. In the 75-second recorded message, a woman who calls herself ‘Erin’ refers to Forbes as ‘our congressman’ and says he ‘is the only Republican who can win our district.’ At the end of the message, Taylor is heard saying his campaign paid for the Sunday-night calls.” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/3/16]


The Hill Wrote That Taylor Paid For Thousands Of Robocalls Discouraging Rep. Randy Forbes From Running In The 2nd Congressional District – The District Taylor Was Actively Seeking. “But not all Republicans are on board with Forbes leapfrogging into another district. State Del. Scott Taylor, who is also running for the Republican nomination in the 2nd district, paid for thousands of robocalls urging voters to discourage Forbes from switching districts, according to The Virginian-Pilot.” [The Hill, 2/8/16]

Taylor Conducted A Poll In Virginia Beach To Determine Whether Constituents Would Be Receptive To His Congressional Run. “Taylor conducted a separate push poll in Virginia Beach, where more than 2,400 GOP voters were contacted Sunday and Monday. Taylor, in a recorded message, introduced himself as a candidate, lambasted the current Congress and criticized Forbes for considering giving up his 4th District seat to run in the 2nd. The recipients were then asked whether, ‘based on what you know,’ they would support Taylor or Forbes. Ninety-five percent said they favored Taylor, according to RoboCent.” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/3/16]

February 5th: State Committee’s Brenda Roberts Authorized $640 In Robocalls

February 2016: State Committee Listed “Brenda Roberts” As Authorizing Name On $638.40 Payment To RoboCent For Legislative Survey Calls:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Payee</th>
<th>Item or Service</th>
<th>Authorizing Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>2/5/16</td>
<td>RoboCent 111 Granby Street Norfolk, VA 23510</td>
<td>Legislative survey voter calls</td>
<td>Brenda Roberts</td>
<td>$638.40</td>
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</table>

[Virginia Department of Elections Campaign Finance Reports, 2/5/16]


As Of May 2017, Roberts Was Serving As The District Director For Taylor’s Congressional Campaign Since January 2017. [Brenda Roberts, LinkedIn, accessed 5/11/17]
November 18th, 2016: Taylor Appointed Roberts As His Congressional District Director. “Congressman-Elect Scott Taylor Announces Senior Staff for 115th Congress: Brenda Roberts will be appointed to the post of District Director. Brenda currently serves as Legislative Assistant in Taylor’s capacity as a member of the House of Delegates and served as campaign manager prior to that.” [Scott Taylor, Facebook, 11/18/16]

February 5th: One Twitter User Reported Receiving A Call From ‘Scott Taylor For Congress’

Twitter User Vivian Page Of Norfolk Reported Getting A Robocall From Scott Taylor For Congress. “Vivian J. Paige @vpaige: Robocall on my answering machine from Scott Taylor for Congress. Guessing his targeting is a bit off 😊.”[Vivian Paige, Twitter, 2/5/16]

March 2016: Federal Committee Paid RoboCent $7,800 For “Voter Contact” Calls


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<td>12/6/16</td>
<td>RoboCent Inc.</td>
<td>GOTV Phone Calls</td>
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<td>GOTV Voter Calls</td>
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<td>3/16/16</td>
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<tr>
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[FEC, 12/6/16; 10/7/16; 8/22/16; 7/20/16; 3/16/16]

Prior To The February 2016 Payment, State Committee Had Not Paid For Robocalls In Nearly Two Years

State Committee Previously Paid $3,452.07 To Robocall Vendors. [Virginia Department of Elections Campaign Finance Reports, accessed 5/10/17]

Prior To The February 2016 Expense, State Committee Had Not Paid For A Robocall Since August 2014. [Virginia Department of Elections Campaign Finance Reports, 8/20/14]

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<td>8/4/14</td>
<td>RoboCent</td>
<td>Robocall</td>
<td>Brenda Roberts</td>
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<td>Robo Call Service for teletown hall call</td>
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<td>Robopolls</td>
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<td>RoboCent</td>
<td>Robocalls</td>
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<td>8/8/13</td>
<td>Conquest Communications</td>
<td>Automated Calls</td>
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<td>RoboCent</td>
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<td>6/10/13</td>
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<td>Robocalls</td>
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[Virginia Department of Elections Campaign Finance Reports, 8/20/14; 8/4/14; 5/4/14; 12/12/13; 7/20/13; 8/8/13; 8/12/13; 6/10/13; 3/7/13]

Note: Taylor was elected to office again in 2015 with no opponents. Virginia’s House of Delegates serve two-year terms with elections on odd years.
January 2016: More Than One Year After Its Previous Payment And Days Before Taylor Announced Congressional Bid, State Committee Paid Media Firm Federal Committee Would Later Use For “Consulting”

January 4th, 2016: State Committee Made A Payment Of $5,000 To Creative Direct Media For Consulting The Same Month He Declared His Run For Congress

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<th>Item or Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/4/16</td>
<td>Creative Direct</td>
<td>Consulting</td>
<td>Scott Taylor</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

[Virginia Department of Elections Campaign Finance Reports, 1/4/16]


Creative Direct Coordinated The Media For Taylor’s Primary Run. “Congrats to Scott Taylor on his big win last night! It’s great to be on your winning team. #Va02” Text of Picture: “CONGRATULATIONS CREATIVE DIRECT CLIENT SCOTT TAYLOR FOR WINNING THE CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATION FOR THE 2ND DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA.” [Creative Direct, Facebook, 6/15/16]

Prior To January 2016, State Committee Had Not Employed “Creative Direct” For More Than A Year

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<td>10/22/13</td>
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<td>10/7/13</td>
<td>Creative Direct</td>
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<td>Mailers/general consulting</td>
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<td>$10,000</td>
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<td>9/4/13</td>
<td>Creative Direct</td>
<td>Mailers/consulting</td>
<td>Scott Taylor</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
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<td>8/22/13</td>
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<td>Mailers</td>
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<td>Mailers</td>
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<td>$2,500</td>
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[Virginia Department of Elections Campaign Finance Reports, accessed 5/11/17]

Beginning In February 2016, Federal Committee Paid $91,344 To Creative Direct In 2016

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<td>10/28/16</td>
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<td>10/11/16</td>
<td>Creative Direct</td>
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<td>8/23/16</td>
<td>Creative Direct</td>
<td>Printing-Campaign Materials-Stickers, Palm Cards, Invites</td>
<td>$5,525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/17/16</td>
<td>Creative Direct</td>
<td>Printing-Campaign Materials-Design Work</td>
<td>$525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/11/16</td>
<td>Creative Direct</td>
<td>Printing-Mailing</td>
<td>$2,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/1/16</td>
<td>Creative Direct</td>
<td>Campaign Consulting-Management</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/15/16</td>
<td>Creative Direct</td>
<td>Campaign Consulting-Management</td>
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</tr>
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<td>7/5/16</td>
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<td>Campaign Consulting-Management</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Payee</td>
<td>Item or Service</td>
<td>Authorizing Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/27/16</td>
<td>Creative Direct</td>
<td>Campaign Consulting-Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/2/16</td>
<td>Creative Direct</td>
<td>Campaign Consulting-Management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/2/16</td>
<td>Creative Direct</td>
<td>Printing Campaign Materials-Palm Cards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/6/16</td>
<td>Creative Direct</td>
<td>Campaign Materials-Printing Palm Cards</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/1/16</td>
<td>Creative Direct</td>
<td>Campaign Materials-Literature and Doorhanger Printing</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/1/16</td>
<td>Creative Direct</td>
<td>Campaign Materials-Letterhead, Printing and Mailing</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/24/16</td>
<td>Creative Direct</td>
<td>Management-Printing</td>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[FEC, accessed 5/10/17]

**January 2016: Just Prior To Launching His Congressional Bid, State Committee Paid $448.25 To Facebook For Advertising**

**January 4th: Taylor Authorized A $448.25 Payment From State Committee To Facebook For “Advertising”**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Payee</th>
<th>Item or Service</th>
<th>Authorizing Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/4/16</td>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>Advertising</td>
<td>Scott Taylor</td>
<td>$448.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Virginia Department of Elections Campaign Finance, 1/4/16]

**January 2016: After Taylor Announced His Congressional Bid, State Committee Began Renting A “Legislative Office” For $4,700 – An Expenditure It Had Never Made Previously**

**January 2016: State Committee Paid $4,700 To Rent A “Legislative Office”…**

State Committee Made One Payment To Town Center Office Suites On January 29th, 2016 For $2,200 And A Second Payment Of $2,500 On April 15th, 2016.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Payee</th>
<th>Item or Service</th>
<th>Authorizing Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/15/16</td>
<td>Town Center Office Suites, LLC</td>
<td>Legislative office rent</td>
<td>Brenda Roberts</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One Columbus Center, Ste 600</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Virginia Beach, VA 23462</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/29/16</td>
<td>Town Center Office Suites, LLC</td>
<td>Legislative office rent</td>
<td>Scott Taylor</td>
<td>$2,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One Columbus Center, Ste 600</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Virginia Beach, VA 23462</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$4,700</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Virginia Board of Elections Campaign Finance Reports, 1/29/16; 4/15/16]

*Note: No records were immediately found showing Taylor using the office for either campaign or legislative business.*

*…Despite Taylor Having A $15,000 Allowance Available Through The House Of Delegates*

**As Of 2014, Virginia Delegates Received A $15,000 Allowance For A Legislative Office.** “Members of the House of Delegates get $17,640. […] But Virginia lawmakers also get $180 a day when the legislature is in session and $200 a day if they attend a legislative committee or commission meeting before or after the regular session. […] They also get a $15,000 allowance, paid directly to each legislator, for a district office — with no requirement to account for how any of it is spent. Some rent office space, at times from themselves, while others just get a P.O. box and operate from home. Most say the allowance doesn’t cover the cost of their travel for legislative business or of the phones, computers and stationery used for their legislative work.” [Daily Press, 11/18/14]
Prior To Taylor’s Congressional Run, State Committee Had Never Paid For An Office

State Committee Had No Other Payments Designated As Legislative Rent Or Payments To Town Center Suites. [Virginia Department of Election Campaign Finance Reports, accessed 5/10/17]

January 2017: Federal Committee Rented A Conference Room At The Same Building

Federal Committee Made One Payment To Town Center Suites For Conference Room Rental. [FEC, 1/23/17]

February 2017: Taylor’s Congressional Office Leased Same Office For Use As Its District Office


1 Columbus Center Was An Office Building In Downtown Virginia Beach. [Town Center Office Suites, accessed 5/9/17]

February 2017: Taylor Officially Leased The Same Office For Use As His Congressional Office.
“Congressman Scott Taylor leased 2,750 square feet of office space in the Divaris-leased and -managed One Columbus Center located at 283 Constitution Avenue in Virginia Beach, Va. Scott William Taylor is the United States Representative for Virginia’s 2nd congressional district. Michael Divaris, Vivian Turok and Krista Costa handled the lease negotiations on behalf of the landlord, Columbus Tower, LLC. Congressman Taylor was represented by Divaris’ Jason Oliver and Alex Divaris.” [Divaris Real Estate, 2/17/17]

January 2016: State Committee Paid Taylor’s Nephew Zachery $3,000 For Consulting Immediately Before Taylor Launched His Congressional Bid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Payee</th>
<th>Item or Service</th>
<th>Authorizing Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/4/16</td>
<td>Zachary Taylor</td>
<td>Consulting</td>
<td>Scott Taylor</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Virginia Department of Elections Campaign Finance Reports, 1/4/16]

State Committee Previously Paid Zach Taylor $220 For Campaign Sign Installations & Gas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Payee</th>
<th>Item or Service</th>
<th>Authorizing Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/13/13</td>
<td>Zach Taylor</td>
<td>Yard sign installation and gas</td>
<td>Scott Taylor</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/23/13</td>
<td>Zach Taylor</td>
<td>Gas and Yard sign installations</td>
<td>Scott Taylor</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/17/13</td>
<td>Zach Taylor</td>
<td>Gas and yard sign installment</td>
<td>Scott Taylor</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$220</strong></td>
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</table>

[Virginia Department of Elections Campaign Finance Reports, 4/17/13; 4/23/13; 5/13/13]

Federal Committee Paid Zachery Taylor $7,750 For Campaign Consulting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Payee</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/1/16</td>
<td>Zachary Taylor</td>
<td>Campaign Consulting-Staff</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/19/16</td>
<td>Zachary Taylor</td>
<td>Campaign Consulting-Staff</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/8/16</td>
<td>Zachary Taylor</td>
<td>Campaign Consulting-Staff</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/2/16</td>
<td>Zachary Taylor</td>
<td>Campaign Consulting-Staff</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

126
Zachery Taylor Was Taylor’s 22-Year-Old Nephew

Zachery Taylor Was Scott Taylor Nephew. “Planning a major in foreign affairs at Virginia, Taylor is spending the summer working for his uncle, Scott Taylor, seeking a congressional seat. Scott Taylor represents the Kempsville and Town Center areas of Virginia Beach in the House of Delegates.” [Tidewater Community College, 5/25/16]

June 2016: The Same Month As Taylor’s Congressional Primary, State Committee Spent $3,630.97 On Postage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Payee</th>
<th>Item or Service</th>
<th>Authorizing Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/30/16</td>
<td>Treasurer of Virginia 101 North 14th Street Richmond, VA 23219</td>
<td>Session postage</td>
<td>Brenda Roberts</td>
<td>$3,630.97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Virginia Department of Elections Campaign Finance Reports, 6/30/16]

June 14th: Taylor Defeated Rep. Randy Forbes In A Contested Primary For The 2nd Congressional District

The Republican Primary For The 2nd Congressional District Seat Was Held On June 14th, 2016. [New York Times, 6/14/16]


Prior To Taylor’s Congressional Bid, State Committee Spent At Least $6,000 On Shipping And Postage Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Payee</th>
<th>Item or Service</th>
<th>Authorizing Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/11/15</td>
<td>US Post Office</td>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>Brenda Roberts</td>
<td>$49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/22/15</td>
<td>House of Printing</td>
<td>Two mailings to district</td>
<td>Brenda Roberts</td>
<td>$645.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/22/15</td>
<td>Treasurer of Virginia</td>
<td>Postage Fee</td>
<td>Scott Taylor</td>
<td>$4,224.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/5/15</td>
<td>House of Printing</td>
<td>Printing &amp; Mailing</td>
<td>Brenda Roberts</td>
<td>$382.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/30/14</td>
<td>USPS</td>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>Brenda Roberts</td>
<td>$35.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/5/13</td>
<td>US Post Office</td>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>Scott Taylor</td>
<td>$3.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/18/13</td>
<td>US Post Office</td>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>Scott Taylor</td>
<td>$3.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/9/13</td>
<td>US Post Office</td>
<td>Stamps</td>
<td>Scott Taylor</td>
<td>$46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/6/13</td>
<td>Mark Weiss Assoc</td>
<td>Shipping</td>
<td>Scott Taylor</td>
<td>$266.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/23/13</td>
<td>Brenda Roberts</td>
<td>Reimbursement for supplies, stamps</td>
<td>Scott Taylor</td>
<td>$421.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: $6,077.34

January-May 2016: State Committee Spent $1,305 On Office Supplies From Sam’s Club

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Payee Name</th>
<th>Item or Service</th>
<th>Authorizing Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/3/16</td>
<td>Sam’s Club, Virginia Beach</td>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>Brenda Roberts</td>
<td>$660</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/6/16</td>
<td>Sam’s Club, Virginia Beach</td>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>Brenda Roberts</td>
<td>$265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/6/16</td>
<td>Sam’s Club, Virginia Beach</td>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>Brenda Roberts</td>
<td>$95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/22/16</td>
<td>Sam’s Club, Virginia Beach</td>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>Scott Taylor</td>
<td>$285</td>
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<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$1,305</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

[Virginia Department of Elections Campaign Finance Reports, 1/22/16; 3/6/16; 5/3/16]

Prior To Taylor’s Bid For Congress, State Committee Had Never Spent Money On Office Supplies

Taylor’s House of Delegates Had Previously Spent No Money On Items Designated Office Supplies Before January 22nd, 2016. [Virginia Department of Elections Campaign Finance Reports, accessed 5/10/17]

2016: Federal Committee Spent $3,413 On Office Supplies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Payee Name</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/24/16</td>
<td>Office Depot</td>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>Virginia Beach</td>
<td>$69</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/24/16</td>
<td>Target</td>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>Virginia Beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/21/16</td>
<td>Sam’s Club</td>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>Virginia Beach</td>
<td>$178</td>
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<td>9/27/16</td>
<td>Sam’s Club</td>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>Virginia Beach</td>
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<td>9/26/16</td>
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<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>Virginia Beach</td>
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<td>9/26/16</td>
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<td>Virginia Beach</td>
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<td>9/26/16</td>
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<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>Virginia Beach</td>
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<td>9/26/16</td>
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<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>Virginia Beach</td>
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<td>8/15/16</td>
<td>Sam’s Club</td>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>Virginia Beach</td>
<td>$95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/09/16</td>
<td>Target</td>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>Virginia Beach</td>
<td>$82</td>
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<td>7/14/16</td>
<td>Target</td>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>Virginia Beach</td>
<td>$52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/13/16</td>
<td>Best Buy</td>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>Virginia Beach</td>
<td>$376</td>
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<td>Sam’s Club</td>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>Virginia Beach</td>
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<td>Office Depot</td>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>Virginia Beach</td>
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<td>6/13/16</td>
<td>Office Depot</td>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>Virginia Beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/13/16</td>
<td>Office Depot</td>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>Virginia Beach</td>
<td>$26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/09/16</td>
<td>Office Depot</td>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>Virginia Beach</td>
<td>$20</td>
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<td>6/08/16</td>
<td>Office Depot</td>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>Virginia Beach</td>
<td>$3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/01/16</td>
<td>Best Buy</td>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>Virginia Beach</td>
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<td>5/25/16</td>
<td>Sam’s Club</td>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>Virginia Beach</td>
<td>$214</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/20/16</td>
<td>Office Depot</td>
<td>Office Supplies - Zachary Taylor</td>
<td>Virginia Beach</td>
<td>$159</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|          | **Total:** |                 |                  | **$3,413** |

[FEC, accessed 5/10/17]
Real Estate

In The Virginia House, Taylor Attempted To Pass A Bill Making Real Estate Taxes Negotiable, Which May Have Benefited His Real Estate Businesses

2014: Taylor Introduced An Unsuccessful Bill To Make Real Property Tax Assessments Negotiable

Taylor’s Bill HB1416 Would Have Put The Burden of Proof Of Real Property Assessment On The Party Appealing The Assessment. “In circuit court proceedings to seek relief from real property taxes, neither party shall have the burden of proof. Each party, beginning with the county, city, or town, shall present evidence whether the property in question is valued at more than its fair market value; whether the assessment is uniform in its application; and whether the assessment was arrived at in accordance with generally accepted appraisal practices, procedures, rules, and standards as prescribed by nationally recognized professional appraisal organizations such as the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) and applicable Virginia law relating to valuation of property.” [Richmond Sunlight, 12/22/14]

January 2015: The Bill Failed. [Richmond Sunlight, 1/28/15]


2015: Taylor’s Company Assurance Properties Owned At Least 10 Properties And Made Between $45,009 And $135,000 In Rent. [Taylor 2016 Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed 7/14/17]

2008: While Running For Mayor Of Virginia Beach, Taylor Said That His Number One Priority Was Lowering Real Estate Taxes

On Virginia Republican Blog Bearing Drift, Taylor Said That His Number One Issue Was “Lower Real Estate Taxes(Our Assessments Are Inflated).” “Main issues- 1) Lower Real Estate Taxes(Our assessments are inflated),Which means more efficient spending of our tax dollars. […] I am a moderate Republican. I am a former NAVY SEAL and now small business owner. I like strong military, Low Taxes, smaller government, and capitalism.” [Bearing Drift, 7/4/08]

Donald Trump

Significant Findings

- Taylor voted in line with Trump’s position 97.4% of the time.
- Taylor traveled with Trump on Air Force One.
- Taylor hosted a 2016 campaign event for Trump in Virginia Beach.
- During the presidential campaign, Taylor praised Trump for not being politically correct.
- Taylor’s 2016 campaign slogan was almost the same as Trump’s: “Let’s All Make America Great Again.”
- Taylor condemned Trump’s comments on the Access Hollywood tape but did not rescind his support of Trump.
- Taylor defended Trump’s actions as president and said he had not lost confidence in Trump.
  - Taylor dismissed the idea of Trump’s impeachment as blind partisanship.
  - Taylor claimed he would not hesitate to disagree with Trump if it were “warranted.”
  - Taylor warned against questioning Trump’s mental capability.
- Taylor claimed he supported a congressional investigation into Russia’s interference in the 2016 election but voted down any attempt to establish a commission to look into it.
  - Taylor opposed an independent investigation into Russia or Comey’s firing.
- Taylor defended Trump’s right to fire Comey.
  - Taylor accused Democrats of politicizing Comey’s firing and claimed calls for an investigation into Russian interference was partisan-driven.
  - Taylor claimed there had been “zero evidence of collusion with Russia.”
- Taylor said that the answer to preventing future Russian meddling in U.S. elections was a “cyber policy.”
- Taylor repeatedly voted against forcing Trump to disclose his tax returns.
- Taylor had previously condemned the Obama administration for leaks, but under Trump said that “regular Americans” weren’t concerned with the issue.
  - Taylor’s group OPSEC and his book “Trust Betrayed” were intensely critical of leaks under Obama.
Taylor Voted With Trump’s Positions 97.4% Percent Of The Time

Taylor Voted In Line With Trump’s Position 97.4% Percent Of The Time, The Highest Percentage Of All The Members Of The Virginia Delegation

FiveThirtyEight: Taylor Voted In Line With Trump’s Position 97.4% Percent Of The Time, The Highest Percentage Of All The Members Of The Virginia Delegation. [FiveThirtyEight, accessed 8/8/17]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Virginia Delegation Votes In Line With Trump</th>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Party</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Trump Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scott Taylor</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>VA-2</td>
<td></td>
<td>97.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Comstock</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>VA-10</td>
<td></td>
<td>95.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Goodlatte</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>VA-6</td>
<td></td>
<td>95.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Brat</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>VA-7</td>
<td></td>
<td>95.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert J. Wittman</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>VA-1</td>
<td></td>
<td>92.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Morgan Griffith</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>VA-9</td>
<td></td>
<td>92.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas A. Garrett Jr.</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>VA-5</td>
<td></td>
<td>90.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark R. Warner</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>VA Senator</td>
<td></td>
<td>41.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Kaine</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>VA Senator</td>
<td></td>
<td>31.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerald E. Connolly</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>VA-11</td>
<td></td>
<td>14.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald S. Beyer Jr.</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>VA-8</td>
<td></td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobby Scott</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>VA-3</td>
<td></td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Donald McEachin</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>VA-4</td>
<td></td>
<td>10.3%</td>
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[fiveThirtyEight, accessed 8/8/17]

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<tr>
<th>Taylor Votes In Line With Trump</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>MEASURE</th>
<th>TRUMP POSITION</th>
<th>TAYLOR VOTE</th>
<th>LIKELIHOOD OF AGREEMENT</th>
<th>PLUS-MINUS</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July 27</td>
<td>Making appropriations for defense and other purposes (235-192)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>69.6%</td>
<td>+30.4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July 25</td>
<td>Imposing sanctions on Russia, Iran and North Korea (419-3)</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>-0.5</td>
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<td></td>
<td>July 25</td>
<td>Repeal of a rule banning some financial companies from using mandatory arbitration clauses (231-190)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>72.6%</td>
<td>+27.4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July 18</td>
<td>Delaying implementation of ozone standards (229-199)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>69.4%</td>
<td>+30.6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>June 29</td>
<td>Increasing penalties for undocumented immigrants who re-enter the U.S. after being convicted of certain crimes (257-167)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>83.9%</td>
<td>+16.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 29</td>
<td>Penalizing states and localities that have “sanctuary” laws on immigration (228-195)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>73.8%</td>
<td>+26.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 28</td>
<td>Limiting health care lawsuits related to coverage provided through a federal program (218-210)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>56.8%</td>
<td>+43.2</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>Allowing people who lose their jobs to receive tax credits under the American Health Care Act for continued coverage (267-144)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>90.5%</td>
<td>+9.5</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<td>Vote</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>Making it easier for the Department of Veterans Affairs to discipline employees (368-55)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>97.9%</td>
<td>+2.1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>Withholding Affordable Care Act subsidies from people until their citizenship is verified (238-184)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>79.2%</td>
<td>+20.8</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>June 8</td>
<td>Dismantling financial regulations put in place by the Dodd-Frank Act (233-186)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>72.8%</td>
<td>+27.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Making it easier to seek the death penalty for killing or attempting to kill first responders (271-143)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>83.7%</td>
<td>+16.3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>The American Health Care Act of 2017 (217-213)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>57.9%</td>
<td>+42.1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>The 2017 fiscal year appropriations bill (309-118)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>71.7%</td>
<td>+28.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>Allowing employers to offer employees time off instead of pay for overtime work (229-197)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>69.3%</td>
<td>+30.7</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>Extension of government funding for one week (382-30)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>92.9%</td>
<td>+7.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>Repeal of an FCC rule barring internet providers from sharing data on customers’ activities (215-205)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>59.1%</td>
<td>+40.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>Allowing small businesses to provide insurance through trade and professional associations (236-175)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>79.8%</td>
<td>+20.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>Removing antitrust exemption for insurance providers (416-7)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>99.6%</td>
<td>+0.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 16</td>
<td>Giving the secretary of veterans affairs more flexibility to discipline employees (237-178)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>75.1%</td>
<td>+24.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 8</td>
<td>Department of Defense Appropriations Act (371-48)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>95.2%</td>
<td>+4.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>Changes to rulemaking requirements for federal agencies (246-176)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Not voting</td>
<td>79.1%</td>
<td>–</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Repeal of a Department of Labor rule regarding records of work-related injuries and illnesses (231-191)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>70.6%</td>
<td>+29.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Requires review of proposed regulations by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (241-184)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>80.6%</td>
<td>+19.4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Establishment of a commission to review federal regulations (240-185)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>71.3%</td>
<td>+28.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>Repeal of a rule requiring state and local governments to distribute federal funds to qualified health centers even if they perform abortions (230-188)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>75.6%</td>
<td>+24.4</td>
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<td>Feb. 15</td>
<td>Repeal of a Department of Labor rule on drug testing of applicants for unemployment compensation (236-189)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>79.1%</td>
<td>+20.9</td>
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<td>Feb. 15</td>
<td>Repeal of a rule that allowed a new type of state-based retirement plan (231-193)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>72.0%</td>
<td>+28.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 15</td>
<td>Repeal of a rule that allowed a new type of retirement plan established by local governments (234-191)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>74.6%</td>
<td>+25.4</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 7</td>
<td>Repeal of a Department of Education rule on teacher preparation programs (240-181)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>77.1%</td>
<td>+22.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 7</td>
<td>Repeal of a Department of Education rule on school accountability (234-190)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>73.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 7</td>
<td>Repeal of changes to Bureau of Land Management planning rules (234-186)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>75.2%</td>
<td>+24.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 3</td>
<td>Repeal of a rule requiring energy companies to reduce waste and emissions (221-191)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>69.3%</td>
<td>+30.7</td>
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<td>Feb. 2</td>
<td>Repeal of a rule requiring the Social Security Administration to submit information to the national background-check system (235-180)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>80.0%</td>
<td>+20.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 2</td>
<td>Repeal of a rule requiring some federal contractors to report labor violations (236-187)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>77.5%</td>
<td>+22.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 1</td>
<td>Repeal of the stream protection rule (228-194)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Not voting</td>
<td>71.1%</td>
<td>——</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 1</td>
<td>Repeal of a rule requiring energy companies to disclose payments to foreign governments (235-187)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Not voting</td>
<td>74.5%</td>
<td>——</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 24</td>
<td>Permanent ban on the use of federal funds for abortion or health coverage that includes abortions (238-183)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>78.7%</td>
<td>+21.3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 13</td>
<td>Waiver allowing James Mattis to become secretary of defense (268-151)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>84.8%</td>
<td>+15.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 13</td>
<td>Budget resolution to repeal the Affordable Care Act (227-198)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>64.6%</td>
<td>+35.4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 5</td>
<td>Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2017 (237-187)</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>78.7%</td>
<td>+21.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

[FiveThirtyEight, accessed 5/10/17]

**Relationship With Trump & The Trump Sphere Of Influence**

**September 2017: Taylor Was Spotted At The Trump Hotel Bar**

Taylor Went To The Trump Hotel Bar. “Speaking of the Trump Hotel, I bump into—last night, at the bar—at the Trump Hotel at about four, five o’clock, I guess it was about five, I was sitting there with former Speaker of the House of Georgia, Mark Burkholder, and in comes Scott Taylor, and I says, ‘Scott, you gotta come on my show tomorrow.’ And so here he is. Scott, good to have you with us, man. [TAYLOR] ‘Good morning, John, and great to see you at the Trump Hotel as well. Always have a good time there.'” [WHKT, 9/8/17] Note: Recording saved on drive.

**September 2017: Taylor Travelled With Trump On Air Force One**

Taylor Travelled With Trump On Air Force One To Newport News To Commission The USS Gerald R. Ford Aircraft Carrier. “And the perks rarely cross party lines. When Trump traveled to Newport News, Va., to commission the USS Gerald R. Ford aircraft carrier, he brought along GOP Reps. Rob Wittman (Va.) and Scott Taylor (Va.). But Democratic Rep. Bobby Scott (Va.), who represents the district, wasn’t invited.” [The Hill, 9/7/17]

**2015: Taylor Hosted A Trump Campaign Event At Virginia Beach**
Taylor Hosted An Event Trump Rally At A Local Convention Center In Virginia Beach. “Virginia Beach, Va. - Delegate Scott Taylor may book a bigger venue to house Donald Trump’s campaign rally event. Trump is scheduled to speak at an event hosted by Delegate Taylor on Friday. ‘The Trump event sold out faster than anyone anticipated. We are pleased that he is coming to Virginia Beach and hope others candidates will follow. While the Presidential campaign is running the event, as they should, we are trying to push for a bigger venue,’ Taylor said in a press release. […] NewsChannel 3 spoke to Taylor who says he reached out to several campaigns but Trump was the first to respond and he agreed to do the event. The convention center holds about 2,500 people and it was sold out by noon.” [WKTR, 10/1/15]

Taylor Claimed That He Had Reached Out To Several Campaigns But Trump’s Was The First To Respond And Agree To The Event.” “Donald Trump is scheduled to speak at an event hosted by Delegate Scott Taylor on Friday. Tickets sold out within hours, but there is a waitlist for those who would like to attend. The event will be held at Wave Convention Center in Virginia Beach. NewsChannel 3 spoke to Taylor who says he reached out to several campaigns but Trump was the first to respond and he agreed to do the event. The convention center holds about 2,500 people and it was sold out by noon.” [CBS – 3 WTKR, 9/29/15]

Trump’s Event Was Sold Out. “The event will be held at Wave Convention Center in Virginia Beach. […] The convention center holds about 2,500 people and it was sold out by noon.” [CBS – 3 WTKR, 9/29/15]

Taylor: Trump “Tells It Like It Is. I Like That He Is Not Politically Correct And Does Not Back Down”

October 2015: Taylor: Trump “Tells It Like It Is. I Like That He Is Not Politically Correct And Does Not Back Down.” “Taylor says he has not endorsed anyone but he likes Trump because he ‘tells it like it is.’ ‘I like that he is not politically correct and does not back down,’ says Taylor. ‘After being contacted by several Presidential campaigns seeking endorsement, I decided the best thing to do was offer to help to facilitate and host town halls in the largest city in Virginia,’ said Taylor. ‘It is important for the people of Virginia Beach, Hampton Roads, and all of Virginia to see and hear as many candidates as possible.’” [WKTR, 10/1/15]

Defense Of The Trump Administration

May 2017: Taylor: “I Haven’t Lost My Confidence In The President”

Taylor: “I Haven’t Lost My Confidence In The President…Is He Perfect? Absolutely Not. But No One Is.” “There’s no question that there were some stumbles this week. No question about it. He talked about classified information, I would be a complete hypocrite if I said that it is not worrisome for leaking of classified information, to put people’s live in jeopardy, and obviously shake alliances. […] I haven’t lost my confidence in the president to be our president. Look, I just haven’t. So, there was some stumbles this week, and there will be more stumbles. There always are with every president. So, the answer is no, I think he’s still fit to be president. […] Is he perfect? Absolutely not. But no one is.” [CNN, Erin Burnett OutFront, 5/19/17] Note: No video found.

February 2017: Taylor Dismissed The Idea Of Trump’s Impeachment As Blind Partisanship

Taylor: “Some Of The Folks - They Want You To Impeach The President Right Now For Nothing. They’re Blinded In Their Opposition To Him.” “‘If you want to move me, educate in a calm, professional way,’ he said. ‘I’m not going to be able to magically swipe away the anxiety of people who don’t like President Trump, just like I couldn’t with people who didn’t like President Obama. It’s just unrealistic,’ Taylor said. ‘Some of the folks - they want you to impeach the president right now for nothing. They’re blinded in their opposition to him. ... The reality is his success is the country’s success.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/27/17]
**February 2017: Taylor Said Three ‘Confrontational’ Town Halls Did Not Change His Opinion On Trump**

Taylor Said Three Confrontational Town Halls Had Not Changed His Opinion Of Trump. “Three nights of confrontational questions from unhappy constituents haven’t caused Rep. Scott Taylor to temper his conservative views. Nor is he going to step up criticisms of President Donald Trump. ‘I’m not sure they’ve changed very much, to be honest with you,’ Taylor said Friday.” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/27/17]

The Virginian-Pilot: Taylor Was “Unwilling To Distance Himself From The White House Now.” “He sometimes struggled to provide clear and direct answers. He was an early supporter of President Donald Trump’s campaign and was unwilling to distance himself from the White House now, despite the growing chaos and unpredictability of the administration.” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/22/17]

**February 2017: Taylor Claimed He Would Disagree With Trump “If I Feel It’s Warranted”**

Taylor: “I Have Been Very Public About Disagreeing With His Positions Or Things That He Said. And If I Feel It’s Warranted, I’ll Do It Again.” “Taylor said he has taken issue with President Donald Trump’s stances on several occasions. ‘I have been very public about disagreeing with his positions or things that he said. And if I feel it’s warranted, I’ll do it again,’ he said.” [Delmarva Now, 2/23/17]

**February 2017: Taylor: “It’s Important That The Country Remain Calm. I Know The President Has Not Helped With A Lot Of That Stuff”**

Taylor: “It’s Important That The Country Remain Calm. I Know The President Has Not Helped With A Lot Of That Stuff.” “Taylor drew applause when he acknowledged Trump’s comments have inflamed differences rather than healing them. ‘Leaders have a duty not to be divisive. You’re not going to see me try to divide us,’ he said. ‘It’s important that the country remain calm. I know the president has not helped with a lot of that stuff.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/22/17]

**February 2017: Taylor Said That It Was Not A Good Idea For Americans To Question Trump’s Mental Capability**

Taylor: “There’s Also A Lot Of Emotion And A Lot—Like When They’re Questioning The Mental Fitness Of The President, I Mean, That’s Not A Good Question.” “There’s also a lot of emotion and a lot — like when they’re questioning the mental fitness of the president, I mean, that’s not a good question. You know what I mean? I’m more than willing to engage in reasonable things. I’m not intimidated by shouting. It doesn’t move me whatsoever. I have been through way worse than this. I think that’s the wrong approach.” [CNN, CNN Newsroom, 2/22/17] Note: No video found.

**February 2017: Taylor Defended The Pace Of The Trump Administration**

Taylor: “There Are Some Things I’d Like To See Move Faster, And At The Same Time, There Are Things That Have Moved Very Fast With This President.” “CUOMO: Are you happy with the pace of progress of the administration so far? TAYLOR: Well, it depends on what you’re talking about. I mean, he’s certainly taken some action very, very quickly. And some good action, as well, too. In Congress, on Capitol Hill, we’re kind of on schedule, what we talked about a couple months ago. We’re — we’re right around where we should be, schedule-wise. Sure, there are some things that I’d like to see happen a lot faster. Some of that’s in his control. Some of that is not. Some of it’s out of his control, like getting these cabinet secretaries through and doing their jobs. Look, and we’ve talked about this a lot, actually. Getting the intelligence community, getting the NSA guy there and together on the same page so that we can better protect Americans. That’s in the best interests of all of us, no matter what
side of the aisle you’re on. But yes, there are some things I’d like to see move faster, and at the same time, there are things that have moved very fast with this president.” [CNN, 2/20/17]

Russia Investigation

**Significant Findings**

- Taylor claimed he supported a congressional investigation into Russia’s interference in the 2016 election but simultaneously voted down any attempt to establish a commission to look into the matter.

- Taylor argued that “regular American folks” were not interested in knowing more.

- Taylor opposed an independent investigation into Russia or Comey’s firing.

- Taylor said the push for an investigation was partisan-driven.

- Taylor defended Trump’s right to fire Comey.

- Taylor admitted that he didn’t think the memo was “full of lies.”

- Taylor accused Democrats of politicizing the firing.

- Taylor said that if Trump’s claim that Obama was wiretapping him were false, he would “absolutely” rebuke the president.

- Taylor claimed there had been “zero evidence of collusion with Russia.”

- Taylor said that other countries had tried to interfere too.

- Taylor blamed Obama for not being “a little stronger on this.”

- Taylor conceded that Donald Jr.’s Russia meeting was “inappropriate.”

- After it was revealed that Trump had discussed highly classified information with the Russian ambassador and foreign minister, Taylor admitted that “there had been some stumbles.”

- Taylor concluded that the answer to Russian interference was a cyber policy specifically banning foreign interference in U.S. elections.

The Congressional Investigation

Taylor Claimed That He Supported A Bipartisan Congressional Investigation Into Russia

Taylor Said That He Supported A Bipartisan Congressional Investigation Into Alleged Russian Interference In The 2016 Election. “The Rev. Berkley Ford asked whether Taylor supports an independent investigation into alleged Russian interference in the recent election. Taylor said he supports a bipartisan Congressional investigation, saying classified information heard in a Senate briefing ‘warranted it.’ The FBI also is investigating. ‘That’s were I am right now, sir, because I think there’s a process in place ... I want to see that work first, and see what happens,’ he said.” [Delmarva Daily Times, 2/25/17]
Taylor On An Investigation Into Russian Interference In The Election: “I Do Support This Investigation Because I Think It’s Responsible And They Feel Like It’s Necessary.”  “RUHLE: Congressman, I want to talk about Russia for a moment. You said last night you fully supported an investigation into Russia meddling in our election. How about step two? Would you support that investigation if the focus shifted to the president’s ties to Moscow? TAYLOR: Well, what I will tell you right now, and — and I think this is the responsible thing to say is, listen, the — the intelligence community has a — a duty with oversight and if they feel it’s necessary to provide oversight over the executive branch, then they should do so. And of course, they had a classified meeting with the FBI and bipartisan. They came out and said that this — this warrants further — an investigation, a bipartisan one. And two, Russia meddling into — into this election. I think that’s important. I’m not gonna speak on hypotheticals. I’m happy to come back on your program and answer where I am if that — something like that does come up. But I — I do support this investigation because I think it’s responsible and they feel like it’s necessary. So, let’s see what they find.” [MSNBC, 2/21/17]

As Of May 2017, Taylor Had Voted Seven Times Against Establishing A Commission To Look Into Russian Interference In The Election. [HR 1343, Vote #215, 4/4/17; HRes 233, Vote #203, 3/29/17; HRes 229, Vote #197, 3/28/17; HRes 156, Vote #115, 3/1/17; HRes 123, Vote #93, 2/15/17; HRes 116, Vote #90, 2/14/17; HRes 33, Vote #26, 1/10/17]

February 2017: Taylor: “I’m Not Gonna Speak On Hypotheticals…But I — I Do Support This Investigation Because I Think It’s Responsible And They Feel Like It’s Necessary. So, Let’s See What They Find.”  “RUHLE: Congressman, I want to talk about Russia for a moment. You said last night you fully supported an investigation into Russia meddling in our election. How about step two? Would you support that investigation if the focus shifted to the president’s ties to Moscow? TAYLOR: Well, what I will tell you right now, and — and I think this is the responsible thing to say is, listen, the — the intelligence community has a — a duty with oversight and if they feel it’s necessary to provide oversight over the executive branch, then they should do so. And of course, they had a classified meeting with the FBI and bipartisan. They came out and said that this — this warrants further — an investigation, a bipartisan one. And two, Russia meddling into — into this election. I think that’s important. I’m not gonna speak on hypotheticals. I’m happy to come back on your program and answer where I am if that — something like that does come up. But I — I do support this investigation because I think it’s responsible and they feel like it’s necessary. So, let’s see what they find.” [MSNBC via Archive.org, 2/21/17]

January 2017: Taylor’s Response To Intelligence Reports About Russian Hacking Into The Election: “I’d Like To See A Little Bit More Information On That Specific Commission…”  “Old school Republicans in the Senate aren’t sitting idly by as their party’s new leader Donald Trump bashes the intelligence community and questions findings that Russia hacked American entities and operatives in order to influence the 2016 election. […] Rank-and-file House GOP members displayed varying degrees of urgency and certainty. ‘I’d like to see a little bit more information on that specific commission; I’d also like to see more information on the actual hacking, itself,’ said Rep. Scott Taylor, R-Va.” [KSNW-TV, 1/5/17]

Taylor Defended Republican Investigators Who Worked With The White House To Shape Media Coverage Of The Russia Investigation

Taylor Said He Did Not “See Any Issue With” Republican Congressional Investigators Coordinating Media Strategy With The White House To Shape Media Coverage Of The Russia Investigation.  “BLITZER: Let’s talk a little bit about what is going on right now. Is it an appropriate thing for the Republican chairman of the House and Senate Intelligence Committees, Richard Burr, Devin Nunes, to be engaged in these coordinated contacts with the White House trying to rebut reports, for example, reports that appeared in ‘The New York Times’ about contacts campaign operatives and Russian officials? TAYLOR: I think, first and foremost, let me say there is a little bit of partisanship here, of course, and I think it’s up for the American people to judge that. And it’s up for them to answer those questions. I don’t see any issue with it at the moment right now. I think that when you have the FBI that’s investigating the issue, they have said they had a broader thing than just Flynn to support that obviously. You had the Senate Intelligence Committee come out in a bipartisan fashion. In fact, my senator, Senator Mark Warren,
Taylor Admitted It Was Reasonable To Ask Republican Chairmen Not To Coordinate With The White House. “BLITZER: But if they’re engaged in oversight right now on a sensitive issue like this, and they want the public to have full confidence in the bottom line, in their report that eventually emerges, wouldn’t it be best for the chairmen of these committees to tell the White House, you know what, let’s not coordinate our conversations right now? We could talk about the budget. We could talk about other issues, but when it comes to this investigation that’s ongoing on such a sensitive issue, it’s best not to have this kind of contact. TAYLOR: I think that’s absolutely reasonable. I think it’s reasonable to ask that question. BLITZER: Just to err on the side of caution, because there’s been such lack of confidence in the way Congress oversees various aspects of the government.” [CNN, 2/27/17]

Taylor Dismissed The “Hysteria” Over Russian Interference And Claimed “Regular American Folks” Were Not Interested In Knowing More

Taylor Said There Was “A Lot Of Hysteria And Overplaying From The Other Side” And That “Regular American Folks” Were “Not So Swept Up.” “At the same time, there’s a lot of hysteria and overplaying from the other side as well, too. You know, I talked to a lot of folks that are just on the street, regular American folks, who may not watch cable news, for example, and they’re not so swept up and they’re not so hell bent on every single thing being a Russian conspiracy. They want to see results.” [CNN, 7/17/17]

Taylor On Sen. Mark Warner And The Russia Investigation: “I Think [Warner’s] Making A Huge Mistake In Terms Of What People Really Care About…I Think He’s Overplaying It.” “HARLOW: So do you think that it’s believable, then? Because the ranking Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, Mark Warner, I’m sure you heard this yesterday also told our Jake Tapper that he thinks it’s, quote, ‘unbelievable.’ That neither the son nor the son-in-law ever shared that information with the candidate, with their dad. Do you buy it? Do you think it’s believable that Kushner and Donald Jr. never went to the president with this? TAYLOR: I really don’t know. […] I do think my senator, who I have respect for — we talked about this — I think he’s making a huge mistake in terms of what people really care about. And that’s the integrity of these elections. […] I think he’s overplaying it.” [CNN, 7/17/17]

Taylor Claimed People Cared About The “Integrity Of These Elections,” Not The Trump Administration’s Role. “TAYLOR: I really don’t know. I mean, think about when this was. Think about what the context was. This was before all the Russia hysteria. This was in June. I know they had many meetings. I do think my senator, who I have respect for — we talked about this — I think he’s making a huge mistake in terms of what people really care about. And that’s the integrity of these elections. There has to be a policy that gets put forth by Democrats, by Republicans that deters and makes it very clear to other nations that they will not, in fact, mess or meddle within our elections — hysteria as well, too. I think he’s overplaying it.” [CNN, 7/17/17]

Taylor: “People Are Concerned About The Integrity Of Elections, But To See A Russian Conspiracy On Every Single Corner, They Are Not.” “HARLOW: But, Congressman, you would agree, surely, your constituents care that American elections are secure. I know that to be the case. TAYLOR: Yes. Because I hear that very often. HARLOW: So let me get your reaction. TAYLOR: Let me touch on that really quickly because people are concerned about the integrity of elections, but to see a Russian conspiracy on every single corner, they are not. They think it’s overplayed. HARLOW: OK, so let me get your reaction then because you said, look, there are some self-inflicted wounds here and you’ve also that there’s some hysteria. I know you mean, for example, some Democrats calling this treasonous.” [CNN, 7/17/17]

Taylor Repeatedly Voted Against Investigating Russian Interference In The 2016 Election
• Voted To Kill A Procedural Move To Bring Up Bill To Create An Independent Commission To Investigate Russian Interference In The 2016 Election. [H Res 323, Vote #259, 5/17/17; USA Today, 5/17/17]

• Voted Against Preventing The Underlying Bill From Applying To Any Individual Who Withheld Information From Congress Related To An Investigation Regarding Russian Influence Of The 2016 Presidential Election. [HR 1343, Vote #215, 4/4/17; CQ Floor Votes, 4/4/17]

• Voted To Block The Creation Of A Commission Investigating Foreign Interference in the 2016 Presidential Election. [HRes 233, Vote #203, 3/29/17; CQ, 3/29/17]

• Voted To Block Consideration Of Establishing An Investigation Into Foreign Interference In The 2016 Presidential Election. [HRes 229, Vote #197, 3/28/17; CQ, 3/28/17]

• Voted To Block Consideration Of A Bill To Establish The National Commission On Foreign Interference In The 2016 Election. [H Res 156, Vote #115, 3/1/17; Office of the Democratic Leader, 115th Congress Previous Questions, 3/1/17]

• Voted To Block Consideration Of A Bill To Establish The National Commission On Foreign Interference In The 2016 Election. [H Res 123, Vote #93, 2/15/17; Office of the Democratic Leader, 115th Congress Previous Questions, 2/15/17]

• Voted To Block Consideration Of A Bill To Establish The National Commission On Foreign Interference In The 2016 Election. [H Res 116, Vote #90, 2/14/17; Office of the Democratic Leader, 115th Congress Previous Questions, 2/14/17]

• Voted To Block Consideration Of A Bill To Establish The National Commission On Foreign Interference In The 2016 Election. [HR 33, Vote #26, 1/10/17; Office of the Democratic Leader, 115th Congress Previous Questions, 1/10/17]

Vote Bullets

Voted To Kill A Procedural Move To Bring Up Bill To Create An Independent Commission To Investigate Russian Interference In The 2016 Election. “House Republicans blocked a vote Wednesday on legislation to create an independent commission to investigate Russian interference in the 2016 election. A Democratic effort to force a vote failed, with only one Republican – Rep. Walter Jones of North Carolina – joining them in a procedural vote that would have allowed them to bring up the bill. But Democrats also launched a petition Wednesday that would allow them to force a vote on the bill at a later date if they get a majority of lawmakers to sign on.” [H Res 323, Vote #259, 5/17/17; USA Today, 5/17/17]

HEADLINE: GOP Blocks House Vote On Independent Russia-Trump Investigation. [USA Today, 5/17/17]

Voted To Kill A Resolution Would Require DHS To Send Information To House Homeland Security Committee Related To Hacking Or Other Russian Interference In The 2016 Election. “The House Homeland Security Committee has given an unfavorable designation to a resolution compelling the Department of Homeland Security to release documents pertaining to the Russia investigation. The resolution of inquiry, introduced by Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.), would require the DHS to send information to the panel related to hacking or other interference in the 2016 election. […] Though a committee cannot table the resolution in a way that stops it from going to the floor, it can issue a recommendation of favorable or unfavorable. In this case, the committee chose the latter on a 14-12 party-line vote.” [H Res 235, Homeland Security Committee, Committee Vote, 4/5/17; The Hill, 4/5/17]

Voted Against Preventing The Underlying Bill From Applying To Any Individual Who Withheld Information From Congress Related To An Investigation Regarding Russian Influence Of The 2016 Presidential Election. In April 2017, Taylor voted against a “motion to recommit the bill to the House Financial Services Committee with instructions to report it back immediately with an amendment that would prevent the bill’s provisions from applying to any individual that withheld information from Congress related to an investigation regarding individuals influencing the outcome of the 2016 U.S. presidential election.” The motion was rejected 228-185. [HR 1343, Vote #215, 4/4/17; CQ Floor Votes, 4/4/17]
Committee On The Judiciary,

and federal statues governing conflicts of interest pertain targeting the president or his advisors or information on how the Foreign Emoluments Clause of the Constitution

President Donald Trump.

attorney general to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the financial practices of

member of the Ho

Intelligence Investigations And Potential Conflicts Of Interest Stemming From Trump

Voted To Kill A Resolution Directing The Attorney General To Transmit Documents Detailing Counter

Disclosure Docum

Politico: Judiciary Committee Republicans Killed A Measure Pressure The Trump Administration To

Disclosure Documents Detailing Ties To Russia And Conflicts Of Interest Stemming From His Business

Empire. “Congressional Republicans killed a Democratic measure Tuesday to pressure the Trump administration to turn over documents detailing President Donald Trump’s ties to Russia, as well as conflicts of
interest stemming from his business empire. The measure, known as a ‘resolution of inquiry,’ was defeated on an 18-16 party-line vote. The resolution would have requested that the Department of Justice provide Congress with ‘any document, record, memo, correspondence or other communication’ related to ‘criminal or counterintelligence investigations’ involving Trump or his White House staff.” [Politico, 2/28/17]

HEADLINE: House GOP defeats resolution requesting Trump-Russia documents [Politico, 2/28/17]

Voted To Block Consideration Of A Bill To Establish The National Commission On Foreign Interference In The 2016 Election. In February 2017, Taylor voted for the “Democratic Previous Question would amend the rule to allow for consideration of H.R. 356, to establish the National Commission on Foreign Interference in the 2016 Election.” The previous question passed 233-190. A vote against the previous question would have allowed the bill to be considered. [H Res 123, Vote #93, 2/15/17; Office of the Democratic Leader, 115th Congress Previous Questions, 2/15/17]

Voted To Block Consideration Of A Bill To Establish The National Commission On Foreign Interference In The 2016 Election. In February 2017, Taylor voted for the “Democratic Previous Question would amend the rule to allow for consideration of H.R. 356, to establish the National Commission on Foreign Interference in the 2016 Election.” The previous question passed 227-188. A vote against the previous question would have allowed the bill to be considered. [H Res 116, Vote #90, 2/14/17; Office of the Democratic Leader, 115th Congress Previous Questions, 2/14/17]

Voted To Block Consideration Of A Bill To Establish The National Commission On Foreign Interference In The 2016 Election. In January 2017, Taylor voted for the “Democratic Previous Question would amended the rule to allow for consideration of H.R. 356, to establish the National Commission on Foreign Interference in the 2016 Election.” The previous question passed 234-179. A vote against the previous question would have allowed the bill to be considered. [HR 33, Vote #26, 1/10/17; Office of the Democratic Leader, 115th Congress Previous Questions, 1/10/17]

Bill Would Create A 12 Member Bipartisan, Independent Commission To Examine Attempts By The Russian Government To Influence The 2016 Elections. “The bill would create a 12-member, bipartisan, independent commission empowered to interview witnesses, obtain documents, issue subpoenas, and receive public testimony to examine attempts by the Russian government and others to use electronic means to influence, interfere with, or sow distrust in this year’s U.S. elections. The commission — which would examine similar efforts by any other foreign governments or entities — would issue a final report with recommendations for future security protections to Congress and the President within 18 months of the bill’s enactment.” [Oversight Committee Democrats, Press Release, 12/7/16]

Taylor Said He Opposed The Appointment Of An Independent Investigator

Taylor Said He Was Not Supportive Of An Independent Investigation With A Special Prosecutor Into The Trump-Russia Investigation. “BLITZER: That explains why Darrell Issa, who was the chairman of the Government Oversight Committee, over the weekend came out in favor of a special prosecutor, an independent investigation, completely independent. He’s a Republican. Are you with him on that? TAYLOR: I’m not yet. Not yet. I have been very clear on several programs I’m not there yet. I’m confident in the FBI. I’m confident in their investigation. I’m confident in Senator Mark Warren and Burr, who believe they have a reason to look further into it. And we will see what happens. If they get more, some other information, which as you heard both the chairman, Nunes, as well as Schiff come out and say there is nothing there yet. One of them said there is nothing yet. The other one said there is nothing there yet. If something comes, then we will talk about it then.” [CNN, 2/27/17]

Taylor: “I Don’t Want This To Devolve Into A Witch-Hunt, Obviously.” “BLITZER: Because the argument is that if nothing wrong occurred, no one on the president’s campaign did anything wrong in having inappropriate
contacts with Russian operatives, what’s the problem? Go ahead and have your investigation, check it all out, and the administration if they did nothing wrong will be cleared. TAYLOR: What I will tell you is, I don’t want this to devolve into a witch-hunt, obviously. And there is some partisanship at play here.” [CNN, 2/27/17]

Taylor Would Not Commit To The Need For An Independent Investigation Into Comey’s Firing

Taylor Claimed That “Republican Or Democrat...They Have To Have The Confidence Of The American People For Objective Investigations. And I’m Not Saying That There Has To Be An Independent One At This Moment But We’ll See.” “I don’t know — I don’t think — look, as I said before, I mean, the FBI — I don’t want them to become political, right — this political football — on either side — CUOMO: Right. TAYLOR: — Republican or Democrat, you know. They have to have the confidence of the American people for objective investigations. And I’m not saying that there has to be an independent one at this moment but we’ll see. You know, like I said, there’s two concerns I have. One, a president has to have confidence in his director — that his prerogative or hers and, we have to have the confidence in the process for the American people. Let’s see who gets appointed next so the Senate, in a bipartisan way, can have confidence that they will carry out an objective investigation.” [CNN, 5/12/17]

Taylor Said If Trump Failed To Appoint An “Independent And Nonpolitical” Successor To Comey, Then “A Select Committee Or Special Prosecutor” Might Be Necessary. “Director Comey made missteps, but if they were significant enough for his dismissal, it should have happened months ago,’ [Taylor] said, adding that he has seen no evidence of Trump administration officials colluding with Russia. He warned that if Trump fails to appoint an ‘independent and nonpolitical’ replacement for Comey then ‘a select committee or special prosecutor’ might be necessary.” [Washington Post, 5/10/17]

Taylor Implied That Democrats Were Interested In An Investigation Into Ties Between Trump And Russia On A Partisan Basis

Taylor: “You Have Folks That Are On The Side Who Don’t Like The President Who Are Asking For Everything, And I Don’t Think That’s — That’s Not The Right Thing To Do.” “CAMEROTA: So, when people say they’re concerned about possible Russian ties between the Trump administration and Moscow, what’s your response? I mean, what do you tell them? TAYLOR: Well, you know, in this — in this country, we have processes, right? So, right, you’ve already heard the FBI is coming out saying they’re investigating, they investigated General Flynn. They didn’t — they’re not charging him with anything. They acknowledged that their investigation is broader. Of course, there was a classified briefing that they went into the Intelligence Committee in the Senate who came out of that meeting in a bipartisan meeting and said there’s something to look into here. And that’s their prerogative and their duty as an oversight folks, of course. And I support that. And that’s what I support at this time. Of course, you have folks that are on the side who don’t like the president who are asking for everything, and I don’t think that’s — that’s not the right thing to do. We have processes and we should go through them in this country.” [CNN, 2/23/17]

Taylor Criticized “Folks Simply Using [Russia’s Interference] As A Political Baseball Bat To Hit The President.” “But it doesn’t help of course if you have folks simply using that as a political baseball bat to hit the president and the president of course not taking it super seriously, because he has got the Democrats saying treason and these stuff like that. That doesn’t help the folks who — who it needs to help out, and that is the American people. So we do have to have a policy moving forward, so that we can protect the integrity of our elections.” [CNN, 7/16/17]

Taylor Criticized The Democrats For Focusing On The Russia Investigation: “I...Believe That Democrats— I Think They Are Overplaying Their Hand On This.” “But I also believe that Democrats — I think they are overplaying their hand on this. I’ve watched my senator all day, talking to day. You know, I have to disagree with my — my colleague Congresswoman Jayapal that was just here calling yet another investigation. When there have been tons of investigations, there’s ongoing ones now, that are going on. And I think the polls that you actually were talking to her about reflect exactly what most American — Americans think right now.” [CNN, 7/16/17]
Taylor Accused Democrats Of Obstruction: “All They’re Doing Is Overplaying Their Hand On This Russia Deal And They’re Not Doing The Work Of The American People.” “So all [Democrats]’re doing is obstructing. All they’re doing is overplaying their hand on this Russia deal and they’re not doing the work of the American people. So I think the polls rightfully the ones that you referenced clearly speak to what’s happening in Washington right now.” [CNN, 7/16/17]

Taylor Claimed “If Someone Did Something Wrong…Hold Them Accountable,” But He Decried “You The Democrat, Congressman Come…Talking About Treason And All This Crazy Ridiculousness.” “Now what I will say is again same thing, if someone did something wrong, if there was something here that was illegal, OK, hold them accountable. And the proper authorities will do that, the proper authorities aren’t — you the Democrat, congressman come and when they come along here, just talking about treason and all this crazy ridiculousness. That is — you know, the issue with what’s going on right here, and I think the — what’s bad for the American people and how politicized this is. [17:20:00] Again, someone does something wrong, hold them accountable.” [CNN, 7/16/17]

Taylor Blamed “The Folks Who Are Against Donald Trump, Partisans, Democrats” For “Overplay[ing] This Issue.” “CABRERA: Why do you think the Russia investigation has become a bipartisan issue? We talked about polls. I want to put that one up but show eighty percent of Democrats say that this is a big deal, the Russia investigation. While only thirty-three percent of Republicans believe so. Congressman, are you still with me? TAYLOR: Oh, I’m sorry, I’m sorry. So yes the — I think exactly what we just talked about earlier, I think, you know, you’ve had the folks who are against Donald Trump, partisans, Democrats who have overplayed this issue, they made it almost ridiculous, when you’re talking about treason.” [CNN, 7/16/17]

Taylor Implied Claims Of Russian Interference Into The Election Were “A Political Weapon”

Taylor Defended Trump’s Skepticism About Intelligence Reports That The Russians Influenced The Election: “Intel Has Been Used Sort Of As A Political Weapon.” “CUOMO: [Trump] attacked the findings of the intelligence committee. He questioned them once again, this time on the world stage, saying could have been Russia, could have been other people, nobody knows for sure. Why doubt the U.S. intel on the world stage on the eve of talking face-to-face with Putin? TAYLOR: Well, I think your criticism is legitimate. […] But I will say, and this isn’t in defense of the intelligence community or the President, which I have many friends in the intelligence community, but, you know, you’ve had this — intel has been used sort of as a political weapon.” [CNN, 7/6/17; Youtube, 7/6/17]

Trump’s Handling Of The Russia Investigation

After Trump Revealed Classified Information To Russian Diplomats, Taylor Said Trump’s “Stumbles” Were Similar To “With Every President,” And That Trump Was Not “Perfect,” But “I Think He’s Still Fit To Be President”

Taylor: “There Was Some Stumbles This Week, And There Will Be More Stumbles. There Always Are With Every President. So, The Answer Is No, I Think He’s Still Fit To Be President. […] Is He Perfect? Absolutely Not. But No One Is.” “There’s no question that there were some stumbles this week. No question about it. He talked about classified information, I would be a complete hypocrite if I said that it is not worrisome for leaking of classified information, to put people’s live in jeopardy, and obviously shake alliances. […] I haven’t lost my confidence in the president to be our president. Look, I just haven’t. So, there was some stumbles this week, and there will be more stumbles. There always are with every president. So, the answer is no, I think he’s still fit to be president. […] Is he perfect? Absolutely not. But no one is.” [CNN, Erin Burnett OutFront, 5/19/17] Note: No video found.
Taylor Said There Would Be “Political Ramifications” For The Trump Administration’s “Shift In Stories” About Russia

Taylor Called On The Trump Administration To Be Transparent About Russia

Taylor Said Should Be More Careful When Talking About Russia

Taylor Said He Was “Aware Of No Evidence From The President” That Obama Wiretapped Trump, And Suggested The President Reach Out To The FBI With His Claim
definitely work with the committees in equation to do Congress to do so.” [CNN, Newsroom, 3/6/17] Note: No video found.

**Taylor Said He Thought The President Should Reach Out To The FBI To Receive Confirmation That Obama Had Wiretapped Him.** “CUOMO: Sean Spicer, the press secretary says yesterday in response to a direct question that no, the president has not reached out to the FBI about the wiretapping. Why would the president of the United States not get the answer to the question that he has? Unless this is all just a distraction to — you know, to keep people not focused on the Russia question surrounding his administration? He can get the answer to the question faster than anybody else. Why wouldn’t he pick up the phone and call the FBI if he cares so much? TAYLOR: I think that he should. I think that he should call the FBI and try to find it out. Now, if he — if he feels as though that he needs to go around, and he needs Congress to exercise their oversight, then let’s see. And then, you know, people out there can judge whether he was correct or not with his tweets or not, saying that there’s a wiretap. It is a big accusation. I understand that.” [CNN, New Day, 3/8/17] Note: No video found.

**Taylor Said The Claim Should Be Taken Seriously Because The President Said It**

Taylor: “It Is A Big Claim…We Should Take It Seriously If The President Of The United States Is Saying That.” “BASH: Are you worried about American credibility when a President puts forward an unsubstantiated claim such as this about his predecessor? TAYLOR: Well, again, it is a big claim, of course. And like I said, I think that, you know, the appropriate committees, if they decide it’s in their purview to investigate it, they should. I certainly am not aware of any evidence but we’ll see how it all plays out. But I think that it’s — like I said, it’s a big claim. And we should take it seriously if the President of the United States is saying that.” [CNN, Newsroom, 3/6/17] Note: No video found.

**Taylor Said He Would “Absolutely” Rebuke Trump If Trump Lied About Being Wiretapped**

Taylor Claimed That If There Was Nothing To The Accusation, “I Imagine He Will Be Rebuked.” “TAYLOR: We should look into it, see if there is anything there or not. If not, I imagine he will be rebuked.” [CNN, Newsroom, 3/6/17] Note: No video found.

Taylor Claimed He Would “Absolutely” Rebuke Trump If There Was Ultimately No Evidence. “BASH: Would you be one to rebuke him if there is no evidence that comes to the fore? TAYLOR: Absolutely. Absolutely.” [CNN, Newsroom, 3/6/17] Note: No video found.

**James Comey**

**Taylor Defended Trump’s Right To Fire Comey**

Taylor On Comey’s Firing: “A President Has To Have Confidence In His Director.” “TAYLOR: I don’t know — I don’t think — look, as I said before, I mean, the FBI — I don’t want them to become political, right — this political football — on either side — CUOMO: Right. TAYLOR: — Republican or Democrat, you know. They have to have the confidence of the American people for objective investigations. And I’m not saying that there has to be an independent one at this moment but we’ll see. You know, like I said, there’s two concerns I have. One, a president has to have confidence in his director — that his prerogative or hers and, we have to have the confidence in the process for the American people. Let’s see who gets appointed next so the Senate, in a bipartisan way, can have confidence that they will carry out an objective investigation.” [CNN, 5/12/17]

Taylor Defended The Legality Of Trump’s Choice To Remove Comey As Trumps “Prerogative.” “CUOMO: There is a meaningful silence coming from the GOP leadership about this clear deception from the White House as to why James Comey was fired. […] What do you make of this obvious disconnect between what we were told this was about and now what the president says it was really about? TAYLOR: There certainly is a disconnect in messaging. But what I will say of the front end — it is important to say this. But it is the prerogative of the
president. CUOMO: Yes. TAYLOR: The director serves at his — at his pleasure. CUOMO: True. TAYLOR: And he can remove him. That is his legal authority, for sure. Yes, the messaging is off; the timing is off. And you — I know that folks will report things on all stations on either side. And Democrats will say things. Republicans will say things. But in the end it is his prerogative. He serves at his pleasure.” [CNN, 5/12/17]

Taylor On Comey’s Memo On His Trump Meetings: “The Memo Itself, I Don’t Think Is Full Of Lies”

Taylor: “The Memo Itself, I Don’t Think Is Full Of Lies...[Trump’s] Within His Legal Authority...To Fire Him And Then—Again, But My Concern In Moving Forward Is Who’s Next.” “CUOMO: What about the confidence in what comes out of the White House? I mean, you know, they said this was about Rosenstein’s memo. […] What about being able to trust what comes out of the White House? Does that matter? TAYLOR: Of course, it matters. Of course, it matters. The memo, itself, I don’t think is full of lies and I don’t think that’s what you were saying. CUOMO: No, I’m not saying that. TAYLOR: But the — I mean, the memo — yes. The memo, itself — obviously, you know, he’s very well respected, of course and, you know, Director Comey, who has given great service to this nation — let’s say that, of course — but he made some missteps for sure and — on both — and I think Democrats and Republicans are both on record for saying that. And he clearly — the president — whether that’s the only reason or there are other reasons where he lost the confidence of the president, he lost the confidence of the president and he had — he’s within his legal authority — CUOMO: Sure. TAYLOR: — to fire him and then — again, but my concern in moving forward is who’s next. Who’s next and is that — does that give a person who is for the American people — they believe there’s objectivity in an investigation. But your question is yes, you have to — there has to be trust. There’s no doubt about that.” [CNN, 5/12/17]

Taylor Claimed He Was “Troubled” By The Timing Of Comey’s Firing

Taylor Said He Was “Troubled” By The Timing Of Comey’s Firing. “But Reps. Barbara Comstock of Northern Virginia and Scott W. Taylor of Virginia Beach questioned the timing of the dismissal and suggested that additional investigatory powers might be warranted. […] Taylor, a first-term congressman and former Navy SEAL in a military-heavy district, also walked a fine line, saying he was ‘troubled’ by the timing of Comey’s firing.” [Washington Post, 5/10/17]

Taylor Denied Comey’s Firing Constituted Inference In The Russia Investigation

Taylor: “I’m Not Sure That [Trump’s Actions Were] Interfering With The Investigation...I Wouldn’t Say That That’s Interfering,” “CUOMO: If you now know that the president, by his admission, did try to interfere in the investigation. He wanted to know what was going on. He wanted to know where Comey’s head was on it, and he was willing to fire Comey when he decided he had dissatisfaction about where Comey head was with the Russia investigation. What does that tell you about the ability to have this investigation done and the potential need for it to be removed to a truly independent body? TAYLOR: So with all due respect, I’m not sure that that was interfering with the investigation. If I had — if I thought for a second I might be under investigation and I was having dinner with the FBI director, I might ask him, too. ‘Hey, am I...’ He may not tell me, but I might ask him. So I don’t — I wouldn’t say that that’s interfering.” [CNN, 5/12/17]

Taylor Accused Democrats Of Politicizing Comey’s Firing

Taylor: Democrats Must Stop “Politicizing This Firing As They Were Calling For Comey’s Dismissal As Well.” “Reps. Scott Taylor, R-Virginia Beach, and Robert C. ‘Bobby’ Scott, D-Newport News, and Democratic Sens. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine all raised questions about the timing of the firing. Taylor said Democrats must stop ‘politicizing this firing as they were calling for Comey’s dismissal as well and there has been zero evidence of collusion with Russia’ but also said the decision is troubling. ‘Director Comey made missteps, but if they were significant enough for his dismissal, it should have happened months ago,’ Taylor said in a statement issued Wednesday on his website. […] Taylor said Trump must choose an FBI director who is an ‘independent and
nonpolitical leader’ to gain ‘the public’s confidence,’ or else a special prosecutor or committee must be established to head up the Russia investigation.” [Daily Press, 5/11/17]

**Jared Kushner**

**Taylor Said Kushner’s Omissions On His Security Clearance Forms Were Accidental And Amended**

Taylor: “From What I Understand, He Actually—Before This Reporting Had Happened, He Amended That, To Report This Meeting.” “Look, I think that there was — I think that it was a mistake, the meeting, of course. I think that it was handled incorrectly, but you also have to understand — you know, we’re talking about Donald Jr. right now who is not, you know, a member of this administration whatsoever. […] CABELERA: …Jared Kushner was at the meeting. He is a member of the administration. He did fill out security clearance forms… TAYLOR: That’s correct and so from what I understand, he actually... CABELERA: ... and do not disclose these meetings at least three times. TAYLOR: From what I understand, he actually — before this reporting has had happened, he amended that, to report this meeting.” [CNN, 7/16/17]

When Asked If He Thought It Was Possible That Donald Jr. Or Jared Kushner Did Not Tell The President About The Meeting, Taylor Said, “I Don’t Know. I Have No Idea.” “[09:25:05] HARLOW: Do you believe that the son or the son-in-law, Jared Kushner did not tell the president? TAYLOR: I believe the meeting was inappropriate. I said that before. HARLOW: So I just didn’t asked you that. What I asked you is do you believe that they didn’t tell their father about this? Do you believe that or not? TAYLOR: I don’t know. I have no idea.” [CNN, 7/17/17]

**Taylor On Kushner: “You’re Innocent Until You’re Proven Guilty”**

Taylor: “Well, In This Country…You’re Innocent Until Proven Guilty…We Have An FBI Investigation, So Let It Take Its Course.” “BERMAN: CNN is reporting that Jared Kushner has become a focus of the investigation to alleged contacts or ties between the Trump campaign and Trump transition and Russia. Jared Kushner is a senior adviser — he’s also the president’s son-in-law — senior adviser to the White House in charge of a whole lot of things. Mideast peace, China talks, improved ties with Mexico, innovative government, criminal justice reform. What’s your comfort level with a man now who is at least being investigated by the FBI, being in charge with all of these things? What does it say to you? TAYLOR: Well, in this country, as you very well know, you’re innocent until proven guilty and I’ve said on this program before, let’s let the facts lie where they may. We have a special prosecutor, we have an intelligence investigation on the House, one on the — on the Senate as well. We have an FBI investigation, so let it take its course.” [CNN, 5/26/17]

**Donald Jr.**

**Taylor On Donald Jr.’s Russia Meeting: “I Think It's Inappropriate.”**

When Pressed On The Issue Of Donald Jr.’s Collusion On Russia, Taylor Said, “I Said It Was Inappropriate. I Think It’s Inappropriate.” “HARLOW: So that’s not apples to apples. Frankly, you know that. That is not the highest levels of the Ukrainian government meeting with members of the Clinton campaign. That never happened. It is not apples to apples comparison. So I’m asking you, do you believe that it is a violation of civic honor to have had this meeting, knowing that it was from a concerted Russian government effort? TAYLOR: What I said was — and certainly something that someone else did doesn’t excuse behavior of someone else. Let’s get that clear, but sometimes we tend to focus on what’s just going on now and not other facts as well. I said it was inappropriate. I think it’s inappropriate. I think it was a grave mistake. I think the administration, if anyone had contact with Russians or anywhere, get it out there. Get it all out there, just like Chairman Gowdy said before. No more drip, drip, just get it out there.” [CNN, 7/17/17]
Taylor On Flynn’s Contact With The Russians And His Firing: “It’s Not Black And White”

VIDEO: Taylor Would Not Comment On Whether Flynn Should be Dismissed If He Did Speak With The Russian Ambassador: “…It’s Not Black And White.” “CAMEROTA: If General Flynn did have a conversation with the Russian ambassador before President Trump was in the White House, should he be dismissed? TAYLOR: Well, it all depends. I mean, it depends on what he says, of course. I mean, you know, what did he say and what did he have the authority to say or not say; and what did he have the authority to say? And a couple of days later. So I think it’s not that black and white and clear. I was listening to a former national security advisor on another network yesterday saying basically the same thing. So I think it’s not black and white. There’s — you know, I’m not privy to any inside information. So again, that’s something that the White House will have to look into and decide if they continue to have confidence. If he was wrong or right or somewhere in between. That’s up to them to decide.” [CNN, New Day, 2/22/17] (VIDEO)

Russian Interference

Taylor: “There Has Been Zero Evidence Of Collusion With Russia”

Taylor: “There Has Been Zero Evidence Of Collusion With Russia.” “Reps. Scott Taylor, R-Virginia Beach, and Robert C. ‘Bobby’ Scott, D-Newport News, and Democratic Sens. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine all raised questions about the timing of the firing. Taylor said Democrats must stop ‘politicizing this firing as they were calling for Comey’’s dismissal as well and there has been zero evidence of collusion with Russia’ but also said the decision is troubling.” [Daily Press, 5/11/17]

Taylor Claimed Other Countries Had Also Interfered In The Election

Taylor: “[Interference In The Election] Is From Other Countries, Too! We Know That For A Fact.” “CUOMO: Whatever political problems [Trump] has with the intelligence community, do you have any reason to question the intelligence community’s conclusions about Russian interference in the election? TAYLOR: No, I don’t have any reason to. And I think, you know, a couple things there. You know, the President said — he admitted that it could have been from Russia, it could have been from other countries. It is from other countries, too! We know that for a fact.” [CNN, 7/6/17; Youtube, 7/6/17]

Taylor: “[I Believe That Russia] [Was] Attempting To Mess With Our Election, I Do. I Think That Other Countries Were As Well.” “CABRERA: Is the president to blame by calling it a hoax, by calling it a witch hunt, by not taking it seriously and not — and not believing his Intelligence Community who concluded that Russia was behind the election meddling? TAYLOR: Let me say what I believe. I believe that they were attempting to mess with our election, I do. I think that other countries were as well. And I think that it’s going to be sophisticated moving forward, which is why we have to have a policy.” [CNN, 7/16/17]

Taylor Blamed Obama For Not Being “A Little Stronger On This”

VIDEO: Taylor: “The Last President Probably Should Have Been A Little Stronger On This.” TAYLOR: We both — we know that very well and the last President probably should have been a little stronger on this. In that specific meeting he’s speaking about, yes, if you’re — you know, I mean, the head of the state, the President, our President brought it up several times to Putin, he denied it. You have to move on in that meeting. That being said, yes, you know, the Senate obviously has passed sanctions I believe, and the House will also pass some sort of sanctions, as well too. And let me also say that I think that in this Russia political football back and forth, I think that — I think that what’s missing in this debate is not the rhetoric, the rousing rhetoric of treason and all of those stuff which I think is ridiculous.” [CNN, The Lead with Jake Tapper, 7/14/17] (VIDEO)
VIDEO: Taylor: “Well, Let Me First Say Obviously This Started Under A Previous Administration, Right?” “TAPPER: …one of the big issues, I think, is whether or not the United States and the Trump administration specifically should try to exact some sort of punishment against the Russians for that. I want you to listen […] to an excerpt from my interview yesterday with White House Adviser Sebastian Gorka discussing the Administration’s reluctance to punish the Russians at all. […] Congressman, do you agree at that point you have to move on? Vladimir Putin denies collusion and therefore there doesn’t need to be any punishment for Russia? TAYLOR: Well, let me first say obviously this started under a previous administration, right? TAPPER: Sure.” [CNN, The Lead with Jake Tapper, 7/14/17] (VIDEO)

Taylor Compared Russian Interference In The 2016 Election To A DNC Contractor’s Alleged Interest In Information From Ukraine

Taylor: “The DNC Of Course Sought Ukrainian Information On The President. They Kept That Fire Between The Campaign, Right? You’re Not Talking About That, You Should Be.” “CABRERA: But I’m not asking whether it was illegal, I’m asking about whether there is some sense of responsibility in owning that that’s what was believed to be going into this meeting. TAYLOR: As I said earlier on your program already, I don’t think the meeting was appropriate. That being said, a lot of things happen and I’m not — this is not an excuse because I said it was inappropriate. But there are a lot of things that happen on campaigns, you know, the DNC of course sought Ukrainian information on the president. They kept that fire between the campaign, right? You’re not talking about that, you should be. But if there’s something — if something needs to happen, they should be accountable. I need to finish my sentence in the previous thing in that, what’s bad for the American people right now, when you have folks coming on here and saying it’s treason, treason, treason, and when you have folks in the administration who aren’t coming clean with everything.” [CNN, 7/16/17]

Taylor Compared Donald Trump Jr. Getting Information From The Russians To The “DNC Trying To Get Information From Ukraine.” “HARLOW: However, here is what conservative columnist and Fox News contributor, Charles Krauthammer writes, ‘The Russia scandal has entered a new phase. […] What Donald Jr. and Kushner and Manafort did may not be criminal, but it’s not merely stupid, it’s deeply wrong, and a fundamental violation of civic honor. With having that meeting, attending it saying, I love it, according to Donald Jr., is that a violation of civic honor? TAYLOR: Well, I don’t know about that. With all due respect to Charles, who says it much more eloquent than I ever could — it’s troubling, it’s inappropriate. I said that also as well, too, so is the DNC trying to get information from Ukraine. Those are all inappropriate stories.” [CNN, 7/17/17]

Taylor On Future Meddling

Taylor Said The Answer To Russia Interfering Was A Cyber Policy Banning Foreign Interference In U.S. Elections

Taylor Claimed That The Country Needed A Policy To Prevent Other Nations From Interfering In Our Elections. “No question, what you’re missing here, what the American people are missing here is a policy that says to other nations around the world, that they will not interfere with our election. No one’s talking about that and they should be because there should be repercussions and consequences for any country that tries to deal… […] There’s no policy coming out of this or even talk about it.” [CNN, 7/16/17]

Taylor: “The American People…Need A Cyber Policy. A Uniform Policy That Says What Is An Act Of War.” “TAYLOR: But the bigger issue is here is what the American — the American people need a policy — need a cyber policy. A uniform policy that says what is an act of war — defines that. What is an act of aggression? Where is the red line for other countries meddling in our elections? We don’t have that right now. It’s being lost, quite frankly, on all the partisan discussion. […] We have plenty of investigations going on right now into Russia but what we’re missing here is a uniform policy to make sure this doesn’t happen again.” [CNN, 5/26/17]
Taylor Advocated For A “Monroe Doctrine In Cyber” That Would State “To Other Nations, They Will Not Interfere With Our Election.” “But, you — what you have to have here is a policy, a policy that says to other nations, they will not interfere with our election, a Monroe Doctrine in cyber if you will. That’s missing from this debate and that’s very unfortunate both on the Democrats and the Republicans. We have to come together and we have to set a line in the sand that makes sure that every nation on this earth understands that they will not mess with the integrity of our election. And that’s the responsibility of both Democrats and Republicans.” [CNN, The Lead with Jake Tapper, 7/14/17] (VIDEO)

March 2017: Taylor Introduced HRes 200, Which Would Express The Sense That The United States Should Develop A Comprehensive Cybersecurity Policy. According to the bill’s text, HRes 200, would express the “sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should develop and adopt a comprehensive cybersecurity policy that clearly defines acts of aggression, acts of war, and other related events in cyberspace, including any commensurate responses to any such act or event in cyberspace.” In the last action reported, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. [HRes 200, 3/16/17]

### Tax Returns

#### February 2017: Taylor: “I Think” Trump “Should” Release His Tax Returns

When Asked If Trump Should Release His Tax Returns, Taylor Replied, “I Think He Should. I Think It’s A Reasonable Request.” “CAMEROTA: I do want to mention. I want to get to that. But what’s your answer to whether or not the president should release his tax returns? TAYLOR: I think he should. I think it’s certainly a reasonable request.” [CNN, 2/23/17]

#### Taylor Said Trump Was Not Obligated To Release His Tax Returns

Taylor Admitted That It Was “Certainly A Reasonable Request” That Trump Should Release His Tax Returns But “He Doesn’t Have To.” “CAMEROTA: I do want to mention. I want to get to that. But what’s your answer to whether or not the president should release his tax returns? TAYLOR: I think he should. I think it’s certainly a reasonable request. He doesn’t have to. But I think he should, sure.” [CNN, 2/23/17]

Taylor: “It’s Up To The American People To Hold Him Accountable For That, Of Course, At The Ballot Box If They Think That’s The Biggest Issue.” “It’s up to the American people to hold him accountable for that, of course, at the ballot box if they think that’s the biggest issue. But the reality is, whether you want to see it or not, he’s still the president and he still will be the president even if he shows it.” [CNN, 2/23/17]

#### Taylor Repeatedly Voted Against Releasing Trump’s Tax Returns

- **Voted To Kill A Motion To Require President Trump To Disclose His Tax Returns.** [Motion, Vote #292, 6/7/17; CQ Floor Votes, 6/7/17]
- **Voted Against Requiring Major Party Candidates For President To Release Three Most Recent Tax Returns.** [HR 305 (HRes 275), Vote #224, 4/26/17; CQ, 4/26/17]
- **Voted To Kill A Motion To Require President Trump To Disclose His Tax Returns.** [Motion, Vote #219, 4/5/17; CQ Floor Votes, 4/5/17]
- **Voted To Kill A Motion To Require President Trump To Disclose His Tax Returns.** [Motion, Vote #201, 3/28/17; CQ Floor Votes, 3/28/17]
- **Voted To Block Consideration Of Requiring Trump To Disclose His Tax Returns.** [H Res 230, Vote #199, 3/28/17; CQ, 3/28/17]
• Voted To Block Consideration Of A Vote Appealing A Ruling That Forcing Trump To Disclose His Tax Returns Is Not A House Privilege. [Motion, Vote #182, 3/22/17; CQ, 3/22/17]
• Voted To Kill A Motion To Require President Trump To Disclose His Tax Returns. [Motion, Vote #161, 3/15/17; CQ Floor Votes, 3/15/17]
• Voted To Kill A Motion To Require President Trump To Disclose His Tax Returns. [Motion, Vote #128, 3/7/17; CQ Floor Votes, 3/7/17]
• Voted To Kill Consideration Of Bill To Require Any Candidate Of A Major Political Party To Release Three Years Of Federal Income Tax Returns. [H Res 150, Vote #103, 2/28/17; Office of the Democratic Leader, 115th Congress Previous Questions, 2/28/17]
• Voted To Kill A Motion To Require President Trump To Disclose His Tax Returns. [Motion, Vote #101, 2/27/17; CQ Floor Votes, 2/27/17]
• Voted To Block Consideration Of The Presidential Tax Transparency Act. [H Res 55, Vote #62, 1/24/17; Office of the Democratic Leader, 115th Congress Previous Questions, 1/24/17]

Vote Bullets

Voted To Kill A Motion To Require President Trump To Disclose His Tax Returns. In June 2017, Taylor voted for “McCaul, R-Texas, motion to table (kill) the Capuano, D-Mass., motion to appeal the ruling of the Chair that the Capuano resolution related to the disclosure of President Trump’s tax returns does not constitute a question of the privileges of the House.” The motion passed 228-186. [Motion, Vote #292, 6/7/17; CQ Floor Votes, 6/7/17]

Voted Against Requiring Major Party Candidates For President To Release Three Most Recent Tax Returns. In April 2017, Taylor voted for “Collins, R-Ga., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 275).” Upon defeat of the motion, Democrats planned to introduce an amendment to the rule that, “would make in order Ms. Eshoo’s bill H.R. 305. H.R. 305 would amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to require any candidate of a major political party for the office of the President to submit their Federal income tax returns for the three most recent years. This bill would ensure more transparency in the political process and provide the American people with additional information about the financial situation of a candidate for the office of the President” A vote yes was a vote against requiring presidential candidates to release their tax returns. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 237-186. [HR 305 (HRes 275), Vote #224, 4/26/17; CQ, 4/26/17]

Voted To Kill A Motion To Require President Trump To Disclose His Tax Returns. In April 2017, Taylor voted for “Foxx, R-N.C., motion to table (kill) the Jeffries, D-N.Y., motion to appeal the ruling of the Chair that the Jeffries resolution related to the disclosure of President Trump’s tax returns does not constitute a question of the privileges of the House.” The motion passed 228-184. [Motion, Vote #219, 4/5/17; CQ Floor Votes, 4/5/17]


Voted To Kill A Resolution Directing Treasury To Provide Trump’s Personal Tax Filings Over The Past Decade. As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, Taylor voted to report unfavorably to the House H. Res. 186, “of inquiry directing the Secretary of the Treasury to provide to the House of Representatives the tax returns and other specified financial information of President Donald J. Trump.” The motion passed 24-16. Reporting the resolution with an unfavorable recommendation effectively killed the legislation. [Committee on Ways and Means, Committee Vote, 3/28/17]

Pascrell Resolution Requested 10 Years Of Trump’s Tax Returns, And Any Information Treasury Has Specifying Trump’s Debt And Investments In Foreign Companies And Governments. “The resolution
requests 10 years of returns, from 2006 through 2015, and any information Treasury has that specifies Trump’s debts held by foreign companies and governments, investments in foreign countries and enterprises, and any ‘tax shelters, corporate structures, tax avoidance maneuvers, abatements or other loopholes to reduce or eliminate tax liability.’” [North Jersey Record, 3/28/17]

Voted To Kill A Motion To Require President Trump To Disclose His Tax Returns. In March 2017, Taylor voted for “Flores, R-Texas, motion to table (kill) the Lofgren, D-Calif., motion to appeal the ruling of the Chair that the Lofgren resolution related to the disclosure of President Trump’s tax returns does not constitute a question of the privileges of the House.” The motion passed 228-190. [Motion, Vote #201, 3/28/17; CQ Floor Votes, 3/28/17]

Republicans Blocked Procedural Effort To Obtain Trump’s Tax Returns From The IRS. “House Republicans on Tuesday blocked more attempts by Democrats to obtain President Donald Trump’s tax returns from the IRS. House Democrats tried for a third and a fourth time to use procedural votes to pry loose Trump’s returns. Republicans blocked both efforts, one on the House floor and the other in the House Ways and Means Committee. The House voted 228-190 on a mostly party-line vote to block the Democrats’ effort. The Ways and Means Committee voted 24-16 to oppose the effort.” [Associated Press, 3/28/17]

Voted To Block Consideration Of Requiring Trump To Disclose His Tax Returns. In March 2017, Taylor voted for the “Burgess, R-Texas, motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 230).” A vote in favor is a vote against requiring Trump to release his tax returns. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 232-184. [H Res 230, Vote #199, 3/28/17; CQ, 3/28/17]

Voted To Block Consideration Of A Vote Appealing A Ruling That Forcing Trump To Disclose His Tax Returns Is Not A House Privilege. In March 2017, Taylor voted for the “Cheney, R-Wyo., motion to table (kill) the Polis, D-Colo., motion to appeal the ruling of the Chair that the Polis resolution related to the disclosure of President Trump’s tax returns does not constitute a question of the privileges of the House.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 230-189. [Motion, Vote #182, 3/22/17; CQ, 3/22/17]

Republican Presiding Officer Cut Off Attempt By Democrats To Force A Vote To Push Committee To Request Trump’s Tax Returns. “Democrats tried but failed Monday to force a House floor vote to push a key committee to request copies of President Trump’s tax returns. It was the fourth time in as many weeks that Democrats sought to force the vote. Rep. Jared Polis (D-Colo.) attempted to offer a resolution and trigger a House floor vote, but was cut off by the Republican presiding over the House.” [The Hill, 3/20/17]

Rather Than Rule The Measure Was Not Privileged, Rep. Womak, The Presiding Officer, Ruled That Rep. Polis Was No Longer Able To Speak. “Three other Democrats in recent weeks offered similar resolutions as “privileged,” which would require the House to act within two legislative days. The presiding officer in the House at those times ruled that the measure didn’t qualify as “privileged” by affecting the chamber’s dignity and integrity. Democrats demanded roll call votes to appeal those rulings. [...] But on Monday, Rep. Steve Womack (R-Ark.), who was presiding over the chamber, took a different approach to block the measure. He declared the House would not at that time determine whether the resolution met the requirements to be “privileged” and ruled that Polis was no longer recognized to speak. Womack then ordered the House to resume voting on an unrelated noncontroversial bill regarding the Department of Homeland Security.” [The Hill, 3/20/17]

Voted To Kill A Motion To Require President Trump To Disclose His Tax Returns. In March 2017, Taylor voted for “McCarthy, R-Calif., motion to table (kill) the Crowley, D-N.Y., motion to appeal the ruling of the Chair that the Crowley resolution related to the disclosure of President Trump’s tax returns does not constitute a question of the privileges of the House.” The motion passed 223-183. [Motion, Vote #161, 3/15/17; CQ Floor Votes, 3/15/17]

Motion Would Have Forced House To Vote On A Resolution To Request Ten Years Of President Trump’s Tax Returns. “Crowley’s measure is similar to resolutions Democratic Reps. Bill Pascrell Jr. (N.J.)
and Anna Eshoo (Calif.) offered on the House floor in recent weeks. It includes additional language that says the American public need to know more about Trump’s business interests in order to ‘ensure that all policies put forward by the Trump Administration solely benefit the American public and not his corporate business partners.’ As was the case in past weeks, Crowley tried to offer the resolution as ‘privileged,’ meaning the House would have to act on it within two legislative days. But Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho), who was presiding over the House, ruled that the measure was not privileged, and the vast majority of Republicans voted to table Crowley’s appeal of that ruling, 223-183.” [The Hill, 3/15/17]

Voted To Kill An Amendment That Would Prevent Implementation Of The American Health Care Act Until A Formal Request Was Made To Treasury For Trump’s Personal Tax Filings Over The Past Decade. As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, Taylor voted for a “motion to table the Doggett, D-Texas, motion to appeal the ruling of the chair that the Doggett amendment to the Brady, R-Texas substitute amendment was not germane. The Doggett amendment would bar the bill from taking effect until the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee submits a written request to the Treasury secretary for copies of the president’s federal tax returns for the last 10 years. It also would require that the tax returns and any accompanying information be available for Democratic and Republican committee staff and members to examine.” The motion was agreed to 23-16. [Committee On Ways and Means, Committee Vote, 3/8/17; CQ Committee Coverage, 3/8/17]

Voted To Kill A Motion To Require President Trump To Disclose His Tax Returns. In March 2017, Taylor voted for “McCarthy, R-Calif., motion to table (kill) the Eshoo, D-Calif., motion to appeal the ruling of the chair that the Eshoo resolution related to the disclosure of President Trump’s tax returns does not constitute a question of the privileges of the House.” The motion passed 227-186. [Motion, Vote #128, 3/7/17; CQ Floor Votes, 3/7/17]

Motion Would Have Forced House To Vote On A Resolution To Request Ten Years Of President Trump’s Tax Returns. “House Democrats on Tuesday furthered their push to force Republicans to take tough votes on President Trump, offering a resolution on the House floor to request Trump’s tax returns for the second time in a little over a week. The resolution was blocked on a procedural vote of 227-186. […] Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.) offered a resolution on Tuesday instructing the House to request 10 years of Trump’s tax returns so that they can be considered by the House Ways and Means Committee in a closed session.” [The Hill, 3/7/17]

Voted To Block Consideration Of Bill To Require Any Candidate Of A Major Political Party To Release Three Years Of Federal Income Tax Returns. In June 2016, Taylor voted for the “Democratic Previous Question would amend the rule to allow for consideration of H.R. 305, to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to require any candidate of a major political party for the office of the President to submit their Federal income tax returns for the three most recent years.” The previous question passed 224-191. A vote against the previous question would have allowed the bill to be considered. [H Res 150, Vote #103, 2/28/17; Office of the Democratic Leader, 115th Congress Previous Questions, 2/28/17]

Voted To Kill A Motion To Require President Trump To Disclose His Tax Returns. In February 2017, Taylor voted for “McCarthy, R-Calif., motion to table (kill) the Pascrell, D-N.J., motion to appeal the ruling of the chair that the Pascrell resolution related to the disclosure of President Trump’s tax returns does not constitute a question of the privileges of the House.” The motion passed 229-185. [Motion, Vote #101, 2/27/17; CQ Floor Votes, 2/27/17]

Motion Would Have Forced House To Vote On A Resolution To Request Ten Years Of President Trump’s Tax Returns. “A House Democratic lawmaker attempted Monday to force a House floor vote on a resolution to request President Trump’s tax returns, but the effort failed on a party line vote, 229-185, with two Republicans voting ‘present.’ The move was the latest in a series of Democratic efforts to push Congress to request Trump’s tax returns, and Democrats demanded a roll call vote to force Republicans to go on the record. […] Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-N.J.) offered a resolution that would have directed the House to request 10 years of Trump’s tax returns, have the House Ways and Means Committee review them in a closed session and then vote to send the information in the returns to the full House.” [The Hill, 2/27/17]
Democrats Offered Resolution To “Instruct The House To Request Trump’s Tax Returns From The Last Decade So That The House Ways And Means Committee… Can Review Them In A Closed Session.” “Democrats have offered similar resolution three other times in the last four weeks, which all resulted in procedural votes. The resolutions would instruct the House to request Trump’s tax returns from the last decade so that the House Ways and Means Committee, which has oversight of the Internal Revenue Service, could review them in a closed session. The chairmen of the House Ways and Means Committee, Senate Finance Committee and Joint Committee on Taxation have the power to request individual tax return information from the Treasury Department.” [The Hill, 3/20/17]

After Republican Presiding Officers Ruled Measure Did Not Qualify As “Privileged” Action Under House Rules, Democrats Forced Roll Call Vote To Appeal Ruling. “Three other Democrats in recent weeks offered similar resolutions as “privileged,” which would require the House to act within two legislative days. The presiding officer in the House at those times ruled that the measure didn’t qualify as “privileged” by affecting the chamber’s dignity and integrity. Democrats demanded roll call votes to appeal those rulings.” [The Hill, 3/20/17]

Voted Against Mandating A Formal Request To Treasury For Trump’s Personal Tax Filings Over The Past Decade. As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, Taylor voted against an “amendment that would direct the chairman to submit a written request to the Treasury secretary by March 1 for copies of the tax returns of President Donald Trump for the last 10 years. The returns would be examined by bipartisan staff and reviewed in executive session for potential conflicts, violations of the Emoluments Clause of the Constitution and potential entanglements with foreign governments and foreign state-owned enterprises.” The amendment was rejected 15-23. [Committee On Ways and Means, Committee Vote, 2/14/17; CQ Committee Coverage, 2/14/17]

Voted Against Amendment To Prevent Committee From Moving Any Legislation That Would Provide A Financial Benefit To President Trump. As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, Taylor voted against an “amendment that would prohibit the full committee from moving or waiving consideration of legislation that would provide any direct financial benefit to President Donald Trump, the Trump Organization or any business the president has an equity interest.” The amendment was rejected 10-17. [Homeland Security Committee, CQ Committee Coverage, 2/1/17]

Republicans Voting Against Motion: Donovan (N.Y.); Duncan, Jeff (S.C.); Fitzpatrick (Pa.); Gallagher (Wis.); Garrett (Va.); Higgins, C. (La.); Hurd (Texas); Katko (N.Y.); King, P. (N.Y.); Marino (Pa.); McCaul (Texas); McSally (Ariz.); Perry (Pa.); Ratcliffe (Texas); Rogers, Mike D. (Ala.); Rutherford (Fla.); Smith, Lamar (Texas)

Amendment Was “An Attempt To Get Trump To Release His Tax Returns.” “In an attempt to get Trump to release his tax returns, New Jersey Democrat Bonnie Watson Coleman offered an amendment, rejected 10-17, that would have prohibited the full committee from moving or waiving consideration of legislation that would provide direct financial benefit to Trump, the Trump Organization or any business where he has an equity interest. She called it a ‘good government’ amendment, but McCaul said it had ‘absolutely no relevance to any of our oversight responsibilities.’” [CQ Committee Coverage, 2/1/17]

Voted To Block Consideration Of The Presidential Tax Transparency Act. In January 2017, Taylor voted for the “Democratic Previous Question would amend the rule to allow for consideration of H.R. 305, the Presidential Tax Transparency Act.” The previous question passed 233-187. A vote against the previous question would have allowed the bill to be considered. [H Res 55, Vote #62, 1/24/17; Office of the Democratic Leader, 115th Congress Previous Questions, 1/24/17]
Taylor Repeatedly Voted Against Addressing Conflicts Of Interest In Trump’s Administration

- Voted To Empower The House Of Representatives To Investigate Trump’s Potential Conflicts Of Interest. [HRes 280, Vote #229, 4/27/17; CQ, 4/27/17]
- Did Not Vote On Consideration Of An Amendment Prohibiting The President From Making Public Communications About Or Advocating For His Business Interests. [HR 1004, Vote #125, 3/2/17; CQ, 3/2/17]
- Voted Against Recommitting The SCRUBS Act With An Amendment Exempting Rules Related To Conflict Of Interest And Bribery. [HR 998, Vote #113, 3/1/17; CQ, 3/1/17]
- Voted To Block Consideration Of A Bill To Address The Financial Conflicts Of Interest Of The President. [H Res 40, Vote #32, 1/11/17; Office of the Democratic Leader, 115th Congress Previous Questions, 1/11/17]

Vote Bullets

Voted To Empower The House Of Representatives To Investigate Trump’s Potential Conflicts Of Interest. In April 2017, Taylor voted for “Woodall, R-Ga., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 280).” Upon defeat of the motion, Democrats planned to offer a resolution that, “would direct certain officials of the Trump Administration to provide information to the House of Representatives that will enable the House to meet its constitutional responsibility to conduct oversight of the Trump Administration by investigating potential conflicts of interests of President Donald J. Trump.” A vote yes was a vote against the Democrats’ resolution. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 230-193. [HRes 280, Vote #229, 4/27/17; CQ, 4/27/17]

Did Not Vote On Consideration Of An Amendment Prohibiting The President From Making Public Communications About Or Advocating For His Business Interests. In March 2017, Taylor did not vote on the “Jayapal, D-Wash., motion to recommit the bill to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee with instructions to report it back immediately with an amendment that would prohibit the president from making public communications that refer to a business in which the president has an equity interest and would prohibit the president from publically advocating on behalf of such business interests.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 189-232. [HR 1004, Vote #125, 3/2/17; CQ, 3/2/17]

Voted Against Recommitting The SCRUBS Act With An Amendment Exempting Rules Related To Conflict Of Interest And Bribery. In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Raskin, D-Md., motion to recommit the bill to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee with instructions to report it back immediately with an amendment that would exempt from the bill’s provisions rules related to laws governing potential conflicts of interest and financial disclosures for executive branch employees, and would exempt rules related to bribery.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 190-235. [HR 998, Vote #113, 3/1/17; CQ, 3/1/17]

Voted To Block Consideration Of A Bill To Address The Financial Conflicts Of Interest Of The President. In January 2017, Taylor voted for the “Democratic Previous Question would amend the rule to allow for consideration of H.R. 371, to address financial conflicts of interest of the President and Vice President.” The previous question passed 232-168. A vote against the previous question would have allowed the bill to be considered. [H Res 40, Vote #32, 1/11/17; Office of the Democratic Leader, 115th Congress Previous Questions, 1/11/17]

Trump Administration Leaks

Taylor Held Trump Administration Leaks To A Different Standard Than Obama Administration Leaks

Taylor Claimed He Was Not Happy With Illegal Leaks Of Classified Information Or Trump’s Comments On The Issue: “There Are Problems On Both Sides.” “Taylor said he wasn’t happy with illegal leaks of
classified information to reporters but also wasn’t pleased with Trump’s comments on the issues. ‘There are problems on both sides. I have said I don’t agree with the president. ... I think it’s wrong. I have friends in the intelligence community,’ he said.” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/21/17]

Taylor Said He Was Unhappy With The Leaks To Reporters And Claimed Trump Was Wrong To Accuse Journalists Of Being The Enemy. “The congressman drew applause when he said President Donald Trump was wrong to accuse journalists of being ‘enemies of the American people.’ The news media ‘is necessary for democracy to function,’ he said. ‘I condemn that speech. I think it’s the wrong message to send.’ He also fielded queries about Trump’s derogatory comments about national intelligence agencies, the allegations of ties to Russia, and White House adviser Stephen Bannon, who has links to supporters of white nationalism. ‘Are you concerned that the administration is, itself, a threat to national security?’ asked one man as the crowd cheered. Taylor said he wasn’t happy with illegal leaks of classified information to reporters but also wasn’t pleased with Trump’s comments on the issues. ‘There are problems on both sides. I have said I don’t agree with the president. ... I think it’s wrong. I have friends in the intelligence community,’ he said.” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/21/17]

Taylor’s Organization Special Operations Education Fund OPSEC Previously Criticized The Obama Administration For Alleged National Security Leaks. “Known as OPSEC, military shorthand for operational security, the group says it has raised about $1 million for TV ads and a short film called ‘Dishonorable Disclosures,’ which criticizes the Obama administration for alleged national security leaks. […] ‘If you look at the history of these leaks, they look like they are made to make the president look strong,’ Taylor said.” [Los Angeles Times, 8/16/12]

Taylor: “I Would Be A Complete Hypocrite If I Said It Is Not Worrisome For Leaking Of Classified Information, To Put People’s Lives In Jeopardy, And Obviously Shake Alliances.” “BURNETT: So, Congressman, has your view changed at all of this president and his fitness or office this week? He shared classified information. The FBI director says that the president asked him to stop the investigation into General Michael Flynn, that’s in the Comey memo, of course. That’s according to Comey, the president denies it. You now have ‘The New York Times’ reporting, the president said: I faced great pressure because of Russia, that’s taken off because of the firing of Jim Comey. Has your impression of the man, the president, a Republican, your party, changed? TAYLOR: There’s no question that there were some stumbles this week. No question about it. He talked about classified information, I would be a complete hypocrite if I said that it is not worrisome for leaking of classified information, to put people’s lives in jeopardy, and obviously shake alliances. I wrote a book about the last administration doing this, remember the SEAL Team that Biden famously — BURNETT: Yes. TAYLOR: — leaked to friends of mine? I mean, this is — that’s a big deal. So, obviously, it’s a big deal.” [CNN, 5/19/17]

Taylor’s 2016 Election Treatment Of Trump

Taylor Denounced Trump’s Remarks About Women But Did Not Withdraw His Support

Taylor Claimed Trump’s Comments About Women Were “Unacceptable.” “Taylor has supported Trump’s candidacy but has called the presidential candidate’s sexually-explicit comments about women ‘unacceptable.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 11/8/16]

Taylor Condemned Trump’s Comments About Gold Star Parents Khizr And Ghazala Khan

Taylor: “Donald Trump’s Back And Forth Engagements With The Khans Are Counterproductive. I Encourage Him To Sincerely Apologize To Them And To End This Issue Now.” “Republican congressional candidate and former Navy SEAL Scott Taylor urged Donald Trump to apologize to the parents of a Muslim U.S. Army captain killed in Iraq and ‘end this issue now.’ […] Trump, the GOP presidential nominee, has been roundly criticized by veterans’ groups, Democrats and some Republicans for his continued verbal attacks on Khizr and Ghazala Khan of Charlottesville, parents of Humayun Khan who died in 2004. The officer’s parents have been outspoken critics of Trump in part because of his anti-Muslim comments. Trump’s attacks began after Khizr Khan
criticized Trump at last week’s Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia. ‘Donald Trump’s back and forth engagements with the Khans are counterproductive. I encourage him to sincerely apologize to them and to end this issue now,’ Taylor said in the statement.” [Virginian-Pilot, 8/3/16]

**Taylor’s Campaign Slogan Was Almost Identical To Trump’s**

Taylor Had A Similar Campaign Slogan As Trump: “Let’s All Make America Great Again.” “State Del. Scott W. Taylor, R-Virginia Beach, a former Navy SEAL, defeated Rep. J. Randy Forbes in the June Republican primary, and he is the favorite to win the general election in the Republican-leaning district. […] Taylor has capitalized on the same national hunger for an insurgent candidate that has helped propel Trump, and he a similar slogan: ‘Let’s all make America great again.’” [Richmond Times Dispatch, 8/7/16]

The Washington Post Reported That Taylor’s Radio Ads Used The “Trump-Like Slogan”: “Let’s All Make America Great Again.” “Taylor, a former Navy SEAL and Iraq War veteran, embraced that message in the military-heavy district, even adopting a Trump-like slogan in radio ads: ‘Let’s all make American great again.’” [Washington Post, 6/16/16]

**Taylor Echoed Trump’s Opinions On Hillary Clinton Even After The FBI Recommended No Charges**

After The FBI Declared It Would Not Recommend Charges Against Hillary Clinton For Her Use Of A Private Email Server, Taylor Stated: “I Think Today’s Developments Say To Me That She’s Very Careless And Reckless, And Thinks She’s Above The Law.” “After more than a year of investigating, the FBI will not recommend charges against Hillary Clinton for using private email servers while she was Secretary of State. According to Director James Comey, Clinton’s actions weren’t intentional. […] Meanwhile, Republican State Delegate Scott Taylor, who’s running for Congress, said he is surprised. ‘I think today’s developments say to me that she’s very careless and reckless, and thinks she’s above the law,” he said.” [CBS – 3 WTKR, 7/5/16]

**Judicial Appointments**

**Taylor Claimed Trump Would Make Judicial Appointments Who “Respect The Constitution”**

Taylor: Trump Would “Choose Judges And Justices That Respect The Constitution, Rule Of Law And The 2nd Amendment. I Don’t Think Hillary Clinton Will Do That.” “State Del. Scott Taylor of Virginia Beach, Marty Williams of Chesapeake and Henrico County Sheriff Mike Wade all denounced Trump’s sexually explicit and demeaning comments on a 2005 ‘Access Hollywood’ outtake video made public last week. But they argued there were significant reasons why the New York businessman should be elected rather than Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton. ‘The words in the video are unacceptable,’ said Taylor, a candidate in the 2nd Congressional District, which includes Virginia Beach and Virginia’s Eastern Shore, part of Norfolk and several localities on the Peninsula. Both Trump and Clinton are flawed candidates, Taylor said, but there is too much at stake with future U.S. Supreme Court appointments and fixing a dysfunctional Washington bureaucracy. Trump will ‘choose judges and justices that respect the Constitution, rule of law and the 2nd Amendment,’ Taylor said. ‘I don’t think Hillary Clinton will do that.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 10/11/16]

**Taylor Accused The Obama Administration Of Playing Politics With American Lives Over Leaks, But Under Trump Taylor Said Americans “Don’t Care” About Leaks**

**Taylor Accused President Obama Of Leaking Details Of Missions In Order To “Claim Political Credit”**

Taylor Argued Obama Leaked Details Of Missions In Order To “Claim Political Credit.” “[The “Kill List”] was another example of Obama’s preferred use of clandestine tactics that are less likely to draw the ire of his liberal
Taylor Questioned Obama’s Decision To Release Details Of A Failed Raid To Save Kidnapped Journalist James Foley

Taylor Questioned Obama’s Decision To Release Details Of A Failed Raid To Save Kidnapped Journalist James Foley. “Fast forward to 2014 and the ISIS threat. The group, by that time calling itself the Islamic State, had kidnapped an unknown number of Western journalists and aid workers. These barabarians revealed in a grisly video that they had two American journalists—James Foley and Steven Sotloff. They beheaded Foley on camera and announced that Sotloff would be next if the United States continued to conduct air strikes against their forces in Iraq. […] Days after the beheading video was released, the Obama administration told reporters that there had been a failed mission to save Foley…Now, why on earth would Obama authorize a release like this one at a time when he knew that the enemy still held and was threatening to kill at least one other American?” [Trust Betrayed, pp. 43-44]

Taylor Criticized Obama’s “Decision To Keep His Tee Time And Let Himself Be Photographed In A Gleeful Game Of Golf Just Minutes After Acknowledging The Situation On Camera.” “Obama’s reaction to this horror was truly disgraceful—and I’m not referring to his decision to keep his tee time and let himself be photographed in a gleeful game of golf just minutes after acknowledging the situation on camera.” [Trust Betrayed, pp. 43-44]


February 2015: Taylor Released A Book Condemning National Security Leaks Under Obama. “In bookstores Monday: Here comes ‘Trust Betrayed: Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, and the Selling Out of America’s National Security,’ by Scott Taylor, a former Navy SEAL sniper with a visceral point to make. ‘Loose lips sink ships.’ Every American knows the old World War II saying - but Scott Taylor believes today’s leaders have forgotten it. […] Mr. Taylor enlisted in the Navy at age 19, served in South and Central America and was a sniper during Operation Iraqi Freedom. But he’s very much a political entity. A self-described ‘Constitutional conservative in the Reagan tradition,’ Mr. Taylor is a new member of the Virginia House of Delegates in the state’s 85th District - and is also president of OPSEC, a political action committee centered on national security, formed in 2012.” [Washington Times, 2/22/15]

Taylor Publicized His Life As A SEAL In A Book Criticizing Obama. “Taylor, a Republican, has become increasingly political since leaving the SEALs, drawing criticism from some in the military who say he’s breached the special force’s traditional code of ‘quiet professionalism.’ For instance, Taylor helped produce a web video in 2012 that accused former President Barack Obama of taking too much credit for the SEALs’ successful raid on Osama bin Laden’s compound. He also wrote the 2015 book ‘Trust Betrayed: Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, and the Selling Out of America’s National Security.’” [Washington Times, 2/12/17]

A Navy Lieutenant Cited Taylor In His Naval Postgraduate Master’s Thesis, “Navy SEALs Gone Wild: Publicity, Fame, And The Loss Of The Quiet Professional.” “A U.S. Navy lieutenant cites Taylor, among others, in his 2015 master’s thesis at the Naval Postgraduate School, ‘Navy SEALs Gone Wild: Publicity, Fame, and the Loss of the Quiet Professional.’ Lt. Forrest Crowe wrote that Taylor is among the core of what is becoming a special interest pressure group that uses the credibility of special operations to push partisan politics.” [Washington Times, 2/12/17]

Taylor Claimed, “I Got Involved In That Specifically Because I Felt Like Our Leaders Were Releasing National Security Secrets…To Gain Credit Politically And Get Re-Elected.” “Taylor says politicians exploited the military - not him. ‘I got involved in that specifically because I felt like our leaders were releasing national security secrets ... to gain credit politically and get re-elected,’ Taylor said. ‘He’s entitled to his
opinion and I respect it, of course,’ Taylor said of the thesis. ‘But there isn’t a SEAL who leaves the military who doesn’t put it on his résumé.’” [Washington Times, 2/12/17]

**Taylor Claimed Filmmakers Received “Unprecedented Access” To The Bin Laden Raid And That “May Have Had Even More Deadly Consequences”**

Taylor Claimed The Makers Of Zero Dark Thirty Had Inappropriate Access To Details About The Mission To Kill Bin Laden. “Hollywood filmmakers got unprecedented access to the people who planned the raid [to kill bin Laden]. In May 2012, the watchdog group Judicial Watch filed a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit demanding the release of hundreds of Department of Defense and CIA communications on this subject. The documents Judicial Watch obtained contained emails revealing that in June 2011, Mark Boal and Kathryn Bigelow, the producer and director of the Academy Award-winning movie Zero Dark Thirty, were granted interviews with people intimately involved in the mission.” [Trust Betrayed, p.27]

Taylor: “The Details Shared…May Have Had Even More Deadly Consequences.” “[T]he details shared with the makers of the movie Zero Dark Thirty—may have had even more deadly consequences.” [Trust Betrayed, p. 54]

**Taylor Implied Obama And Top-Ranking Members Of His Administration Were Responsible For Leaks**

As OPSEC President, Taylor Called For An Investigation Into National Security Leaks During The Obama Administration. “The video also blamed the administration for leaking information about a U.S.-Israeli computer virus used to attack Iran’s nuclear program and disclosures about the use of unmanned American drones to kill enemy targets in other countries. Some members of Congress, including California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, have raised concerns about national security leaks in recent months. U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder has directed two U.S. attorneys to investigate leaks discussed in the OPSEC video. Taylor, who contends that most members of the SEAL community in Virginia Beach share his group’s concerns, said he wants an independent investigation.” [Virginian-Pilot, 8/17/12]

Taylor Claimed Obama Was “Solely Responsible For Your House To Keep It In Order And Keeping TheLeaks Responsible.” “The group, which says it is nonprofit and nonpartisan, despite a number of its members having close ties to the Republican Party, has especially harsh words for the Obama administration on the subject of national security leaks. ‘There are only a certain, finite amount of people who know certain aspects of security, so it had to have been leaked from the highest levels of government,’ Taylor said, adding, ‘the president is the commander in chief and the way the military works you are solely responsible for your house to keep it in order and keeping the leaks responsible. It is up to the commander in chief, just as though if you were commander of any military unit, to be responsible for your men as well.’” [Politico, 8/17/12]

Taylor Claimed The Obama Administration Was “More Concerned With Saving Face Than It [Was] With Protecting The Lives Of Our Special Operations Forces, Intelligence Community, And Ultimately Americans Held Captive Overseas.” “This administration has once again leaked, released and acknowledged classified information pertaining to a [special forces] mission. None of these actions were either called for or necessary, but done so for political gain,’ said Scott Taylor, the group’s president, in a Thursday statement. ‘These actions continue to demonstrate the reckless disregard by this administration for the [special forces]/intelligence community, their families, and may well endanger future operations,’ said Taylor, a former Navy SEAL and a Republican state legislator in Virginia. ‘It is quite apparent that this administration is more concerned with saving face than it is with protecting the lives of our Special Operations Forces, intelligence community and ultimately Americans held captive overseas,’ he added. OPSEC, a relatively new group, previously chastised the Obama administration for disclosures about the May 2011 raid that killed Osama bin Laden.” [US News, 8/21/14]

**2005: OPSEC Member Fred Rustmann Argued The Leak Of CIA Agent Valerie Plame’s Name “Wasn’t A Big Deal”**
2005: OPSEC Member Fred Rustmann Argued The Leak Of CIA Agent Valerie Plame’s Name “Wasn’t A Big Deal.” “It’s time for President Obama and other administration officials to stop jeopardizing national security operations for political gain,” said Fred Rustmann, an OPSEC member who worked at the CIA for 24 years before he retired in 1990. Rustmann and two other key members of the group, all self-described Republicans, have a history of talking openly to the media about national security, a review of articles and transcripts revealed this week. Rustmann appeared on Fox News’ ‘Hannity and Colmes’ in 2005 to discuss Valerie Plame, a covert CIA operations officer whose identity was revealed in July 2003 by members of the George W. Bush administration. A federal jury convicted I. Lewis ‘Scooter’ Libby, who had been chief of staff for Vice President Dick Cheney, of four felony counts in the case. Rustmann, who had supervised Plame during her early years at the CIA, argued on Fox that disclosing Plame’s name was not a significant breach of national security. He discussed details of her training, her career and her cover. ‘It isn’t a big deal,’ he said about the illegal disclosure of the covert officer’s name.” [Sun Sentinel, 8/17/12]

Taylor Addressed The Irony Of OPSEC Publicly Addressing Leaks And His Own Status As A SEAL Who Had Been Urged By The Military Not To Talk

Taylor Appeared In The NBC Documentary “Secrets Of Seal Team Six,” In Which It Was Noted That The Military Had Urged Former SEALS Not To Talk. “Scott Taylor, chairman of OPSEC, is a former Navy SEAL. An unsuccessful GOP candidate for Congress in Virginia in 2010, he sat down with NBC News last summer for a documentary titled ‘Secrets of Seal Team Six.’ The film said the military had urged former SEALs not to talk. And OPSEC member Chad Kolton, a former spokesman for the director of national intelligence during the George W. Bush administration, helped make the office ‘more accessible to reporters, including regular off-the-record briefings by senior analysts on global hot spots,’ according to a release that announced his departure to form a communications firm.” [Sun Sentinel, 8/17/12]

Taylor Claimed There Was A Distinction Between Talking To Reporters About National Security And Disclosing Secrets. “In interviews Wednesday, Rustmann, Taylor and Kolton drew a distinction between talking to reporters about national security matters and disclosing secrets, which each of them said they never did. ‘People called me up and asked me questions and I answered the questions,’ Rustmann said. ‘I know what to say and what not to say,’ Taylor said.” [Sun Sentinel, 8/17/12]

VIDEO: Taylor Said “Folks That Are On The Street, American People, Don’t Care” About Leaks Within The Trump Administration

Taylor: “Obviously Leaks Out Of The White House” Were “Frustrating” But “It’s Really Overplayed…The American People Don’t Care. They’re A Little Over It.” “TAPPER: Earlier this week your colleague Trey Gowdy, who a Conservative Republican from South Carolina, he headed the Benghazi Committee, he really expressed a lot of frustration with the Trump White House for the constantly shifting stories and what he called the drip, drip, drip of information. Is it frustrating for you as well, Sir? TAYLOR: Well, sure, it’s frustrating. I mean, some of those are obviously leaks out of the White House, the drip, drip, drip. Some of the stories, of course, are changing. And obviously, listen, let me preface everything by saying, if someone did something wrong, then hold them accountable all the way to the President. But the reality is, if you had some meetings, if you met with some folks, listen, Jake, was on RT News Channel, so, just so you know (INAUDIBLE). Say what you’ve done, get it out there, yes, it gets frustrating when you have this because I do think that some of this is well, like, it’s really overplayed. And I think ultimately, folks that are on the streets, the American people, don’t care. They’re a little over it.” [CNN, The Lead with Jake Tapper, 7/14/17] (VIDEO)
Issues
### Budget Issues

#### Significant Findings

- Taylor wanted to trim the budget while increasing defense spending.
- Taylor voted to eliminate the budget analysis division of the Congressional Budget Office.
- Taylor voted for the security minibus and the omnibus spending bills.
- Taylor voted to avert a government shutdown.

### Congressional Budget Office

#### Taylor Voted To Eliminate The Budget Analysis Division Of The CBO

Taylor Voted For An “Amendment That Would Eliminate The Budget Analysis Division Of The Congressional Budget Office”. In July 2017, Taylor voted for: “Griffith, R-Va., amendment that would eliminate the budget analysis division of the Congressional Budget Office and would transfer the responsibilities of the division to the CBO’s office of the director.” Rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 116-309. [H R 3219, Vote #417, 7/26/17; CQ, 7/26/17]

### Funding And Budgets

#### Taylor Voted For The “Security Minibus,” Including $1.6 Billion In Funding For A Southern Border Wall

Taylor Voted For The “Security Minibus” Which Included $1.6 Billion In Funding For A Southern Border Wall. In July 2017, Taylor voted for: “Passage of the bill that would provide $788 billion in discretionary funding for fiscal 2018 to various departments, agencies and legislative operations, including $658.1 billion in funding for Defense programs; $88.8 billion in net appropriations subject to discretionary caps for fiscal 2018 that would provide funding for military construction activities and for VA programs and activities; $37.6 billion in net appropriations subject to discretionary caps for fiscal 2018 that would provide funding for the Energy Department, Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation and related agencies; and $3.6 billion in funding fiscal 2018 for operations of the House of Representatives, joint House-Senate items and legislative branch entities such as the Library of Congress, the Capitol Police, and the Government Accountability Office. The bill would provide $1.6 billion in funding to U.S. Customs and Border Protection for procurement, construction and improvement of a barrier along the southern U.S. border.” Passed by a vote of 235-192. [H R 3219, Vote #435, 7/27/17; CQ, 7/27/17]

#### Taylor Voted For $1.15 Trillion Omnibus Spending Bill

2017: Taylor Voted For $1.16 Trillion Omnibus Spending Bill. In May 2017, Taylor voted for “Adoption of the rule (H Res 305) that would provide for House floor consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill, with House amendment, intended to serve as the legislative vehicle for a measure that would provide $1.16 trillion in discretionary appropriations for federal departments and agencies covered by the 11 unfinished fiscal 2017 spending bills.” The resolution was passed by a vote of 230-188. [H.Res 308, Vote #247, 5/3/17; CQ, 5/3/17]
Fiscal Year 2018: Taylor Supported The House Appropriations Package

Taylor Supported The House Appropriations Package And Claimed It Delivered A Pay Raise To Military Members, Funded Veteran Programs And Supported Critical NASA Programs. “Today, in a historic vote, the House of Representatives, with the support of Congressman Scott Taylor, voted to pass H.R. 3354, the Make American Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act. […] ‘For the first time in almost a decade, Congress has passed all twelve appropriations bills before the end of the fiscal year. Congress should continue to lead,’ said Congressman Scott Taylor. ‘We are delivering a much-needed pay raise to our military, funding veterans health programs, protecting the homeland, and supporting critical NASA science programs. I am proud of the hard work and leadership from my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee and in Congress.’” [Office of Rep. Taylor, press release, 9/14/17]

Government Shutdowns

2017: Taylor Voted To Avert A Government Shutdown

Taylor Voted To Avert A Government Shutdown For At Least One Week By Funding The Government With A Continuing Resolution. In April 2017, Taylor voted for “Adoption of the rule (H Res 289) that would provide for House floor consideration of the joint resolution that would extend continuing appropriations for federal government operations through May 5, 2017. It would also provide for an extension, through May 5, 2017, of health care benefits for retired coal miners.” The rule was adopted by a vote of 235-178. [HRes 289, Vote #235, 2/28/17; CQ, 2/28/17]

Government Spending

Taylor Stressed Fiscal Responsibility And Defense Spending After Being Appointed To The Appropriations Committee

Taylor On His Goals While Serving On Appropriations: “We Have The Duty To Thread The Needle Between Fiscal Responsibility And Providing The Funds For A Strong National Defense.” “U.S. Rep. Scott Taylor was given an influential appointment Wednesday to the House Appropriations Committee, giving the freshman lawmaker a seat on one of Congress’ most powerful panels, his office said. […] ‘This is not something I take lightly, and I am well-aware of both the opportunities and the challenges facing our country,’ Taylor said in a statement. ‘We have the duty to thread the needle between fiscal responsibility and providing the funds for a strong national defense.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 1/4/17]
Civil Rights & Liberties

**Significant Findings**

- Taylor on the Charlottesville March violence: “[Trump] talked about on both sides. Like I said, there was premeditated lawlessness on both sides.”
- Taylor defended confederate monuments and claimed the history was “very layered.”
- Taylor said “racial politics” were “not what this nation needs.”
- Taylor admitted that Trump’s comments on Charlottesville were inappropriate but said the president was “not a racist.”
- Taylor voted to block a resolution affirming that the Holocaust occurred and targeted Jews.
- Taylor said he “had no problem” with the Trump Administration’s investigation into nation-wide voter fraud.
- Taylor spoke at the 2017 Annual NAACP Conference.
- Taylor said he was in favor of “criminal justice improvement.”

Charlottesville March & Aftermath

**Taylor Cosponsored A Joint Resolution Condemning The Domestic Terrorist Attack In Charlottesville**

Taylor Cosponsored A Joint Resolution “Condemning The Violence And Domestic Terrorist Attack” In Charlottesville. In September 2017, Taylor cosponsored: “A joint resolution condemning the violence and domestic terrorist attack that took place during events between August 11 and August 12, 2017, in Charlottesville, Virginia, recognizing the first responders who lost their lives while monitoring the events, offering deepest condolences to the families and friends of those individuals who were killed and deepest sympathies and support to those individuals who were injured in the attack, expressing support for the Charlottesville community, rejecting White nationalists, White supremacists, the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis, and other hate groups, and urging the President and the President’s Cabinet to use all available resources to address the threats posed by those groups.” [CQ, accessed 9/11/17; H.J. Res. 117, sponsored 9/7/17, cosponsored 9/7/17]

Taylor Denounced The White Supremacists In Charlottesville. “The actions the world witnessed in Charlottesville this weekend should cut to the core of every American. As a follow up to my strong statement yesterday, the actions and ideology of hate from white supremacists have no place in our state, country, or world. We are in this together, let’s find solutions to our problems, celebrate our differences, and reject hate in all its forms.” [U.S. Rep. Scott Taylor, Press Release, 8/14/17]

Taylor Echoed Trump’s Rhetoric About Charlottesville: “There Was Premeditated Lawlessness On Both Sides”
Taylor: “[Trump] Talked About On Both Sides. Like I Said, There Was Premeditated Lawlessness On Both Sides.” “I think, you know, [Trump] talked about on both sides. Like I said, there was premeditated lawlessness on both sides. That should be reported in the press and one of you had a guest who I think was trying to get that out I think a couple of minutes ago, but that should be. The facts should certainly be reported.” [CNN via Youtube, Virginia2RawFootage, 8/15/17]

Then, One Day Later, Taylor Said Trump Comments On Charlottesville Were “Disappointing And A Failure Of Leadership”

Taylor: “Today’s Statement By President Trump At His Press Conference Were Disappointing And A Failure Of Leadership…” “Today’s statements by President Trump at his press conference were disappointing and a failure of leadership, which starts at the top, with him. I hope the President will focus on bringing people together and to challenge hate in the strongest unequivocal terms moving forward. There is no home for hate here in Virginia or America.” [U.S. Rep. Scott Taylor, Press Release, 8/16/17]

Taylor: “The Responsibility Lies With [Hate Groups]. But That Also Doesn’t Excuse Lawlessness On Any Side For That Matter”

Taylor: “The Nazis, The KKKs…The Responsibility Lies With Them. But That Also Doesn’t Excuse Lawlessness On Any Side For That Matter.” “Like I said, there was premeditated lawlessness on both sides. […] The facts should certainly be reported. That does not alleviate the responsibility of the Nazis, the KKKs, the groups that organized this to cause problems. There’s no question about it, the responsibility lies with them. But that also doesn’t excuse lawlessness on any side for that matter.” [CNN via Youtube, Virginia2RawFootage, 8/15/17]

Taylor: “I Don’t Believe The President’s A Racist. I Think That’s The Wrong Things To Say”

Taylor: “I Don’t Believe The President’s A Racist. I Think That’s The Wrong Thing To Say For Folks.” “I don’t believe the president’s a racist. I think that’s the wrong thing to say for folks. […] So I don’t know if he was trying to say that, I’m just not sure, you know. I don’t think that he’s a racist. I think that’s wrong to say that.” [CNN via Youtube, Virginia2RawFootage, 8/15/17]

Taylor Defended Confederate Monuments In Virginia

Taylor Differentiated Between White Supremacy And Confederate Monuments

Taylor: “When You’re Talking About White Supremacists…That’s Not The Same As Marching And Taking Down A Statue That Someone Has Driven By A Thousand Times And Never Had Any Problem With.” “When you’re talking about white supremacists and marching and taking monuments, saying that that symbol—like a monument to the war dead, or something, or even Jefferson, for example—is, and you have seen the conversation move in that direction, that there are very real problems that we need to address in criminal justice improvement and other substantive problems. That’s not the same thing as marching and taking down a statue that someone has driven by a thousand times and never had any problem with.” [CNN, 8/20/17]

Taylor Conflated Confederate Monuments With “Monument[s] To The War Dead In The Civil War.” “So when you look at Virginia, you can’t drive five, ten miles without seeing something that is a monument to the war dead in the Civil War or a Civil War battlefield or a monument itself. That is a separate issue from one of the things Nina brought up, which I agree with—we do have a big problem with criminal justice reform here and we need to improve it, there’s no question about that—economic opportunity for folks, both in white Appalachia as well as in black communities as well too. There’s no question about that. But you have to separate them too—they are not the same thing.” [CNN, 8/20/17]
Taylor Claimed “Not All” Confederate Monuments Were Put Up To Stifle Civil Rights Progress.

“SELLARS: The reason that it’s a cop-out is because you have this conversation about race and these statues, these monuments, many of them were erected during the Jim Crow era when we were making progress and civil rights. It was a big thumb in your eye. That’s why the confederate flag went up in South Carolina. That’s why these monuments went up—in throughout the country— TAYLOR: — Not all of them. SELLARS: —But that’s a lot of them.” [CNN, 8/20/17]

Taylor On Confederate Monuments: “The History’s Very Layered…Our History Is Not Perfect. It’s Imperfect.” “Some of these monuments in Virginia for example, and there are millions of Virginians who don’t support this, because some of these are their families, some of those are sacred monuments to war dead, those are big issues. And the history’s very layered. Let me paraphrase the black mayor of Richmond, Levar Stoney, who’s a great man, who said a couple months ago—this has since changed—but a couple months ago, he said,—because of politics—but he said, keep the statues, but teach the context. Create more statues, to teach history in the context. That is extremely important. Our history is not perfect. It’s imperfect. But we have the ability to move towards a more perfect union.” [CNN, 8/20/17]

When Bakari Sellers Suggested Taylor Might Not Understand His Perspective On Confederate Monuments As A Black Man, Taylor Angrily Replied, “Don't Talk Condescendingly To Me”

Taylor To Sellers: “Don’t Talk Condescendingly To Me. …I’m Comfortable Having These Conversations.”

“SELLARS: And to have a statue of a someone like a Robert E. Lee, to have a statue of someone like a Pitchfork Ben Tillman, or John C. Calhoun, whose name by the way was John C. Kill-Hoon, to have these individuals just revered—do you understand how a black—you may not, but as a black man, let me tell you, that is very, very painful. TAYLOR: Don’t condescend—don’t talk condescendingly to me. SELLARS: No, I’m not. But I’m just saying that is very painful and the reason that it’s painful—and this conversation has to be uncomfortable—the reason that it’s painful is because— TAYLOR: —I’m comfortable having these conversations…” [CNN, 8/20/17]

Taylor Criticized “Racial Politics” As “Not What This Nation Needs”

Taylor Claimed That “Racial Politics…[Were] Not What This Country Need[ed].” “I think the second press conference was strong and hit the right note but the third one was not. But at the same time I think it’s important that we—that politics of identity, racial politics, tribal politics, quite frankly, are not what this nation needs. And anyone who’s espousing them I think are wrong.” [CNN, 8/20/17]

Anti-Semitism

Taylor Followed The White House’s Lead And Voted Against Affirming That The Holocaust Occurred And Targeted Jews

Taylor Voted Against Affirming That The Holocaust Occurred And Targeted Jews...

2017: Taylor Voted To Block A Resolution “Affirming That The Holocaust Occurred And That It Targeted Jews […] After The White House Omitted Mention Of Jews In [Its] International Holocaust Remembrance Day Statement.” In February 2017, T Taylor voted for the “Byrne, R-Ala., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and the possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 91)…” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 234-187. According to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, “The House on Feb. 7 blocked, 234-187, a Democratic bid to force floor debate on a resolution affirming that the Holocaust occurred and that it targeted Jews. Democrats raised this issue after the White House omitted mention of Jews in the International Holocaust Remembrance Day statement it released Jan. 27. Six million Jews died in the Holocaust carried out by German leader Adolf Hitler and his Nazi regime between 1933-1945.” A yes vote was a vote to block the resolution. [H.Res 91, Vote #81, 2/7/17; St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 2/13/17; CQ, 2/7/17; Democratic Leader—Previous Questions, 2/7/17]
After The White House Neglected To Include Jews In A Holocaust Day Remembrance Statement

The White House Issued A Statement For Holocaust Remembrance Day That Did Not Mention Jews. “A statement from President Trump marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day omitted any mention of Jews or anti-Semitism, a departure from recent bipartisan precedent set by previous presidents. The statement calls for remembrance of ‘victims, survivors, heroes,’ but nowhere does it mention the millions of Jewish people killed during the Holocaust, nor does it mention the ideology of anti-Semitism that led to the killings.” [Washington Post, 1/27/17]

White House Statement Stated “Innocent People” Were Inflicted By Nazi Terror, But Did Not Mention Jews. “It is with a heavy heart and somber mind that we remember and honor the victims, survivors, heroes of the Holocaust. It is impossible to fully fathom the depravity and horror inflicted on innocent people by Nazi terror. Yet, we know that in the darkest hours of humanity, light shines the brightest. As we remember those who died, we are deeply grateful to those who risked their lives to save the innocent. In the name of the perished, I pledge to do everything in my power throughout my Presidency, and my life, to ensure that the forces of evil never again defeat the powers of good. Together, we will make love and tolerance prevalent throughout the world.” [White House, statement, 1/27/17]

Religious Persecution

Taylor Voted To Commission A Study About Islamic Rhetoric And Violent Extremism

Taylor Voted For An Amendment Commissioning A Study To Determine The Role Islamic Rhetoric Played In Fomenting Violent Extremism. In July 2017, Taylor voted for: “Franks, R-Ariz., amendment that would require the secretary of Defense to conduct two concurrent strategic assessments of the use of violent or unorthodox Islamic religious doctrine to support extremist or terrorist messaging and justification, and would require the secretary to submit to Congress the results of the assessments.” The amendment was defeated by a vote of 208-217. [H R 2810, Vote #372, 7/14/17; CQ, 7/14/17]

POLITICO: The Franks Amendment “Called For The Pentagon To Identify Islamic Leaders Who Preach Peaceful Beliefs Versus Those Who Espouse Extremist Views.” “The House on Friday rejected a controversial GOP proposal identifying “Islamic religious doctrines, concepts or schools of thought” that could be used by terrorist groups — something opponents say is unconstitutional and will lead to the targeting of Muslims. More than 20 centrist Republicans joined with Democrats to defeated the amendment, 208 to 217. Drafted by conservative Rep. Trent Franks (R-Ariz.), the proposal called for the Pentagon to identify Islamic leaders who preach peaceful beliefs versus those who espouse extremist views.” [Politico, 7/14/17]

POLITICO: The Franks Amendment Would Require The Pentagon To Conduct “Strategic Assessments” And Specifically Identify Religious Doctrines And Concepts That “Extremists Use To Recruit Potential Terrorists, Radicalize Them And Ultimately Justify Their Heinous Acts.” “The amendment would require the Defense Department to conduct ‘strategic assessments of the use of violent or unorthodox Islamic religious doctrine to support extremist or terrorist messaging and justification.’ The proposal requires the assessment to identify religious doctrines and concepts that extremists use to recruit potential terrorists, radicalize them and ultimately justify their heinous acts. It also asks Pentagon officials for ‘recommendations for identifying key thought leaders or proponents.’ The proposal also requires the Pentagon to identify Islamic schools of thought that could be used to counter jihadist views, as well as leaders who are preaching these sorts of doctrines.” [Politico, 7/14/17]

Voting Rights

Taylor Said He “Didn’t Have A Big Problem” With The White House Investigating Voter Fraud
Taylor Said He “Didn’t Have A Big Problem With [The White House] Looking Into” Voter Fraud

Taylor: “I Don’t Believe [There Is Widespread Voter Fraud], But I Don’t Know, And I Don’t Have A Big Problem With Them Looking Into It.” “CAMEROTA: But just for your -- but just for your opinion, since you’re in Congress, do you think that there’s widespread voter fraud? TAYLOR: I don’t believe so. But I don’t know. And I don’t have a big problem with them looking into it.” [CNN, 7/3/17; Youtube, Act Now 2017, 7/3/17]

Even Though Taylor Admitted That “We Don’t Have Massive Voter Fraud” In Virginia…

2017: Taylor: “We Don’t Have Massive Voter Fraud” In Virginia. “CAMEROTA: President Trump, one of his top advisors, Stephen Miller, went on the Sunday shows and claimed again, without providing any evidence, that there was vast voter fraud during those past presidential elections. Do you believe that? TAYLOR: Well, I can see - - and I represent the 2nd District of Virginia, and I don’t know. We don’t have massive voter fraud. There’s been some instances here, of course.” [CNN, 2/13/17; Youtube, Trump White House, 2/22/17]

Taylor Compared Trump’s Voter Fraud Panel To The Investigation Into Russian Interference In The Election

Taylor Compared Trump’s Voter Fraud Investigation To “Looking Into Russian Meddling In An Election.” “CAMEROTA: … there’s not widespread voter fraud. TAYLOR: You say that, but that’s... CAMEROTA: Because of the numbers. I mean, I’m just reporting the data. TAYLOR: You say that. You say that, but what’s the problem in looking to [sic] it? Just like what’s the problem of looking to [sic] Russian meddling in an election? I don’t see a problem with that; I think it’s important to do so. So you know...” [CNN, 7/3/17; Youtube, Act Now 2017, 7/3/17]

Taylor: “We Don’t Have Massive Voter Fraud” But “We All Know” Voter Fraud “Does Exist”

Taylor: “We Don’t Have Massive Voter Fraud” But “We All Know [Voter Fraud] Does Exist.” “We don’t have massive voter fraud. There’s been some instances here, of course. And it’s something that’s important and should be important to everyone to look into, route out any potential voter fraud. But sure, I think it’s important to show some evidence that -- for mass voter fraud. We all know it does exist, and we should certainly take precautions to keep the integrity of our elections in this country.” [CNN, 2/13/17; Youtube, Trump White House, 2/22/17]

Taylor On Voter Fraud In Virginia: “I Wouldn’t Say It’s Isolated.” “CAMEROTA: Sure. Agreed, and I don’t think anybody would argue that it’s something to look into. That’s fine. Particularly if there’s voter registration irregularities. However, why do you think the White House -- I mean, since you don’t know of any evidence of vast voter fraud, we in the media can’t find any evidence of vast voter fraud-- why do you think the White House keeps talking about it? TAYLOR: Well again, to be fair, we’ve had instances and evidence of voter fraud in Virginia. CAMEROTA: Sure, but you’re saying isolated incidents. Isolated incidents. TAYLOR: I wouldn’t say it's isolated.” [CNN, 2/13/17; Youtube, Trump White House, 2/22/17]

Taylor: “There Are Some Instances Of Voter Fraud. And I Don’t Think That, Whether It’s Vast Or Not, That Should Stop Us From Taking Every Precaution Necessary.” “CAMEROTA: But do we all know that vast voter fraud exists? TAYLOR: Well, that’s what I just said. You know, I don’t think that there’s vast voter fraud, certainly not in Virginia. But there are some instances of voter fraud. And I don’t think that, whether it’s vast or not, that should stop us from taking every precaution necessary to keep the integrity of our elections, because it’s important for our country.” [CNN, 2/13/17; Youtube, Trump White House, 2/22/17]

Taylor Said Trump Adviser Stephen Miller Should Have To Show Proof When He Claimed There Was Evidence Of Widespread Voter Fraud

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Taylor conceded that Stephen Miller stated on national television that there was “Evidence of massive millions of voter fraud, sure, he should show something. Absolutely.” “Taylor: We’ve spent a lot of time on this question. Camerota: Well because it keeps coming up. Stephen Miller brought it up again this past weekend. Just when we thought that we had moved on he brought it up again yesterday. And so there is a disconnect between what you have provided and what you think is the experience in Virginia, we’ve been able to find and researchers have been able to find who’ve looked into it. So it is curious that the White House keeps bringing it up. Taylor: All right. So let me -- let me bookend it. Sure, if he’s on national television, saying there’s evidence of massive millions of voter fraud, sure, he should show something. Absolutely.” [CNN, 2/13/17; Youtube, Trump White House, 2/22/17]

Taylor cited a suspect study to back up his claim of voter fraud in Virginia.

Taylor indicated that a study had proven instances of voter fraud in eight counties in Virginia.

Taylor was unable to cite his source but claimed that the study showed “more than a handful” of cases of voter fraud in Virginia… “Anyone can Google it online.” “Camerota: How many? Taylor: I wouldn’t say it’s isolated to the point to where we -- we’re not going to look all throughout Virginia. Well, there was a study that only took into account I think it was 8 counties in Virginia, and there was a decent amount of voter fraud. […] Taylor: I’m not citing the ODU, I don’t believe. I didn’t -- I didn’t know you were going to ask me this question, of course, which is fine. I’m more than prepared to answer any of those things. I don’t have the exact study with me. But anybody can Google it online. There were eight counties that were studied in Virginia. It was more than a handful. It wasn’t massive, but it was more than handfuls. So please don’t put words in my mouth. I think, again, it is responsible and reasonable to make sure that we, of course, have integrity in our elections. I’m not -- I don’t know of evidence of massive millions of voter fraud that I’m hearing out of the White House. Sure, I’d like to see it of course.” [CNN, 2/13/17; Youtube, Trump White House, 2/22/17]

Taylor cited a study that focused on eight counties in Virginia. “I’m not citing the ODU, I don’t believe. I didn’t -- I didn’t know you were going to ask me this question, of course, which is fine. I’m more than prepared to answer any of those things. I don’t have the exact study with me. But anybody can Google it online. There were eight counties that were studied in Virginia. It was more than a handful. It wasn’t massive, but it was more than handfuls.” [CNN, 2/13/17; Youtube, Trump White House, 2/22/17]

The study in question was titled “Alien Invasion in Virginia: The Discovery and Coverup of Noncitizen Registration and Voting.”

The study focused on eight counties in Virginia. “In our small sample of just eight Virginia counties who responded to our public inspection requests, we found 1046 aliens who registered to vote illegally. The problem is most certainly exponentially worse because we have no data regarding aliens on the registration rolls for the other 125 Virginia localities. Even in this small sample, when the voting history of this small sample of alien registrants is examined, nearly 200 verified ballots were cast before they were removed from the rolls. Each one of them is likely a felony. Again, this is from just a small sampling of Virginia counties.” [Public Interest Legal Foundation, 9/30/16]

“Alien Invasion in Virginia” argued that voter fraud in Virginia was a “massive problem.” “Worse still, Virginia state election officials are obstructing access to public records that reveal the extent to which non-citizens are participating in our elections. These obstructionist tactics have led to PILF and VVA obtaining data from only a handful of Virginia counties so far. But the information from a few counties demonstrates a massive problem. In our small sample of just eight Virginia counties who responded to our public inspection requests, we found 1046 aliens who registered to vote illegally.” [Public Interest Legal Foundation, 9/30/16]
Mother Jones: Election Law Expert Called The Study “Specifically Designed To Get Inaccurate Information.” “The Public Interest Legal Foundation, where [Adams] is president and general counsel, recently published a two-part investigation called “Alien Invasion,” claiming that more than 5,500 noncitizens had registered to vote in Virginia and cast thousands of fraudulent ballots. The data appears flawed. “Not just incredibly inflated; designed—and specifically designed—to get inaccurate information,” says Justin Levitt, an election law expert at the Loyola Law School and a former deputy assistant attorney general in the Obama administration who reviewed the reports and underlying data.” [Mother Jones, 7/11/17]

“Alien Invasion In Virginia” Was Produced By The Public Interest Legal Foundation, Headed By Alt-Right Activists For White Voting Rights

The Report Was Produced By The Public Interest Legal Foundation And The Virginia Voters Alliance. The “Alien Invasion” study was produced by the Public Interest Legal Foundation, a nonprofit law firm based in Indiana, and the Virginia Voter Alliance, which describes itself as a nonpartisan group “dedicated to free and fair elections.” Logan Churchwell is the foundation’s communications director and founding editor of Breitbart News Texas, a division of the far-right news network. In an email, Churchwell explained the process the foundation used in its study to determine whether noncitizens had voted.

J. Christian Adams, The Head Of Trump’s Commission To Investigate Voter Fraud, Was The President Of The Public Interest Legal Foundation

J. Christian Adams Served As The President Of The Public Interest Legal Foundation. “J. Christian Adams serves as President and General Counsel of the Public Interest Legal Foundation.” [Public Interest Legal Foundation, accessed 8/1/17]

Adams Was A Longtime Agitator For Protecting The Voting Rights Of White Americans. “Adams is best known for his role in promoting the New Black Panther voter intimidation case, after the 2008 election. […] Adams subsequently became a minor conservative media personality and wrote a book, Injustice: Exposing the Racial Agenda of the Obama Justice Department, in which he described ‘how the DOJ has repeatedly sided with political bosses who flagrantly disenfranchise entire communities of white voters.’” [Guardian, 7/11/17]

July 2017: Trump Appointed Adams To His Commission To Investigate Voter Fraud. “President Donald Trump announced on Monday night that J. Christian Adams, a conservative attorney who has spearheaded efforts around the country to purge voters from the rolls, would be joining the president’s commission to investigate voter fraud. The commission, led by Vice President Mike Pence and Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, is the subject of lawsuits by the ACLU and another civil rights group for lack of transparency and for failing to have a balance of viewpoints, as required by law. Adams is expected to push the commission even further in the direction of tightening voting restrictions.” [Mother Jones, 7/11/17]

The Public Interest Legal Foundation’s Communications Director Was Logan Churchmore. “J. Christian Adams brings years of experience in protecting the rights of legitimate voters both inside and out of government to this Commission,” PILF Communications Director Logan Churchwell said.” [Public Interest Legal Foundation, 7/10/17]

Logan Churchmore Was A Contributing Author On Breitbart News. [Breitbart, accessed 8/1/17]

NPR Reported That The Leader Of The Virginia Voters Alliance Was Tea Party Activist Reagan George. “Leaders of the effort — spawned by the Tea Party movement — say they want to make sure that elections are free from voter fraud. […] These efforts are not taking place in isolation. They’re part of a campaign involving groups in at least 30 states. They’re fueled in part by a belief that voter fraud is rampant — even though there’s little
evidence to back that up. Reagan George, who says he’s a Republican who’s active in the Tea Party, recently formed the Virginia Voters Alliance to monitor voting in his state. ‘As I look at it, my bank has never been robbed,’ he says. ‘But I certainly expect my bank to have procedures and items in place that make it either hard to rob or make it easy to identify the people that robbed it.’ [NPR, 3/13/12]

**NAACP**

**VIDEO: Taylor Spoke At The 2017 Annual NAACP Convention**

Taylor Spoke At The 2017 Annual NAACP Convention

Taylor Addressed The Topic Of Policing Issues. “National Association for the Advancement of Colored People 108th Annual Convention. Speakers include […] Representative Scott Taylor (VA): Policing issues.” [NAACP, 7/19/17; Note: See drive for video “072417 Taylor at NAACP.”]

Taylor On His Childhood: “I Was Headed In The Wrong Direction, Much Like A Lot Of Youngsters That You Know In This Room”

Taylor Claimed That As A Kid, “Clearly I Was Headed In The Wrong Direction, Much Like A Lot Of Youngsters That You Know In This Room.” ‘There is no question that I would not be here before you today if it wasn’t for my big brother Andy, I can promise you that. So clearly I was headed in the wrong direction, much like a lot of youngsters that you know in this room. My life could have turned out in a very different way.” [Facebook, Scott Taylor for Virginia, 7/24/17]

In Calling For “Criminal Justice Improvement,” Taylor Asked The Audience To Imagine A Young Incarcerated Black Woman With Two Children And A Drug Problem

Taylor: “I Don’t Like To Call It Criminal Justice Reform—I Call It Criminal Justice Improvement.” “Now on criminal justice improvement—I don’t like to call it criminal justice reform—I call it criminal justice improvement, there are millions of people who believe what we believe.” [Facebook, Scott Taylor for Virginia, 7/24/17]

Taylor: “Imagine A Teary-Eyed Face Of A Young Twenty-Year-Old Black Woman…Looking Aimlessly Through Her Prison Cell Bars As She Imagines How Things Could Have Turned Out Differently.” “Imagine a teary-eyed face of a young twenty-year-old black woman sitting on her small, uncomfortable bunk looking aimlessly through her prison cell bars as she imagines how things could have turned out differently. How things should have turned out differently—for her eight-month-old beautiful baby boy and her three-year-old gorgeous girl. How will they cope in her absence when they need her the most? How will this affect their future lives? How will she be able to kick her own drug habit, for them? We can do better. We must do better.” [Facebook, Scott Taylor for Virginia, 7/24/17]

Taylor: “I’m Proud To Work With The NAACP And Others On Big Issues, Like Reauthorizing The Second Chance Act.” “No longer should we continue the devastating policies that contribute to cycles of criminality—the ability for folks to be as productive as they can be and the contribution of breaking up of families. I’m proud to work with the NAACP and others on big issues, like reauthorizing the Second Chance Act.” [Facebook, Scott Taylor for Virginia, 7/24/17]


Consumer Issues

Significant Findings

✓ Taylor voted twice to reduce internet privacy protections for consumers.

✓ Taylor received $14,000 from the telecommunications industry during his run for Congress.

✓ Taylor argued that companies already collected consumer permission and so it was not fair to target providers alone.

✓ Taylor claimed to want the Federal Trade Commission to uniformly regulate privacy.

Internet Privacy

Taylor Defended His Vote To Allow Internet Providers To Use Consumer Data Without Permission

Taylor Voted To Repeal A Rule Blocking Internet Providers From Collecting And Selling Private Information Including Online Browsing History And Other Data

Taylor Defended His Vote To Allow Internet Service Providers To Collect Massive Amounts Of Private Data Without Consumer Permission. “Thousands of constituents of Rep. Scott Taylor are receiving automated phone calls lambasting his vote to allow internet providers to use or sell consumer data without their permission. […] Taylor defended his vote in a Thursday phone interview. […] The internet legislation would revoke Federal Communications Commission rules that prohibit internet providers such as Verizon and Comcast from collecting and selling customer information – including online browsing habits, Social Security numbers and other data – without customer permission.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/30/17]

Taylor Voted To Nullify The Rule Requiring Internet Providers To Obtain Permission From Customers Before Using Or Selling Their Information. In March 2017, Taylor voted for passage of a “joint resolution [which] nullifies the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission entitled ‘Protecting the Privacy of Customers of Broadband and Other Telecommunications Services.’ The rule published on December 2, 2016: (1) applies the customer privacy requirements of the Communications Act of 1934 to broadband Internet access service and other telecommunications services, (2) requires telecommunications carriers to inform customers about rights to opt in or opt out of the use or the sharing of their confidential information, (3) adopts data security and breach notification requirements, (4) prohibits broadband service offerings that are contingent on surrendering privacy rights, and (5) requires disclosures and affirmative consent when a broadband provider offers customers financial incentives in exchange for the provider’s right to use a customer’s confidential information.” The bill was passed in the House by a vote of 215-205, passed in the Senate, and became Public Law No: 115-22. [S.J.Res. 43, Vote #202, 3/28/17; CQ, 3/28/17]

Taylor Voted To Consider Nullifying Of A Rule Requiring Internet Providers To Obtain Permission From Customers Before Using Or Selling Their Information. In March 2017, Taylor voted for “adoption of the rule (H Res 230) that would provide for House floor consideration of the joint resolution [SJ Res 34] that
would disapprove and nullify a Federal Communications Commission rule that requires broadband internet service providers to obtain affirmative permission from customers to use or share their sensitive information.”

The rule was adopted by a vote of 231-189. [H.Res 230, Vote #200, 3/28/17; CQ, 3/28/17]

Taylor Defended His Vote, Arguing It Was Not Fair To Restrict Internet Providers From Collecting & Selling Customers’ Private Data Without Permission While Facebook And Google Allegedly Did The Same

Taylor Argued That It Was Not Fair To Target Providers While Companies Like Facebook And Google Collected Information Without Consumer Permission. “Taylor argued that massive amounts of personal information already are collected without consumer permission by other widely used internet operations, including Facebook and Google. It’s not fair to target providers while others are free to collect information, he said. Some consumer activists say providers can learn much more about consumers because they can see the people customers email and the sites they visit.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/30/17]

Taylor Accused The Democratic Party Of Being “Hypocritical” For Not Objecting To Providers Collecting Information Before Obama Banned The Practice: “They Had Zero Problems With It Before December.” “Taylor defended his vote in a Thursday phone interview. He also accused the Democratic Party of being ‘hypocritical’ for not objecting when the providers were collecting information for years until the Obama administration passed rules banning the practice in the months before leaving office. ‘They had zero problems with it before December,’ Taylor said.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/30/17]

2016 Election Cycle: Taylor Received $14,000 From The Telecom Services Industry. [Open Secrets, accessed 9/21/17]

Taylor Claimed He Would Support Allowing The Federal Trade Commission – Not The FCC – To Regulate Privacy

Taylor: “I Want [A Consumer Protection Rule] Under One Agency And Regulated Uniformly.” “Taylor said he would support consumers being empowered to give advance permission for internet operations to collect and use their personal data but argues the rule should be applied uniformly by the Federal Trade Commission, not the FCC. ‘I want it under one agency and regulated uniformly,’ he said.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/30/17]

Taylor Later Voted Again To Block Reinstatement Of FCC Rules Protecting The Privacy Of Broadband Customers

2017: Taylor Voted To Block A Bill To Reinstate FCC Rules Protecting The Privacy Of Broadband Customers. In May 2017, Taylor voted for “Byrne, R-Ala., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 299).” Upon defeat of the motion, Democrats planned to offer an, “amendment to the Rule, which would make in order Ms. Rosen of Nevada’s bill, H.R. 1868. H.R. 1868 would reinstate the Federal Communications Commission’s rules adopted on October 27, 2016 that protect the privacy of broadband customers.” A vote yes was a vote to block the Democratic amendment. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 233-190. [HR 1868 (H.Res 299), Vote #240, 5/2/17; CQ, 5/2/17]
Crime and Public Safety Issues

Significant Findings

☑️ Taylor was in favor of decriminalizing marijuana.
☑️ Taylor co-sponsored a bill that would give states the power to decriminalize marijuana.

Marijuana

Taylor Co-Sponsored A Bill That Would Give States The Power To Legalize Marijuana

May 2017: Taylor Co-Sponsored HR 1227 To Allow States Control Over Marijuana Legalization. “Last month, Rep. Tom Garrett of Virginia introduced a bill that seeks to remove virtually all traces of pot from the federal Controlled Substances Act so as to let states regulate themselves in our country’s ongoing Green Rush. Garrett’s office announced last month that the bill, originally put forth by Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont in 2015, was re-ignited to ‘[fulfill] a responsibility to create a level playing field across the country.’ With help from Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI), lead original cosponsor for the bill, and from fellow Virginia republican Rep. Scott Taylor, Garrett submitted HR 1227 to the GOP-heavy 115th U.S. Congress on February 27, referring it both the House Energy and Commerce and House Judiciary committees.” [Forbes, 5/13/17]

February 2017: Rep. Garrett Introduces HR 1227, The Ending Marijuana Prohibition Act Of 2017, To Give States The Right To Legalize Marijuana And Remove Criminal Penalties For Marijuana Users. “This bill amends the Controlled Substances Act to provide that the Act’s regulatory controls and administrative, civil, and criminal penalties do not apply to with respect to marijuana. It removes marijuana and tetrahydrocannabinols from schedule I. (A schedule I controlled substance is a drug, substance, or chemical that: has a high potential for abuse; has no currently accepted medical value; and is subject to regulatory controls and administrative, civil, and criminal penalties under the Controlled Substances Act.) Additionally, it eliminates criminal penalties for an individual who imports, exports, manufactures, distributes, or possesses with intent to distribute marijuana.” [Congress.gov, 2/27/17]


Taylor Supported Decriminalizing Marijuana

February 2017: Taylor Said He Supported Decriminalizing Marijuana. “At Taylor’s Virginia Beach meeting, hundreds of people showed up over an hour early to wait in line, but many were still turned away due to the fire code. […] Taylor also announced he believes in decriminalizing marijuana.” [13 News Now, 2/21/17]

Taylor Said He Would Oppose The GOP When He Felt It Necessary, Such As On The Issue Of Marijuana Decriminalization. “The 2nd District Republican said he’ll support his political party but would oppose the GOP when he felt it was necessary. He noted, for example, he supports decriminalization of marijuana and wants to work with Rep. Bobby Scott, a Newport News Democrat, on criminal justice reforms.” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/22/17]
Defense Issues

**Significant Findings**

- Taylor wanted to reduce spending on government assistance in order to increase defense funding.
- Taylor claimed that the Army had 30% surplus infrastructure, which “has to be on the chopping block.”
- Taylor said President Trump’s $18.5 billion military spending increase was “a start and something is better than nothing.”
  - Taylor: “You’ve got to give kudos” to Trump for cutting “excess infrastructure” like the F-35 program.
- Taylor strongly opposed sequestration.
- Taylor called the prosecution of a U.S. Navy SEAL charged with punching a suspected terrorist “ridiculous,” and dangerous for U.S. troops.

**Military Spending**

**Funding Priorities**

Taylor Said He Wanted To Reduce Spending On Government Assistance Such As Food Stamps To Balance Out An Increase In Defense Funds

Taylor Said He And Other Republicans Wanted To Reduce Spending On Food Stamps To Free Up Defense Funds. “To free up more defense funds, Taylor said he and other Republicans want to reduce spending on some government assistance, such as food stamps, and potentially cut outdated military programs.” [Associated Press, 2/12/17]

Taylor Claimed Army’s “30 Percent Surplus Infrastructure…Has To Be On The Chopping Block”

Taylor: “Army Has 30 Percent Surplus Infrastructure So That Has To Be On The Chopping Block.” “I think we can tighten the belt on a lot of different agencies, as well, too. Defense has taken the brunt of this over the last eight years. And we’ve got to get our maintenance and everything back -- restored as a military. I think we can thread the needle. Army has 30 percent of surplus infrastructure. So that has to be on the chopping block. So again, I’m a budget hawk and a military hawk. I think we can thread the needle. I think that we can look at programs that may not address threats today and tomorrow that are very big and excess infrastructure and look for cost savings.” [CNN, New Day, 2/28/17] Note: Video not found.

**Trump’s Promises**

Taylor Said President Trump’s $18.5 Billion Military Spending Increase Was “A Start And Something Is Better Than Nothing”

Taylor: “With All Due Respect To [Senator McCain]…It’s A Start And Something Is Better Than Nothing.” “CUOMO: McCain says the president says he’s going to boost our military. He’s not delivering. Three percent, $18.5 billion. He says it’s not enough, that it’s a hollow promise. Do you agree with McCain? TAYLOR: Well,
with all due respect to the senator who has been here longer than I have, of course, and I’ve listened to on him, as well, you know, it’s a start and something is better than nothing. We’ve got to get this military apparatus and national security apparatus back functioning.” [CNN, New Day, 2/28/17] Note: Video not found.

Taylor: “You’ve Got To Give Kudos” To Trump For Cutting “Excess Infrastructure” Like The F-35 Program

Taylor: “Looking At Excess Infrastructure...You’ve Got To Give Kudos To The President. He Saved A Lot Of Money Helping Out With The F-35 Program.” “And that being said, where I would differ with Senator McCain a little bit is exactly what I just said. Looking at excess infrastructure that the Army says they don’t need and looking at programs that are potentially -- you’ve got to give kudos to the president. He saved a lot of money helping out with the F-35 program. We’ve got to look at those programs to say, ‘Hey, are we using our money in the best way possible?’ And then you can thread the needle and get some of the budget hawks over on your side to help restate this military apparatus.” [CNN, New Day, 2/28/17] Note: Video not found.

Sequestration

Taylor Said Sequestration Was Harming The Military And Blamed Congress For It

Taylor Said The “Biggest Problem Right Now With The Military Is Sequestration.” “‘The biggest problem right now with the military is sequestration,’ [Taylor] says, referring to the spending limits imposed by the 2011 Budget Control Act.” [Congressional Quarterly Magazine, 11/8/16]

Taylor Blamed Congress For Using Sequestration Rather Than Targeting Areas To Cut. “Taylor blasts Congress for not targeting areas to cut, instead of opting for sequestration. He argues that Congress has punted when it comes to paying for maintaining military equipment, claiming that the Air Force is taking parts from planes in museums to replace parts on aircraft. House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, claimed earlier this year, and Fox News has quoted an U.S. Air Force captain in South Dakota saying he had to get parts from B1 bombers in museums for his squadron.” [Daily Press, 6/11/16]

Taylor Criticized Continuing Resolutions For Hurting Multi-Year Defense Projects

VIDEO: Taylor Criticized Continuing Resolutions: “This Hurts, Among Other Things, Multi-Year Defense Projects, Thus Reducing Predictability And Driving Up Costs In The Long Term.” “Amidst more budget uncertainty, local leaders say the unpredictability is trickling down to Hampton Roads. Reports on Capitol Hill suggest the threat of a government shutdown appears to be lowering, but the leaders say the continuing roller coaster isn’t helping the Commonwealth […] Congress is likely to pass a resolution to continue funding the government beyond Friday, Sen. Tim Kaine said, but he and others say that’s not a long term solution. ‘Congress has been enacting continuing resolutions for years now. This hurts, among other things, multi-year defense projects, thus reducing predictability and driving up costs in the long term,’ Rep. Scott Taylor said in a statement. Taylor is a member of the House Appropriations Committee.” [CBS-3 WTKR, 4/26/17] (VIDEO)

Secretary Of Defense

Taylor Voted For Granting Gen. James Mattis An Exemption On The Prohibition Of Newly-Retired Officers From Serving As Secretary Of Defense

Taylor Voted For Granting Gen. James Mattis An Exemption On The Prohibition Of Newly-Retired Officers From Serving As Secretary Of Defense. In January 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the bill that would allow the first person to be confirmed secretary of Defense after the bill’s enactment to serve in the position, even if the individual has not been retired from the military for seven years, so long as the person has been retired for at least three years. The bill would thus provide an exemption for President-elect Donald Trump’s pick for the
position, retired Marine Corps Gen. James Mattis, from a requirement for a seven-year waiting period before former servicemembers can be appointed to Defense secretary.” The bill passed (thus cleared for the president) by a vote of 268-151. [S 84, Vote #59, 1/13/17; CQ, 1/13/17]

**Enemy Combatants**


**Taylor Claimed The Prosecution Of Navy SEAL Matthew McCabe For Punching A Suspected Terrorist Could Endanger U.S. Troops.** “The trial of a Navy SEAL accused of gut-punching a suspected terrorist began yesterday, as protesters outside the Navy base here slammed the government for prosecuting him. Protesters waved signs that read, ‘Save Our Seals,’ while cars and trucks honked in approval, as attorneys representing Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew McCabe tried unsuccessfully to get the case thrown out. ‘A punch in the gut? This is ridiculous,’ said Scott Taylor, an ex-SEAL who knows McCabe and is running for Congress, noting that McCabe’s prosecution could endanger other US troops.” [New York Post, 4/4/10]

**Taylor Called The Prosecution Of McCabe “Ridiculous.”** “‘A punch in the gut? This is ridiculous,’ said Scott Taylor, an ex-SEAL who knows McCabe and is running for Congress, noting that McCabe’s prosecution could endanger other US troops.” [New York Post, 4/4/10]

**New York Post Reported Taylor Knew McCabe.** “‘A punch in the gut? This is ridiculous,’ said Scott Taylor, an ex-SEAL who knows McCabe and is running for Congress, noting that McCabe’s prosecution could endanger other US troops.” [New York Post, 4/4/10]
**Education Issues**

### Significant Findings

- While claiming to want to improve college affordability, Taylor voted against protecting student loan borrowers.
- Taylor voted for the Republican fiscal year 2018 budget, which cut funding for Pell grants.
- Taylor voted to loosen regulations on low-performing schools and teacher certification programs.

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### College Affordability

#### Taylor Claimed That Student Debt Should Be Refinanced

Taylor: “We Shouldn’t Be Saddling Students With Crushing Debt That They Can’t Pay Off Until They’re 50.” “On rising tuition at colleges and universities… First of all there’s a rising costs, I had numerous questions I think we should be looking at refinancing student debt. We shouldn’t be saddling students with crushing debt that they can’t pay off until they’re 50. I think that we have gone wrong that saying that they have to have a college degree to get a good job. What worries me is that we are unnecessarily saddling kids with student debt.” [Williamsburg Yorktown Daily, 11/8/16]

#### Taylor Voted Against Keeping Consumer Protections For Student Loan Borrowers

Voted Against Exempting Rules Related To Consumer Protections For Student Loan Borrowers From The SCRUB Act. In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Bonamici, D-Ore., amendment that would exempt from the bill’s provisions rules related to providing consumer protections for student loan borrowers.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 191-235. [HR 998, Vote #109, 3/1/17; CQ, 3/1/17]

#### Taylor Voted For The House Republican Budget, Which Would Reduce Funding For Pell Grants

Taylor Voted For Passing The $1.23 Trillion Fiscal 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Bill. In September 2017, Taylor voted for: “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would provide $1.23 trillion for federal departments and agencies covered by the 12 unfinished fiscal 2018 spending bills, including $621.5 billion for defense and $511 billion for nondefense discretionary spending.” The bill passed by a vote of 211-198. [H R 3354, Vote #528, 9/14/17; CQ, 9/14/17]

CBPP: House Republican Budget “Calls For Significantly Scaling Back Pell Grants.” “More than $90 billion of cuts in education and social services programs, including deep cuts in student aid. The budget calls for significantly scaling back Pell Grants, which help nearly 8 million students from low- and moderate-income families afford college. It would also repeal the Social Services Block Grant, which helps states provide services to their most vulnerable populations.” [CBPP, 9/5/17]

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### Public Education

#### Taylor Voted To Loosen Regulations For Low-Performing Schools And Teacher Certification Programs
Voted To Nullify A Department Of Education Rule Requiring The Department To Define And Monitor Low-Performing Schools. In February 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the joint resolution that would nullify an Education Department rule that requires states to define, subsequently monitor and intervene with schools deemed to be low-performing schools. Under the department’s rule, states are required to measure academic achievement through factors such as graduation rates and English proficiency rates.” The resolution was passed by a vote of 234-190. [HJRes 57, Vote #84, 2/7/17; CQ, 2/7/17]

Voted To Nullify A Department Of Education Rule Requiring States To Annually Evaluate Teacher Certification Programs. In February 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the joint resolution that would nullify an Education Department rule that requires states to annually evaluate the effectiveness of teacher preparation programs at higher education institutions. Programs are required to be ranked by level of performance and states would be required to provide assistance to the lowest-performing programs.” The resolution was passed by a vote of 240-181. [HJRes 8, Vote #85, 2/7/17; CQ, 2/7/17]
Energy Issues

Significant Findings

✓ Taylor supported the Keystone Pipeline.
✓ Taylor argued that Virginia should be building its economy on cheap energy.
✓ Taylor voted to streamline the approval process for oil pipelines.
✓ Taylor voted against curbing the eminent domain authority of pipeline projects.
✓ Taylor voted to establish a new system for the approval and permitting of border-crossing oil and gas pipelines and electrical transmission lines.
✓ Taylor voted against a motion requiring iron and steel products used in the border-crossing facility to be produced in the United States.

Keystone Pipeline

Taylor Criticized Senator Tim Kaine’s Vote Against The Keystone XL Pipeline In A Facebook Post

2014: Taylor Claimed That Obtaining Oil From Canada Through The Pipeline Would Be The Best Option For National Security And The Environment. “Senator Kaine’s NO vote on Keystone XL pipeline undermines American national, energy, and environmental security. Senator Kaine’s vote against the Keystone pipeline and his statement defy logic, even his own. Supplanting oil from the volatile Middle East and Venezuela with oil from Canada, a stable neighbor, is the right thing to do for our national security. Given the fact that some of the capacity of the new pipeline would be used to transport American Bakken shale to market, resulting in direct and indirect jobs created, the pipeline is a positive for our energy security. Lastly, given Senator Kaine’s rightful environmental concerns, he should support pipeline over rail transport of Canadian oil, given that credible studies show the likelihood of an oil spill is much higher with rail than pipeline.” [Facebook, Scottaylorvirginia, 11/19/14]

Virginia

Taylor Said Virginia Should Be Building Its Economy On Cheap Energy And Expanding Exports

The Virginian-Pilot: Taylor Said That Virginia Should Be Building Its Economy On Cheap Energy. “To diversify the economy and create jobs, Taylor said, the state needs to build a more robust exports program and harness its natural energy resources. He said the state should be building its economy on cheap energy, including a natural gas export terminal at the Port of Virginia and converting fleet vehicles to natural gas.” [Virginian-Pilot, 10/29/13]

Taylor Argued That Virginia Needed To Build A More Robust Exports Program And Harness Its Natural Energy Resources. “To diversify the economy and create jobs, Taylor said, the state needs to build a more robust exports program and harness its natural energy resources. He said the state should be building its economy on cheap energy, including a natural gas export terminal at the Port of Virginia and converting fleet vehicles to natural gas. Taylor said the state needs to more aggressively market the port so it’s not just a ‘pass-through.’ He suggests adding a layer of economic activity to the port by giving incentives to businesses to have advanced manufacturing
here. Taylor said he wants to phase in a policy of not taxing military retirement payments to encourage families to stay in the state.” [Virginian-Pilot, 10/29/13]

### Oil & Gas

#### Taylor Voted To Streamline The Pipeline Approval Process

**Taylor Voted To Streamline The Pipeline Approval Process.** In July 2017, Taylor voted for: “Passage of the bill that would establish the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as the sole lead agency for the permitting of proposals to build or expand natural gas pipelines. The bill would require the commission to set deadlines by which federal agencies would need to take certain actions as part of the pipeline project proposal review process and would, in the event an agency fails to meet a deadline set by the commission, require the head of the agency to notify Congress and set forth a recommended implementation plan for the completion of the action.” Passed by a vote of 248-179. [H R 2910, [Vote #402](7/19/17); CQ, 7/19/17]

#### Taylor Voted Against Curbing The Eminent Domain Authority of Pipeline Projects

**Taylor Voted Against Curbing The Eminent Domain Authority of Pipeline Projects.** In July 2017, Taylor voted against: “Watson Coleman, D-N.J., motion to recommit the bill to the House Energy and Commerce Committee with instructions to report it back immediately with an amendment that would prohibit approval of an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity under the Natural Gas Act unless the applicant agrees not to exercise its eminent domain authority under such law.” According to the Democratic Leader’s Office, “Democrats’ Motion to Recommit would add a requirement to the underlying bill that project applicants agree not to exercise eminent domain authority.” Motion rejected by a vote of 189-239/ [H R 2910, [Vote #401](7/19/17); CQ, 7/19/17; Democratic Leader’s Office, Motion to Recommit, 7/19/17]

#### Taylor Voted To Establish A New System For The Approval And Permitting Of Border-Crossing Oil And Gas Pipelines And Electrical Transmission Lines

**Taylor Voted To Establish A New System For The Approval And Permitting Of Border-Crossing Oil And Gas Pipelines And Electrical Transmission Lines.** In July 2017, Taylor voted for: “Passage of the bill that would establish a new system for the approval and permitting of border-crossing oil and gas pipelines and electrical transmission lines. The bill would require sponsors of border-crossing oil pipelines and electricity transmission facilities that cross the U.S. borders into Canada and Mexico to receive a ‘certificate of crossing’ from the relevant federal agency in order to build or modify their projects, thereby eliminating the need for a presidential permit. The bill would eliminate the requirement under current law that the Energy Department approve the transmission of electricity from the U.S. to another country.” The bill passed by a vote of 254-175. [H R 2883, [Vote #398](7/19/17); CQ, 7/19/17]

#### Taylor Voted Against A Motion Requiring Iron And Steel Products Used In The Border-Crossing Facility To Be Produced in the United States

**Taylor Voted Against A Motion Requiring Iron And Steel Products Used In The Border-Crossing Facility To Be Produced in the United States.** In July 2017, Taylor voted against: “O’Halleran, D-Ariz., motion to recommit the bill to the House Energy and Commerce Committee with instructions to report it back immediately with an amendment that would require, as a condition of issuing a certificate of crossing, that all iron and steel products used in the construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of a border-crossing facility would be produced in the United States.” According to the Democratic Leader’s Office, “Democrats’ Motion to Recommit would add a requirement to the underlying bill that all iron and steel products used in construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of the border-crossing facility be produced in the United States.” Motion rejected by a
Taylor Did Not Vote On Protecting Oil & Gas Companies From Publicly Disclosing Payments To Foreign Governments

2017: Taylor Did Not Vote On Protecting Oil & Gas Companies From Having To Publicly Disclose Payments To Foreign Governments. In February 2017, Taylor did not vote on “passage of the joint resolution that would nullify a Securities and Exchange Commission rule that requires companies that develop oil, natural gas or minerals to publicly report in detail payments to foreign governments or to the U.S. government totaling at least $100,000 annually per project for extraction, exploration or export of these resources.” The resolution passed by a vote of 235-187. [HJRes 41, Vote #72, 2/1/17; CQ, 2/1/17]
Environmental Issues

Significant Findings

✓ Taylor said that he believed in climate change while simultaneously questioning what there was to do about it and whether it was man-made.

✓ Taylor criticized the EPA, but said he did not want to abolish it.

✓ Taylor was undecided on off-shore drilling.

✓ Taylor claimed responsibility for securing funding for the Chesapeake Bay.

✓ The House Appropriations Committee on which Taylor sits gave $60 million to the Chesapeake Bay Program.

✓ Taylor voted to make it easier to sell federal lands without taking into account taxpayer concerns.

Climate Change

2017: Taylor Said Climate Change Was Real And A Serious Issue For Virginia Beach...

Taylor: “On The Shore We Can See That, We Can See It Eroding…So It Is Absolutely An Issue That I Acknowledge Needs Work.” “Taylor said he agrees that climate change, recurrent flooding and sea-level rise are issues that need attention. ‘On the Shore we can see that, we can see it eroding, whether you're on the barrier islands or on Tangier Island, as well as Virginia Beach, as well as Norfolk. So it is absolutely an issue that I acknowledge needs work,’ he said.” [Delmarva Daily Times, 2/25/17]

…But Questioned How Much Of It Was Man-Made And What There Was To Be Done About It

Taylor Admitted That Climate Change And The Sinking Of Virginia Beach Was “Real” And “Absolutely A Problem” But Asked “How Much Is Man Responsible For It And How Much Can Man Do About It?” “As for the sinking of his district, he said it’s ‘absolutely a problem.’ But he has no specific plans for how to address it. ‘Is climate change real? Of course it is. It’s changing, and we have an issue with flood resiliency down in our area,’ Taylor said. ‘I think the question, more importantly, is how much is man responsible for it and how much can man do about it? And that’s where the argument is.’ [Environment and Energy Daily, 1/31/17]

HEADLINE: “Military Hero Not Quite Ready For War On Climate Change.” [Environment and Energy Daily, 1/31/17]


New York Times: Taylor Was “Wary Of Hobbling Fossil-Fuel Companies, But Favor[Ed] Narrower Measures To Address Dangerous Environmental Conditions.” “For years, climate change activists have faced a wrenching dilemma: how to persuade people to care about a grave but seemingly far-off problem and win their support for policies that might pinch them immediately in utility bills and at the pump. […] Representative Scott Taylor of Virginia, a Republican whose district hugs the Atlantic Coast, said his constituents were growing more sensitive to the implications of climate change, including voters who lean to the right. Mr. Taylor, who is a member
of the climate caucus, said he was still wary of hobbling fossil-fuel companies, but favors narrower measures to address dangerous environmental conditions. ‘[...] ‘We have to deal with issues like sea level rise and flooding and resiliency,’ Mr. Taylor said, cautioning, ‘I don’t think we’re there, in a bipartisan way, for comprehensive action.’” [New York Times, 9/14/17]

**Taylor Voted Against Striking A Provision From The NDAA Stating Climate Change Poses A Threat To National Security.** In July 2017, Taylor voted against: “Perry, R-Pa., amendment that would eliminate the bill’s provision that would express the sense of Congress that climate change is a direct threat to national security, and would eliminate the provision that would require the secretary of Defense to report to Congress on vulnerabilities to military installations and combatant commands resulting from climate change-related effects.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 185-234. [H R 2810, Vote #368, 7/13/17; CQ, 7/13/17]

**EPA**

**Taylor Said He Would Not Get Rid Of The EPA But That It Had Overstepped Its Boundaries**

Taylor: “I’m Not One Who Says, ‘Get Rid Of The EPA, Abolish The EPA.’” “As President Donald Trump introduces a series of budget cuts and regulatory rollbacks that would cripple the Environmental Protection Agency, he faces one unpredictable obstacle: resistance from fellow Republicans. A small but vocal number of GOP lawmakers have rallied in support of popular programs in their districts, including clean water programs in the Great Lakes and the Chesapeake Bay, that are among the biggest losers in the budget Trump proposed to Congress last month. ‘I’m not one who says, ‘Get rid of the EPA, abolish the EPA,’” said Scott Taylor, a Virginia House freshman who has called for level funding for the Chesapeake Bay Program -- a stance that could carry extra weight because he serves on the Appropriations Committee. ‘I believe you have to have someone who is administering reasonable, responsible regulations to protect our environment.’” [Roll Call, 4/4/17]

**Taylor Claimed The EPA Had Overstepped Its Boundaries And Needed To Be Reined In.** “Several people asked about environmental concerns in Hampton Roads, such as sea level rise, coastal flooding and erosion, as well as whether Taylor believed the Environmental Protection Agency should be eliminated. Taylor said he does not want to get rid of the agency, but said it has overstepped with some of its regulations and needs to be reined in.” [Daily Times, 2/22/17]

**Science Integrity**

**Taylor Voted To Provide For House Consideration Of A Bill Establishing A Selection Process For Members Of The EPA’s Science Advisory Board.** In March 2017, Taylor voted for the “adoption of the rule (H Res 233) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill that would establish a selection process for members of the EPA’s Science Advisory Board. The bill would require board member nominees to disclose financial relationships that would be relevant to EPA advisory activities.” The rule was adopted by a vote of 232-188. [HR 233, Vote #204, 3/29/17; CQ, 3/29/17]

**Taylor Voted Against An Amendment Exempting EPA Actions Related To Public Health Threats From The Bill’s Requirement That The Scientific Information Behind The EPA’s Actions Must Be Publicly Available.** In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “McEachin, D-Va., motion to recommit the bill to the House Science, Space and Technology Committee with instructions to report it back immediately with an amendment that would exempt EPA actions taken in response to a public health threat from the bill’s requirement that the scientific information that influenced the EPA’s actions must be publicly available.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 189-232. [HR 1430, Vote #205, 3/29/17; CQ, 3/29/17]

**Taylor Voted To Prohibit The EPA From Proposing A Rule Unless The Scientific Information Backing It Up Is Publicly Available.** In March 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the bill that would prohibit the EPA from proposing, finalizing or disseminating a rule, regulation or standard unless the scientific and technical information
on which the EPA’s decisions relied is publicly available for independent analysis. It would require any personally identifiable information, trade secrets or sensitive business information to be redacted prior to the publication of the scientific information.” The bill was passed by a vote of 228-194. [HR 1430, Vote #206, 3/29/17, CQ, 3/29/17]

Taylor Voted Against Prohibiting Any Member Of The EPA Science Advisory Board From Being Employed By Any Interests Before The Board During That Person’s Term And For Three Years After. In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Foster, D-Ill., motion to recommit the bill the House Science, Space and Technology Committee with instructions to report it back immediately with an amendment that would prohibit, both during and for three years following a term on the board, Science Advisory Board members from being employed by any entity with interests before the board.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 189-233. [HR 1431, Vote #207, 3/30/17; CQ, 3/30/17]

Taylor Voted To Establish A Selection Process For EPA Science Advisory Board Members. In March 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of a bill that would establish a selection process for members of the EPA’s Science Advisory Board. The bill would require the board’s members represent a variety of scientific and technical viewpoints. It would require board member nominees to disclose financial relationships that would be relevant to EPA advisory activities. It would require the board to generally avoid making policy determinations or recommendations to the EPA.” The bill was passed by a vote of 229-193. [HR 1431, Vote #208, 3/30/17; CQ, 3/30/17]

Chesapeake Bay Cleanup

Taylor Said He Would Not “See It As a Tough Spot” If He Had To Disagree With President Trump On Funding Chesapeake Bay Cleanup

In Response To Trump’s Budget Proposal Eliminating Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Funding, Taylor Stated: “I Don’t See It As A Tough Spot...If I Agree With The President, Then I Agree With Him. If I Don’t, I Don’t.” “The budget proposal released Tuesday by President Trump doubles down on his promise to eliminate Chesapeake Bay cleanup dollars, increasing the pressure on key Virginia and Maryland lawmakers to rescue the funding. The region has four lawmakers on the powerful House and Senate appropriations committees - Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) and Reps. Andy Harris (R-Md.), C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-Md.) and Scott W. Taylor (R-Va.). […] Advocates say Republicans are powerful allies in this fight because they are willing to put aside loyalty to a president from their own party when the health of the bay is at stake. ‘I don’t see it as a tough spot,’ said the GOP’s Taylor, who is from Virginia Beach. ‘If I agree with the president, then I agree with him. If I don’t, I don’t.’” [Washington Post, 5/23/17]

The House Appropriations Committee On Which Taylor Sat Gave $60 Million To The Chesapeake Bay Program

Taylor Claimed Responsibility For Securing Funding For The Chesapeake Bay Program In Trump’s FY17 Budget. “Today, Congressman Taylor issued a statement following his remarks on the Chesapeake Bay program during the Appropriations Committee markup: ‘I am grateful for the support among members of the Appropriations Committee who fought with me to get the $60 million included for the Chesapeake Bay program, far from the $0 in the President’s budget. The Chesapeake Bay is America’s largest and most significant estuary, a significant economic driver for our region, and a national treasure. While I would like to see it returned to the FY17 level of $73 million immediately, this is a strong negotiating position we will use to push for increased funding in the weeks ahead.’” [U.S. Rep. Scott Taylor, Press Release, 7/19/17]

The Appropriations Committee Appropriated $60 Million To The Chesapeake Bay Environmental Protection Program. “During a meeting of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations Tuesday the Chesapeake Bay Program was given $60 million in funding. The program works year-round to
restore waterways, decrease pollution and protect more than 3,000 species of plants and animals that call the bay home.” [Southside Daily, 7/19/17]

**Taylor Said He Wanted To See The $60 Million Increase To $73 Million.** “Rep. Scott Taylor, who also sits on the House Appropriations Committee, released a statement Wednesday afternoon voicing his support of the program. Taylor said he would also like to see the program receive funding equivalent to the 2017 budget. ‘I am grateful for the support among members of the Appropriations Committee who fought to get the $60 million included for the Chesapeake Bay program, far from the $0 in the President’s budget,’ Taylor said in the statement. ‘The Chesapeake Bay is America’s largest and most significant estuary, a significant economic driver for our region and a national treasure. While I would like to see it returned to the FY17 level of $73 million immediately, this is a strong negotiating position we will use to push for increased funding in the weeks ahead.’” [Southside Daily, 7/19/17]

**Taylor Volunteered At A Local Event To Help Clean Chesapeake Bay**

**Taylor Served As A Volunteer During Clean The Bay Day To Help Clean Chesapeake Bay.** “Thousands of volunteers turned out for the 29th Clean the Bay Day, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s annual shoreline and stream cleanup and one of the largest volunteer events in Virginia. […] Among the thousands of volunteers were elected officials, including Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam, Rep. Barbara Comstock, Rep. Scott Taylor...” [Cape Charles Mirror, 6/11/17]

**Off-Shore Drilling**

**May 2017: Virginia Beach Residents Protested The Drilling Off Of Virginia Beach And Gathered Signatures For A Petition To Be Presented To Taylor.** “About three dozen Eastern Shore of Virginia residents gathered at Willis Wharf on Saturday to protest the prospect of the federal government allowing oil drilling off the Virginia Coast. The event, called ‘Hands Across the Sand Eastern Shore,’ was part of a larger movement that included events in 20 states and three countries during the weekend — it was the seventh annual event, but the first time the Eastern Shore of Virginia held its own gathering. People also signed a petition that will be presented to Rep. Scott Taylor this week.” [Delmarva Now, 5/22/17]

**April 2017: Washington Post: On Off-Shore Drilling, Taylor “Lean[ed] In Favor Of Drilling, But There [Were] Too Many Unanswered Questions For Him To Take A Definitive Position.”** “The Virginia congressional delegation is generally split along party lines over whether the federal government should allow oil and gas drilling off the state’s coast. The issue reemerged last week when President Trump signed an executive order that aimed to reverse an Obama administration moratorium on extracting fuel from the ocean floor. […] Republican members say they favor drilling - except for Rep. Scott W. Taylor, who is undecided. […] Taylor, a former Navy SEAL and first-term Republican representing Virginia Beach, said he leans in favor of drilling, but there are too many unanswered questions for him to take a definitive position. ‘It’s a big decision for our community and for Virginia,’ he said.” [Washington Post, 4/30/17]

**Pollution**

**Clean Air**

**Taylor Voted To “Extend For Eight Years The Deadline For The EPA To Implement New National Ambient Air Quality Standards For Ground-Level Ozone”**

**Taylor Voted To “Extend For Eight Years The Deadline For The EPA To Implement New National Ambient Air Quality Standards For Ground-Level Ozone.”** In July 2017, Taylor voted for: “Passage of the bill that would extend for eight years the deadline for the EPA to implement new National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ground-level ozone (the EPA issued such deadlines on Oct. 26, 2015). The bill would require the EPA to review the
national ambient air quality standards for each pollutant every ten years, instead of every five, and would require the agency to evaluate possible adverse effects of standard changes, including effects related to public health, welfare and economics, prior to establishing or revising a national ambient air quality standard.” The bill passed by a vote of 229-199. [H R 806, Vote #391, 7/18/17; CQ, 7/18/17]

**Taylor Voted Against A Motion To Prohibit Implementation Of New Air Quality Standards If Those Standards Could Pose Health Risks To Those Without Access To “Affordable, Comprehensive” Health Care.** In July 2017, Taylor voted against: “Cartwright, D-Pa., motion to recommit the bill to the House Energy and Commerce Committee with instructions to report it back immediately with an amendment that would prohibit implementation of the bill’s provisions if the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, in consultation with the Congressional Budget Office, finds such implementation could increase various health risks for individuals without access to “affordable, comprehensive” health insurance.” According to the Democratic Leader’s Office, “Democrats’ Motion to Recommit would prohibit implementation of the underlying bill if the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee finds that application of the underlying bill could increase health risks to vulnerable populations including children, seniors, pregnant women, outdoor workers, and minority and low-income communities.” Motion rejected by a vote of 191-235. [H R 806, Vote #390, 7/18/17; CQ, 7/18/17; Democratic Leader’s Office, Motion to Recommit, 7/18/17]

### Federal Land Management

**Taylor Voted For A Resolution Allowing Congress To More Easily Sell Federal Lands Without Concern For Taxpayer Costs, Establish Fines For Using Cameras On The House Floor.** In January 2017, Taylor voted for the “Adoption of the resolution that would establish the rules of the House for the 115th Congress. Many of the rules that were in effect at the end of the 114th Congress would carry over. Among the rules changes, it would set monetary fines for using electronic devices on the House floor to take photos or videos.” The resolution was adopted by a vote of 234-193. [HRes 5, Vote #6, 1/3/17; CQ, 1/3/17]

**HRes 5 Would “Make It Easier For Members Of The New Congress To Cede Federal Control Of Public Lands” Without Concern For Cost To U.S. Treasury.** “House Republicans on Tuesday changed the way Congress calculates the cost of transferring federal lands to the states and other entities, a move that will make it easier for members of the new Congress to cede federal control of public lands. The provision, included as part as a larger rules package the House approved by a vote of 233 to 190 during its first day in session, highlights the extent to which some congressional Republicans hope to change longstanding rules now that the GOP will control the executive and the legislative branches starting Jan. 20. […] Under current Congressional Budget Office accounting rules, any transfer of federal land that generates revenue for the U.S. Treasury — whether through energy extraction, logging, grazing or other activities — has a cost. If lawmakers wanted to give such land to a state, local government or tribe, they would have to account for that loss in expected cash flow. […] The immediate impact of the rules change is that lawmakers cannot raise a budgetary point of order if a land transfer bill comes to the floor. Under existing House rules, any measure that costs the U.S. Treasury money must be offset by either budget cuts or a revenue-raising provision.” [Washington Post, 1/3/17]

**Taylor Voted To Nullify A Bureau Of Land Management Rule Directing The Agency To Develop Management Plans For Public Lands And Include Public Opinion.** In February 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the joint resolution that would that would disapprove and nullify a Bureau of Land Management rule that amends the agency’s procedures for the development of resource management plans for public lands. The rule directs BLM to design management plans that address resource issues in a number of programs related to wildfire prevention, wildlife habitat protection and demands for renewable and nonrenewable energy. The rule also provides additional opportunities for the public to submit information and comments on a plan revision or amendment.” The resolution was passed by a vote of 234-186. [HJRes 44, Vote #83, 2/7/17; CQ, 2/7/17]

**Taylor Voted To Authorize $1 Million For The Bureau Of Land Management To Survey The Boundary Along The Red River between Texas And Oklahoma.** In February 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the bill that would authorize $1 million for the Bureau of Land Management to pay for a survey to identify the boundary,
with respect to title and ownership, along the Red River on the border between Texas and Oklahoma. It would require the survey use the gradient boundary method of measurement established in the Supreme Court case Oklahoma v. Texas and that the survey be completed within two years of the bill’s enactment.” The bill passed by a vote of 250-171. [HR 428, Vote #92, 2/14/17; CQ, 2/14/17]

Taylor “Voted To Kill A Federal Rule That Gives Americans More Of A Voice In Large-Scale Planning For Projects Using Public Land. In February 2017, Taylor voted for the “adoption of the rule (H Res 91) that would provide for House floor consideration of a joint resolution of (H J Res 44) that would nullify a Bureau of Land Management rule that modifies the BLM’s process of assessing and planning the development of public lands by increasing public involvement.” According to the Denver Post, “The U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday voted to kill a federal rule that gives Americans more of a voice in large-scale planning for projects using public land […] [HJ Res 44] would nullify the Bureau of Land Management’s ‘Planning 2.0’ rule that took effect in December. That rule governs all planning for future uses of 250 million acres of federal public land that is concentrated in the West.” The rule was adopted by a vote of 233-186. [HJRes 44, Vote #82, 2/7/17; Denver Post, 2/7/17; CQ, 2/7/17]
FEMA And Disaster Relief Issues

Significant Findings

✓ Taylor voted in favor of Harvey aid funding.

Disaster Relief

Hurricane Harvey

2017: Taylor Voted For $7.9 Billion In Emergency Supplemental Funding To Cover The Costs Of Responding To Hurricane Harvey. In September 2017, Taylor voted for: “Frelinghuysen, R-N.J., motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution that would provide for the House to concur in the Senate amendments to a bill (HR 601) that would codify practices and programs at the United States Agency for International Development related to U.S. education assistance abroad, with further amendment that would appropriate $7.9 billion in emergency supplemental funding for fiscal 2017 as an initial payment to cover the costs of responding to Hurricane Harvey. The total would include $7.4 billion for the Homeland Security Department’s Disaster Relief Fund, which will be used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to support ongoing hurricane response efforts. It would also include $450 million for the Small Business Administration’s disaster loan program to assist small businesses and homeowners.” The motion passed, 419-3. [HRes 502, Vote #441, 9/6/17; CQ, 9/6/17]

Taylor On Harvey Funding: “The Funding Included In This Bill Will Help Rebuild The Coastal Communities In Texas And Louisiana That Have Been Devastated By This Storm.” “Today, the House of Representatives voted to pass a $15.3 billion disaster aid package for the victims of Hurricane Harvey in Texas and Louisiana. The legislation, first passed by the Senate on Thursday, September 7th, also includes continued funding for government agencies through the fiscal year, October 1st, until December 8th. ’The funding included in this bill will help rebuild the coastal communities in Texas and Louisiana that have been devastated by this storm,’ said Congressman Scott Taylor. ‘This was an opportunity for Congress to put partisan politics aside and help people who are really hurting. It is important that we rise to the challenge and help our neighbors in their time of need. I am proud to have supported it.’” [Office of Rep. Scott Taylor, press release, 9/8/17]
Foreign Policy Issues

**Significant Findings**

- Taylor categorized himself as “very pro-Israel.”
- Taylor made a House floor speech denouncing a U.N. resolution that criticized the expansion of Israeli settlements.
- Taylor agreed with Trump that the Israeli embassy should be moved to Jerusalem.
- Taylor echoed Trump’s claim that “23 out of 28” NATO members “aren’t holding their end of the bargain up” on funding NATO.
- Taylor opposed the Iran Deal.
- Taylor claimed that it was a mistake for the United States to pull out of Iraq.
- Taylor praised the Trump Administration’s response to North Korean missile aggression.
- Taylor said the United States had an obligation to help end the humanitarian crisis in Syria.
- Taylor supported updating congressional approval for military force.

**Congressional Approval For Military Force**

**Taylor Supported Updating Congressional Approval For Military Force**

Taylor: “It’s Important That Congress As Well Engage” On Updating The Authorization For The Use Of Military Force. “REGAN: Congressman, we all want peace in the Middle East. It’s clearly shown itself to be very unattainable, very, very challenging region. As you fast-forward here over the next three-and-a-half years, how do you see things playing out? Are things going to get worse before they get better? TAYLOR: Well, anything can happen in the Middle East, as it always does. It’s not very logical in many ways. But I will tell you that the Middle East and the world are looking for leadership. And America is willing to lead now. That’s for sure. So, it’s important. As I said to you, I have spent years in the Middle East myself. They respect or fear power. And it’s important that we stand by allies. It’s important that we make them do their fair share as well, too, but it’s also important that we’re willing to deal with potential terrorist threats. At the same time, I have been very clear, saying that you have the second administration working off a third administration’s authorization of military force from 16 years ago. So, it’s important that Congress as well engage.” [Fox News Network, 4/14/17]

Taylor Said Trump Would Have To Get Congress To Approve Action Against North Korea. “JANSING: Congressman, if President Trump decides to take any kind of provocative action against North Korea, and you couldn’t call anything against North Korea anything I think but provocative, and obviously unlike Syria and Afghanistan, it’s got nuclear weapons, does he need to consult with congress? REP. SCOTT TAYLOR (R), VIRGINIA: Well, thank you for having me. I think it’s always important for an executive to consult with congress, of course. Now, as you very well know, the executive has to have a little bit of flexible, of course, if they’re our national security, our allies, our interests are threatened to be able to act. But in any kind of long-term, whatsoever, yes, they do have to come to congress.” [MSNBC, 4/14/17]
Foreign Aid

Taylor On Foreign Aid: “No One Even Knows That We Are [Delivering Foreign Aid] Most Of The Time”

Taylor On Foreign Aid: “We Still Deliver Foreign Aid As Though We’re Supplanting Communism In The Cold War. No One Even Knows That We Are Most Of The Time.” “TAYLOR: But listen, I’m a budget hawk, and -- and a defense hawk. And I think that we can thread the needle. I think we can thread a needle to get cuts where we need it. The last segment, I think leading into this segment, they were talking about foreign aid. We still deliver foreign aid as though we’re supplanting communism in the Cold War. No one even knows that we’re most of the time, in these countries, and I’ve seen it first-hand.” [CNN, 2/28/17]

Taylor: “They Don’t Even Know About Our Generosity. I Mean, We Have To Change How We Do That.” “They don’t even know about our generosity. I mean, we have to change how we do that.” [CNN, 2/28/17]

Israel

Taylor Said He Was “Very Pro-Israel” And Called The Country The “Only Liberal Democracy In The Region”

Taylor: “I Understand From The Arab Perspective And It Makes Me Support Israel Even More.” “I’m very pro-Israel. I believe that Israel, much like the US, should always have an unfair advantage militarily speaking. I spent years in the Middle East, mostly in Yemen. I understand from the Arab perspective and it makes me support Israel even more. Israel is the only liberal democracy in the region. It is a beacon there. Not just strategically for us but they are our closest ally there for sure.” [Jewish Insider, 4/3/17]

Taylor Condemned Obama’s Decision To Abstain On A United Nation’s Vote Condemning Israeli Settlements

Taylor’s First Speech On The Floor Of The House Condemned The U.N.’s Resolution On Israel. “The Obama administration had eight years to show their true colors, but when they didn’t get their way, they insecurely, naively, and cowardly lashed out at our greatest and strongest ally in the Middle East. Women, religious minorities, LGBT, and Jews would not have equal rights, democracy, or peace in a Palestinian country. […] The current administration has used the United Nations to both legitimize a profoundly flawed Iran deal and delegitimize Israel. To think that settlements are the only thing that stand in front of peace is dangerously naïve.” [Youtube, 1/11/17]

2017: Taylor Voted For Expressing The House’s Opposition To A U.N. Security Council Resolution Criticizing Expansion Of Israeli Settlements In Unoccupied Areas. In January, 2017, Taylor voted for “adoption of the resolution that would express the House’s opposition to a U.N. Security Council resolution that criticized continued expansion of Israeli settlements in occupied areas” on the grounds that the U.N. Security Council Resolution was an obstacle to Israel-Palestinian peace. A yes vote was a vote to block criticism of the resolution. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 342-80. [H.Res 11, Vote #11, 1/5/17; CQ, 1/5/17; Democratic Leader—Previous Questions, 1/5/17]

Taylor Agreed With Trump That The Israeli Embassy Should Be Moved To Jerusalem

Taylor Agreed With Trump That The Israeli Embassy Should Be Moved To Jerusalem. “Taylor agrees with President-elect Trump that the US embassy should be moved to Jerusalem and this is one of the reasons he attended the leadership summit in Jerusalem.” [Israel National News, 12/28/16]
Iran Deal

Taylor Opposed The Iran Deal

Taylor: “This Deal, As It Stands, Will Lead To An Increasingly Out Of Balance Region And More, Not Less Conflict.” “Iran is the clear winner in this deal, who continues their nuclear program without immediate inspections, with sanctions lifted, with billions of dollars more in their accounts, and with the ability to get ballistic missiles in eight years. […] Congress must have the courage to stand up to an administration that has, once again, put hope and wishful thinking above reality in the Middle East, to the detriment of American and world security. This deal, as it stands, will lead to an increasingly out of balance region and more, not less conflict.” [Delegate Taylor’s Statement on the #IranDeal via LinkedIn, 7/14/15]

Taylor Argued That The Iran Deal Should Have Involved Congress. “TAYLOR: Well, I’m certainly on the record and very overtly saying that I think [the Iran Deal] was a bad deal. I think it just solidifies their path to nuclear weapons in the future. But when you have these international agreements, that has to go through the Congress, through the Senate. The Senate has to see those. And these are treaties. They’re not just an agreement, in my opinion, that the executive branch just unilaterally make. So I think that you have to have the rest of the government involved in these as well, these international agreements.” [CEO Wire, 5/5/17]

Iraq

2017: Taylor Would Not Directly Say What He Thought The Way Forward For Iraq Was But Said It Was A Mistake To Pull Out

VIDEO: Taylor: “I Think It Was A Mistake To Pull Out The Troops [In Iraq] And That Stabilizing Force.” “Yes, you talked about boots on the ground. I think it was misleading, obviously, of the last administration to say no boots on the ground. They’re all boots on the ground that are there. They’re all combat troops that are there. BLITZER: And they’re all in harm’s way. TAYLOR: Absolutely. They’re in harm’s way. And creating that vacuum that’s there, we had to do that. I think it was a mistake to pull out the troops there and that stabilizing force. But that was then. This is now. And what do we do next?” [CNN, The Situation Room, 2/27/17] Note: Video not found.

Taylor: “I Think That The Last Administration Did Create A Vacuum In Iraq, Did Create Instability.” “TAYLOR: Well, understand, international relations is a chess game. It’s not checkers. Right? One move changes the whole game. If you had asked me this question five years ago, you would have a completely different answer. I think that the last administration did create a vacuum in Iraq, did create instability more so. Yes, going into Iraq in the first place creates that. Then it was stabilized. BLITZER: How do you guarantee? Let’s say Mosul is liberated, the second largest city in Iraq. And ISIS has been in control now for, what, almost three years. Let’s say Raqqa is liberated in Syria. Then what? Who is going to deploy troops there to maintain that liberation? It’s going to go on for…” [CNN, The Situation Room, 2/27/17] Note: Video not found.

Taylor On Sending U.S. Ground Forces To Iraq: “I Need To Hear More Information…That’s Something That I’m Confident That The Generals Can Do.” “BLITZER: But if you’re to defeat and destroy ISIS in Mosul, and Iraqi troops are there, but in Raqqa, their so-called capital of their caliphate, you are going to have to send in a lot of ground forces to do it. And the U.S. is going to have to be involved. Would you support that? TAYLOR: As I said, I need to hear more information. Like I said, you have these great powers playing in that battle space. And before, you never had something like that, where you had, again, Russia, Turkey, Iran, Israel, as well, too, and some other folks that are in that battle space. How do we deconflict? What does that look that? That’s something that I’m confident that the generals can do. But I want to hear about it before I would say that that makes sense.” [CNN, The Situation Room, 2/27/17] Note: Video not found.
Taylor Argued That Special Operators Would Have A Role To Play In Mosul’s Future

VIDEO: Taylor Said Special Operators “Will Have To Play A Role In Some Capacity” In Mosul After ISIS’s Departure From The City. “TAPPER: Do you think as part of the post-Mosul victory that U.S. troops, whether special operators such as yourself or others, should be part of a hold force to keep Mosul safe, or do you think that that should entirely be from people -- by people in the region? SCOTT TAYLOR (R), VIRGINIA: […] Look, I think -- you know, what comes next in Mosul is going to be important. You know, if there’s going to be -- there -- potentially problems there, and that’s not just -- not just Mosul, that’s also Iraq, that’s Syria, what’s a post-ISIS strategy. I think that we will have to play a role there in some capacity. I’m not sure exactly what that -- what that looks like at the moment but there’s no question that there will have to be some adviser there that are helping the Iraqi army keep that stability and security that they fought so hard to get.” [CNN, The Lead with Jake Tapper, 7/14/17] (VIDEO)

Taylor Said The Notion Military Advisors In Iraq Did Not Count As ‘Boots On The Ground’ Was “B.S. Of Course, They’re All Boots On The Ground”

Taylor Said The Notion Military Advisors In Iraq Did Not Count As ‘Boots On The Ground’ Was “B.S. Of Course, They’re All Boots On The Ground.” “STARR: From Somalia to Yemen, Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan, it’s largely fallen on special operations forces to wage battle against ISIS, al Qaeda and their affiliates, and they are increasingly paying with their lives. Five killed in action in 2017, 22 since June 2014, when the war against ISIS began. Taylor, like so many who have served on the front lines, rejects the controversial Pentagon view that when troops are military advisors, they must stay out of the direct line of fire. TAYLOR: There’s no boots on the ground. They’re just advisors. Well, we know that’s B.S. Of course, they’re all boots on the ground. STARR: On Milliken’s final, he was an advisor to Somali forces, alongside them in the line of fire. TAYLOR: You certainly can’t blame the operator for wanting to get into the fight. They’re there on the ground with the force that they’re helping.” [CNN, New Day, 6/13/17] Note: Video not found.

NATO

Taylor Echoed Trump’s Criticism That The United States Paid More Than Its Fair Share Towards NATO

Taylor: “23 Out Of 28” NATO Members “Aren’t Holding Their End Of The Bargain Up.” “BERMAN: [Trump] didn’t commit himself. Just to be clear because he did not say -- TAYLOR: Sure. BERMAN: -- I stand behind Article 5, the collective defense. That was a notable omission from his statement, also. TAYLOR: I don’t think there’s any question that we would stand by that as a nation. But what I’ll say to you is, you know, sometimes families have disagreements and sometimes family disagreements are pretty deep. And I will tell you that you’ve had two presidents -- President Obama, President Trump -- who have both said the same thing, that members of NATO, the 23 out of 28 who aren’t holding their end of the bargain up, who aren’t paying for the defense, that’s very important. […] …they should also hold up their end of the bargain and both President Obama and President Trump have told them that.” [CNN, New Day, 5/26/17] Note: Video not found.

North Korea

September 2017: Taylor Praised Trump For “Doing A Very Decent Job” In His Response To North Korea’s Missile Launches

Taylor Said Trump Was “Actually Doing A Very Decent Job With A Tense And Difficult Situation” In North Korea. “Rep. Scott Taylor (R-Va.), a former Navy SEAL, is praising President Trump’s handling of North Korea’s recent missile launches, saying the president is doing ‘a very decent job with a tense and difficult situation.’ ”I think that this president, and this administration further, is actually doing a very decent job with a
tense and difficult situation,’ Taylor said in a recent interview with The Hill. ‘I know some people may not like that the president is there and he’s doing it, but when you look — North Korea was marching toward shooting something at Guam,’ he continued.” [The Hill, 9/5/17]

April 2017: Taylor Praised The Trump Administration For Engaging With China About North Korea

VIDEO: Taylor Stated That He Was “Encourage By The White House, Quite Frankly, For Engaging In These Multilateral Talks.” [CHRIS] CUOMO: All right. So, let’s deal with the policy and then we’ll get to the politics of it. The idea of what to do about North Korea, what is your word of caution about how much rattling of the saber we should see from the White House, given how what Vice President Pence has said so far was met from the North Korean response of we’re going to test a missile every week, thermal nuclear war could be upon us? TAYLOR: Well, let me first say I applaud the president for engaging in multilateral talks with our allies over there as well as China and trying to bring them in there. You know, I’m not -- I’m not one to bluster and saber rattle and all those things. North Korea, of course, has a history of doing that. They have been doing that for a while now, most of the time trying to gain concessions from us. But the last thing we want is war. There’s no doubt about that. We want peace. The situation is tense over there. But I am encouraged by the White House, quite frankly, for engaging in these multilateral talks. Something has to be done over there. […] And I applaud the multilateral talks to try to tamp down on the tensions.” [CNN, New Day via Mark Newton, YouTube, 4/18/17] (VIDEO)

VIDEO: Taylor Diffused The Responsibility For Creating Peace With North Korea: “Of Course We Want Peace, But It Is Important That Our Partners As Well As China And Others Engage In This Denuclearization Of The Korean Peninsula.” “CUOMO: Well, to the extent that’s what’s going on, how is it different, this new edict of maximum engagement from strategic patience? The White House was working China then, figure out how China could work, figure out how Japan could work, trying to deal with Iran’s component of this as part of that extensive deal they did with their nuclear program. [08:20:06] TAYLOR: Well, that’s an excellent statement. I think some of the difference of course is as you see the potential for the military to be there, so the potential of force as well, too, is a sort of a new component with this. […] You can see that that has brought China to the table, unlike ever before that we have seen. So, yes, this is situation is tense and the last thing we want is this to break out in war. Of course we want peace, but it is important that our partners as well as China and others engage in this denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.” [CNN, New Day via Mark Newton, YouTube, 4/18/17] (VIDEO)

April 2017: Taylor Said That The U.S.’s Decision To Drop A Bomb On Afghanistan Was “A Message To North Korea”

VIDEO: Taylor Called The April 2017 Bomb Dropped On Afghanistan “A Message To North Korea.” “REGAN: What do you think the reaction is going to be, given what we just did in Afghanistan? It certainly struck a very different tone. We have never dropped a weapon like this. […] TAYLOR: Well, I think -- again, I think it’s very clear that you have a different type of administration here, one that is willing to back up. Listen, when you -- when you are using diplomacy as a tool, when you are using economic sanctions as a tool, or you have U.N. resolutions, those things have to be backed up by force, or at least the willingness to do so if all else fails. The bomb that you’re explaining right now, of course, was dealing with these tunnels underground, of course. I think that’s actually a message to North Korea.” [Fox News Network, Your World, 4/14/17] (VIDEO)

Russia

April 2017: Taylor Said He Thought The United States Would Win A Hypothetical War Against Russia

VIDEO: Taylor Stated That He Thought The United States “Could Beat Russia In A War, I Do Absolutely. But Is It In Our Best Interests? No, It’s Not.” “CARLSON: So, Senator John McCain in Arizona was asked
today, should we do this? And what happens if it leads to a wider war with Russia? And I’m quoting him precisely when he said, I don’t give a damn if we get into war with Russia, he said in effect, we will win, we are the superior military power. Do you think that that’s a wise course to invite war with Russia over this? TAYLOR: With all due respect to Senator McCain who’s been around a lot longer than I have, of course. CARLSON: Yes. TAYLOR: I disagree with him on that point. […] I think that, look, I think we can beat Russia in a war, I do absolutely. But is it in our best interests? No, it’s not. I don’t think it is. I don’t think it’s in our best interests, I don’t think it’s in Russia. And I don’t think it’s in the world’s best interest for that to happen. So, with all due respect to Senator McCain, I just disagree with him. CARLSON: That seems deranged, do you think that’s a widespread view in the United States Senate? TAYLOR: What’s that? CARLSON: -- war with Russia? TAYLOR: I don’t think that’s a widespread view.” [Fox News Network, Tucker Carlson Tonight, 4/6/17]

**Taylor Said That Russia Was An Enemy And A “Frenemy” But That The U.S. Should Work Together With Them**

VIDEO: Taylor: “Russia Is A Frenemy, Of Course, At Times.” “CUOMO: How do you understand the apparent disconnect between what the vice president just said, which is what we hear from most rational leaders around the world, right, is that you’ve got to check Russia and Ukraine — they can’t just keep doing whatever they want to do—with what our president said about a week or so ago, where he said, ‘I’m not sure about a connection between Russia and the separatists.’ How do you understand that difference? TAYLOR: […] I think that the president—and I’m not speaking for him, of course, but you’re right. He has certainly talked about getting with Russia, having friendly relations with Russia. Russia is a frenemy, of course, at times. We’ve worked with Russian [sic] over the—for a long time in many things, but also, they’ve also been an enemy. Right?” [CNN, 2/20/17]

**Taylor: Despite Russian Interference In The Election, “Historically We Have Worked Together With” Russia, “Even Though They Are Enemies.”** “There is also notable concern and confusion about the Trump administration’s relationship with Russia. At Taylor’s event, a woman stood and said she voted for him but that she was disappointed he had stood by during what she saw as Trump’s efforts to play nice with Russian President Vladimir Putin. […] Taylor answered saying that he thought Russia should be held accountable for some of its leaders’ actions and that he supports a Senate investigation into Russia’s alleged interference in the U.S. election. ‘The reality is in the international community that there are things that historically we have worked together with them on even though they are enemies and it has to happen sometimes for international order,’ the congressman added.” [ABC News Radio, 2/23/17]

**Taylor Agreed With Vice President Pence That “We Should Hold Russia Accountable, But At The Same Time, We Should Find Ways…To Work Together With Them.”** “Well, listen, I think the vice president is correct when he says that we need to hold Russia accountable, of course. But there are opportunities for us to work together. […] So I’m obviously on the vice president’s side there in terms of what he’s saying literally, because I believe that we should hold Russia accountable, but at the same time, we should find ways in the international community to work together with them.” [CNN, 2/20/17]

**Taylor Supported A Sanctions Bill Against Russia As Retribution For Interfering In The 2016 Election**

Taylor: “Ultimately, There Will Be Sanctions Against Russia For Trying To Attempt To Meddle In Our Election.” “So I do think ultimately, there will be sanctions against Russia for trying to attempt to meddle in our election that are passed now the House. I just think they’re working on the actual verbiage of the sanctions themselves.” [CNN, 7/16/17]

Taylor: “Some Sort Of Sanctions Bill Is Appropriate.” “TAPPER: So you support the sanctions bill. You want it to pass the House? TAYLOR: I need to see the final product, but I think that yes, some sort of sanctions bill is appropriate.” [CNN, 7/14/17]
“Radical Islamic Terrorism”

Taylor Advocated For Using The Term “Radical Islamic Extremism”

VIDEO: On The Term “Radical Islamic Extremism,” Taylor Stated, “I Think That We Need To Call The Enemy What It Is.” “BLITZER: The president’s new national security adviser, Lieutenant H.R. McMaster, he is now suggesting something different than what the president suggests. He’s suggesting avoid the phrase radical Islamic terrorism because it could backfire against U.S. troops in harm’s ways. The president, he says don’t avoid that phrase. He says it all the time. Where do you stand? TAYLOR: I think it’s an interesting question. I have never been asked it before. But I think I’m somewhere in the middle. I don’t think you need to be pounding it and pounding it and everything like that. But I think you need to call this what it is. And it is radical Islamic terrorism. I have great respect for McMaster. And I think he will serve the president very, very well. But I think that we need to call the enemy what it is.” [CNN, The Situation Room, 2/27/17] Note: Video not found.

Syria

Taylor Stated The U.S. Had An Obligation To Help End The Humanitarian Crisis In Syria

VIDEO: When Asked About Crimes Against Humanity In Syria, Taylor Replied That “I Do Believe That We Have An Obligation As A World To Deal With The Problem That Is In Syria.” “CARLSON: A, do you think it’s our obligation to stop the killing in Syria, and B, do you think fewer children will die? Do you think children will stop dying if we do this? TAYLOR: I do think that children will stop dying if we do this? I do believe that we have an obligation as a world to deal with the problem that is in Syria. As I said to you before, Syria in itself to me is probably the most dangerous powder cake that’s going right now in the world because it can spiral out of control very quickly and a lot more children would die.” [Fox News Network, Tucker Carlson Tonight, 4/6/17] (VIDEO)

VIDEO: Taylor: “I Believe That We Should Have Been Engaged With Syria Much Before Now.” “TAYLOR: I believe that we should have been engaged with Syria much before now. Foreign policy, international relations is like a chess game. As soon as one move happens, the whole board changes, of course.” [CNN, New Day, 2/20/17] (VIDEO)

Yemen

2017: Taylor Said There Were “Multiple Investigations” Under Way Regarding The Death Of Navy SEAL William Owens...

When Asked About The Death Of Navy SEAL William Ryan Owens In Yemen And The Investigation Demanded By The Victim’s Father, Taylor Said, “There Are Multiple Investigations Under Way.”

“BLITZER: And I ask you this question because you are a Navy SEAL, you were a Navy SEAL. William Ryan Owens, a Navy SEAL, he was on a special U.S. military operation in Yemen, and he was killed. His father is now saying he didn’t want to meet with the president. He wants answers. He wants an investigation. Why was his son deployed to Yemen? What was the purpose of that operation? He’s owed answer, he says, by the Trump administration. Until then, he has no desire to sit down and meet with the president. Your reaction? TAYLOR: As I understand that, this has not -- this has happened before. And let me preface this by saying, every Gold Star family is sacred. I don’t care -- it doesn’t matter what politics. It doesn’t matter. Every single Gold Star family -- and, unfortunately I know too many of them. Every one of them are sacred. I understand the desire to have answers. I understand that. That being said, there are multiple investigations already under way that are mandatory that are happening. So, I support that taking place, and it’s already there. That being said, that man has -- there aren’t many families out there that understand what he’s going through right now. So he can say whatever he wants to say and people should listen to him.” [CNN, The Situation Room, 2/27/17] Note: Video not found.
The Casualties Triggered A Routine Military Investigation Into The Mission. “The military has completed its after-action review of the controversial raid in Yemen in January, with several defense officials providing details of the findings to CNN Friday. […] The military has conducted several investigations and reviews into the operation per standard operating procedure anytime there are civilian casualties, lost aircraft or the death of US service members.” [CNN, 3/11/17]

The Military Concluded That There Had Been No Misconduct. “The military has declined to weigh in on whether the raid was a ‘success’ but has said that the raid accomplished what it was intended to. […] Following the after-action review, [Gen. Joseph] Votel told the Senate that no additional investigations were warranted. ‘I am looking for indicators of incompetence, poor decision-making or bad judgment throughout all of this,’ Votel told the committee. ‘I was satisfied that none of those indicators that I identified to you were present.’” [CNN, 3/11/17]

Owen’s Father Unsuccessfully Called For A Congressional Investigation Into His Son’s Death. “Bill Owens called on the administration and Congress to investigate what went wrong. ‘Don’t hide behind my son’s death to prevent an investigation,’ he said. ‘I want an investigation. … The government owes my son an investigation.’” [US News, 2/27/17]

…Despite His Organization, OPSEC, Fighting For Years To Investigate The Death Of Navy SEALS In Benghazi

From 2012 On, Taylor’s Group OPSEC Spearheaded A Campaign To Force Congress To Investigate The Death Of Tyrone Woods And Other Others At Benghazi. “OPSEC, a group consisting of former special forces officers, has been involved since the Benghazi attacks happened, beginning its push in October by sending out a releases and an ad called “Bump in the Road” that was critical of the administration’s Benghazi response: […] OPSEC’s multi-pronged lobbying campaign also brought a face to the issue coordinating a Capitol Hill visit of Charles Woods, Ty Woods’ father, asking lawmakers to investigate his son’s death in Benghazi. […] Taylor said that the despite the months without gaining traction they never stopped. ‘We weren’t getting any coverage from mainstream media and we understand that,’ Taylor said. ‘We weren’t going to stop.’” [Politico, 5/15/13]

Taylor: Clinton “Did Nothing To Help Prevent The Deaths Of Four Americans In Benghazi.” “If Hillary Clinton wants to run for president she’s not going to be able to continue hiding from the fact that she did nothing to help prevent the deaths of four Americans in Benghazi,” said Scott Taylor, president of OPSEC, which this week is publishing a report highly critical of her actions during the Libya event.” [Reuters, 2/11/14]

OPSEC Called For A Special Congressional Investigation Into The Matter. “The report, entitled ‘Breach of Duty: Hillary Clinton and Catastrophic Failure in Benghazi,’ says that due to a lack of due diligence by Congress, the ‘full story about Hillary Clinton’s deadly failure of leadership may never be completely told.’ It calls for a special congressional investigation of the affair.” [Reuters, 2/11/14]

Trust Betrayed

Benghazi

In Trust Betrayed, Taylor Dismissed The House Intelligence Committee’s Benghazi Report As “Erroneous”

Taylor Dismissed The House Intelligence Committee’s Benghazi Report As “Erroneous.” “These are pretty basic facts the Intelligence Committee got wrong and so it’s no surprise the report’s conclusions are erroneous. The committee heard from eyewitnesses and yet somehow managed to produce a report at odds with the true facts on the ground in Benghazi. […] The hope is that the findings of the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee
on Benghazi, chaired by Representative Gowdy, will be more thorough and accurate than the whitewash from the House Intelligence Committee.” [Trust Betrayed, p.96, 98]

“Trust Betrayed” Chronicled Clinton’s Failings in Benghazi And Lack Of Fitness To Be President. “Hillary Clinton’s comments that we should ‘empathize’ with our enemies suggest someone not really up to the job of the presidency. The apology tour around the world for the last six years has clearly failed. […] The next president must be someone who has the rock-solid conviction that America, despite its flaws, is great.” [Trust Betrayed, p.180]

Taylor’s Political Group OPSEC Pushed For Another Investigation Into Benghazi

Taylor: “If Hillary Clinton Wants To Run For President She’s Not Going To Be Able To Continue Hiding From The Fact That She Did Nothing To Help Prevent The Deaths Of Four Americans In Benghazi.” “The U.S diplomatic facility in Benghazi, Libya, was ‘woefully vulnerable’ before the deadly 2012 attack by militants, according to a report by House Republicans on the incident that blames the Obama administration for failing to beef up security. The report, released Tuesday by Republicans on the House Armed Services Committee, contains few new revelations about the Benghazi attack, which has sparked a long-running partisan battle. […] ‘If Hillary Clinton wants to run for president she’s not going to be able to continue hiding from the fact that she did nothing to help prevent the deaths of four Americans in Benghazi,’ said Scott Taylor, president of OPSEC, a group of former special operations forces and intelligence operatives. The group this week plans to publish a report critical of her actions during the Libya event.” [Baltimore Sun, 2/12/14]

May 2013: OPSEC Used The Testimony Of American Soldier Ty Woods’ Father To Lobby For An Investigation Into The Events At Benghazi. “OPSEC’s multi-pronged lobbying campaign also brought a face to the issue coordinating a Capitol Hill visit of Charles Woods, Ty Woods’ father, asking lawmakers to investigate his son’s death in Benghazi. That effort also included the release of an 8-minute video entitled ‘Benghazi: Unaware, Unresponsive and Unaccountable,’ and concluded by asking viewers to write lawmakers in support for a select committee. Since it’s release in mid-April, it has helped generate 15,000 letters and has also coincided with the increase off co-sponsors from 70 to nearly 150. Taylor said that the despite the months without gaining traction they never stopped. ‘We weren’t getting any coverage from mainstream media and we understand that,’ Taylor said. ‘We weren’t going to stop.’” [Politico, 5/15/13]

May 2013: Charles Woods, Father Of Ty Woods, And OPSEC Called For A Bipartisan Select Committee Investigation Into Benghazi. “Dear Friends: My name is Charles Woods and my son Ty Woods died on September 11th, 2012, in Benghazi, Libya defending the Americans from a terrorist attack. […] Thanks to groups like OPSEC, shocking testimony from whistleblowers have revealed contradictions to the official ‘tales’ of what happened in Benghazi. […] It’s time for a full bipartisan Select Committee Investigation of what happened in Benghazi. There’s just one question I want answered: Would a stronger rescue effort been ordered if it were their family members under attack in Benghazi? Sincerely, Charles Woods, Father Of Tyrone Woods, Navy SEAL Killed in Benghazi, Libya.” [Special Ops OPSEC press release via google groups, 5/22/13]

National Security In Popular Culture

Taylor Criticized Recent Movies About SEAL Missions: “The Fact That It’s All Over Hollywood Now Does Nothing Good, And It May Even Hurt.” “Journalists and producers had chronicled nearly every second of the May 2, 2011, raid in news articles, documentaries and a major Hollywood film. More details were disclosed in books by the men who oversaw the operation from the Pentagon and the CIA. […] At a time when SEAL missions have become standard Hollywood fare, many newly retired operators face unique challenges adjusting to life in a civilian world where job opportunities are decidedly less glamorous, veterans say. ‘There are real difficulties,’ said Scott Taylor, a former SEAL from Virginia Beach who was elected to the Virginia House of delegates last year and regularly counsels Special Operations veterans about the struggles of post-military life. ‘The fact that it’s all over Hollywood now does nothing good, and it may even hurt.’” [Washington Post, 11/18/14]
Gun Issues

Significant Findings

- 2016: Taylor was endorsed by the NRA.
- Taylor supported Virginia’s concealed carry reciprocity law.
- Taylor said strong political rhetoric was at least partly to blame for the shooting of Rep. Scalise.
- Taylor supported putting “gun-alert” technology in schools to create a rapid response system in case of a shooting.

NRA

2016: The National Rifle Association Endorsed Taylor For Congress

The NRA Endorsed Taylor In His Run For Congress. “Endorsed by the National Rifle Association, Taylor has said he opposes attempts to further restrict gun ownership.” [Virginian-Pilot, 11/8/16]

Taylor’s Issues Platform Running For Congress Included Opposition To Any Attempts To Restrict Gun Ownership. “Endorsed by the National Rifle Association, Taylor has said he opposes attempts to further restrict gun ownership.” [Virginian-Pilot, 11/8/16]

Concealed Carry In Virginia

2016: Taylor Co-Sponsored A Bill Overturning A Motion By The Virginia Attorney General To Not Recognize Concealed Carry Permits From Other States. “Attorney General Mark Herring recently set off a firestorm when he said Virginia will no longer recognize concealed carry permits from many other states. [...] That set off a Republican effort to overturn Herring’s decision. ‘I want to keep their freedoms,’ says Virginia Beach Delegate Scott Taylor. He is among the Republicans outraged with the Attorney General’s decision. He is co-sponsoring a bill that would would overturn it. ‘I’m not expanding gun rights, I’m protecting gun rights,’ Taylor told NewsChannel 3.” [CBS – 3 WTKR, 1/18/16]

Gov. McAuliffe And Virginia Republicans Struck A Deal To Restore Concealed Carry Reciprocity In Exchange For More Restrictions On Gun Ownership. “In an unexpected turn, the Democratic governor of Virginia struck a deal with Republicans to continue recognizing gun carry permits from 25 states despite the state attorney general’s decision late last year to do away with the recognition. The deal, which will be moved through the legislature and signed by Gov. Terry McAuliffe, will restore the reciprocity agreements Virginia has with dozens of states. In exchange for restoring the agreements, Republicans have agreed to prohibit those with a protective order against them from carrying a firearm during the life of the order and to staffing gun shows with state police officers specifically dedicated to performing voluntary background checks on private gun sales. The deal would also keep Virginians who can’t obtain Virginia carry permits from using another state’s permit to carry in Virginia.” [Free Beacon, 1/28/16]

Scalise Shooting
Taylor Blamed Rhetoric For The Steve Scalise Shooting: “Do I Think It’s Part Of The Cause? Yes. It Doesn’t Excuse Anything. You Should Never Be Able To Resort To Violence Just Because You Don’t Agree With Somebody Politically.” “VARNEY: We have seen a ratcheting up in the viciousness of the rhetoric that is being passed around. Do you think that’s part of the cause, the main cause for what happened yesterday? TAYLOR: Do I think it’s part of the cause? Yes. It doesn’t excuse anything. You should never be able to resort to violence just because you don’t agree with somebody politically. But, throughout history, you have seen divisive, inciteful rhetoric that has caused people who might be on the margin, if you will, to take action, because, again, information leads to reason, but emotion leads to action, not that it excuses anything, because it certainly doesn’t. But do I think some of the discourse that is going on in the country is a causation for some of this stuff? Yes, I do, and, again, which is why I’m calling on leaders of both parties, executive, legislative branch as well too, and folks that are in the media and who have a platform to tone down some of the divisive rhetoric.” [Fox News Network, 6/15/17]

Taylor Called For More Respect In Political Discourse After The Shooting Of Congressman Scalise: “We Should Tone Down Our Rhetoric.” “Rep. Scott Taylor, R-2nd, said he received calls, texts and tweets about his whereabouts after the shooting. He too praised police. ‘If it wasn’t for them, this conversation would be a whole lot worse,’ he said during an interview. Taylor said he was sure that a security review would be done. He was among members of Congress calling for more respect in political discourse. ‘On both sides of the aisle people have come together and I think that’s important,’ he said. ‘We should tone down our rhetoric.’” [Richmond Times Dispatch, 6/15/17]

Taylor On The Shooting Of Congressman Steve Scalise: “Hopefully, Out Of This Tragedy, Something Like That Comes, That Leaders, That Folks In The Media, That Folks Who Have A Platform Sort Of Tone Down Their Rhetoric, Because Information Leads To Reason, But Emotion Leads To Action.” “REP. SCOTT TAYLOR (R), VIRGINIA: Hopefully, out of this tragedy, something like that comes, that leaders, that folks in the media, that folks who have a platform sort of tone down their rhetoric, because information leads to reason, but emotion leads to action. And there’s a tipping point in someone of these emotions out there of people who might be unstable. […] But, more importantly and more broadly, I think it’s incumbent upon leaders of both sides of the aisle, of the executive branch, of media folks, folks who have platforms, to sort of tone down these emotions, tone down these -- this rhetoric and this viciousness that you’re seeing play out.” [Fox News Network, 6/15/17]

Taylor Called For A Security Review For Congressional Offices

Taylor Said That “There Has To Be Security Reviews In Members’ Offices Around The Country.” “TAYLOR Look, I think a security review is a proper thing to do when you have things like this, of course. […] Now, that being said, sure, there has to be a security review here in the Capitol, potentially Capitol Police, who were heroes the other day. I can’t say that enough for those two Capitol Police. If they weren’t there, this conversation would be much worse. But, yes, I think there has to be security reviews in members’ offices around the country. There have been many members who have been getting threats.” [Fox News Network, 6/15/17]

Gun Violence In Schools

2016: Taylor Supported New Gun-Alert Technology To Help Schools Respond Quickly To Shootings

Taylor Pre-Filed A Bill Pushing Schools To Adopt Expensive Gun-Alert Technology That Had Been Used In Military Operations In Iraq And Afghanistan. “A growing number of schools across the nation are installing technology that can instantly tell police when a gun is fired. State Del. Scott Taylor wants to bring that technology to new Virginia schools. He has prefilled a bill for the 2016 General Assembly proposing that blueprints of new
public school buildings include active-shooter gunshot detection and alert systems. The technology has been used by the military in Iraq and Afghanistan. It uses sensors to detect when a gun has gone off. Then it immediately informs law enforcement and lets school staff know through texts, emails or other messages. Some educators elsewhere who have the technology say it improves safety, and they strongly support Taylor’s idea.” [Virginian-Pilot, 1/11/16]

**Opponents Of The Bill Cited The High Cost And The Focus On Response Rather Than Prevention.**
“Others in the field are not sure, though, saying it would add costs during tight budget times and might not be the best approach everywhere. Taylor, a Virginia Beach Republican, says the technology would buy law enforcement time during a situation and could help save lives. […] Dewey Cornell, an education professor at the University of Virginia who has studied school violence extensively, said that in general, schools spend too much on preparing to respond to a shooting and not enough on prevention. […] Cost is another factor. Gunshot alert systems can be less than $20,000, Connors said, but creep toward $100,000 for extremely large facilities. While that might not represent a tremendous expense - divisions typically open new schools every few years, if that - it would come as divisions are struggling to give teachers raises and pay for other classroom necessities.” [Virginian-Pilot, 1/11/16]

**Taylor: “School Safety Obviously Is A Priority.”**
“Taylor understands that some might see his bill as a financial hardship and said he is looking at ways to offset the cost to divisions. But he is adamant that the systems will prove valuable, and ideally he would like them in every school. ‘School safety obviously is a priority,’ Taylor said.” [Virginian-Pilot, 1/11/16]

**Soldier Of Fortune Magazine**


Taylor’s Campaign Website Noted That Taylor’s Views On Firearms Were The Subject Of Mercenary Magazine Soldier Of Fortune Cover Story. “With an A rating from the NRA, Scott Taylor has a record of strongly supporting the 2nd Amendment. The Heller and McDonald Supreme Court decisions are landmark cases that state that the Second Amendment to the Constitution includes an individual’s right to bear arms. Scott’s story and his views on firearms was recently the subject of a Soldier of Fortune cover story. Scott will oppose legislation that diminishes the rights of Americans protected by the Second Amendment.” [Scotttaylor.us, accessed 5/25/17] 

**Note: See Further Research.**
Health Care Issues

**Significant Findings**

- Taylor voted the party line in favor of the AHCA.
- Taylor disputed the validity of the CBO score showing massive loss of coverage with the AHCA.
- Taylor claimed to want to protect insurance discrimination against people with pre-existing conditions and keep coverage for young adults under their parents’ plans.
- Taylor heavily criticized the Affordable Care Act and vowed to repeal it as early as 2010.
  - Taylor called the ACA a “taxing scheme” and said it was “clearly failing.”
  - Taylor blamed the Democrats for not working to help repeal the ACA.
  - Taylor said he made his decision to vote to repeal the ACA before the GOP meeting with Trump, but that the president had promised 2018 election help for Republican congressmen who toed the party line.
  - Taylor said that he had been elected to repeal the ACA.
  - Despite claiming that he wanted to deal with ACA repeal “slowly and methodically,” Taylor stated that he had no changes to add before the vote on the first push to repeal.
- Taylor opposed the individual mandate.
- Taylor opposed Medicaid expansion in Virginia.
  - Taylor claimed Medicaid was not feasible because of high deductibles, coverage issues, and because it took up too much of the state budget.

American Health Care Act (AHCA)

**Taylor Voted For The American Health Care Act – The Republican Health Care Repeal Bill**

2017: Taylor Voted For The American Health Care Act – The Republican Health Care Repeal Bill. In May 2017, Taylor voted for “Passage of the bill that would make extensive changes to the 2010 health care overhaul law, by effectively repealing the individual and employer mandates as well as most of the taxes that finance the current system. It would, in 2020, convert Medicaid into a capped entitlement that would provide fixed federal payments to states and end additional federal funding for the 2010 law’s joint federal-state Medicaid expansion. It would prohibit federal funding to any entity, such as Planned Parenthood, that performs abortions and receives more than $350 million a year in Medicaid funds. As amended, it would give states the option of receiving federal Medicaid funding as a block grant with greater state flexibility in how the funds are used, and would require states to establish their own essential health benefits standards. It would allow states to receive waivers to exempt insurers from having to provide certain minimum benefits, would provide $8 billion over five years for individuals with pre-
existing conditions whose insurance premiums increased because the state was granted a waiver to raise premiums based on an individual’s health status, and would create a $15 billion federal risk sharing program to cover some of the costs of high medical claims.” The bill was passed by a vote of 217-213. [HR 1628, Vote #256, 5/4/17; CQ, 5/4/17]

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<th>Taylor Said Trump Promised To Help Republicans In Competitive Districts Win In 2018 If They Voted For The Repeal Bill</th>
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<td><strong>Taylor Claimed That Trump Told Republicans On The Fence That If They Were In Competitive Districts And Voted For The Bill, He’d Help Them Win Re-Election.</strong> “Freshman Rep. Scott Taylor, R-2nd, backs the bill. His district is centered in Virginia Beach. ‘There are those who say this bill doesn’t do 100 percent of what they want it to do; I believe 85 percent of something in the right direction is much better than nothing,’ he said in a statement on his website. After Trump briefed House Republicans on Tuesday, Taylor said in an interview, a few members who were on the fence may have shifted to a ‘yes’ vote. Trump told them if they were in competitive districts and voted for the bill, he’d help them win re-election, Taylor said.” [Roanoke Times, 3/22/17]</td>
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<th>Taylor Claimed He Would Only Support A Bill That Protected Pre-Existing Conditions Coverage, But The AHCA Did Not</th>
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| **Taylor: “I Want To Protect People With Pre-Existing Conditions.”** “TAYLOR: Well, there is no doubt about it that many people and everyone out there knows people with pre-existing conditions. So I want to protect people with pre-existing conditions. […] We have federal protections and the state. Even if the state, if they waiver, not an opt out, there is a waiver process, it is not simply an opt out. They have to have a plan in place to protect people with pre-existing conditions at the state level if they choose to get a waiver that they would use to not force you or other folks to buy insurance that they may not want or need. But they still have to protect them. So if there is in fact a change that further protects them, then great. I’m all for it because I want to make sure people with pre-existing conditions are protected.” [CNN, Newsroom, 5/3/17] Note: No video found.

**Taylor: “Whatever Replaces ACA Will Have To Cover Pre-Existing Conditions.”** “YORK COUNTY - U.S. Rep. Scott Taylor, R-Virginia Beach, faced an angry crowd of protesters and constituents during a town hall in York County Tuesday evening. […] Taylor stood firm on his support for repealing the Affordable Care Act, also called Obamacare, because he said the health care law has done more harm than good. ‘I believe my party has been sent to Washington to repeal Obamacare,’ Taylor said over a chorus of boos. ‘C’mon guys, we’re better than that,’ he scolded the audience. Taylor said he combed through more than 500 responses on whether ACA should be repealed. ‘Many families who want it repealed are paying a lot - people are having to make very hard choices in their lives just to pay for health care. That’s not the way it should be.’ He waited through another round of boos, with one man shouting, ‘Taylor doesn’t care about poor people!’ The congressman got some applause when he responded to another ACA question about keeping the pre-existing conditions clause, which bars insurance companies from denying insurance because of pre-existing conditions. ‘I won’t support something that doesn’t include pre-existing conditions,’ Taylor said. ‘Whatever replaces ACA will have to cover pre-existing conditions.’” [Daily Press, 2/22/17]

**Taylor Said He Co-Sponsored A Bill That “Will Deal With People With Pre-Existing Conditions. My Mother Has A Pre-Existing Condition. Sorry, Mom.”** “TAYLOR: What I’m saying to you, Chris, is I believe that we can do it better. I think that we can actually reduce the cost curve, which the ACA clearly does not. Listen, the vast majority of people, in my district, I’ve asked them. And the vast majority of people who were for the ACA, who were worried about pre-existing conditions. We support that. And I co-sponsored a bill that says that we will -- we will deal with people with pre-existing conditions. My mother has a pre-existing condition. Sorry, Mom.” [CNN, New Day, 2/28/17] Note: Video not found.
REALITY: The AHCA, Which Taylor Supported, Would Gut Coverage For People With Pre-Existing Conditions

AHCA Undermined Protections For Pre-existing Conditions

Washington Post: CBO Found That People With Pre-Existing Condition Would Be Far From “Protected” By AHCA, Undermining Claims Made By GOP Leaders. “The CBO found that while insurers could not deny coverage to sick Americans, they would be far from being ‘protected.’ In states that choose to waive certain insurance coverage mandates as allowed under the GOP bill, the report stated, ‘people who are less healthy (including those with preexisting or newly acquired medical conditions) would ultimately be unable to purchase comprehensive nongroup health insurance at premiums comparable to those under current law, if they could purchase it at all.’ [...] The analysis undermines not only the claims made by GOP leaders, but also shows that their bill could, by undoing what is perhaps the Affordable Care Act’s single most popular provision, throw consumers back into insurance markets where their ability to purchase affordable insurance would depend on their health.” [Washington Post, 5/26/17]

FiveThirtyEight: CBO Found That “Many People With Pre-Existing Conditions Would Be Priced Out Of The Marketplace Where The Waivers Are Used.” “The CBO’s findings align with what many health policy experts expected: Many people with pre-existing conditions would be priced out of the marketplace where the waivers are used. The CBO doesn’t say where exactly it thinks that will happen, but it estimates that the waivers would affect areas where about one-sixth of the U.S. population lives.” [FiveThirtyEight, 5/24/17]

Taylor Voted Repeatedly Against Protecting Health Care Coverage For People With Pre-Existing Conditions

2017: Taylor Voted To Block An Amendment That Would Protect Health Care Coverage For Pre-Existing Conditions, Ban Lifetime Insurance Limits, Protect Medicare, Block Tax Increases On The Middle Class, And Would Require A CBO Estimate Prior To Consideration Of Any Health Care Reform Bill. In May 2017, Taylor voted for “Collins, R-Ga., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 308) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill (HR 2192) that would repeal, if the health care marketplace overhaul measure (HR 1628) is enacted” Upon defeat of the motion, Democrats planned to offer an amendment that “The amendment would restrict consideration of legislative provisions relating to health care that would result in: (1) the denial of health insurance on the basis of a preexisting condition or a requirement for individuals with a preexisting condition to pay more for coverage; (2) the elimination of the prohibition on life-time limits on dollar value of health insurance benefits; (3) the termination of the ability of individuals 26 years of age to be included on their parent’s employer or individual health insurance; (4) the reduction in the number of individuals receiving health insurance under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; (5) an increased cost to seniors for prescription drugs due to any changes pertaining to closing the Medicare prescription drug ‘donut hole’; (6) the requirement that individuals pay for preventive services such as mammography, health screening, and contraceptive services; (7) reduction of Medicare solvency or any changes to the Medicare guarantee; or (8) the reduction of Federal taxes on the 1% of the population with the highest income or an increase on the 80% of the population with the lowest income. Additionally, the amendment would restrict consideration of legislation relating to health care unless an easily searchable electronic estimate and comparison prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office is made available on a publicly available website of the House.” A vote yes was a vote to block the amendment. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 235-193. [H.Res 308, Vote #252, 5/4/17; CQ, 5/4/17]

2017: Taylor Voted Against A Motion To Protect Individuals From Discrimination In The Health Insurance Marketplace Based On Gender Or Pre-Existing Conditions, Protect Seniors From Higher Premiums And Out-Of-Pocket Costs Under Medicare Part D. In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “Castor, D-Fla., motion to recommit the bill to the House Judiciary Committee with instructions to report back immediately with an amendment that would add an exemption to the bill for rules that prohibit health insurance companies from
discriminating against individuals based on gender or preexisting conditions. The amendment also would exempt from the measure rules that prohibit higher premiums or out-of-pocket costs for seniors for medication under the Medicare Part D prescription drug program.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 183-236. [HR 21, Vote #7, 1/4/17; CQ, 1/4/17]

Taylor Claimed The CBO Numbers On The AHCA Were Inaccurate

Taylor Echoed The Trump Administration Claim That The CBO Numbers Were Imprecise

Taylor Disputed The Nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office Report On The Amount Of People Who Would Lose Health Insurance. “He disputed a March 13 report by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office warning that the number of people without health insurance would grow to 24 million in the next decade - 14 million more than expected under current law. Taylor contended, as has the Trump Administration, that the report doesn’t include many changes omitted from the CBO’s analysis. The congresswoman noted that the agency’s estimates have been imprecise on past predictions of the effect of the Affordable Care Act and Medicare’s prescription drug program for retirees. Taylor said Trump’s private speech to lawmakers was persuasive. ‘The president has got a big stick,’ Taylor said. ‘The people who were leaning yes on the fence are absolutely on board now. ... People who were leaning no, they’re probably reconsidering, if you will.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/22/17]

Taylor Echoed The Trump Administration Line That The Report Omitted Many Changes

Taylor Disputed A Report From The Nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. “He disputed a March 13 report by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office warning that the number of people without health insurance would grow to 24 million in the next decade - 14 million more than expected under current law. Taylor contended, as has the Trump Administration, that the report doesn’t include many changes omitted from the CBO’s analysis. The congresswoman noted that the agency’s estimates have been imprecise on past predictions of the effect of the Affordable Care Act and Medicare’s prescription drug program for retirees. Taylor said Trump’s private speech to lawmakers was persuasive. ‘The president has got a big stick,’ Taylor said. ‘The people who were leaning yes on the fence are absolutely on board now. ... People who were leaning no, they’re probably reconsidering, if you will.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/22/17]

Taylor Voted For Against Requiring A Public CBO Cost Estimate Before Consideration Legislation To Repeal Or Replace Obamacare

2017: Taylor Voted To Block A Requirement That A CBO Cost Estimate Be Made Publicly Available Before Considering Any Legislation To Repeal Or Replace The Affordable Care Act. In March 2017, Taylor voted for the “Byrne, R-Ala., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 210) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill that would exempt health care plans sponsored by trade and business associations from most state laws and regulations.” Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO) described the vote in a floor speech, saying, “If we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule that would require a CBO cost estimate that analyzes the impact of any legislation amending or repealing the Affordable Care Act, as well as the impact of any manager’s amendment to that legislation, to be made publicly available before the bill may be considered on the House floor.” A vote against is a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 233-186. [H.Res 210, Vote #179, 3/21/17; Congressional Record, Pages H2260-H2267, 3/21/17; CQ, 3/21/17]

2017: Taylor Voted To Block An Amendment To Require A CBO Score For Any Legislation Or Amendments Repealing The Affordable Care Act Before The Legislation Could Be Considered. In March 2017, Taylor voted for the “Collins, R-Ga., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 209) that would provide for House floor consideration of a bill that would eliminate most of the federal antitrust exemptions for health insurance providers that are subject to regulation at the state level.” According to Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO), “if we defeat the previous question, I will offer
an amendment to the rule that would require a CBO cost estimate that analyzes the impact of any legislation amending or repealing the Affordable Care Act, as well as the impact of any manager’s amendment to that legislation to be made publicly available before the bill may be considered on the House floor.” A yes vote was a vote to block the amendment. The motion was agreed to be a vote of 231-185. [H.Res 209, Vote #176, 3/21/17; Congressional Record, H2255, 3/21/17; CQ, 3/21/17; Democratic Leader—Previous Questions, 3/21/17].

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**Taylor Claimed He Wanted To Be Slow And Methodical With Health Care Reform**

Taylor Stated That It Could Be Anytime From A Month To Years Before The Final Republican Health Care Legislation Is Complete: “We Better Get It Right.” “During an interview after his town hall, GOP Rep. Scott Taylor of Virginia acknowledged that a lack of specificity from Republican leadership about what they will do with Obamacare is adding to the unease. Taylor said it could be anytime from a month to years before final health care legislation is complete. ‘It is extremely important and imperative that people who are working on that repeal and replacement are very deliberative ... We better get it right. I think it is responsible to be methodical about it,’ he told ABC News.” [ABC News Radio, 2/23/17]

Taylor Claimed That It Was More Important That The New Legislation Be Done “Slowly, Methodically, Deliberately” Rather Than “Super Quickly.” “BALDWIN: [...] There just seems to me -- there seems to be such a trust issue, Congressman Taylor. TAYLOR: Sure. BALDWIN: And just what would you say to people out there who feel like they can’t trust you? TAYLOR: That’s an excellent question, because you have political rhetoric on both sides, quite frankly. And, listen, I’m someone who is able, because of my background, my training, I think it’s a duty for all leaders to see clarity in chaos and to be able to explain things and let people know. Look, I put something on my Facebook and asked a question about the ACA, how did it help you, how did it hurt you? Nothing political, just the responses. Overwhelmingly, the people who support it are concerned about preexisting conditions, which I support, and so does the Republican Party of keeping that in place obviously to help people. There’s not a family out there that doesn’t have somebody without preexisting conditions. On the opposite side, the overwhelming majority and way more than the other side, quite frankly, was crushing premiums that are hurting families all across -- millions of them across this nation. So, we have to deal with that as well, too. So I think it should be done slowly, methodically, deliberately. I think that’s a good thing. I think Republicans should own that. They should own that saying, hey, look, we’re not passing something super quickly. This is extremely important and we have to get it right.” [CNN, Newsroom, 2/22/17] Note: No video found.

Taylor On The Republican Health Care Bill: “...I’ve Been Very Open And Very Plain About Being Deliberate And Methodical And Making Sure The Bill Is The Best It Could Be...Obviously, We Don’t Want It To Be The Worst, But It Is Not Surprising To Me That They Would Consider Making Changes To Make The Bill Better.” “[JOHN] BERMAN: I want to bring in a Republican Congressman Scott Taylor of Virginia. He is a yes vote on health care right now. Congressman, first let me go to you with the news we’re just getting in, message from leadership that they are willing to open up the bill yet again for changes or amendments. What are you hearing on that front this morning, sir? REP. SCOTT TAYLOR, R-VIRGINIA: Good morning. It is great to be with you as always. I appreciate being here. I haven’t heard that yet, but, listen, I’ve been very open and very plain about being deliberate and methodical and making sure the bill is the best it could be. So I don’t think it’s -- you know, to me it is not breaking news if there is a piece of the legislation that can be changed to the better, of course. Obviously, we don’t want it to be to the worst, but it is not super surprising to me that they would consider making changes to make the bill better.” [CNN, Newsroom, 5/3/17] Note: No video found.

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**Taylor: “I’m Standing Here As Someone Who [Was] Elected...To Change This Law”**

Taylor: “I’m Standing Here As Someone Who Is Elected By The Vast Majority Of 800,000 People In My District And By And Large The American People Who Put People In Congress To Change This Law Because That’s What They Campaigned On.” “TAYLOR: Well, listen, Republicans have been very clear. To be clear, so have the American people. I’m not standing here as simply an individual. I’m standing here as someone who is elected by the vast majority of 800,000 people in my district and by and large the American people who put
people in Congress to change this law because that’s what they campaigned on. Not just the presidency but congressional members across the country.” [CNN, Newsroom, 5/3/17] Note: No video found.

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<th>February 2017: Taylor Would Not Answer Directly When Asked If He Had Read The Republican Health Care Plan</th>
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| When Asked If He Had Seen The New Republican Health Care Plan, Taylor Replied, “It’s Not That Simple.” BALDWIN: And just even back -- if you go back to mid-January and ‘The Washington Post’ interviewed the president and he said at the time he was nearing completion of a plan. I’m getting different stories from Republicans on the Hill and when this actually happens. Congressman, have you seen the plan? TAYLOR: It’s not that simple. BALDWIN: It’s not. TAYLOR: There’s a nuanced answer here, of course. And people don’t want to hear that. And I will say, repeal and replace sounds like one thing, right? It sounds very quick. It sounds easy. It’s not. BALDWIN: But the president did say he had a plan. I’m just going by the president’s words. TAYLOR: Let me finish. BALDWIN: OK. TAYLOR: It doesn’t matter what -- I’m not in the executive branch. I’m in the legislative branch. So, what will you tell you is, there’s reconciliation. There’s executive actions and then there’s legislation. And it is imperative an important that my party, who overwhelmingly was sent across the nation into power, right? So, people have confidence in us.” [CNN, Newsroom, 2/22/17] Note: No video found.

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<th>Taylor Said He Was Not Pushing For Any Changes To The AHCA</th>
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<td>After The ACA Repeal Passed The House, Taylor Said He Was Not Pushing For Any Adjustments: “I’m Not Aware Of Anything That I Need To See More In The Bill.” “Taylor noted that the bill, which now goes to the Senate, may change in the coming months, but he’s not pushing for any adjustments. ‘At this moment I’m not aware of anything that I need to see more into the bill. But I am also open at the same time to improvements,’ he said.” [Virginian-Pilot, 5/8/17]</td>
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<td>Taylor: “I Believe 85% Of Something In The Right Direction Is Better Than Nothing.” “A majority of local members of Congress don’t support the Republican healthcare plan. On Friday, House Speaker Paul Ryan pulled the bill. […] Rep. Scott Taylor, R-2, announced this week he plans to vote in favor of the bill. ‘I believe 85% of something in the right direction is better than nothing,’ he said in a statement, calling Obamacare ‘the failing status quo.’” [CBS – 3 WTKR, 3/24/17]</td>
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<th>Taylor Blamed Democrats For Not Getting Involved In The Affordable Care Act Repeal</th>
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<td>Taylor Called The ACA “Fundamentally Flawed” And Called On Democrats To “Come To The Table, Too, And Work With Us To Fundamentally Fix ACA And Health Care.” “Health care is consumed at the local level. So we believe that it should be the states and the local localities that should be dealing with that much closer to the patients themselves. But I think that we have to do something about it. I believe that the ACA is fundamentally flawed. I think that health care before could have been changed or tweaked, if you will, to deal with some of the issues, good things that came out of the ACA. But I think it’s fundamentally flawed and to not act is wrong. So I think leaders must act. Dems should come to the table, too, and work with us to fundamentally fix ACA and health care.” [CNN, Newsroom, 7/17/17] Note: No video found.</td>
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| Taylor: “If Republicans Want To Seize The Moment And Do Big Things, Some Will Have To Learn The Everyday Value Of Compromise And Gain An Understanding Of What Things Are Possible To Get Through A Diverse Legislative Body.” “Virginia Democrats greeted Friday afternoon’s abrupt cancellation of a long-promised GOP vote to repeal and replace Obamacare with renewed calls for compromise and more than a few I-told-you-so’s. […] U.S. Rep. Scott Taylor, R-Virginia Beach, months into his first congressional term, chastised colleagues in his statement for letting the perfect become the enemy of the good on this bill, saying ‘we must fix the disaster that is the Affordable Care Act.’ The ACA is the official name of the legislation known as Obamacare. The AHCA was the Republican repeal-and-replace proposal which couldn’t pull enough votes to pass the House Friday despite a GOP majority. ‘If Republicans want to seize the moment and do big things, some will have to learn the
everyday value of compromise and gain an understanding of what things are possible to get through a diverse legislative body,” Taylor said.“ [Daily Press, 3/24/17]

VIDEO: Taylor Said That The ACA Repeal “Should Be Bipartisan. And I Think Democrats Have Been Screaming For Several Years Now” But “I Haven’t Seen Any Plans From The Side.” “BASH: So, if this bill ends up just not getting the votes in the Senate, the Republican bill, you’re OK with sitting down and doing this in a bipartisan way? TAYLOR: I think it should be bipartisan way anyway. And I think Democrats have been screaming for several years now. I mean, Senator Mark Warner when he was up for re-election he was talking about, it’s the ACA’s problem. We’ve got to fix it. But I haven’t seen any plans from that side. So I think it’s important they know it’s messed up. They know it predates the November election, that there are big problems -- fundamental problems with the ACA. So come to the table. I think it’s important that they do.” [CNN, State of the Union, 7/9/17] (VIDEO)

Taylor Claimed That He Wanted The Democrats To Join In To Help Repeal The ACA. “And we want Democrats to join in. We want Republicans on all sides to come in and make sure that we do this the right way. It’s so important to families that are out there. Not just the ones that -- like, that we’re concerned about, the poor folks, because we do want to help them, absolutely. But we also have to be concerned about the working females out there that are getting crushed under taxes and premium increases and making very tough decisions for their families.” [CNN, New Day, 3/8/17] Note: No video found.

**Taylor Faced Criticism From The Local Paper After Voting To Repeal The Affordable Care Act**

The Virginian-Pilot Editorial Board Criticized Taylor For Voting To Repeal The ACA

The Virginian-Pilot: [ACA Repeal] “Is A Deeply Cynical And Reckless Ploy… The Senate…May Not Follow In the Irresponsible Footsteps Of The Other Chamber, But It Cannot Erase What The House—Including Reps. Taylor And Wittman—Voted To Do.” “THE CONGRESSIONAL Budget Office recently confirmed suspicions that the American Health Care Act passed by the House last month is an irresponsible farce, little better than its previous iteration. [...] So it’s a gamble: Republicans are betting that they can deliver lower premiums and substantial tax cuts while millions of Americans lose their insurance coverage and programs that serve the poorest among us are hacked. It is a deeply cynical and reckless ploy, as the CBO makes clear. The Senate, which now has the bill, may not follow in the irresponsible footsteps of the other chamber, but it cannot erase what the House -- including Reps. Taylor and Wittman -- voted to do.” [Virginian-Pilot, Editorial Board editorial, 6/1/17]

**Taylor Defended His Vote To Repeal The ACA**

Taylor Said He Had Already Made His Decision To Vote For ACA Repeal Even Before The GOP Meeting With Trump

Taylor Said He Would Vote For ACA Repeal But Claimed He Had Already Made His Decision Before Trump’s Meeting To Push Lawmakers To Vote For It. “U.S. Rep. Scott Taylor said Tuesday he’ll vote this week for Republican legislation that would overhaul the health care system, abolishing key components of the Affordable Care Act. Taylor declared his intentions just hours after he and other GOP lawmakers met privately on Capitol Hill to hear President Donald Trump’s aggressive push for their votes. The Virginian Beach Republican said he’d already made up his mind before Trump’s visit. ‘I think leaders must act, and to not do so leaves the failing status quo of Obamacare,’ Taylor said in a telephone interview. ‘There are those who say this bill doesn’t do 100 percent of what they want it to do. But I believe that 85 percent of something in the right direction is a lot better than nothing.’ [...] Taylor won election to the 2nd Congressional District seat last year in part by promising to support abolition of the Affordable Care Act in favor of a then-unknown replacement.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/22/17]
Taylor Claimed The AHCA Would “Put Back” The Loss Of Coverage That Would Result From The ACA Repeal

When Asked About The Loss Of Coverage That Would Result From The Repeal Of The ACA, Taylor Said, “We’re Putting It Back. I Want To See The States Have More Say In It.” “CUOMO: It might be the state, not the federal government that directly takes people off the rolls. You’re going to have people not have coverage who has coverage now. I don’t understand why you guys don’t dance around that, because you don’t want this to be an entitlement anyway. Why not just be honest about it and say, ‘Yes, we want access. People are going to lose coverage, but we think, on balance, it’s still better but we own that reality.’ Why not? TAYLOR: The thing is, we’re putting it back. I want to see the states have more say in it. I don’t believe that the federal government should control the things and make sure that you have one size fits all as we have seen. There’s only one insurer. I do want to see states step up because they know better than Washington does. We are trying as best we can.” [CNN, New Day, 3/8/17] Note: No video found.

### Affordable Care Act (ACA)

#### Significant Findings

- Taylor heavily criticized the Affordable Care Act and vowed to repeal it as early as 2010.
- Taylor blamed the Democrats for not working to help repeal the ACA.
- Taylor said that he had made his decision to vote to repeal the ACA before the GOP meeting with Trump, but that the president had promised 2018 election help for Republican congressmen who toed the party line.
- Despite claiming that he wanted to deal with ACA repeal “slowly and methodically,” Taylor stated that he had no changes to add before the House voted.
- Taylor opposed requiring people to have health care.

### Taylor Voted To Repeal All Or Part Of The Affordable Care Act

**Voted To Begin The Process Of Repealing Affordable Care Act.** “The House of Representatives began the process of dismantling the Affordable Care Act on Friday, approving a budget resolution on a mostly party line vote. The vote was 227-198. The Senate passed the measure earlier this week. It allows Republicans on Capitol Hill to use a process known as ‘budget reconciliation’ to roll back major parts of the health care law. Top Republican leaders are also saying they plan to move to replace Obamacare along the same track, but they are still struggling to come up with the details on how it will work.” [S Con Res 3, Vote #58, 1/13/17; CNN, 1/3/17]

### Taylor Repeatedly Vowed To Repeal The Affordable Care Act

2017: Taylor Said That He Would Have Voted For The Republican Overhaul Of The ACA Even Before His Meeting With Trump. “U.S. Rep. Scott Taylor said Tuesday he’ll vote this week for Republican legislation that would overhaul the health care system, abolishing key components of the Affordable Care Act. Taylor declared his intentions just hours after he and other GOP lawmakers met privately on Capitol Hill to hear President Donald Trump’s aggressive push for their votes. The Virginian Beach Republican said he’d already made up his mind
before Trump’s visit. ‘I think leaders must act, and to not do so leaves the failing status quo of Obamacare,’ Taylor said in a telephone interview.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/22/17]

**Taylor: “I Believe My Party Has Been Sent To Washington To Repeal Obamacare.”** “U.S. Rep. Scott Taylor, R-Virginia Beach, faced an angry crowd of protesters and constituents during a town hall in York County Tuesday evening. […] Taylor stood firm on his support for repealing the Affordable Care Act, also called Obamacare, because he said the health care law has done more harm than good. ‘I believe my party has been sent to Washington to repeal Obamacare,’ Taylor said over a chorus of boos. ‘C’mon guys, we’re better than that,’ he scolded the audience.” [Daily Press via Personal PAC, 2/22/17]

**HEADLINE: “Rep. Taylor Said He’ll Vote For GOP Bill To Replace Obamacare.”** [Virginian-Pilot, 3/22/17]

### 2010: Taylor Stated That If Elected To Congress He Would Work To Repeal The Recently Passed Affordable Care Act Reforms.

“The eight candidates hoping to knock off freshman Democratic Rep. Glenn Nye shared the stage for the first time this past week, wooing local Tea Party activists with promises to drastically shrink power in Washington. […] The evening debate drew a crowd of about 200 to a ballroom at the Virginia Beach Wyndham hotel. It featured all seven Republicans - Kenny Golden, Ben Loyola, Maulbeck, Bert Mizusawa, Scott Rigell, Jessica Sandlin and Scott Taylor - and independent candidate Doug Hutchinson. […] There was a significant amount of agreement on issues - especially on the recently passed health care reform legislation. All eight candidates said they would work to repeal the reforms. […] Taylor said America has taken a wrong turn. ‘We are on the path of a socialist country,’ he said.” [Daily Press, 4/4/10]

**Taylor Called The Affordable Care Act A “Taxing Scheme” And Claimed It Was “Clearly Failing”**

**Taylor Criticized The Affordable Care Act As The “Biggest Taxing Scheme In The History Of Our Nation.”** “Thursday’s House vote to repeal Obamacare, a rush job after amendments broke a logjam Wednesday on the long-linger ing Trump campaign promise, left Virginia politicians at odds over just what the bill would mean back home. […] This amended version of the American Health Care Act didn’t draw any ‘yes’ votes from Democrats, and 20 Republicans voted no. Among Virginia Republicans, only U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock, who represents a swing district in Northern Virginia, voted no. […] U.S. Rep. Scott Taylor, R-Virginia Beach, accused Democrats of lying about the bill’s effect and said the bill represents a path away from the ‘biggest taxing scheme in the history of our nation.’ He called the bill ‘far from a final piece of legislation,’ but also ‘the vessel that will rid us of D.C.-mandated health care.’ […] Taylor, who’s in his first term, said the same people who pitched Obamacare with promises that everyone with a plan they liked could keep it were now ‘attempting to scare our neighbors, saying pre-existing conditions are not covered. ‘This is a lie,’ Taylor said in his release.” [Daily Press, 5/4/17]

**Taylor Stated That “Obamacare Is Clearly Failing” And Defended The GOP Bill.** “Hampton Roads’ congressmen split along party lines Thursday as the Republican-controlled House of Representatives narrowly passed legislation that would abolish and replace key elements of the Affordable Care Act. Republican Reps. Scott Taylor and Rob Wittman - Wittman opposed a March version of the GOP bill - supported the new legislation while Democratic Reps. Bobby Scott and Donald McEachin opposed it. […] Taylor, who supported a similar GOP plan two months ago, said Thursday it’s a better option than the Affordable Care Act. ‘Obamacare is clearly failing,’ Taylor said. ‘This is the biggest tax scheme in the history of this nation. … We’re punishing the majority of Americans.’ The GOP bill gives more control to people buying insurance and to patients, he said. ‘To me, this makes more sense. It’s market-driven.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 5/5/17]

**Taylor Opposed The Individual Mandate**

**Taylor Was Opposed To Requiring People To Have Health Insurance Or Pay Penalties: “I Believe That The Government Should Not Require Citizens To Engage In Commerce That They Do Not Want To Engage In.”** “On Tuesday he reiterated his opposition to the financial linchpin of the health care law: requiring almost everyone to have health insurance or pay a penalty, and requiring many employers to offer coverage. ‘I believe that the
government should not require citizens to engage in commerce that they do not want to engage in,’ Taylor said. ‘I was quite clear in my campaign that Obamacare is failing and we needed to repeal and replace it.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/22/17]

Taylor: “I Believe The Government Should Not Require Citizens To Engage In Commerce That They Do Not Want To Engage In.” “Taylor won election to the 2nd Congressional District seat last year in part by promising to support abolition of the Affordable Care Act in favor of a then-unknown replacement. On Tuesday he reiterated his opposition to the financial linchpin of the health care law: requiring almost everyone to have health insurance or pay a penalty, and requiring many employers to offer coverage. ‘I believe that the government should not require citizens to engage in commerce that they do not want to engage in,’ Taylor said. ‘I was quite clear in my campaign that Obamacare is failing and we needed to repeal and replace it.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/22/17]

Medicaid Expansion

Medicaid Expansion In Virginia

Taylor Argued That Medicaid Expansion In Virginia Was Not Sustainable Because Of Coverage Issues

VIDEO: Taylor Claimed That Medicaid Expansion Was Not Feasible In Virginia Because It Didn’t Necessarily Cover Pregnant Women And The Disabled. “TAYLOR: I think, you know, there’s no question that the Medicaid expansion states, who Republican governors like your governor. And the reason -- one of the reasons why the legislature opposed him is because there’s this weird distortion that incentivizes states so the Medicaid expansion doesn’t necessarily cover pregnant women, disabled folks. It covers childless able body adults. In Virginia, we knew that Medicaid was five percent of our budget. It’s now going past 22 percent at an unsustainable rate. So -- and if you just expand it -- hold on a second. So you -- you expand it, the reimbursement rate for those able bodied childless adults is much higher than the disabled and the poor. So there’s a - there’s a -- there’s a pretty bad distortion there.” [CNN, State of the Union, 7/9/17] (VIDEO)

Taylor Argued That Medicaid Expansion In Virginia Was Not Sustainable Because It Was Too High A Percentage Of The State Budget

Taylor Criticized Medicaid: “It’s At 22 Percent Now [Of Virginia’s Budget] And Unsustainable Trajectory. There’s Not A Sane Person On Capitol Hill Who Would Tell You That Medicaid Is On A Sustainable Trajectory.” “HARLOW: OK, let’s move on to health care, Vice President Pence and Republican Senator Susan Collins on very different pages when it comes to the Medicaid portion of the Senate’s new health care bill. Listen to both of them. […] Does it help the most needy, as the vice president said, or does it hurt the most vulnerable as the Republican senator says? TAYLOR: Well, two things. Listen, they’re going to have to work through their differences, of course, to get something in the Senate. But look, Virginia didn’t expand Medicaid because we knew it started out at 5 percent of our budget. It’s at 22 percent now and unsustainable trajectory. There’s not a sane person on Capitol Hill who would tell you that Medicaid is on a sustainable path.” [CNN, Newsroom, 7/17/17]
Note: No video found.

Taylor: “To Get [Medicaid] In On A Sustainable Track, You Do Have To Slow The Growth Of Medicaid…” “Furthermore, you have a weird distortion, actually bad one, that has Medicaid expansionist states and Medicaid expansion reimburses able-bodied childless adults at a rate of almost 90 percent from the federal government as opposed to 50 percent or 60 percent for those who the program was actually designed to deal with, the needy, poor kids, pregnant women and such. So the most vulnerable of our population, I believe, to get in on a sustainable track, you do have to slow the growth of Medicaid so that we, in fact, can deal with the most needy of our population.” [CNN, Newsroom, 7/17/17] Note: No video found.

Taylor Argued That Medicaid Expansion In Virginia Was Not Sustainable Because Of High Deductibles
Taylor Used High Deductibles To Argue Against Medicaid Expansion. “HARLOW: So you don’t think that the reduction in growth, the $772 billion reduction in Medicaid expansion growth for these states over a decade is going to hurt people because Senator Collins is saying it hurts the most vulnerable. You argue that will not happen. Despite your state not expanding, I’m just asking, is that what you’re comfortable with for folks across America to rely on it? TAYLOR: Well, let’s be clear, there will be states who did expand who will fight against that, who did -- they’re sort of incentivized to put people on the rolls who are able-bodied childless adults with a reimbursement rate at that. I think you have to get a handle on this or will end up hurting more people if you don’t deal with the growth of Medicaid, an unsustainable rate. […] Look, you also have to deal with the fact that we are hurting families across this country. There’s a huge swath of families who have way high deductible. Their premiums are insane. They’re paying more than they pay on their mortgages. We’re hurting more people right now by not getting this deal done.” [CNN, Newsroom, 7/17/17] Note: No video found.

### Single Payer Health Care

#### Taylor Opposed Single Payer Health Care

#### Taylor Stated His Opposition To A Single-Payer System

Taylor Stated His Opposition To Establishing A Single-Payer System. “The Republican majority’s vow to dismantle the Affordable Care Act was a focus of several inquiries, as it was in the earlier forums. Taylor said he understood some people’s worries but argued there’s no doubt that the law is going to be abolished and replaced. ‘It is going to change because, across the nation, Republicans were put in charge,’ he said. ‘That is the reality.’ He predicted it won’t happen quickly - as Trump and GOP leaders in Congress have vowed. No Republican plan has been proposed. ‘We should be methodical and deliberate,’ he said, noting it’s a complex law to unravel. He restated his opposition to establishing a government single-payer system similar to Medicare.” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/22/17]


2010: Taylor Stated That America Had Taken A Wrong Turn: “We Are On The Path Of A Socialist Country.” “The eight candidates hoping to knock off freshman Democratic Rep. Glenn Nye shared the stage for the first time this past week, wooing local Tea Party activists with promises to drastically shrink power in Washington. […] The evening debate drew a crowd of about 200 to a ballroom at the Virginia Beach Wyndham hotel. It featured all seven Republicans - Kenny Golden, Ben Loyola, Maulbeck, Bert Mizusawa, Scott Rigell, Jessica Sandlin and Scott Taylor - and independent candidate Doug Hutchinson. […] There was a significant amount of agreement on issues - especially on the recently passed health care reform legislation. All eight candidates said they would work to repeal the reforms. […] Taylor said America has taken a wrong turn. ‘We are on the path of a socialist country,’ he said.” [Daily Press, 4/4/10]

Taylor Criticized The Democrats As Being Divided On The Idea Of Single-Payer Health Care

VIDEO: Taylor Argued That “You Have A Huge Divide In The Democratic Party Right Now…More Of A Divide, I Would Say, Than The Republicans Do.” “TAYLOR: Let’s talk about the Democrats for a second. You have a huge divide in the Democratic Party right now. They are not aligned in terms of what -- what should -- if they had a choice to replace something like that you have a huge percentage of Democrats who are looking for single payer option for universal health care, which is sustainable. And you have all the ones that don’t want that. They actually have more of a divide, I would say, than the Republicans do.” [CNN, State of the Union, 7/9/17] (VIDEO)
Housing Issues

**Significant Findings**

- Taylor introduced a fair housing act in the House to protect LGBT people from housing discrimination; U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) introduced a companion bill in the U.S. Senate.
- Taylor backed several unsuccessful bill in the Virginia House of Delegates to attempt to address LGBT discrimination in housing.

**LGBT Housing Discrimination Bill**

2017: Taylor Introduced A Bill He Claimed Would Address Housing Discrimination Against The LGBT Community

**March 2017: Taylor Introduced The Fair And Equal Housing Act Of 2017**

Taylor Introduced Legislation He Claimed Would Address LGBT Housing Discrimination. “Earlier this month, Taylor introduced legislation that would protect LGBT citizens from housing discrimination. ‘I believe that there was a gap in protection there,’ said the Republican representative, who is receiving bipartisan support on the measure. ‘A vulnerable population shouldn’t worry about having to be protected, of course. So it was important that we got out there and got something. I understand it’s not orthodoxy for my party, if you will, but it’s the right thing to do and I don’t mind stepping out and leading.’” [CBS-3 WTKR, 3/20/17]

Virginian-Pilot: Taylor’s Fair & Equal Housing Act Would Amended Federal Fair-Housing Laws To Add Sexual Orientation And Gender Identity To List Of Protected Categories Of People. “In what may be a first for a Republican in Congress, Rep. Scott Taylor introduced legislation Thursday that would make it a violation of federal law to discriminate based on sexual orientation or gender identity when renting or selling housing. The measure, the first bill Taylor has introduced since taking office in January, would amend federal fair-housing laws to add the two categories of individuals to protections that already forbid housing discrimination based on sex, race, religion, national origin, disability or familial status. Taylor campaigned in the 2nd Congressional District as a self-described conservative and attended gay pride or gay rights events.” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/10/17]

March 2017: Taylor’s Anti-Discrimination Bill Was Referred To The Subcommittee On The Constitution And Civil Justice. [Congress.gov, 3/21/17]

Taylor Claimed He Opposed Discrimination In Housing Because Renting To LGBT “Doesn’t Mean You’re Imposing Your Gynness On Me”

Taylor: “It’s A Personal-Freedom Issue… Just Because I Rent To You And You’re Gay Doesn’t Mean You’re Imposing Your Gynness On Me - Or Religion Or Whatever.” “He disagrees with the views of many social conservatives in the GOP-controlled Congress who oppose LGBT protections. ‘It’s a personal-freedom issue,’ Taylor said in an interview. ‘To me it is a conservative belief to have the pursuit of happiness and to be free as long as you’re not hurting someone else. Just because I rent to you and you’re gay doesn’t mean you’re imposing your gynness on me - or religion or whatever.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/10/17]

Taylor On Religious Opposition To His Fair & Equal Housing Bill: “Eh, I Think Jesus Would Be Okay With It.” “Taylor’s bill would amend the Fair Housing Act of 1968 — which protects classes based on race,
sex, religious, and other characteristics — to also ban landlords from, say, turning away a gay couple, even if the proprietor has a religious objection. ‘There are social conservatives who don’t approve of that lifestyle, and that’s fine,’ he said, ‘but that shouldn’t stop people from being happy and not being discriminated against.’ He argued someone’s moral beliefs are insufficient grounds for balking at a business transaction. But what if religious conservatives argue that their faith prevents them from renting an apartment to a gay couple? ‘Eh,’ he said, ‘I think Jesus would be okay with it.’” [Buzzfeed, 2/21/17]

Democratic U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine Introduced A Companion Bill In The U.S. Senate

June 2017: Senator Tim Kaine Of Virginia Introduced A Fair Housing Act To Target LGBT Discrimination And Credited Taylor As Introducing The House Version Of The Bill. “Yesterday, U.S. Senator Tim Kaine led 15 of his colleagues to introduce the Fair and Equal Housing Act of 2017, a bill that would add gender identity and sexual orientation to the classes protected from discrimination under the Fair Housing Act (FHA), to ensure equal housing opportunities for all Americans. U.S. Representative Scott Taylor (R-VA) introduced the original House version of this bill in early March of this year. The FHA only prohibits housing discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, or disability. Currently, 22 states, the District of Columbia, and over 200 localities protect sexual orientation and gender identity in their housing discrimination statutes.” [Tim Kaine press release, 6/9/17]

In The Virginia Legislature, Taylor Supported Bipartisan Legislation To Ban Anti-LGBT Housing Discrimination

Taylor Supported A Democratic Bill In The State Legislature That Would Have Banned Anti-LGBT Discrimination In Housing

2015: Taylor Supported A Democratic Bill In The Virginia House Of Delegates That Would Have Banned LGBT Housing Discrimination. “As a delegate in the state General Assembly, Taylor was a primary supporter of a bill introduced by Del. Marcus B. Simon (D-Fairfax), who represents a liberal Northern Virginia district, that would have banned LGBT discrimination in housing.” [Washington Post, 6/5/17]

January 2015: HB 1454 Was Laid On The Table By Voice Vote. [Virginia’s Legislative Information System, 1/29/15]

Taylor: “There’s A Generational Divide In Terms Of Acceptance Of The LGBT Community Being Part Of The Norm.” “There’s a generational divide in terms of acceptance of the LGBT community being part of the norm. I understand that’s maybe changing quickly for people, but that’s the society we live in,’ said Del. Scott W. Taylor (R-Virginia Beach), 36, who is running for Congress. […] Taylor and Villanueva sponsored bills with Democrats in the House this year that would have banned discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in the workplace and in housing. Those bills never got a vote in committee.” [Washington Post, 2/18/16]

Taylor Was A Chief Co-Sponsor Of A Bipartisan Bill In The House Of Delegates To Ban Anti-LGBT Discrimination In Housing And The Work Place That Never Received A Vote In Committee

2016: Taylor’s Anti-Discrimination Bill In The House Of Delegates Never Got A Vote In Committee. “Taylor and Villanueva sponsored bills with Democrats in the House this year that would have banned discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in the workplace and in housing. Those bills never got a vote in committee.” [Washington Post, 2/18/16]

February 2016: HB 300 Virginia Fair Housing Law Was Laid On The Table By Voice Vote. [Virginia’s Legislative Information System, 2/4/17]
Labor

significant Findings

✓ Taylor voted to block a bill increasing the minimum wage to $15 an hour over seven years.
✓ Taylor voted to undermine worker protections by allowing private-sector employees to swap overtime pay for “comp time.”

Worker Benefits & Protections

Minimum Wage

2017: Taylor Voted For Block A Bill To Increase The Minimum Wage To $15 Per Hour In Seven Years

Taylor Voted To Block A Bill To Increase The Minimum Wage To $15 Per Hour In Seven Years. In June 2017, Taylor voted for a motion to ord...
Education and the Workforce Committee with instructions to report it back immediately with an amendment that would exempt from the bill’s provisions employees who receive seven or more sick days from their employer.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 192-234. [HR 1180, Vote #243, 5/2/17; CQ, 5/2/17]

Taylor Voted To Waive Certain Rules Making It Easier For The House To Pass A Bill To Allow Employees To Trade Overtime Pay For Comp Time. In May 2017, Taylor voted for “Adoption of the rule (H Res 299) that would allow private-sector employers to provide non-exempt employees compensatory time off at a rate of 1.5 hours per hour of overtime work. It would waive, through the legislative day of May 5, 2017, the two-thirds vote requirement to consider legislation on the same day it is reported from the House Rules Committee. It also would provide for consideration of measures under suspension of the rules on the legislative days of May 4 and May 5, 2017.” The rule was adopted by a vote of 230-193. [HR 1180 (HRes 299), Vote #241, 5/2/17; CQ, 5/2/17]
Immigration And Border Issues

**Significant Findings**

- Taylor said, “physically, a [Mexican border] wall doesn’t make sense.”
- Taylor stated that “any wall...should have a door.”
- Taylor voted to keep funding for the border wall in the Security Minibus.
- Taylor voted for Katie’s Law.
- Taylor voted twice to protect the Muslim Ban.
- Taylor said that Trump’s Muslim Ban was not in fact directed at Muslims.
- Taylor castigated Christiane Amanpour for using the term “Muslim Ban” and later called it “irresponsible journalism.”
- Taylor accused Amanpour “giving a gift” to terrorist recruiters by calling it a “Muslim Ban.”
- Taylor voted for Katie’s Law.
- Taylor said he supported a more stringent vetting process for immigrants from the Middle East and defended the order’s specific protections for Christians.
- Taylor eventually conceded that the ban was directed at Muslims and called it “unconstitutional.”
- Taylor claimed that 30% of FBI investigations into terrorism involved refugees.
- A Washington Post fact check rated the figure “highly misleading” and reported that it was more likely to be around 3%.
- Taylor said Trump’s actions were “right” because “it was illegal for President Obama to create [the DACA] program.”
- Taylor said he wanted to protect current DACA recipients but disincentivize future illegal immigration.
- Taylor voted to ban sanctuary cities.

**Border Wall**

Taylor Equivocated On Trump’s Mexico-U.S. Border Wall: “I Believe That Any Wall...Should Have A Door”

Taylor: “I Believe That We Should Have Protections On Our Border, But I Believe That Any Wall Or Any Border Should Have A Door, And I Believe That Door Should Allow People To Come In Here Who Respect Our Laws.”  “Asked about the administration’s pledge to build a wall on the United States border with Mexico, Taylor said that physically, a wall doesn’t make sense in some places on the border. ‘I believe that we should have protections on our border, but I believe that any wall or any border should have a door, and I believe that door should allow people to come in here who respect our laws,’ he said.” [Delmarva Daily Times, 2/23/17]
Taylor Conceded That “Physically, A Wall Doesn’t Make Sense.” “Two women wanted to know about Trump’s plan to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border and had concerns that losing many immigrant workers can hurt the region’s agriculture and seafood industries. ‘Physically, a wall doesn’t make sense,’ Taylor said, noting that the border has too many geographic obstacles. ‘I believe we should be protecting our borders. I believe our borders should have a door.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/22/17]

Taylor Voted Against A Motion To Eliminate Border Wall Funding From The Security Minibus. In July 2017, Taylor voted against: “Roybal-Allard, D-Calif., motion to recommit the bill to the House Appropriations Committee with instructions to report it back immediately with an amendment that would eliminate the bill’s provision related to providing funding to U.S. Customs and Border Protection for procurement, construction and improvement of a barrier along the southern U.S. border.” According to the Democratic Leader’s Office, “Democrats’ Motion to Recommit would strike the division of the underlying bill that appropriates $1.6 billion in taxpayer funds to begin construction of President Trump’s border wall along the U.S. – Mexico border.” Motion rejected by a vote of 193-234. [H R 3219, Vote #434, 7/27/17; CQ, 7/27/17; Democratic Leader’s Office, motion to recommit, 7/27/17]

Kate’s Law

Taylor Voted Against A Motion To Revise Kate’s Law. In June 2017, Taylor voted against: “Motion to recommit, rejected by a vote of 193-234. [H R 3004, Vote #344, 6/29/17; CQ, 6/29/17; Democratic Leader’s Office, motion to recommit, 6/29/17]

Washington Post: ‘Kate’s Law’ Would Enhance Penalties For Convicted And Deported Criminals Who Reenter The United States Illegally. “On Thursday, just two days before the second-year anniversary of Steinle’s shooting, the House of Representatives passed a bill known as “Kate’s Law,” which would enhance penalties for convicted and deported criminals who reenter the United States illegally. It was first introduced in 2015, but it failed to advance in the Senate.” [Washington Post, 6/29/17]

Washington Post: “Civil Rights Groups... Strongly Opposed Kate’s Law,” Described It As “Shortsighted And Ill-Conceived.” “Civil rights groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union, have strongly opposed Kate’s Law, calling it a ‘shortsighted and ill-conceived response’” to the young woman’s slaying. They argue that it is blanket legislation that would penalize even those who come to the United States to escape persecution. Opponents also say that the bill perpetuates the false notion that undocumented immigrants are inherently criminals.” [Washington Post, 6/29/17]

Taylor Voted For A Motion To Exempt From Kate’s Law “Victims Of Sex Trafficking That Voluntarily Present Themselves At A Port Of Entry And Request Protection.” In June 2017, Taylor voted for: “motion to recommit the bill to the House Judiciary Committee with instructions to report it back immediately with an amendment that would exempt from the bill’s provisions victims of sex trafficking that voluntarily present themselves at a port of entry and request protection.” According to the Democratic Leader’s website, “Democrats’
Motion to Recommit would add an exemption to the underlying bill to allow a victim of sex-trafficking to voluntarily present herself or himself at a port of entry to request protection without fear of violating the law.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 193-232. [HR 3004, Vote #343, 6/29/17; CQ, 6/29/17; Democratic Leader’s office, motion to recommit, 6/29/17]

**The Muslim Ban**

**Taylor Said The Executive Order On Immigration Was Not A “Muslim Ban” And That He Disagreed With Trump’s Call For A Muslim Ban During His Campaign**

HEADLINE: “GOP Lawmaker Argues Trump’s Call For Increased Travel Restrictions Not A ‘Muslim Ban.’” [Washington Times, 6/5/17]

VIDEO: Taylor: “I Absolutely Disagree With Rhetoric During The Campaign, Saying—You Know, Calling For A Muslim Ban.” “TAYLOR: So again, the rhetoric I don’t agree with. I don’t agree with the pre-campaign rhetoric. So but I do think it’s responsible for an incoming administration [sic]. If they believe that they need to look at tougher -- tougher vetting procedures and specific countries that, quite frankly, are from the less -- from the previous administration of having a higher risk, I don’t disagree with that on its face. I absolutely disagree with rhetoric during the campaign, saying -- you know, calling for a Muslim ban. I don’t agree with that. I think it’s unconstitutional, but I don’t -- I think ultimately the Supreme Court will uphold. I just do, from a legal standpoint. Not an emotional or a policy standpoint but from a legal standpoint.” [CNN, New Day via Almutaz Bur News Network, YouTube, 6/5/17] (VIDEO)

VIDEO: Taylor: “I Do Not Agree With The Rhetoric Before, Before The Campaign, At All.” “TAYLOR: I do not agree with the rhetoric before, before the campaign, at all. Listen, I’ve been -- I’ve had my life in Muslim hands many times in the middle of the Arabian Desert. So I don’t agree with that, that rhetoric whatsoever. That being said, I think it will ultimately be upheld. I just do. I believe that there’s certainly debate on the policy itself. But I don’t think the legality...” [CNN, New Day via Almutaz Bur News Network, YouTube, 6/5/17] (VIDEO)

Taylor: “I Do Not Support A Muslim Ban. I’d Be The First One To Stop And Say That’s Unconstitutional And That’s Wrong.” ‘I understand emotions are running high, but when I read that document it doesn’t tell me that it’s a Muslim ban,’ Taylor said. ‘I do not support a Muslim ban. I’d be the first one to stop and say that’s unconstitutional and that’s wrong.’ The executive order legitimately addressed concerns about state-sponsored terrorism in the affected countries, Taylor said. The White House should be criticized, however, for moving too quickly to put in motion the ban without preparation, he said. It was wrong to first say the ban included those with green cards or permanent U.S. resident status and then to reverse that interpretation. ‘But then it was corrected,’ Taylor said. ‘I’m hopeful that moving forward the White House learned a lesson. ... It’s up to them to gain the trust of the public.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 1/30/17]

**Taylor Defended The Order’s Emphasis On Protecting Christians**

VIDEO: Taylor: “You Mentioned Christians. But I’ve Seen What Happens In Some Of These Countries With Christians...So I Get Why They Want [Christians] To Have Elevated Status...” “And like I’ve said, I’ve personally been to these countries. And you mentioned Christians. But I’ve seen what happens in some of these countries with Christians. So I get it. I get why they want to have elevated status to -- to at least to look and try to get some of these folks who in some countries there’s been genocide committed against them.” [CNN, New Day via Almutaz Bur News Network, YouTube, 6/5/17] (VIDEO)

**Taylor Argued That A More Stringent Vetting Process Was Appropriate While Also Admitting That It Would Be Nearly Impossible In Some Regions**
VIDEO: Taylor: “…I Don’t Think It’s Unreasonable For An Incoming Administration To Say We Want To Stop And We Want To Look At These Countries Specifically, Because That’s Their Opinion That They’re A Higher Threat.” “I’ve already said on the record that I’ve been to many of these countries and that I do agree that there should be tougher vetting. That I don’t think it’s unreasonable for an incoming administration to say we want to stop and we want to look at these countries specifically, because that’s their opinion that they’re a higher threat. I don’t think it’s unreasonable. I think there’s a ton of rhetoric out there sort of on both sides that I agree with or don’t agree with. But the actual policy. I trust the national security adviser. I trust General Mattis and those guys to makes these decisions to look at these countries. I just do.” [CNN, New Day via Almutaz Bur News Network, YouTube, 6/5/17] (VIDEO)

VIDEO: Taylor Admitted That Vetting Would Be “Very, Very Difficult” In Some Regions But Said “I Think It’s Responsible To Look At Some Of These Countries And Have Tougher Vetting In There.” “So I don’t disagree with an incoming administration looking at these policies and looking at these countries to figure out. […] In some of these countries, there are government institutions to be able to properly vet folks. It will be very, very difficult to vet someone in the Shabwah region in Yemen. It’s just because there aren’t -- there’s not information about them, and then there’s certainly not a government system that will help us, as well, too. I think it’s responsible to look at some of these countries and have tougher vetting in there. I just do. CUOMO: Everybody agrees.” [CNN, New Day via Almutaz Bur News Network, YouTube, 6/5/17] (VIDEO)

**Taylor Voted Twice To Protect Trump’s Muslim Ban**

**Taylor Voted To Block Consideration Of An Act Nullifying Trump’s Immigration Executive Order.** In January 2017, Taylor voted for the “Newhouse, R-Wash., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and the possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 70).” According to Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi’s office, “The Democratic Previous Question would amend the rule to allow for consideration of HR 724, the Statue of Liberty Values Act of 2017, which provides that President Trump’s Immigration Executive Order shall have no force or effect.” A vote for the previous question was a vote in support of the executive order. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 236-183. [HRes 70, Vote #68, 1/30/17; CQ, 1/30/17; Democratic Leader—Previous Questions, 1/30/17]

**Taylor Did Not Vote On Blocking Consideration Of An Act To Nullify Trump’s Immigration Executive Order.** In February 2017, Taylor did not vote on the “Buck, R-Colo., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and the possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 71).” According to Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi’s office, “The Democratic Previous Question would amend the rule to allow for consideration of HR 724, the Statue of Liberty Values Act of 2017, which provides that President Trump’s Immigration Executive Order shall have no force or effect.” A vote for the previous question was a vote in support of the executive order. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 231-191. [HRes 71, Vote #70, 2/1/17; CQ, 2/1/17; Democratic Leader—Previous Questions, 2/1/17]

**Taylor Voted To Block Consideration Of An Act Nullifying Trump’s Immigration Executive Order.** In February 2017, Taylor voted for the “Cole, R-Okla., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and the possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 74).” According to Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi’s office, “The Democratic Previous Question would bring up HR 724, the Statue of Liberty Values Act, offered by Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, which would give the Republican Congress a second chance in as many days to defund and rescind President Trump’s unconstitutional and dangerous ban.” A vote for the previous question was a vote in support of the executive order. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 230-188. [HRes 74, Vote #74, 2/2/17; CQ, 2/2/17; Democratic Leader—Previous Questions, 2/2/17]

**Taylor Blasted Christiane Amanpour For Calling Trump’s Immigration Order A “Muslim Ban”**

VIDEO: Taylor Claimed Amanpour Calling Trump’s Immigration Order A “Muslim Ban” Was “Irresponsible.” “TAYLOR: Well, listen, I think that -- first of all, let me finish one thing and I will get -- I will absolutely answer that specifically because I think there are issues with that. I appreciate Alberto [Mora]. I really do
appreciate his opinion. But as he said—he did not say that it was a Muslim ban which you said was. And I think that it’s irresponsible of you to say that because you’re also fomenting problems as well too. (Crosstalk)

AMANPOUR: Oh, Scott. Oh, Scott. Come on, we’re playing word games. TAYLOR: It’s irresponsible of you. Irresponsible.” [CNN, Amanpour, 1/31/17] (VIDEO)

VIDEO: Taylor: “…There Are Lot Of People Here Who Are Reasonable And Not All Crazy Who Truly Believe That We Have To Vet Folks A Little Bit More Securely…” “REP. SCOTT TAYLOR (R), VIRGINIA: Well, I take issue of the couple of things that you said and respectfully of course I appreciate you having me on your program. Let me preface it by saying I don’t support a Muslim ban on. And when I read this text to me it’s not a Muslim ban. I wholeheartedly don’t support that… […] And I just have to say -- I mean, the whole way that you’ve framed the whole thing, I just take a little bit of issue with it because I think there are lot of people here who are reasonable and not all alt-right and crazy and stuff like that, who truly believe that we have, that we have to vet folks a little bit more securely before they come over here and that is a pause.” [CNN, Amanpour, 1/31/17] (VIDEO)

Taylor Accused Amanpour Of Aiding Terrorist Recruiters By Using The Term “Muslim Ban”

VIDEO: Taylor: “When You Say Muslim Ban When It’s Clearly Not, You’re Giving A Gift” [To Terrorist Recruiters]. “AMANPOUR: But do you not think that’s irresponsible Representative Taylor to throw out these executive orders and you heard what some tweets have been saying that this is -- and again, you, you clearly must understand this better than I because you’ve been out there, actually so have I. But this will be a gift to recruiters, to terrorists recruiters…? […] The question was, you’ve accused me of being irresponsible, I’m asking you did you not think it’s irresponsible to throw out this policy and create the chaos that we’re seeing right now. TAYLOR: So, you asked two questions and I’m answering specifically. Number one, I think that there were legitimate criticisms with the rule out of the policy. Absolutely I agree with Alberto that the subject matter experts should see it. I agree at that hundred percent. But you also said, is it gift to folks to see -- AMANPOUR: Yes I’m asking the question -- TAYLOR: And I said -- hold on, let me finish. Because I think when you say Muslim ban when it’s clearly not, you’re giving a gift there. AMANPOUR: I see, OK. TAYLOR: -- in the Muslim community.” [CNN, Amanpour, 1/31/17] (VIDEO)


After The Interview, Taylor Criticized Amanpour For “Irresponsible Journalism”

Taylor Wrote A Facebook Post Castigating Amanpour For “Irresponsible Journalism And Fanning The Flames.” “Rep. Taylor pushes back on Christiane Amanpour on irresponsible journalism and fanning the flames. No matter if you support or oppose the executive order, journalists should not frame their segments with their own political views or make definitive statements about text, using rhetoric as the source for the statement, as opposed to the actual text.” [Scott Taylor Facebook, 2/1/17]

Taylor Then Backtracked And Claimed Both That Action Was A Muslim Ban And That It Was Unconstitutional

Taylor: “I Disagreed With Him Publicly On A Muslim Ban. It’s Unconstitutional. The Implementation Of The Order Was Very Bad.” “The president is certainly imperfect. I’m going to agree with him on many things, and I’m going to disagree. And I’m not going to be bashful when I disagree with him — particularly the immigration order that came down. I agree with stronger vetting, but I disagreed with him publicly on a Muslim ban. It’s unconstitutional. The implementation of this order was very bad. I’m on an equal branch of government, and we’re there to provide oversight of the executive branch sometimes. If I agree with the president, I’ll say it, but if I don’t I’ll say it.” [Task and Purpose, 3/12/17]
Taylor Said Trump’s Actions Were “Right” Because “It Was Illegal For President Obama To Create [The DACA] Program”

Taylor: “It Was Illegal For President Obama To Create This Program… President Trump Is Right To Put The Authority Back Into The Hands Of Congress.” “While benevolent and well intended, it was illegal for President Obama to create this program; a President does not create laws. Therefore, President Trump is right to put the authority back into the hands of Congress. I believe Congress should create, negotiate, and pass a law protecting those in this stateless limbo, which should contain disincentives to future illegal immigrants from attempting the same and border security measures.” [Office of Rep. Scott Taylor, Press Release, 9/5/17]

Taylor Said He Wanted To Protect Current DACA Recipients But Disincentivize Future Illegal Immigration

Virginia Pilot: Taylor Wanted “Legislation That Would Create Disincentives To Parents Or Others Bringing Minors Illegally Into The United States While Protecting Current DACA Recipients.” “Taylor has met DACA recipients and said if Congress cannot change immigration laws to protect them, he and other legislators should be held accountable. ‘Can you imagine if some guy comes here when he’s 10 years old. He’s Somalian. He speaks like you and I do. You going to deport him to Somalia and he doesn’t speak Arabic?’ Taylor said. He wants legislation that would create disincentives to parents or others bringing minors illegally into the the United States while protecting current DACA recipients.” [Virginia-Pilot, 9/5/17]

Taylor Emphasized Disincentives To Future Illegal Immigrants But Said “There Are DACA Recipients Who Are As American As Myself.” “I believe Congress should create, negotiate, and pass a law protecting those in this stateless limbo, which should contain disincentives to future illegal immigrants from attempting the same and border security measures. There are DACA recipients who are as American as myself. Americans do not punish children for their parents’ sins. Under this Congress and this President we have returned to proper immigration enforcement and significantly reduced border crossings. Now is our time in Congress to lead with justice, mercy, and compassion on this issue.” [Office of Rep. Scott Taylor, Press Release, 9/5/17]

Sanctuary Cities

Taylor Voted To Ban Sanctuary Cities

Taylor Voted For A Bill To Ban Sanctuary Cities. In June 2017, Taylor voted for: “Passage of the bill that would prohibit federal, state and local governments from restricting any federal, state, or local government entity or official from complying with immigration laws or from assisting federal law enforcement entities or officials in their enforcement of such laws. The bill would allow the Homeland Security Department to issue detainers for arrests of individuals in violation of “any criminal or motor vehicle law” in cases where there is probable cause to believe such individual is an “inadmissible or deportable alien,” and would revoke eligibility for certain federal law enforcement grants for states and cities found not to be in compliance with the bill’s provisions.” The bill passed 228-195. [HR 3003, Vote #342, 6/29/17; CQ, 6/29/17]

New York Times: The No Sanctuary For Criminals Act “Broadens The Pool Of Money That Cities Could Lose For Not Cooperating With Federal Immigration Officials.” “One of the House bills, known as the No Sanctuary for Criminals Act, potentially broadens the pool of money that cities could lose for not cooperating with federal immigration officials. It also seeks to indemnify local law enforcement officials who detain immigrants on behalf of the federal authorities from lawsuits, making the federal government the defendant in such cases. The bill passed 228 to 195.” [New York Times, 6/29/17]
The National Fraternal Order Of Police Opposed The No Sanctuary For Criminals Act. “Some law enforcement officials have also expressed concerns with the legislation. The National Fraternal Order of Police came out against the sanctuary cities bill this week. In a letter to House leadership, the group’s national president, Chuck Canterbury, said, ‘Law enforcement officers do not get to pick and choose which laws to enforce, and must carry out lawful orders at the direction of their commanders and the civilian government that employs them.’” [New York Times, 6/29/17]

ACLU: HR 3003 Would Violate 4th Amendment Protections Against Detention Without Due Process Or Probable Cause. “And the American Civil Liberties Union said the sanctuary cities bill violates the Fourth Amendment by requiring local law enforcement to hold people without due process or probable cause when requested by immigration agents.” [New York Times, 6/29/17]

Taylor Voted For Consideration Of A Bill To Ban Sanctuary Cities. In June 2017, Taylor voted for: “Adoption of the rule (H Res 414) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill (HR 3003) that would prohibit federal, state and local governments from restricting any federal, state, or local government entity or official from complying with immigration laws or from assisting federal law enforcement in its enforcement of such laws.” The bill passed 235-190. [HR 3003, Vote #332, 6/28/17; CQ, 6/28/17]

Refugees

Taylor Claimed The FBI Said “30 Percent...Of Their Domestic Terrorism Cases Involved Refugees” But Added That “It [Was] Important Not To Label Refugees As Bad People”

Taylor: “Just Today The FBI Comes Out And Says That 30 Percent -- 30 Percent -- Of Their Domestic Terrorism Cases They Are Investigating Are From Folks Who Are Refugees.” “TAYLOR: Again, just today the FBI comes out and says that 30 percent -- 30 percent -- of their domestic terrorism cases they are investigating are from folks who are refugees. It’s important not to label refugees as bad people.” [CNN, 3/6/17]

Reuters: An Unnamed Congressional Source Said The FBI Was Investigating 300 Refugees “As Part Of 1,000 Counterterrorism Investigations.” “The FBI is investigating 300 people who were admitted into the United States as refugees as part of 1,000 counterterrorism investigations involving Islamic State or individuals inspired by the militant group, congressional sources told Reuters on Monday, citing senior administration officials.” [Reuters, 3/6/17]

The Congressional Sources Requested Anonymity. “Department of Homeland Security officials did not provide details of the investigations or the current immigration status of those 300 individuals during a briefing with congressional staffers, according to the sources, who requested anonymity.” [Reuters, 3/6/17]

The Washington Post Estimated That Investigations Into Refugees Actually Made Up Approximately 3 Percent Of Terrorism Investigations. “The FBI has averaged 7,000 to 10,000 preliminary or full investigations involving international terrorism annually in recent years, the Times reported in September 2016. So that means the 300 refugee investigations make up about 3 percent of the total number of assessments per year in recent years.” [Washington Post, 3/6/17]

The FBI Said 2,000 People Were Being Investigated For Either Ties To ISIS Or Homegrown Terrorism And That Was Only A Subset Of The Total Number Of Counterterrorism Investigations. “Through a May 3, 2017, congressional testimony and May 9 follow-up letter, the FBI said there are about 1,000 investigations of suspected homegrown violent extremists and another 1,000 investigations of people suspected of being connected to ISIS. The FBI said the 2,000 investigations are a subset of the total number of counterterrorism investigations, which is classified.” [Washington Post, 3/6/17]
The Total Number Of Counterterrorism Investigations Was Classified. “The FBI said the 2,000 investigations are a subset of the total number of counterterrorism investigations, which is classified.” [Washington Post, 3/6/17]

A Washington Post Fact Check Rated The Figure “Highly Misleading.” “In the absence of context or additional information from the administration, we find this figure highly misleading, worthy of Three Pinocchios. Should the administration decide to share more information to place this figure into context, we’re happy to reconsider the evidence and the rating.” [Washington Post, 3/6/17]

Taylor Argued The United States Could Help More People In The Middle East Rather Than Resettling Them In The United States

Taylor: “We Can Help A Hell Of A Lot More People Over There [In The Middle East] Than We Can Trying To Resettle Them Here.” “The safe zones, I actually agree with that. I think that we do have a duty to the international community, not just the west in general but also the Gulf nations, to help those folks that are over there. But I can tell you right now, we can help a hell of a lot more people over there than we can trying to resettle them here.” [CNN, 2/20/17]
## LGBT Issues

### Significant Findings

- **Taylor supported Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell in 2010.**

- **In 2017, Taylor appeared to reverse his view and support allowing gay people to serve openly in the military.**

- **Taylor said he supported civil contracts but not gay marriage, and that marriage was meant to be between a man and a woman.**

- **Taylor voted for the Hartzler Amendment to reverse a measure requiring the Pentagon to pay for gender transition surgeries and hormone therapy.**

- **Taylor denied that the Trump Administration was rolling back protections for transgender teenagers.**

### Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell

Taylor Recently Claimed He Supported Allowing LGBT Service in the Military, But When It Counted He Opposed It

#### 2010: Taylor Supported “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” and Claimed Gay People Serving Openly in the Military “May Cause A Lack Of Discipline”

The Virginian-Pilot reported that Taylor wanted to leave “don’t ask, don’t tell” in place. “All the candidates but Sandlin also want to leave intact the ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ law that permits gays to serve in the military as long as they keep secret their sexual orientation. […] Taylor, a former Navy SEAL, said he’s fine with gays in the military but if they serve openly ‘that may cause a lack of discipline.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 5/31/10]

Taylor claimed gay people serving openly in the military “may cause a lack of discipline.” “All the candidates but Sandlin also want to leave intact the ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ law that permits gays to serve in the military as long as they keep secret their sexual orientation. […] Taylor, a former Navy SEAL, said he’s fine with gays in the military but if they serve openly ‘that may cause a lack of discipline.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 5/31/10]

#### 2017: Taylor Claimed He Supported Allowing Gay Men and Women To Serve Openly In The Military

Taylor supported allowing gay men and women to serve openly in the military. “[Taylor] also supports allowing gay men and women to serve openly in the military. Twenty-two states and the District of Columbia already include sexual orientation and gender identity in their housing protection statutes. Virginia does not. Taylor’s bill defines gender identity as ‘gender-related identity, appearance, or mannerisms or other gender-related characteristics of an individual, without regard to the individual’s designated sex at birth.’ Protected sexual orientation under the legislation would include ‘homosexuality, heterosexuality or bisexuality.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 3/10/17]

### LGBT Discrimination
2010: Taylor Said He Believed In Civil Contracts For Same-Sex Couples, But Not Marriage

“Taylor said he believed marriage should only be between one man and one woman but accepts the U.S. Supreme Court rulings that protect rights to same-sex marriages.” [Virginian-Pilot, 6/5/16]

2010: The Virginian-Pilot Reported That Taylor Believed That The “Benefits Of Marriage” Should Be Reserved For Heterosexual Couples But That Same-Sex Couples Could Have Civil Contracts. “The other five candidates say the benefits of marriage should be only for heterosexual couples. Loyola, Mizusawa, Rigell and Taylor said they believe some civil contracts between same-sex couples could be permitted but not marriage.” [Virginian-Pilot, 5/31/10]

2016: Taylor Supported Legislation To Protect Those Who Discriminated Against LGBT People

“Taylor supported state legislation earlier this year that would protect ministers or religious organizations from civil penalties should they decline to perform a gay marriage because of religious objections. However, he opposed a related bill that he said would allow businesses or individuals to discriminate against gays, gay couples or anyone having sex before marriage. Neither measure became law.” [Virginian-Pilot, 6/5/16]

2016: Taylor Voted With Democrats To Kill A Bill That Would Protect People Who Oppose Gay Marriage

“Virginia’s Republican-dominated House of Delegates approved a bill Tuesday that seeks to protect people who oppose same-sex marriage, which critics said would open the door to discrimination and roll back gains the LGBT community has made toward equal treatment. […] Several Republican delegates joined Democrats to vote against the measure. Among them was Del. Scott Taylor, who is seeking Virginia’s 2nd Congressional District Seat. Taylor said the bill was too broad.” [Daily Progress, 2/16/16]

Taylor Spoke Out Against “Gay Bashing” After A Discriminatory Mailing From A Republican State Senator

“Virginia state Sen. Bryce Reeves blasted one of his Republican rivals in the primary race for lieutenant governor for supporting the appointment of the state’s first openly gay judge. Now, other Republicans are accusing Reeves of gay bashing, prompting an intraparty dispute around gay issues. In a pair of mailers landing days ahead of Tuesday’s three-way GOP primary, Reeves (Spotsylvania) slams Sen. Jill Holtzman Vogel (Fauquier) because she ‘voted to approve the first openly gay judge in the Commonwealth’ and was the ‘only Republican to vote for special rights for gays and transgenders.’ […] ‘I am very upset by the mailer I saw,’ Rep. Scott Taylor (R-Va.) said in an email. ‘Gay bashing and discrimination is unacceptable and the wrong message for the people of our party, the people of Virginia, and the people of America.’” [Washington Post, 6/9/17]

March 2017: Taylor Introduced A Fair Housing Act

March 2017: Taylor Introduced HR 1447, The “Fair And Equal Housing Act Of 2017,” Which Would Amend The Fair Housing Act Under The Civil Rights Act Of 1968 To Add Sexual Orientation And Gender Identity As Protected Classes. According to the bill’s text, HR 1447 would “amend the Fair Housing Act (FHA) under the Civil Rights Act of 1968 to add sexual orientation and gender identity as classes protected against
discrimination in the sale, rental, or financing of housing.” In the last action reported, the bill was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary’s Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice. [HR 1447, 3/9/17]

Transgender Rights

July 2017: Taylor Voted For The Hartzler Amendment To Remove An Obama-Era Measure Requiring The Pentagon To Pay For Gender Transition Surgeries And Hormone Therapy

Taylor Voted In Favor Of The Hartzler Amendment “On The Basis Of Individual Medical Readiness.” “Rep. Scott W. Taylor (R), a freshman from Virginia Beach, voted for the Hartzler amendment, despite a record of supporting LGBT causes through legislation. Taylor said that Trump’s ban, announced Wednesday via Twitter, is premature because the Defense Department is in the midst of a review of its policies addressing transgender members of the military. ‘There are heroic military members willing to put their lives on the line and give the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf, regardless of their gender identity,’ he said in a statement. He said he voted for the Hartzler amendment ‘on the basis of individual medical readiness,’ meaning that he did not want taxpayers to cover the year-long post-surgery recuperation period.” [Washington Post, 7/26/17]

Taylor: “Readiness Is Crucial For Us To Continue To Have The Most Highly Capable Fighting Force In The World.” “I recently supported the Hartzler amendment on the basis of individual medical readiness, which should always be a priority for the military. Readiness is crucial for us to continue to have the most highly capable fighting force in the world.” [U.S. Rep. Scott Taylor, Press Release, 7/26/17]

Transgender Naval Officer Vivian Wise, A Constituent, Criticized Taylor’s Vote As “Naked Bigotry And A Backlash Against Progress The Transgender Community Has Made In Recent Decades.” “Vivian Wise, a transgender woman and Navy officer who works in off-ship communications and lives in Virginia Beach, said the ban leaves her wondering whether she should search for a new job and place to live. She said she considers Taylor’s vote for the Hartzler amendment an example of ‘naked bigotry and a backlash against progress the transgender community has made in recent decades.’ ‘Frankly I wasn’t surprised at all,’ she said. ‘Representative Taylor is something of a water carrier for his party. He seems to be someone who will go along with the majority.’” [Washington Post, 7/26/17]

Wise: “Frankly, I Wasn’t Surprised At All. Representative Taylor Is Something Of A Water Carrier For His Party.” “Vivian Wise, a transgender woman and Navy officer who works in off-ship communications and lives in Virginia Beach, said the ban leaves her wondering whether she should search for a new job and place to live. She said she considers Taylor’s vote for the Hartzler amendment an example of ‘naked bigotry and a backlash against progress the transgender community has made in recent decades.’ ‘Frankly I wasn’t surprised at all,’ she said. ‘Representative Taylor is something of a water carrier for his party. He seems to be someone who will go along with the majority.’” [Washington Post, 7/26/17]

Taylor Said That Trump’s Ban On Transgender People In The Military Was “Premature”

Taylor Said Trump’s Military Transgender Ban Was “Premature.” “Our office is currently waiting for the Department of Defense (DoD) to provide information requested on this issue. I am troubled that they seemed to be unaware of this potential policy change and how it was made public. I understand the DoD is in the middle of a review of relevant policies and I believe this ban is premature. There are heroic military members willing to put their lives on the line and give the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf, regardless of their gender identity. I support the ability for those who meet all military requirements, medical and otherwise, to have the opportunity to serve our great country. I recently supported the Hartzler amendment on the basis of individual medical readiness, which should always be a priority for the military. Readiness is crucial for us to continue to have the most highly capable fighting force in the world.” [U.S. Rep. Scott Taylor, Press Release, 7/26/17]
Taylor Claimed To Oppose The Department Of Justice’s Arguments Against Civil Rights For LGBTQ Individuals. “I am very disturbed with the Department of Justice’s arguments against civil rights for LGBTQ individuals. The notion that it is okay for LGBTQ individuals to be discriminated against or that these protections cannot coexist with religious protections is shortsighted and on the wrong side of history. We will continue to fight and push our own civil rights legislation in protecting this vulnerable population.” [U.S. Rep. Scott Taylor, Press Release, 7/27/17]

February 2017: Taylor Denied The Trump Administration Was Rolling Back Protections For Transgender Teenagers

When Asked About Protections For Transgender Teens, Taylor Replied, “I’m Not So Sure They Tried To Roll Back The Protection Of Discrimination And Harassment. I’m Not Sure That’s That Case.”

“CAMEROTA: All right. I want to ask you about the news this morning about the Trump administration rolling back the protections for transgender teenagers at school. Are you worried this will make trans teenagers more vulnerable at school? […] CAMEROTA: I want to understand -- TAYLOR: Yes? CAMEROTA: -- since this is an important issue to you, and you have tried protecting them -- TAYLOR: Sure. CAMEROTA: -- why do you think that the White House took this issue to roll back those protections? TAYLOR: I’m not so sure they tried to roll back the protection of discrimination and harassment. I’m not sure that’s that case. I’ll let them answer those questions.” [CNN, 2/23/17]
National Security & Terrorism

**Significant Findings**

- Taylor claimed international terror groups a greater threat to national security than Russia or Iran.
- Taylor voted to allow individuals with primarily political functions like Stephen Bannon to sit on the National Security Council.

**Terrorism**

Taylor Claimed That International Terror Groups Were More Of A Threat To U.S. Security Than Russia And Iran

Taylor Stated That He Saw International Terror Groups And The Crisis In Syria As The Greatest Threats To National Security Over Russia And Iran. “The candidates also disagree on the top threat to national security. Forbes said he agrees with top Pentagon officials that Russia and Iran lead the list. Taylor says international terror groups and the crisis in Syria are where he sees the biggest risks. Cardwell says the biggest threat is the national debt.” [Daily Press, 6/11/16]

**Political Appointees**

Taylor Voted To Allow Politicization Of The National Security Council

2017: Taylor Voted To Allow Individuals With Primarily Political Functions To Sit On The National Security Council

2017: Taylor Voted To Block An Amendment To Prohibit Members Of The Administration Whose Primary Function Is Political From Being Appointed To The National Security Council. In February 2017, Taylor voted for voted for the “Cole, R-Okla., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and the possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 99).” According to Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi’s office, “The Democratic Previous Question would amend the National Security Act of 1947 to prohibit any individual whose primary responsibility is political in nature from being designated a member of the Council. Further, the bill expresses the sense of Congress that the Director of National Intelligence or the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff should not be prevented from attending Principals Committee meetings.” A yes vote was a vote to block the amendment. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 225-189. [H.Res 99, Vote #88, 2/14/17; CQ, 2/14/17; Democratic Leader—Previous Questions, 2/14/17]

Trump Designated Political Advisor Steve Bannon To A Full Seat On The National Security Council

January 2017: President Trump Designated Political Advisor Steve Bannon To A Full Seat On The “Principals Committee” Of The National Security Council, Elevating His Informal Rank To The Equivalent Of A Cabinet-Level Secretary. “The whirlwind first week of Donald J. Trump’s presidency had all the bravura hallmarks of a Stephen K. Bannon production. […] But the defining moment for Mr. Bannon came Saturday night in the form of an executive order giving the rumpled right-wing agitator a full seat on the “principals committee” of the National Security Council — while downgrading the roles of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the director of national intelligence, who will now attend only when the council is considering issues in their direct areas of responsibilities. It is a startling elevation of a political adviser, to a status alongside the secretaries of state
and defense, and over the president’s top military and intelligence advisers. In theory, the move put Mr. Bannon, a former Navy surface warfare officer, admiral’s aide, investment banker, Hollywood producer and Breitbart News firebrand, on the same level as his friend, Michael T. Flynn, the national security adviser, a former Pentagon intelligence chief who was Mr. Trump’s top adviser on national security issues before a series of missteps reduced his influence.” [New York Times, 1/29/17]
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<td>Significant Findings</td>
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<td>✓ Taylor was concerned about goose euthanization in Virginia Beach and claimed to be seeking more information and transparency on the issue.</td>
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Taylor Was Concerned About The Euthanization Of Canadian Geese In Virginia Beach. “I have concerns about the roundup and subsequent euthanization of Canadian geese in Virginia Beach recently by the Department of Agriculture. My office is requesting information on the process used for these roundups and to seek transparency for our community on this issue.” [U.S. Rep. Scott Taylor, Press Release, 7/13/17]
Seniors’ Issues

Significant Findings

✓ Taylor voted against lowering out-of-pocket drug costs for seniors.

✓ Taylor voted for the Republican Lower Taxes and Jobs Act, which plundered funding from Social Security and Medicare to offset raising the federal debt.

✓ Taylor wanted to raise the Social Security retirement age for younger generations.

✓ Taylor bragged that he began drafting legislation to raise the Social Security retirement age within days of winning election to Congress.

Medicare

2016: 16,541 Residents Of Virginia’s 2nd District Received Some Medicare Benefits

2016: 16,541 Residents Of Taylor’s District Received Medicare Benefits. [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2016 Congressional District Report]

Medicare Part D

2017: Taylor Voted Against Consideration Of An Amendment Lowering Out-Of-Pocket Drug Costs For Seniors

Taylor Voted Against Consideration Of An Amendment Lowering Out-Of-Pocket Drug Costs For Seniors.
In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “Demings, D-Fla., motion to recommit the bill to the House Judiciary Committee with instructions to report back immediately with an amendment that would exempt regulations that significantly lower seniors’ out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs under Medicare Part D. It would remove the bill’s provision that would effectively overturn two Supreme Court decisions that require federal courts to defer to an agency’s interpretation of the underlying law or rule when considering challenges to agency rules.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 190-233. [HR 5, Vote #44, 1/11/17; CQ, 1/11/17]

Social Security

2016: 122,269 Residents Of Virginia’s 2nd District Received Some Social Security Benefits

2016: 122,269 Residents Of Taylor’s District Received Social Security Benefits Worth Nearly $155,811. [Social Security Administration, Congressional Statistics, December 2016]

In Taylor’s District, Social Security Beneficiaries Include 91,625 Seniors; 117,460 Were Retirees. Of the 112,950 social security beneficiaries in Taylor’s district, 91,625 were aged 65 or older; 117,460 were retirees. [Social Security Administration, Congressional Statistics, December 2016]

Retirement Age
Taylor Said He Wanted To Raise The Minimum Retirement Age For Younger Generations

**February 2017: Taylor Said He Wanted To Raise The Minimum Retirement Age For Social Security For Younger Generations.** “To free up more defense funds, Taylor said he and other Republicans want to reduce spending on some government assistance, such as food stamps, and potentially cut outdated military programs. Looking more broadly, Taylor said he also supports raising the minimum age for Social Security benefits for younger generations in order to keep the program solvent.” [Washington Times, 2/12/17]

Taylor Began Drafting Legislation To Raise The Retirement Age For Social Security Within Days OF His Election

**November 2016: Upon Winning Congressional Seat, Taylor Claimed That He Was Already Writing Legislation To Raise The Social Security Age By Three Years.** “Republican state Del. Scott Taylor won Virginia’s 2nd Congressional District seat, ousting Democratic community activist Shaun Brown to join the House of Representatives. […] Afterward, he told reporters he’s already drafting legislation to raise the age to qualify for government entitlements such as Social Security by three years for individuals currently younger than 41, and he plans to look at mandated budget cuts called sequestration.” [Virginian-Pilot, 11/8/16]

**Taylor Promised That His Constituents Could “Expect [Him] To Look At Entitlement Reform And Raising The Age.”** “[Taylor] said 2nd District voters can expect him to leap into that and a couple of other signature issues right off the bat. ‘They can expect me to look at entitlement reform and raising the age,’ Taylor said.” [Daily Press, 11/8/16]

**Taylor Wanted To Raise The Age Requirement For Both Social Security And Medicare: “We Need To Raise The Age Up Three Years.”** “Scott Taylor, a former U.S. Navy SEAL and now real estate investor, has represented Virginia Beach’s 85th District in the Virginia House of Delegates since 2014. Taylor has taken aim at so-called entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare, saying he’d push Congress to take a good hard look at them. ‘Obviously entitlements are the big elephant in the room that nobody wants to talk about,’ Taylor said. ‘I believe my generation, 40 and under, will have to step up to the plate to reform entitlements to say, ‘Look, we’re living longer, we have more time, we need to raise the (retirement) age up three years.’” [Daily Press, 11/6/16]
Tax Issues

Significant Findings

- Taylor voted to pass the Republican Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.
- The act benefits the wealthy, corporations, and special interests, while forcing millions of Americans to pay more in taxes.
- The act increases the deficit and reduces taxes for the wealthy, including dozens on members of Congress.
- The act increases the federal debt, and Republicans plundered funding from Medicare and Social Security in order to pay for it.
- Taylor voted to allow repeal of the state and local tax deduction.

Taylor Voted For The Republican Tax Scam Bill, Which Would Benefit Corporations And The Wealthy While Harming Recipients Of Medicare And Social Security

Taylor Voted For Final Passage Of The Republican Tax Scam Bill

Taylor Voted For Adopting The Conference Report Of The Tax Cuts And Jobs Act. In December 2017, Taylor voted for “adoption of the conference report on the bill that would revise the federal income tax system by lowering the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent; lowering individual tax rates through 2025; limiting state and local deductions to $10,000 through 2025; decreasing the limit on deductible mortgage debt through 2025; and creating a new system of taxing U.S. corporations with foreign subsidiaries. Specifically, it would repeal personal exemptions and would roughly double the standard deduction through 2025. It would raise the child tax credit to $2,000 through 2025, would repeal the alternative minimum tax for corporations and provide for broader exemptions to the tax for individuals through 2025. It would double individual exemptions to the estate tax and gift tax through 2025, and would establish a new top tax rate for “pass-through” business income through 2025.” The conference report was adopted 227-203. [HR 1, Vote #692, 12/19/17; CQ Floor Votes, 12/19/17]

Taylor Voted For Final Passage Of The Tax Cuts And Jobs Act By Concurring With A Senate Amendment. In December 2017, Taylor voted for “Brady, R-Texas, motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the tax overhaul that would revise the federal income tax system by: lowering the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent; lowering individual tax rates through 2025; limiting state and local deductions to $10,000 through 2025; decreasing the limit on deductible mortgage debt through 2025; and creating a new system of taxing U.S. corporations with foreign subsidiaries. Specifically, it would repeal personal exemptions and would roughly double the standard deduction through 2025. It would raise the child tax credit to $2,000 through 2025, would repeal the alternative minimum tax for corporations and provide for broader exemptions to the tax for individuals through 2025. It would double individual exemptions to the estate tax and gift tax through 2025, and would establish a new top tax rate for “pass-through” business income through 2025. It would effectively eliminate the penalty for not purchasing health insurance under the 2010 health care overhaul law in 2019. It would also open portions of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling.” The motion was passed 224-201. [HR 1, Vote #699, 12/20/17; CQ Floor Votes, 12/20/17]
House Was Forced To Vote For A Second Time On The Final Bill After Small Changes Were Made To Comply With Senate Budget Rules. “The House, forced to vote a second time on the $1.5 trillion tax bill, moved swiftly to pass the final version on Wednesday, clearing the way for President Trump to sign into law the most sweeping tax overhaul in decades. House lawmakers approved the tax bill 224 to 201 on Wednesday, after being forced to vote on the bill again after last-minute revisions were made to it in the Senate, which passed the measure 51 to 48 early Wednesday morning. The final House vote was essentially a formality, as the changes, which were made to comply with Senate budget rules, did not significantly alter the overall bill.” [New York Times, 12/20/17]

**Tax Cuts And Jobs Act Benefitted The Wealthy, Corporations, And Special Interests…**

**Washington Post: Final Tax Bill Included A “Significant Tax Break For The Very Wealthy” And “A Massive Tax Cut For Corporations.”** “A new tax cut for the rich: The final plan lowers the top tax rate for top earners. Under current law, the highest rate is 39.6 percent for married couples earning over $470,700. The GOP bill would drop that to 37 percent and raise the threshold at which that top rate kicks in, to $500,000 for individuals and $600,000 for married couples. This amounts to a significant tax break for the very wealthy, a departure from repeated claims by Trump and his top officials that the bill would not benefit the rich. […] A massive tax cut for corporations “A massive tax cut for corporations: Starting on Jan. 1, 2018, big businesses’ tax rate would fall from 35 percent to just 21 percent, the largest one-time rate cut in U.S. history for the nation’s largest companies.” [Washington Post, 12/15/17]

**…While Millions Of Americans Would Pay More In Taxes**

**Politifact: GOP Tax Bill Would Raise Taxes For The Middle Class After Individual Tax Cut Provisions Expired In 2025.** “Gillibrand said the Republican ‘tax [plan] raises middle-class taxes.’ That’s not true during the first years of the new tax provisions. If not for the sunset for the tax changes for individuals, we likely would have rated Gillibrand’s statement False or perhaps Mostly False. Middle-income taxpayers will either benefit or see no change in their tax liability through 2025. But her claim could hold up after the bill’s individual provisions expire that year. There’s no guarantee a future Congress will extend those parts of the bill.” [Politifact, 12/22/17]

**Tax Policy Center: In 2018, 5 Percent Of Taxpayers Would Pay More In Taxes Under The GOP Tax Bill, But Would Increase To 53 Percent Of Taxpayers In 2027.** “Some taxpayers would pay more in taxes under the proposal in 2018 and 2025 than under current law: about 5 percent of taxpayers in 2018 and 9 percent in 2025. In 2027, however, taxes would increase for 53 percent of taxpayers compared with current law.” [Tax Policy Center, 12/18/17]

**Tax Cuts And Jobs Act Increased The Federal Debt – And Republicans Planned To Pay For It With Cuts To Medicare And Social Security**

**Official CBO Estimate Found Final Tax Bill Would Increase The Federal Deficit By $1.46 Trillion.** “Republicans decided it would be all right to go into debt up to $1.5 trillion to fund the tax cut. In the end, they nearly hit that mark. The official estimate -- released Friday evening alongside the bill -- came in at $1.46 trillion.” [Washington Post, 12/15/17]

**Center For A Responsible Federal Budget Found True Cost Of Tax Bill Would Be $2 Trillion Or More, After Budget Gimmicks Were Accounted For.** “Adding these gimmicks to the cost of the bill would increase the total cost to $2.0 trillion to $2.2 trillion. Though the dynamic effect of making the bill permanent is unknown, we estimate a permanent bill would produce roughly $450 billion of feedback,” leading to a dynamic cost of roughly $1.6 trillion to $1.7 trillion. With interest, these costs would rise to $2.4 trillion to $2.5 trillion, or $1.9 trillion to $2 trillion with dynamic effects included, over a decade.” [CRFB, 12/18/17]

**After Passing A Tax Bill That Added Trillions To The Deficit, Speaker Ryan Said Medicare And Medicaid Would Need To Be “Reformed” In Order To Decrease The Deficit.** “With his dream of tax reform now
realized, Ryan is hoping to make progress on two other issues he’s targeted during his two-decade career in Washington: entitlement and welfare reform. “We’re going to have to get back next year at entitlement reform, which is how you tackle the debt and the deficit,” Ryan, a former Budget Committee chairman, said in a recent interview this month on the Ross Kaminsky radio talk show. Medicare and Medicaid are the ‘big drivers of debt,’ Ryan said, suggesting Republicans could once again use the budget reconciliation process to avoid a Democratic filibuster. Medicare is the ‘biggest entitlement that’s got to have reform,’ Ryan added.” [The Hill, 12/27/17]


HEADLINE: Ryan says Republicans to target welfare, Medicare, Medicaid spending in 2018 [Washington Post, 12/6/17]

HEADLINE: Paul Ryan Pushes to Keep Overhaul of Safety-Net Programs on GOP Agenda [Wall Street Journal, 2/4/18]

AP: “A Wide Range Of Economists And Nonpartisan Analysts Have Warned That The Bill Will Likely Escalate Federal Debt, Intensify Pressure To Cut Spending On Social Programs And Further Widen America’s Troubling Income Inequality.” “The tax overhaul of 2017 amounts to a high-stakes gamble by Republicans in Congress: That slashing taxes for corporations and wealthy individuals will accelerate growth and assure greater prosperity for Americans for years to come. The risks are considerable. A wide range of economists and nonpartisan analysts have warned that the bill will likely escalate federal debt, intensify pressure to cut spending on social programs and further widen America’s troubling income inequality.” [Associated Press, 12/17/17]

Tax Cuts And Jobs Act Included Provision That Would Reduce Taxes For Dozens Of Members Of Congress

HEADLINE: “Dozens Of Lawmakers Stand To Reap A Tax Windfall Due To A GOP Loophole.” [CNBC, 12/20/17]

Four Dozen Members Of Congress Stood To Benefit From Change In Tax Treatment Of Real Estate Income Under GOP Tax Bill. “The provision, which gives favorable tax treatment to a common form of real estate income, would also create generous tax saving for President Donald Trump, who derives much of his personal fortune from real estate. The measure — added late Friday to the $1.5 trillion package of tax cuts — reduces the tax rate on ‘pass-through’ income derived from real estate. Owners of such businesses are allowed to ‘pass through’ the profits from these enterprises to their individual tax returns, which lowers the amount of tax they owe. Those benefits will now go to roughly four dozen Republican House and Senate members who voted for the bill, according to an analysis of personal financial disclosures for CNBC by the Center for Responsive Politics.” [CNBC, 12/20/17]

Tax Cuts And Jobs Act Would Increase Incentives To Move Jobs Overseas

Tax Experts Said The Tax Cuts And Jobs Act Increased Incentives For Companies To Move Jobs Overseas. “What happened to the workers in Clinton, tax experts say, will probably happen to more Americans if the Republican tax overhaul becomes law. The legislation fails to eliminate long-standing incentives for companies to move overseas and, in some cases, may even increase them, they say. ‘This bill is potentially more dangerous than our current system,’ said Stephen Shay, a senior lecturer at Harvard Law School and former Treasury Department international tax expert in the Obama administration. ‘It creates a real incentive to shift real activity offshore.'” [Washington Post, 12/15/17]

Tax Cuts And Jobs Act Would Lead To More Expensive Health Insurance; 13 Million More Uninsured

Final Tax Bill Eliminated Central Affordable Care Act Provision, Leading To 13 Million Fewer Americans With Insurance. “The individual mandate is part of the Affordable Care Act, and removing it was a top priority for
Trump and congressional Republicans. The Congressional Budget Office projects the change will increase insurance premiums and lead to 13 million fewer Americans with insurance in a decade, while also cutting government spending by more than $300 billion over that period.” [Washington Post, 12/15/17]

**GOP Tax Bill Would Cause Health Insurance Premiums To Rise, And Could Lead Insurers To Drop Out Of Regional Markets.** “The final GOP plan will repeal the Affordable Care Act’s individual insurance mandate, which would allow young and healthy people to leave the insurance pool, forcing insurers to compensate by raising prices due to the higher costs of insuring only less-healthy people. Not only would premiums likely rise, but many insurers could drop out of regional markets.” [Newsweek, 12/18/17]

**HEADLINE: Republican Tax Plan Will Make Health Insurance More Expensive** [Newsweek, 12/18/17]

**Tax Cuts And Jobs Act Failed To Live Up To Republican Promises**


**CNN Money: Final Tax Bill “Adds Plenty Of Complications, Particularly For Small Businesses.”** “But the plan Republicans and Trump came up with almost certainly won’t put tax preparers out of business. The final tax bill, released on Friday, does indeed deliver some simplification, but not as much as promised. And it adds plenty of complications, particularly for small businesses.” [CNN Money, 12/18/17]

**Time: Republicans Failed To Follow Through On The “Central Promises” Of Their Tax Bill – To Allow People To File On A Postcard And To Benefit Working And Middle Class Americans.** “As they pushed their sweeping tax bill through Congress, Republicans made two central promises. First, that the bill would simplify the U.S. tax code, allowing citizens to file their taxes ‘on the back of a postcard.’ And second, that the overhaul would primarily benefit working Americans and the middle class. The first claim proved false. And economic experts are skeptical about the second, arguing that the bill aids businesses at the expense of middle-class taxpayers.” [Time, 12/19/17]

**Taylor Voted For Moving The Tax Cuts And Jobs Act To Conference**

In December 2017, Taylor voted for “Brady, R-Texas, motion that the House disagree with the Senate amendment and request a conference with the Senate on the bill that would revise the federal income tax system by lowering individual and corporate tax rates, repealing various deductions through 2025.” The motion to go to conference passed 222-192. [HR 1, Vote #653, 12/4/17; CQ Floor Votes, 12/4/17]

**Taylor Voted Against Instructing Conferees On The Tax Cuts And Jobs Act To Oppose Repeal Of The Individual Mandate And To Recede From The House Bill’s Provisions To Eliminate The SALT Deduction.** In December 2017, Taylor voted against “Neal, D-Mass., motion to instruct conferees to disagree with the Senate amendment that would repeal the individual health insurance mandate, and to recede from the section House bill that would eliminate the deduction for state and local income taxes through 2025.” The motion to instruct conferees failed 186-233. [HR 1, Vote #654, 12/4/17; CQ Floor Votes, 12/4/17]

**Taylor Voted Against Sending The Tax Bill Back To Conference And Instructing Conferees To Oppose Repeal Of The Individual Mandate And To Disagree With Provisions Related To The SALT Deduction.** In December 2017, Taylor voted against “Neal, D-Mass., motion to recommit the bill to the Committee of Conference with instructions to the managers on the part of the House that they disagree with provisions related to state and local tax deductions, and related to the bill’s language that would effectively repeal the individual health care mandate established by the 2010 health care overhaul.” The motion to recommit the conference report failed 191-236. [HR 1, Vote #691, 12/19/17; CQ Floor Votes, 12/19/17]
Taylor Voted For House Passage Of The Republican Tax Scam Bill

Taylor Voted For House Passage Of The Republican Tax Scam Bill. In November 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the bill that would revise the federal income tax system by: lowering individual and corporate tax rates; consolidating the current seven tax income rates into four rates; eliminating the deduction for state and local income taxes; limiting certain deductions for property taxes and home mortgages; and creating a new system of taxing U.S. corporations with foreign subsidiaries. Specifically, it would eliminate personal exemptions and would nearly double the standard deduction. It would raise the child tax credit through 2022, repeal the alternative minimum tax, repeal the estate tax in 2025 and reduce the gift tax rate in 2025. It would establish a new top tax rate for pass-through business income and would modify tax credits related to energy production.” The bill passed 227-205. [HR 1, Vote #637, 11/16/17; CQ Floor Votes, 11/16/17]

Taylor Voted For Considering The Tax Cuts And Jobs Act. In November 2017, Taylor voted for: “Adoption of the rule (H Res 619) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill (HR 1) that would revise the federal income tax system by: lowering individual and corporate tax rates; consolidating the current seven tax income rates into four rates; eliminating the deduction for state and local income taxes; limiting certain deductions for property taxes and home mortgages; and creating a new system of taxing U.S. corporations with foreign subsidiaries.” The rule was adopted 235-191. [HRes 619, Vote #633, 11/15/17; CQ, 11/15/17]

Politifact Found In 2018, Roughly 14 Million American Households Would See A Tax Increase, And The Number Would Grow Over Time, Increasing To 40 Million Americans By 2027. “In other words, while most Americans would indeed see a tax cut or a minor increase in the first year, 8 percent, or roughly 14 million American households, would see an increase of at least $100. (We approximated the raw number using Tax Policy Center data.) Meanwhile, the number of Americans facing a tax increase would grow over time. By 2027, 46 percent would see a decrease and 34 percent would see a change of less than $100, but 20 percent would see a tax increase. That could mean close to 40 million Americans would pay higher taxes in 2027 than they would under today’s tax laws.” [Politifact, 11/9/17]

House Version Of The Tax Cuts And Jobs Act Would Benefit Wealthy Americans And Corporations

Huffington Post: Republican Tax Bill “Would Dramatically Cut Taxes For Corporations And The Wealthy.” “Republicans finally unveiled their tax reform legislation Thursday with a draft bill that would dramatically cut taxes for corporations and the wealthy. GOP legislators generally stuck to their already released framework for the legislation: lowering individual and corporate tax rates while eliminating most individual deductions. But they also showed a willingness to jettison major aspects of their plan in order to get a bill through Congress.” [Huffington Post, 11/2/17]

Washington Post Fact Checker: “No Matter How You Slice It, The Superwealthy Do Rather Well Under The House GOP Proposal.” “Contrary to the president’s claim, the tax plan is not ‘so bad’ for the wealthy. In fact, no matter how you slice it, the superwealthy do rather well under the House GOP proposal. As we have said, that’s because they already pay a large chuck of income taxes already. Trump could actually make the distribution tables look better if he pushed to keep the AMT in place for incomes above $1 million and the estate tax in place for estates larger than $11 million. The failure to do so underscores the fact that this tax plan is not only for the middle class.” [Washington Post, 11/9/17]
**Washington Post Fact Checker: GOP Tax Plan Will Not Pay For Itself Or Reduce The Deficit.** “And it’s a fantasy to claim that the tax cut will pay for itself — and even reduce the deficit — especially in an economy that already has low unemployment and a booming stock market.” [Washington Post, 9/29/17]

**House Version Of The Tax Cuts And Jobs Act Repealed Medical Expense Deduction - Hurting Americans Who Need Long Term Care, Like Seniors With Alzheimer’s And Children With Chronic Illnesses**

Medical Expenses Deduction Helped Older Americans With Long Term Care Costs, And Younger Families Struggling To Care For Children With Chronic Conditions And Disabilities. “According to an analysis in January from the Joint Committee on Taxation, most taxpayers who claim the deduction have incomes below $100,000, with about 40 percent below $75,000. More than half of those who claim it are older than 65, according to AARP, the lobby for older Americans. They often face staggering medical and long-term care costs. The deduction also helps younger families struggling to pay the enormous cost of caring for children with chronic conditions or disabilities, and couples going through costly fertility treatments like in vitro fertilization.” [New York Times, 11/8/17]

New York Times: “Eliminating The Medical-Expense Deduction Would Hit The Middle Class Squarely, Eliminating A Source Of Relief That Has Helped Millions Of People Cope With Steep Medical Costs.” “But while the party has framed its tax plan as a boon for the middle class, eliminating the medical-expense deduction would hit the middle class squarely, eliminating a source of relief that has helped millions of people cope with steep medical costs in a country without comprehensive, universal health coverage.”

**House Version Of The Tax Cuts And Jobs Act Would End Tax Breaks For Teachers, Student Loans, Graduate Tuition**

Republican Tax Bill Cut Deduction For Teachers Who Spend Their Own Money On School Supplies, As They Are Regularly Expected To Do. “For now, teachers can get a small tax break — deducting up to $250 from their taxes — for what they spend on supplies. But under the GOP tax reform bill, that deduction would go away for teachers and other categories of workers, including certain state and local officials and performing artists. […] Unlike other professionals, teachers are regularly expected to furnish their own supplies. They are often filling in gaps where students are unable to afford supplies — and where districts are unable to furnish them. Teachers in the United States are not paid as well as other similarly educated professionals, studies have found.” [Washington Post, 11/2/17]

Washington Post: “The GOP Plan Would No Longer Allow People Repaying Their Student Loans To Reduce Their Tax Burden By Up To $2,500.” “The GOP plan would no longer allow people repaying their student loans to reduce their tax burden by up to $2,500. People whose employers cover a portion of their college costs would also see the money become taxable income. The plan would also do away with a tuition tax break for university employees and their families. As it stands, tuition discounts provided to that group are excluded from income, under what are known as qualified tuition reductions. Republicans estimate that doing away with all of those deductions and tax breaks will increase government revenue by $47.5 billion over the next decade.” [Washington Post, 11/2/17]

Under Republican Tax Bill, A Large Percentage Of Undergraduate And Graduate Students Would See Increases In Their Tax Bills, Some Dramatically. “To help pay for the $1.5 trillion tax cut, lawmakers eliminated many individual tax breaks, arguing the overall plan would compensate for any lost benefits. The result: while many families and businesses would see tax cuts, a large percentage of undergraduates and graduate students would see their tax bills increase, some dramatically.” [New York Times, 11/15/17]

**Taylor Voted To Allow Repeal Of The State And Local Tax Deduction**
Taylor Voted For Blocking An Amendment To Prohibit Repeal Of The State And Local Tax Deduction. In November 2017, Taylor voted for: “Sessions, R-Texas, motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and the possibility of amendment).” In a speech on the House floor, Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL) said, “if we defeat the previous question, I am going to offer an amendment that will prohibit any legislation from limiting or repealing the State and local tax deduction, which prevents millions of families from being taxed twice on the same income.” A vote for the amendment is a vote to block protecting the state and local tax deduction. The motion was agreed to 234-193. [HRes 619, Vote #632, 11/15/17; CQ, 11/15/17, Congressional Record, 11/15/17]
Trade Issues

Significant Findings

✓ Trade was not a main issue of Taylor’s campaign but he did claim that he wanted to reverse “bad trade deals.”

Taylor Claimed He Wanted To Reverse “Bad Trade Deals” But Never Specified Further

Taylor Said That “Bad Trade Deals” Had Caused “Economic Devastation” Across The Country

Taylor: “The Economic Devastation Realized Across Too Much Of America Because Of Bad Trade Deals Has To Be Reversed.” “My priorities are to: […] Ensure that our trade deals are fair to American workers; the economic devastation realized across too much of America because of bad trade deals has to be reversed.” [Scott Taylor U.S. Congress, accessed 8/11/17]
Veterans’ Issues

Significant Findings

✓ Taylor claimed that Trump was working to effect positive change for veterans.

✓ After Trump’s attacks on the Khan family, Taylor said he did not agree with Trump on “100 percent” of the issues.

✓ Trump introduced legislation to update regulations at the Veterans Administration.

✓ Taylor claimed that he had “insisted” on information about suicidal veterans from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

✓ Taylor voted for new Veterans Administration improvement measures but against any amendments offered by Democrats.

Veterans’ Administration

Taylor Stated That The U.S. Had To Hold The Veterans Administration Accountable For Underperformance

Taylor: “We Should Never Defend Mediocrity At The VA…” “We must continually and consistently hold the VA accountable for underperformance. Our veterans are sacred and deserve the same commitment to high standards they upheld as service members. We should never defend mediocrity at the VA, rather strive for better service, care, and excellence.” [Facebook, RepScottTaylor, 3/16/17]

2017: Taylor Introduced Several Pieces Of Legislation To Update Regulations At The Veterans Administration

June 2017: Taylor Introduced A Bill ToDisallow Reassignment Of Senior Executives At The Veterans Affairs Department Unless Approved In Writing By The Secretary. According to the bill’s text, the VA Senior Executive Accountability Act, or SEA Act, would amend subchapter 1 of chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, by adding a section disallowing the reassignment of senior executives at the department unless approved in writing and signed by the secretary and by submitting to Congress a report on the nature of the reassignment and associated costs. In the last action reported, the bill was received in the Senate and read twice before being referred to the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. [HR 2772, 6/6/17]

May 2017: Taylor Introduced A Bill To Require Reassignment Of Department Of Veterans Affairs Senior Executive Employees To Be Approved In Writing, Signed By The Secretary, And Detailed To Congress. According to the bill’s text, HR 2517 would amend subchapter 1 of chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, by adding a section disallowing the reassignment of senior executives at the department unless approved in writing and signed by the secretary and by submitting to Congress a report on the nature of the reassignment and associated costs. In the last action reported, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs’ Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity. [HR 2517, 5/18/17]

April 2017: Taylor Introduced A Resolution To Express The Sense That Congress And The President Should Help Foster Alliances Between The Police And The Communities They Serve. According to the bill’s text, HRes 285 would “express the sense of the United States House of Representatives that Congress and the
President should empower the creation of police and community alliances designed to enhance and improve communication and collaboration between members of the law enforcement community and the public they serve.”

In the last action reported, the bill was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary’s Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations. [HRes 285, 4/26/17]

March 2017: Taylor Introduced The “HOPS Act,” Which WouldDisallow Department Of Homeland Security Funds From Being Used For Uniforms Not Manufactured In The United States. According to the bill’s text, HR 1811 would “amend the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to prohibit the use of funds appropriated to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for the procurement of DHS uniforms not manufactured in the United States.” In the last action reported, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security’s Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency. [HR 1811, 3/30/17]

March 2017: Taylor Offered An Amendment To The VA Accountability First Act Of 2017, Which Would Require The Secretary Of The Veterans Affairs Department To Follow New Transparency Measures Regarding Reassignment Of Senior Executives. According to the amendment’s text, HAmndt 84 would insert the following language into page 9, after line 19, of HR 1259, The VA Accountability First Act Of 2017: “(i) Semi-annual Report on Transferred Employees- The Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives semi-annual reports on senior executive employees who are transferred within the Department. Each such report shall include, for each such senior executive employee transferred during the period covered by the report, the reason for the transfer and any costs associated with the transfer.” According to the last action reported, the amendment was agreed to by voice vote. [HAmndt 84, 3/16/17]

2017: Taylor Voted For New Veterans Administration Improvement Measures But Against Any Democratic Amendments

Taylor Voted To Block A Bill To Exempt The VA From The Trump Administration’s Hiring Freeze. In March 2017, Taylor voted for the “Buck, R-Colo., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule that would provide for House floor consideration of a bill (HR 1259).” According to Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL), a vote for the motion was a vote to block “an amendment to the rule to bring up HR 696, Representative Schrader’s bill to exempt the Department of Veterans Affairs from Donald John Trump’s hiring freeze. As we have already discussed, my amendment to allow the VA Secretary to fill vacant positions, regardless of whether they were vacated before or after the hiring freeze, was blocked last night in the Rules Committee. There are nearly 47,000 vacant positions within the VA, and we should not be limiting the VA’s authority to fill these positions, especially as we continue to work towards reducing patient wait times.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 227-185. [HRes 198, Vote #162, 3/16/17; Democratic Leader—Previous Questions, 3/16/17; Congressional Record, H2099, 3/16/17; CQ, 3/16/17]

Taylor Voted To Provide For Consideration Of A Bill Creating New VA Staffing And Retention Programs And A Bill Prohibiting A VA Determination That A Veteran Is Mentally Incompetent From Automatically Preventing A Veteran From Being Able To Buy A Gun. In March 2017, Taylor voted for “adoption of rule that would provide for House floor consideration of a bill (HR 1259) that would expand the Veterans Affairs Department’s ability to fire, demote and suspend employees for misconduct; a bill (HR 1367) that would establish various new staffing, recruitment and retention programs at the VA; and a bill (HR 1181) that would prohibit a VA determination that a veteran is mentally incompetent from automatically preventing the veteran from being able to purchase a gun.” The rule was adopted by a vote of 229-187. [HRes 198, Vote #163, 3/16/17; CQ, 3/16/17]

Taylor Voted To Expand The Veteran Affairs Department’s Ability To Fire, Demote, Or Suspend Employees For Misconduct. In March 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the bill that would expand the Veterans Affairs Department’s ability to fire, demote and suspend employees for misconduct or poor performance. The measure would authorize the VA to recoup any bonus paid to a VA employee if the VA deems it appropriate, and it would require that the employee be given advance notice and the right to appeal the decision. As amended, the measure would require that annual performance reviews for supervisors at the VA include evaluations on the supervisor’s ability to address poor performance among their employees and would require the VA to provide
supervisors with periodic training related to whistleblower rights and effective management techniques.” The bill passed by a vote of 237-178. [HR 1259, Vote #168, 3/16/17; CQ, 3/16/17]

Taylor Voted Against Removing The Expansion Of The Veteran Affairs Department’s Ability To Fire Or Demote Employees For Misconduct From The VA Accountability First Act. In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Walz, D-Minn., amendment that would remove the bill’s provisions that would expand the Veterans Affairs Department’s ability to fire, demote and suspend employees for misconduct, and would alternatively expand the VA’s authority to suspend or demote senior executives. It would allow for the removal of non-executives for performance issues occurring only within a preceding two-year period.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 194-223. [HR 1259, Vote #165, 3/16/17; CQ, 3/16/17]

Taylor Voted Against Replacing The Proposed VA Employee Removal Process For A Process That Provides For The Removal Of VA Employees For Misconduct Related To Public Health And Safety In The VA Accountability First Act. In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Takano, D-Calif., amendment that would replace the bill’s proposed VA employee removal process with an alternative process that would provide for the suspension and removal of Veterans Affairs Department employees for misconduct that is a threat to public health and safety. Suspended employees would be entitled to a written statement of the charges, a hearing and a review of their case. It would also provide for back pay for suspended whistleblowers.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 183-232. [HR 1259, Vote #166, 3/16/17; CQ, 3/16/17]

Taylor Voted Against Consideration Of An Amendment Extending Whistleblower Protections In The VA. In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Kihuen, D-Nev., motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs with instructions to report it back immediately with an amendment that would extend the bill’s whistleblower protections to individuals that make disclosures to the central whistleblower office, including those who do so anonymously. It would also exempt veterans and whistleblowers from the bill’s provisions that would expand the Veterans Affairs Department’s ability to fire, demote and suspend employees for misconduct or poor performance.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 189-229. [HR 1259, Vote #167, 3/16/17; CQ, 3/16/17]

Taylor Voted To Update VA Guidelines On The Employee Hiring And Evaluation Process. In March 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the bill that would require the Veterans Affairs Inspector General to determine non-clinical VA health care positions that should be eligible for expedited hiring, require annual performance reviews for all political appointees at the VA, and would require the VA to establish a database with information on qualified individuals who previously applied for a position at the VA. The measure would require that the information from the database be used to fill positions that have been vacant for an extended period of time. As amended, it would prohibit the secretary of the VA from appointing former political appointees to non-political positions one grade higher than their last position at the VA without having to go through a competitive selection process.” The bill passed by a vote of 412-0. [HR 1367, Vote #171, 3/17/17; CQ, 3/17/17]

Taylor Claimed That He Had “Insisted” On Information About Suicidal Veterans From The Department Of Veterans Affairs

Taylor’s Official Facebook Page Claimed That Taylor “Insisted On Information From The Department Of Veterans Affairs Detailing The Process For Treating Suicidal Veterans…” “Today, Rep. Taylor insisted on information from the Department of Veterans Affairs detailing the process for treating suicidal veterans who physically show up to VA facilities and either state or exhibit suicidal signs. He had this to say, “Our community knows the impact multiple deployments and war has on individuals, not only when they are actively in service, but when they come back home. I want to be sure that we are doing every possible thing we can to guarantee that our veterans are given every opportunity to receive the care they need and are never turned away when potentially suicidal. I look forward to receiving a timely response from the VA and working with them to fix and improve the appropriate policies.”” [Facebook, RepScottTaylor, 3/30/17]
**Taylor Wanted To Build A New Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic In Virginia Beach**

Taylor Advocated The Potential Building Of A VA Outpatient Clinic In Virginia Beach, To Be Developed by A “Service-Disabled Veteran.” “Rep. Scott Taylor is working with Virginia Beach officials and the federal Veteran Affairs Department to press for a public-private partnership to build a massive VA outpatient clinic near other medical facilities in the city’s Princess Anne Commons. […] The Beach would set up a partnership with a yet-to-be-named developer who would build the new clinic and lease it to the VA. […] Taylor noted in an Aug. 3 letter to [Virginia Beach Mayor Will] Sessoms that he was advised that a successful approach would be for the city to conduct competitive bidding so it could transfer public land to a developer with specific conditions. It may be preferable to work with a business owned by a ‘service-disabled veteran’ who could link with a financially stronger partner, Taylor wrote.” [Virginian-Pilot, 8/15/17]

**Trump And Veterans**

**2016: Taylor Defended Trump’s Record On Veterans**

Taylor Said That Trump’s Speech To The American Legion During His Campaign Had Shown “A Strong Commitment To Our Veterans.” “BERMAN: Now, you have been, as a Donald Trump supporter, I don’t want to use the word critical but you have been concerned over the last month or so occasionally about the tone that Donald Trump uses on the campaign trail and when addressing other people. Look at the last 24 hours. What’s your feeling on his tone? TAYLOR: Well, let’s look at the speech he just gave to the American Legion. I think it shows a strong commitment to our veterans. I am a candidate for Congress in Virginia and our district has active-duty veterans. I myself am in the V.A. system. In contrast, of course, Hillary Clinton said there’s not widespread problems at the V.A. A lot of folks here, literally thousands of them in my district, know there are. I think he did a great job in Ohio. On the world stage where the world leader, where he was basically an equal to the president standing there, of Mexico, I think that he did a great job.” [CNN, 9/1/16]

**Trump’s Criticism Of The Khan Family**

**2016: Taylor Pivoted Away From Condemning Trump For His Actions Toward The Khan Family**

Taylor: “Gold Star Families, You Should Just, You Know, Say I’m Sorry For Your Loss, Thanks For Your Service And Certainly Move On. I’m Not Going To Agree 100 Percent With Mr. Trump.”

VIDEO: Taylor Criticized Trump For Not Apologizing To The Khan Family But Said “I’m Not Going To Agree 100 Percent With Mr. Trump But I’m Going To Agree With Most Things.” “BERMAN: You are a veteran. You were a Navy SEAL I believe, served in Iraq and many other places. You expressed concern, this is after the convention when Donald Trump had his dust-up with an, the Gold Star parents the Marine who died fighting in Iraq. At the time you said Donald Trump should apologize to the Khan family. Has he, as far as you know, issued an apology? TAYLOR: I’m not sure if he’s issued. Now, listen, I’m not going to agree with anyone 100 percent of the time. I don’t think any in the audience agrees with someone 100 percent of the time. So, yeah, in situations like that, Gold Star families, you should just, you know, say I’m sorry for your loss, thanks for your service and certainly move on. I’m not going to agree 100 percent with Mr. Trump but I’m going to agree with most things. I imagine your Hillary supporters that come on your show don’t agree with her 100 percent of the time either.” [CNN, 9/1/16]
Women

**Significant Findings**

- Taylor said the only exception to a ban on abortion should be to save the woman’s life.
- Taylor voted repeatedly to defund Planned Parenthood.
- Taylor committed to protecting VOCA and VAWA at a town hall.

Abortion

**Taylor Stated That The Only Exception For Abortion Should Be If The Woman’s Life Is In Danger**

2010: Taylor Opposed Abortion And Said That The Only Exceptions For Abortion Should Be In The Case That The Woman’s Life Is In Danger. “While all oppose abortion, how they define ‘pro-life’ varies. […] Scott Taylor of Virginia Beach said the only exception should be when the woman’s life is in danger.” [Virginian-Pilot, 5/31/10]

**Taylor Was A Member Of The Bi-Partisan Congressional Pro-Life Caucus**

2017: Taylor Was A Member Of The Bi-Partisan Congressional Pro-Life Caucus. [Congressman Scott Taylor, accessed 7/31/17]

Planned Parenthood

**Taylor Voted To Defund Planned Parenthood**


2017: Taylor Voted For The American Health Care Act – The Republican Health Care Repeal Bill – Which Would Defund Planned Parenthood. In May 2017, Taylor voted for “Passage of the bill that would make extensive changes to the 2010 health care overhaul law […] It would prohibit federal funding to any entity, such as Planned Parenthood, that performs abortions and receives more than $350 million a year in Medicaid funds.” The bill was passed by a vote of 217-213. [HR 1628, Vote #256, 5/4/17; CQ, 5/4/17]

2017: Taylor Voted To Make It Possible For States To Withhold Federal Grants From Planned Parenthood

Taylor Voted To Reverse Obama Rule Preventing States From Withholding Grants From Planned Parenthood. In February 2017, Taylor voted for overturning “an Obama-era rule banning states from denying federal funds to Planned Parenthood and other health care providers that perform abortions. The rule was designed to prohibit states from withholding family planning funding from providers for reasons other than their ability to offer family-planning services.” The resolution was passed by a vote of 230-188. [HJRes 43, Vote #99, 2/16/17; USA Today, 2/16/17]

Taylor Actively Voiced Support For Defunding Planned Parenthood: “Two Dozen Other Facilities In The Area Provide Eight Times More Services”
2017: Taylor Said He Supported Eliminating All Federal Funding For Planned Parenthood. “Questioners in the audience of roughly 750 people pressed Rep. Scott W. Taylor (Va.), a former state lawmaker and Navy SEAL, on President Trump’s connections to Russia and the specifics of what pieces of the Affordable Care Act he wants to keep. They rained down a chorus of boos when he said he opposes federal funding for Planned Parenthood.” [Washington Post, 2/22/17]

Taylor Argued That “Two Dozen Other Facilities In The Area Provide Eight Times More Services For Women.” “When asked about Planned Parenthood, Taylor, who was elected in November, was booed when he said he supported stopping all the organization’s federal funding. Two dozen other facilities in the area provide eight times more services for women, Taylor said, adding that ‘none of those facilities spend money attacking people politically.’” [Virginian-Pilot, 2/21/17]

### Discrimination

Taylor Voted Against Consideration Of An Amendment That Prevented Insurance Plans From Charging Women Higher Premiums Than Men

Taylor Voted Against Consideration Of An Amendment That Prevented Insurance Plans From Charging Women Higher Premiums Than Men. In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “Schakowsky, D-Ill., motion to recommit the bill to the House Energy and Commerce Committee with instructions to report back immediately with an amendment that would state that the bill could not be interpreted to allow health insurance plans to charge women higher premiums than they charge men.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 187-235. [HR 7, Vote #64, 1/24/17; CQ, 1/24/17]

### Violence Against Women

Taylor Committed To Support Funding The Victims Of Crime Act And Violence Against Women Act

2017: Taylor Promised To Support The VOCA And VAWA Programs And Their Funding At A Virginia Beach Town Hall. “CONSTITUENT: We’ve had some indications that VOCA, the Victims of Crime Act, and VAWA, the Violence Against Women Act—that the funding for those programs are going to be cut by the Department of Justice. And I’m just acting for your commitment to support those programs and that funding. TAYLOR: You have it.” [Youtube, Live Satellite News, 2/21/17] Note: See Virginia Beach Town Hall 2.21.17 video saved on drive.
Appendix I – Personal Financial Disclosures

2017 – Federal Personal Financial Disclosure

Note: Numbers updated as of 8/15/17.

Net Worth

2016: Taylor Had An Estimated Net Worth Between $349,661 And -$1,636,860

2016: Taylor Had An Estimated Net Worth Between $349,661 And -$1,636,860. [Taylor 2016 New Member Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed 7/14/17]

Earned Income

2017: Taylor Reported No Earned Income As Of August 2017


2016: Taylor Reported $32,640 In Earned Income


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 Taylor Earned Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commonwealth of Virginia</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

[Taylor 2016 Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed 7/14/17]

2016: The Base Salary For A Member Of The Virginia House Of Delegates Was $17,640 A Year. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, the base salary for a member of the Virginia House of Delegates was $16,640, the mileage reimbursement was .54/mile and session per diem rate was $185 a day. [National Conference of State Legislatures, 2016 Survey: State Legislative Compensations, Session Per Diem and Mileage, accessed 9/1/17]

Assets & Unearned Income

2017: Taylor Reported No Unearned Income As Of August 2017


2016: Taylor Reported Between $50,015 And $151,000 In Unearned Income

2016: Taylor Reported Between $50,015 And $151,000 In Unearned Income. [Taylor 2016 New Member Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed 7/14/17]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 Taylor Assets &amp; “Unearned” Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
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</table>
Taylor Reported Making Between $45,009 And $135,000 In Rent On Properties Owned By Assurance Properties. [Taylor 2016 New Member Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed 7/14/17]

Taylor Reported Making Between $5,001 And $15,000 In Rent On A Piper Arrow Aircraft. [Taylor 2016 New Member Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed 7/14/17] See Further Research for unresolved questions related to Taylor’s ownership of the aircraft.

2015: Taylor Reported Between $120,004 And $1,065,200 In Unearned Income

2015: Taylor Reported Between $120,004 And $1,065,200 In Unearned Income. [Taylor 2016 Candidate Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed 5/16/16]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset</th>
<th>Year-End Value</th>
<th>Income Type</th>
<th>Amount of Income</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Min</td>
<td>Max</td>
<td>Min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assurance International, 100% Interest</td>
<td>$1</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>Book Income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assurance Properties LLC, 100% Interest</td>
<td>$1,000,001</td>
<td>$5,000,000</td>
<td>Rent</td>
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<td>Navy Federal Credit Union</td>
<td>$50,001</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>Interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neptune Associates, 100% Interest</td>
<td>$1,001</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>Real Estate Commissions</td>
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<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td>$1,051,004</td>
<td>$5,116,000</td>
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[Taylor 2016 Candidate Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed 5/16/16]

Liabilities

2016: Taylor Reported Between $1,000,001 And $5,000,000 In Liabilities

2016: Taylor Reported Between $1,000,001 And $5,000,000 In Liabilities. [Taylor 2016 New Member Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed 7/14/17]

2016 TAYLOR LIABILITIES
## 2015: Taylor Reported Between $510,001 And $1,015,000 In Liabilities

### 2015 TAYLOR LIABILITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>DATE INCURRED</th>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>AMOUNT OF LIABILITY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Union Bank, Virginia</td>
<td>9/15</td>
<td>Mortgage on Rental Properties</td>
<td>$1,000,001-$5,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beach, VA</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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[Taylor 2016 New Member Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed 7/14/17]

### Positions

#### 2016: Taylor Reported Four Positions

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>POSITION</th>
<th>NAME OF ORGANIZATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Delegate</td>
<td>Virginia House of Delegates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Assurance Properties, LLC – Uncompensated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Assurance International, LLC – Uncompensated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President/Principal Broker</td>
<td>Neptune Associates – Uncompensated</td>
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[Taylor 2016 Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed 7/14/17]

#### 2015: Taylor Reported Four Positions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name Of Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Delegate</td>
<td>Virginia House of Delegates</td>
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<td>Manager</td>
<td>Assurance Properties, LLC – Uncompensated</td>
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<td>Manager</td>
<td>Assurance International, LLC – Uncompensated</td>
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<tr>
<td>President/Principal Broker</td>
<td>Neptune Associates – Uncompensated</td>
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[Taylor 2016 Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed 7/14/17]

#### 2014: Taylor Reported Four Positions

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Assurance Intl.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal Broker</td>
<td>Neptune Associates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner</td>
<td>Neptune Rehab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Courthouse Fitness LLC DBA Anytime Fitness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Taylor 2015 Assembly Statement of Economic Interests, filed 3/23/15]
Appendix II – Campaign Finance

**Items of Interest**

- Taylor’s congressional campaign committee raised more than $1.3 million and spent more than $1.1 million.

- Taylor loaned himself more than $110,000 over the course of his political career, despite being in significant debt. His campaigns repaid him for all of his loans.

**Toplines**

**U.S. House Of Representatives**

**Taylor’s Congressional Campaign Committee Raised More Than $1.3 Million And Spent More Than $1.1 Million**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Contributions</th>
<th>PACs</th>
<th>Party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$502,769</td>
<td>$190,250</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$832,852.99</td>
<td>$307,699.95</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$62,693.23</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career</td>
<td>$1,398,315.22</td>
<td>$497,949.95</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Federal Election Commission, Candidate and Committee Viewer, accessed 8/14/17]

**Taylor For Congress – Total Expenditures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Expenditures</th>
<th>Operating Expenditures</th>
<th>Refunds</th>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Committee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$273,661.52</td>
<td>$258,179.52</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$806,017.60</td>
<td>$712,217.66</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$64,797.83</td>
<td>$42,307.83</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career</td>
<td>$1,144,476.95</td>
<td>$1,012,705.01</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Federal Election Commission, Candidate and Committee Viewer, accessed 8/14/17]

Note: Campaign finance numbers were last updated 8/14/17 and the last report included was the June quarterly.

**House Of Delegates**

**Taylor For Delegate Campaign Committee Funds Top Lines**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Receipts</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$83,856</td>
<td>$77,206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$259,495</td>
<td>$258,458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$343,351</td>
<td>$335,664</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Virginia Public Access Project, accessed 8/14/17]

**House of Delegates Career: Raised $343,351**

House of Delegates Career: Spent $335,664


Taylor’s Mayoral Campaign Committee Spent $38,556 And Raised $38,554

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Receipts</th>
<th>Expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$38,556</td>
<td>$38,554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$38,556</td>
<td>$38,554</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Virginia Public Access Project, accessed 8/14/17]

Candidate Self Loans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Receipts</th>
<th>Expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Self-Loans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018 U.S. House</td>
<td>$502,769</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 U.S. House</td>
<td>$832,852.99</td>
<td>$38,132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 VA House</td>
<td>$83,856</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 VA House</td>
<td>$259,495</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 U.S. House</td>
<td>$62,693.23</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Mayoral</td>
<td>$38,556</td>
<td>$44,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career</td>
<td>$1,780,222.22</td>
<td>$112,132</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Federal Election Commission, Candidate and Committee Viewer, accessed 8/14/17; Virginia Public Access Project, accessed 8/14/17; Virginia Public Access Project, accessed 8/14/17]

Career: Loaned His Campaigns $112,132


Career: Repaid Himself $102,132


Top Congressional Campaign Committee Contributors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Contributor</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Indivs</th>
<th>PACs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Honeywell International</td>
<td>$17,999</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$17,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Anheuser-Busch</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Norfolk Southern</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Prosperity Action</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Supporting Electing American Leaders</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 8/15/17]
Taylor’s Top Campaign Contributor Was Honeywell International

Taylor’s Top Campaign Contributor Was Honeywell International. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 8/15/17]

Anheuser-Busch, Norfolk Southern, And Prosperity Action Were Also Top Contributors

Anheuser-Busch, Norfolk Southern, And Prosperity Action Were Also Top Contributors To Taylor’s Campaign Committee. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 8/15/17]

NOTE: According to the Center for Responsive Politics, “The organizations themselves did not donate, rather the money came from the organizations’ PACs, their individual members or employees or owners, and those individuals’ immediate families. Organization totals include subsidiaries and affiliates” [Center for Responsive Politics Top Contributors, accessed 3/21/17]

Top Overall Industries

Note: Numbers last updated 10/5/17.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>PACs</th>
<th>Indivs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>$119,560</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$119,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Leadership PACs</td>
<td>$87,700</td>
<td>$87,700</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Real Estate</td>
<td>$82,700</td>
<td>$9,500</td>
<td>$73,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Misc Defense</td>
<td>$39,350</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
<td>$15,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>General Contractors</td>
<td>$38,050</td>
<td>$29,050</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 8/15/17]

Retired People Were Taylor’s Top Contributor By Industry And Contributed $119,560

Retired People Were Taylor’s Top Contributors By Industry And Contributed $119,560. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 8/15/17]

Leadership PACs, Real Estate, And Miscellaneous Defense Were Also Top Contributing Industries

Leadership PACs, Real Estate, And Miscellaneous Defense Were Also Top Contributing Industries. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 8/15/17]

NOTE: According to the Center for Responsive Politics, “The organizations themselves did not donate, rather the money came from the organizations’ PACs, their individual members or employees or owners, and those individuals’ immediate families. Organization totals include subsidiaries and affiliates” [Center for Responsive Politics Top Contributors, accessed 3/21/17]

2018 Cycle: Retired People Were Taylor’s Top Contributor By Industry So Far And Contributed $48,290

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>PACs</th>
<th>Indivs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>$48,290</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$48,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Real Estate</td>
<td>$25,450</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>$21,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Leadership PACs</td>
<td>$21,000</td>
<td>$21,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Beer, Wine &amp; Liquor</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Misc Defense</td>
<td>$17,200</td>
<td>$14,500</td>
<td>$2,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 8/15/17]
NOTE: Includes campaign committee and leadership PAC (Unknown, more research necessary).

2016 Cycle: Retired People Were Taylor’s Top Contributor By Industry And Contributed $77,470

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>$77,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Leadership PACs</td>
<td>$66,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Real Estate</td>
<td>$54,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Republican/Conservative</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Automotive</td>
<td>$23,450</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 10/5/17]

NOTE: Numbers for PACs and Individuals not available.

Overall Sectors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>PACs</th>
<th>Indivs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Finance, Insurance &amp; Real Estate</td>
<td>$193,550</td>
<td>$37,500</td>
<td>$156,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ideological/Single-Issue</td>
<td>$155,020</td>
<td>$139,200</td>
<td>$15,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$154,395</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$154,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Misc Business</td>
<td>$138,299</td>
<td>$69,999</td>
<td>$68,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Defense</td>
<td>$83,350</td>
<td>$64,500</td>
<td>$18,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$75,750</td>
<td>$51,000</td>
<td>$24,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>$55,050</td>
<td>$11,500</td>
<td>$43,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Lawyers &amp; Lobbyists</td>
<td>$39,160</td>
<td>$6,500</td>
<td>$32,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Agribusiness</td>
<td>$37,700</td>
<td>$23,000</td>
<td>$14,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Communications/Electronics</td>
<td>$35,400</td>
<td>$23,500</td>
<td>$11,900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 8/15/17]

The Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate Sector Was Taylor’s Top Contributing Sector And Contributed $193,550

The Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate Sector Was Taylor’s Top Contributing Sector And Contributed $193,550. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 8/15/17]

Single-Issue, Other, And Miscellaneous Business Sectors Were Also Top Contributors By Sector

Single-Issue, Unclassified, And Miscellaneous Business Were Also Top Contributing Sectors. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 8/15/17]

NOTE: According to the Center for Responsive Politics, “The organizations themselves did not donate, rather the money came from the organizations’ PACs, their individual members or employees or owners, and those individuals’ immediate families. Organization totals include subsidiaries and affiliates” [Center for Responsive Politics Top Contributors, accessed 3/21/17]

2018 Cycle: The Finance, Insurance, And Real Estate Sector Was Taylor’s Top Contributing Sector And Contributed $70,650

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Finance/Insur/RealEst</td>
<td>$70,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Misc Business</td>
<td>$62,359</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 8/15/17]
### 2016 Cycle: The Finance, Insurance, And Real Estate Sector Was Taylor’s Top Contributing Sector And Contributed $129,000

**Taylor 2016 Cycle Top Sectors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Finance/Insur/RealEst</td>
<td>$129,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ideology/Single-Issue</td>
<td>$115,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$98,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Misc Business</td>
<td>$76,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$41,450</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 10/5/17]
Appendix III – Revolving Door

Top Lines

None Of Taylor’s Staffers Entered The Revolving Door

None Of Taylor’s Staffers Entered The Revolving Door. [Legistorm, Revolving Door Search, accessed 8/14/17]
# Appendix IV – Paid Media Summary

*NOTE: Paid media advertisements saved on drive.*

## Taylor Paid Media Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Notable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/27/16</td>
<td>“Scott Taylor for Congress”</td>
<td>Scott Taylor for Congress ad, military service, veterans</td>
<td>Positive, personal record</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/25/16</td>
<td>“Scott Taylor Spanish Ad”</td>
<td>Scott Taylor for Congress radio ad, Spanish language</td>
<td>Positive, personal record</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/25/16</td>
<td>“Scott Taylor Hampton Roads Radio”</td>
<td>Scott Taylor for Congress radio ad</td>
<td>Positive, personal record</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/25/16</td>
<td>“Scott Taylor Eastern Shore Radio”</td>
<td>Scott Taylor for Congress radio ad, replace Obamacare, veterans</td>
<td>Positive, personal record</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/4/16</td>
<td>“Scott Taylor’s Ad”</td>
<td>Scott Taylor for Congress ad, attacks Randy Forbes</td>
<td>Negative, personal record</td>
<td>Republican Primary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/15/16</td>
<td>“Scott Taylor: A Fresh Start”</td>
<td>Scott Taylor for Congress ad, attacks Randy Forbes, military experience</td>
<td>Personal record, negative attacks on opponent</td>
<td>Republican Primary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/10/15</td>
<td>“We Get Angry”</td>
<td>OPSEC radio ad, Benghazi, Hillary Clinton</td>
<td>Negative, encourages listener to visit Benghazivoices.com</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/3/12</td>
<td>“Bump in the Road”</td>
<td>OPSEC, Benghazi, Obama Administration</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>TV ad ran in battleground states</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/23/09</td>
<td>“Scott Taylor for Congress”</td>
<td>Taylor’s 2010 run for congress</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix V – Bill Sponsorships & Amendments

## Toplines

*Note: Tables updated as of 9/26/17.*

### Taylor Sponsorship Toplines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Congress</th>
<th># of Sponsorships</th>
<th># Became Law</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>115th Congress (2017 - 2018)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Congress.gov, accessed 8/12/17]

### Taylor Sponsorships By Subject

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th># Of Bills Sponsored</th>
<th># Became Law</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Armed Forces and National Security</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime and Law Enforcement</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Operations and Politics</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Affairs</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Congress.gov, accessed 8/12/17]

## 115th Congress

*NOTE: Updated as of 9/26/17.*

### Taylor Sponsored 7 Bills, 1 Of Which Became Law

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Bill #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Last Action</th>
<th>Last Action/Effective Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/6/17</td>
<td>H.R.2772</td>
<td>SEA Act</td>
<td>Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs</td>
<td>7/31/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/18/17</td>
<td>H.R.2517</td>
<td>To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for requirements relating to the reassignment of Department of Veterans Affairs senior executive employees</td>
<td>Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity</td>
<td>5/18/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/30/17</td>
<td>H.R.1811</td>
<td>HOPS Act</td>
<td>Referred to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency</td>
<td>4/11/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/9/17</td>
<td>H.R.1447</td>
<td>Fair and Equal Housing Act of 2017</td>
<td>Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice</td>
<td>3/21/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/26/17</td>
<td>H.Res.285</td>
<td>Expressing the sense of the United States House of Representatives that Congress and the President should refer to the Committee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations</td>
<td>Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice</td>
<td>5/2/17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
embrace the creation of police and community alliances designed to enhance and improve communication and collaboration between members of the law enforcement community and the public they serve.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Committee/Action</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/16/17</td>
<td>H.Res.200</td>
<td>Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should develop and adopt a comprehensive cybersecurity policy</td>
<td>Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs</td>
<td>3/16/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/16/17</td>
<td>H.Amdt.8</td>
<td>Page 9, after line 19, insert the following: &quot;(i) Semi-annual Report on Transferred Employees - The Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives semi-annual reports on senior executive employees who are transferred within the Department. Each such report shall include, for each such senior executive employee transferred during the period covered by the report, the reason for the transfer and any costs associated with the transfer.&quot;</td>
<td>On agreeing to the Taylor amendment (A004) Agreed to by voice vote</td>
<td>3/17/17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

June 2017: Taylor Introduced HR 2772, The “SEA Act,” Which Would Disallow Reassignment of Senior Executives At The Veterans Affairs Department Unless Approved In Writing By The Secretary. According to the bill’s text, the VA Senior Executive Accountability Act, or SEA Act, would amend subchapter 1 of chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, by adding a section disallowing the reassignment of senior executives at the department unless approved in writing and signed by the secretary and by submitting to Congress a report on the nature of the reassignment and associated costs. In the last action reported, the bill was received in the Senate and read twice before being referred to the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. [HR 2772, 6/6/17]

May 2017: Taylor Introduced HR 2517, To Amend Title 38, United States Code, To Provide For Requirements Relating To The Reassignment Of Department Of Veterans Affairs Senior Executive Employees. According to the bill’s text, HR 2517 would amend subchapter 1 of chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, by adding a section disallowing the reassignment of senior executives at the department unless approved in writing and signed by the secretary and by submitting to Congress a report on the nature of the reassignment and associated costs. In the last action reported, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs’ Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity. [HR 2517, 5/18/17]

April 2017: Taylor Introduced HRes 285, Which Would Express The Sense That Congress And The President Should Help Foster Alliances Between The Police And The Communities They Serve. According to the bill’s text, HRes 285 would “express the sense of the United States House of Representatives that Congress and the President should empower the creation of police and community alliances designed to enhance and improve communication and collaboration between members of the law enforcement community and the public they serve.” In the last action reported, the bill was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary’s Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations. [HRes 285, 4/26/17]

prohibit the use of funds appropriated to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for the procurement of DHS uniforms not manufactured in the United States.” In the last action reported, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security’s Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency. [HR 1811, 3/30/17]

March 2017: Taylor Introduced HRes 200, Which Would Express The Sense That The United States Should Develop A Comprehensive Cybersecurity Policy. According to the bill’s text, HRes 200, would express the “sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should develop and adopt a comprehensive cybersecurity policy that clearly defines acts of aggression, acts of war, and other related events in cyberspace, including any commensurate responses to any such act or event in cyberspace.” In the last action reported, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. [HRes 200, 3/16/17]

March 2017: Taylor Offered HAmdt 84, An Amendment To The VA Accountability First Act Of 2017, Which Would Require The Secretary Of The Veterans Affairs Department To Follow New Transparency Measures Regarding Reassignment Of Senior Executives. According to the amendment’s text, HAmdt 84 would insert the following language into page 9, after line 19, of HR 1259, The VA Accountability First Act Of 2017: “(i) Semi-annual Report on Transferred Employees- The Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives semi-annual reports on senior executive employees who are transferred within the Department. Each such report shall include, for each such senior executive employee transferred during the period covered by the report, the reason for the transfer and any costs associated with the transfer.” According to the last action reported, the amendment was agreed to by voice vote. [HAmdt 84, 3/16/17]

March 2017: Taylor Introduced HR 1447, The “Fair And Equal Housing Act Of 2017,” Which Would Amend The Fair Housing Act Under The Civil Rights Act Of 1968 To Add Sexual Orientation And Gender Identity As Protected Classes. According to the bill’s text, HR 1447 would “amend the Fair Housing Act (FHA) under the Civil Rights Act of 1968 to add sexual orientation and gender identity as classes protected against discrimination in the sale, rental, or financing of housing.” In the last action reported, the bill was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary’s Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice. [HR 1447, 3/9/17]
Appendix VI – Bill Co-Sponsorships

Note: Tables updated as of 9/27/17.

Toplines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Congress</th>
<th>Co-Sponsorships</th>
<th>Became Law</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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[Congress.gov, accessed 8/12/17]

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<tr>
<td>Armed Forces and National Security</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues</td>
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<td>Government Operations and Politics</td>
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<td>Immigration</td>
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<td>Finance and Financial Sector</td>
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<td>Emergency Management</td>
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<td>Native Americans</td>
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<td>Science, Technology, Communications</td>
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<td>Social Welfare</td>
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<td>Sports and Recreation</td>
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[Congress.gov, accessed 9/20/17]

Taylor Co-Sponsored 13 Bills With Fewer Than 10 Other Members

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date Intro.</th>
<th>Bill #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Cosponsors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/11/17</td>
<td>HR 3184</td>
<td>To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 180 McCormick Road in Charlottesville, Virginia, as the “Captain Humayun Khan Post Office”.</td>
<td>Rep. Thomas Garrett (R, VA-5)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/11/17</td>
<td>HR 3183</td>
<td>To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13683 James Madison Highway in Palmyra, Virginia, as the “U.S. Navy Seaman Dakota Kyle Rigsby Post Office”.</td>
<td>Rep. Thomas Garrett (R, VA-5)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Bill #</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Last Action</td>
<td>Last Action/Effective Date</td>
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<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/6/17</td>
<td>HR 2774</td>
<td>Hack DHS Act</td>
<td>Rep. Ted Lieu (D, CA-33)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/7/17</td>
<td>HR 1383</td>
<td>Recognizing Officers and Enlisted Men of the Korean Constabulary Act of 2017</td>
<td>Rep. Don Bacon (R, NE-2)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/13/17</td>
<td>HR 1019</td>
<td>To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 255 West Main Street Charlottesville, Virginia, as the “Justice Antonin G. Scalia Federal Building and United States Courthouse”.</td>
<td>Rep. Thomas Garrett (R, VA-5)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/24/17</td>
<td>HR 628</td>
<td>Guaranteed Health Coverage for Pre-Existing Conditions Act of 2017</td>
<td>Rep. Rodney Davis (R, IL-13)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/1/17</td>
<td>HJRes 85</td>
<td>Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States limiting the number of terms Senators and Representatives may serve.</td>
<td>Rep. Mike Gallagher (R, WI-8)</td>
<td>6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

[Congress.gov, accessed 9/20/17]

### 115th Congress

**Taylor Co-Sponsored 65 Bills, Two Of Which Became Law**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taylor 115th Congress Co-Sponsorships</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/17/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/11/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/3/17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Two Bills Co-Sponsored By Taylor Were Signed Into Law

Taylor Cosponsored The “Global War On Terrorism War Memorial Act,” Allowing For The Establishment Of A National Global War On Terror Memorial Paid For With Private Funds. In April 2017, Taylor cosponsored a bill that “allows the Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation to establish the National Global War on Terrorism Memorial as a commemorative work on federal land in the District of Columbia to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism. […] The bill prohibits the use of federal funds to pay any expenses for the establishment of the memorial.” [HR 873, summary, 8/18/17; cosponsors, 4/28/17]

Taylor Cosponsored The “Inspiring The Next Space Pioneers, Innovators, Researchers, And Explorers (INSPIRE) Women Act,” Which Directs NASA To Encourage Women And Girls To Pursue Education And Career In STEM Fields. In January 2017, Taylor cosponsored a bill that “directs the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to encourage women and girls to study science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), pursue careers in aerospace, and further advance the nation’s space science and exploration efforts through support of the following initiatives: NASA GIRLS and NASA BOYS; Aspire to Inspire; and Summer Institute in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Research.” [HR 321, summary, 2/28/17; cosponsors, 1/9/17]

# Appendix VII – Office Expenditures

## 2017

### Office Expenditures

*Note: Numbers were last updated 10/5/17.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Franked Mail</th>
<th>Personnel Compensation</th>
<th>Travel</th>
<th>Rent, Comms., Utilities</th>
<th>Printing</th>
<th>Other Services</th>
<th>Supplies &amp; Materials</th>
<th>Equipment</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Q 1</strong></td>
<td>-12.65</td>
<td>179,716.63</td>
<td>3,413.18</td>
<td>15,104.10</td>
<td>1,257.40</td>
<td>10,800.84</td>
<td>1,438.86</td>
<td>4,449.48</td>
<td>216,167.84</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Q 2</strong></td>
<td>126.09</td>
<td>208,355.52</td>
<td>5,596.08</td>
<td>20,851.15</td>
<td>228.15</td>
<td>6,480.94</td>
<td>5,065.33</td>
<td>9,961.41</td>
<td>256,664.67</td>
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<td><strong>Q 3</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>472,832.51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### 2017: In The First Half Of 2017, Taylor’s Office Spent $472,832.51 On Office Expenditures, 37.12% Of Their Total Budget

In The First Quarter Of 2017, Taylor’s Office Spent $472,832.51 Of Their $1,273,709 Budget. [Legistorm, Official Congressional Expenses, accessed 10/5/17]
Appendix VIII – Travel Expenditures

NOTE: Primary source documents backed up in drive.

Taylor Private Travel Expenditures

Taylor Reported $20,105.04 In Personal Travel Expenditures

Taylor Spent $20,105.04 During The Course Of A One Week Trip To Israel

August 2017: The American Israel Education Foundation Paid $20,105.04 For Taylor And His Mother To Attend An “Educational Seminar For Republican Members Of Congress.” [Legistorm, Privately Financed Travel, 8/29/17]

The Trip Took Place August 7th Through August 14th. [Legistorm, Privately Financed Travel, 8/29/17]

Taylor Israel Trip Expenses

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<thead>
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<th>Personal</th>
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<td>Transportation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lodging</td>
<td>$1,052</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meal</td>
<td>$1,210.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$1,613.66</td>
<td>$1,613.66</td>
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Taylor Noted That Expenses Under “Other” Included “Security, Speaker Fees, Room Rentals, Tour Guides And Others.” [Legistorm, Privately Financed Travel, 8/29/17]

Taylor’s Staff Received $5,095 Worth Of Private Travel And Traveled To Senegal

Taylor’s Staff Received $5,095.28 Worth Of Private Travel

Taylor’s Staff Received $5,095.28 Worth Of Private Travel. [Legistorm, Privately Financed Travel, accessed 8/14/17]

Taylor’s Staff Private Travel Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Staff Member</th>
<th>Most Recent Position</th>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Lodging</th>
<th>Meals</th>
<th>Other Expense</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/11/17-5/13/17</td>
<td>Reginal Darby</td>
<td>Legislative Director</td>
<td>Baltimore</td>
<td>Congressional Institute</td>
<td>$48.26</td>
<td>$359.58</td>
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<td>$207.87</td>
<td>$788.21</td>
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<td>5/11/17-5/13/17</td>
<td>Scott Weldon</td>
<td>Communications Director</td>
<td>Baltimore</td>
<td>Congressional Institute</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$359.58</td>
<td>$172.50</td>
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<td>4/8/17-4/14/17</td>
<td>Reginal Darby</td>
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<td>Dakar, Senegal</td>
<td>World Vision International</td>
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<td>3/23/17-3/25/17</td>
<td>John Thomas</td>
<td>Chief of Staff</td>
<td>Hot Springs, VA</td>
<td>Congressional Institute</td>
<td>$98.65</td>
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TOTAL EXPENDITURES $5,095.28

[Legistorm, Privately Financed Travel, accessed 8/14/17]
## Appendix IX – FOIA Analysis

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<th>Agency</th>
<th>Dept.</th>
<th>Date Request Sent</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<td>National Labor Relations Board</td>
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<td>Open</td>
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<td>Office of the Secretary and the Joint Staff</td>
<td>Dept of Defense</td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dept of Defense</td>
<td>Department of the Air Force</td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Headquarters</td>
<td>Dept of Energy</td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>9/5/17 No responsive documents found</td>
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<td>Food and Drug Administration</td>
<td>Dept of Health and Human Services</td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>9/19/17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Customs &amp; Border Protection</td>
<td>Dept of Homeland Security</td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>8/28/17 Receipt received</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immigration and Customs Enforcement</td>
<td>Dept of Homeland Security</td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>8/23/17 Receipt received</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties</td>
<td>Dept of Homeland Security</td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>9/1/17 No responsive documents found</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office of Cybersecurity and Communications</td>
<td>Dept of Homeland Security</td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office of the Executive</td>
<td>Dept of Housing and Urban Development</td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Records Management Division, FBI</td>
<td>Dept of Justice</td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Bureau of Prisons</td>
<td>Dept of Justice</td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>8/30/17 Receipt received</td>
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<td>Office of Privacy and Civil Liberties</td>
<td>Dept of Justice</td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Internal Revenue Service</td>
<td>Dept of Treasury</td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>9/20/17 Receive one responsive document regarding constituent, with details redacted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Comptroller of the Currency</td>
<td>Dept of Treasury</td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>8/30/17 No responsive documents found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Management and Budget</td>
<td></td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selective Service System</td>
<td></td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>8/29/17 No responsive documents found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Secretary</td>
<td>Dept of State</td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Endowment for the Humanities</td>
<td></td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>8/16/17 Received one record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Securities and Exchange Commission</td>
<td></td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>9/21/17 No responsive documents found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Secretary</td>
<td>Dept of Commerce</td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Development Administration</td>
<td>Dept of Commerce</td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>9/14/17 No responsive documents found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept of Defense</td>
<td>Department of the Navy</td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>8/15/17 Received correspondence with three documents, submitted new FOIA request to receive actual correspondence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept of Defense</td>
<td>United States Marine Corps</td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>8/21/17 No responsive documents found but received invoice that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency</td>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Information Policy, Office of the Attorney General</td>
<td>Dept of Justice</td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>9/8/17 No responsive documents found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National FOIA Officer</td>
<td>Environmental Protection Agency</td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Communications Commission</td>
<td></td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>8/21/17 Received correspondence log, sent out revised FOIA to request the correspondence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Services Administration</td>
<td></td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Business Administration</td>
<td></td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Security Administration</td>
<td></td>
<td>8/10/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept of Defense</td>
<td>Department of the Army</td>
<td>8/15/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defense Contracts Management Agency</td>
<td>Dept of Defense</td>
<td>8/15/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Management</td>
<td>Dept of Education</td>
<td>8/15/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Secretary</td>
<td>Dept of Health and Human Services</td>
<td>8/15/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services</td>
<td>Dept of Health and Human Services</td>
<td>8/15/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headquarters &amp; Private Office</td>
<td>Dept of Homeland Security</td>
<td>8/15/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizenship and Immigration Services</td>
<td>Dept of Homeland Security</td>
<td>8/15/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States Coast Guard</td>
<td>Dept of Homeland Security</td>
<td>8/15/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States Secret Service</td>
<td>Dept of Homeland Security</td>
<td>8/15/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Secretary</td>
<td>Dept of Interior</td>
<td>8/15/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bureau of Land Management</td>
<td>Dept of Interior</td>
<td>8/15/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Pardon Attorney</td>
<td>Dept of Justice</td>
<td>8/15/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Violence Against Women</td>
<td>Dept of Justice</td>
<td>8/15/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States Parole Commission</td>
<td>Dept of Justice</td>
<td>8/15/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director, Office of Information Services</td>
<td>Dept of Labor</td>
<td>8/15/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational Health and Safety Administration</td>
<td>Dept of Labor</td>
<td>8/15/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Inspector General</td>
<td>Department of State</td>
<td>8/15/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>8/30/17 Received receipt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Secretary</td>
<td>Dept of Transportation</td>
<td>8/15/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Aviation Administration</td>
<td>Dept of Transportation</td>
<td>8/15/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Highway Administration</td>
<td>Dept of Transportation</td>
<td>8/15/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Railroad Administration</td>
<td>Dept of Transportation</td>
<td>8/15/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Transit Administration</td>
<td>Dept of Transportation</td>
<td>8/15/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Benefits Administration</td>
<td>Dept of Veterans Affairs</td>
<td>8/15/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Health Administration</td>
<td>Dept of Veterans Affairs</td>
<td>8/15/17</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Federal Election Commission 8/15/17 Open
National Endowment for the Arts 8/15/17 Open
National Science Foundation 8/15/17 Open
Office of Government Ethics 8/15/17 Open
Office of the Secretary Dept of Agriculture 8/15/17 Open
United States Army Corps of Engineers Dept of Defense 8/15/17 Open
Dept of Defense Department of the Army 8/15/17 Open

NOTE: For more detailed information, please see doc titled “Scott Taylor FOIA Tracker” in drive.

Federal Agency Correspondence

DCCC Research sent Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to all federal government agencies requesting copies and access to all records reflecting communication or correspondence between Taylor or any individuals acting on behalf of Taylor and the target agency between January 3rd, 2017 to the date on which the request was received. Occasionally, FOIA officers would respond that the initial correspondence request was too broad. In those cases, the FOIA requests were amended to request access to official congressional correspondence logs.

In the cases in which we received correspondence logs, we followed up with requests for copies of specific pieces of correspondence that interested us. Where those requests have been fulfilled, we have summarized them below.

For full logs of correspondence as well as copies of responsive documents resulting from those logs, please see the FOIA folder located in Research\Book\Other Supporting Research\FOIA Tracking And Information in the candidate’s folder.

NOTE: Primary source documents backed up in drive.

National Endowment For The Humanities – Office Of The General Counsel

Provided One Set Of Responsive Correspondence Documents

August 2017: The National Endowment For The Humanities’ Office Of The General Counsel Provided One Set Of Responsive Documents Reflecting Correspondence Between Taylor And Its Office. “The NEH does not keep ‘logs of congressional correspondence.’ NEH nevertheless conducted a reasonable search for correspondence between Representative Taylor and the NEH during the time frame you gave in your request. The equivalent to the information you requested, as maintained in the records for NEH’s Office of Congressional Affairs, is attached.” [Office of the General Counsel, National Endowment for the Humanities, FOIA Response Letter, 8/16/17]

Department of Commerce - Office of the Secretary FOIA Responsive Docs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>From Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>To Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/27/17</td>
<td>William D. Adams</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Scott Taylor</td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>National Endowment for the Humanities Grant Notification</td>
<td>Notification that the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture had received two NEH grants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Office of the General Counsel, National Endowment for the Humanities Responsive FOIA documents, received 8/16/17]

Department of Treasury – Internal Revenue Service
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provided One Set Of Responsive Correspondence Documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 2017: The Department Of Treasury’s Internal Revenue Service Provided One Set Of Responsive Documents Reflecting Correspondence Between Taylor And Its Office. “Of the page I located in response to your request, I am enclosing one page. I am withholding one page in part for the following reason: FOIA Exemption (b)(3)…The redacted portions contain tax return information of third parties for whom you do not have authorization.” [Internal Revenue Service, Department of Treasury, FOIA Response Letter, 9/14/17]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department Of Energy – Office Of the Executive Secretariat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Responsive Correspondence Documents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2017: The Department Of Energy Office Of The Executive Secretariat Found No Responsive Documents Reflecting Correspondence Between Taylor And Its Office. “Your request was assigned to the Office of the Executive Secretariat (ES). ES conducted a search of the Electronic Document Online Correspondence and Collaboration System (eDOCS). This system tracks all formal correspondence to and from the Office of the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and Under Secretaries of DOE, and is where records of such correspondence are likely to be found. ES did not locate any documents responsive to your request.” [Office of the Executive Secretariat, Department of Energy, FOIA Response Letter, 9/5/17]</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department Of Homeland Security – Office For Civil Rights And Civil Liberties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Responsive Correspondence Documents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2017: The Department Of Homeland Security’s Office For Civil Rights And Civil Liberties Found No Responsive Documents Reflecting Correspondence Between Taylor And Its Office. “We conducted a comprehensive search of files within the Enterprise Correspondence Tracking (ECT) System for records that would be responsive to your request. Unfortunately, we were unable to locate or identify any responsive records.” [Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Department of Homeland Security, FOIA Response Letter, 9/1/17]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department Of Treasury – Office Of The Comptroller Of The Currency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Responsive Correspondence Documents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2017: The Department Of Treasury’s Office Of The Comptroller Of The Currency Found No Responsive Documents Reflecting Correspondence Between Taylor And Its Office. “After a thorough search of our files, no responsive documents were located.” [Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of Treasury, FOIA Response Letter, 8/30/17]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selective Service System</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Responsive Correspondence Documents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2017: The Selective Service Found No Responsive Documents Reflecting Correspondence Between Taylor And Its Office. “After a thorough search of the Agency’s files, at Headquarters, the Regions, and at the Data Management Center, no files were found.” [Selective Service System, FOIA Response Letter, 8/29/17]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Securities And Exchange Commission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Responsive Correspondence Documents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
No Responsive Correspondence Documents

September 2017: The Securities And Exchange Commission Found No Responsive Documents Reflecting Correspondence Between Taylor And Its Office. “Based on the information you provided in your letter, we conducted a thorough search of the SEC’s various systems of records, but did not locate or identify any information responsive to your request.” [Securities and Exchange Commission, FOIA Response Letter, 9/21/17]

Department Of Commerce – Economic Development Administration

No Responsive Documents

September 2017: The Economic Development Administration Found No Responsive Documents Reflecting Correspondence Between Taylor And Its Office. “Unfortunately, EDA does not have any responsive documents pertaining to your request. Therefore, your request will be closed.” [Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, FOIA Response Letter, 9/14/17]

Health And Human Services – Food And Drug Administration

No Responsive Documents

September 2017: The Food And Drug Administration Found No Responsive Documents Reflecting Correspondence Between Taylor And Its Office. “FDA has completed processing your FOIA request for a log of congressional correspondence with Rep. Scott Taylor. Your request was assigned to the Office of Legislation, which did not find any records responsive to your request.” [Health and Human Services Commission, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, FOIA Response Letter, 9/19/17]

Department Of Justice – Office Of Information Policy

No Responsive Documents

Department Of Defense – United States Marine Corps

No Responsive Documents

August 2017: The Department Of The Navy Found No Responsive Documents Reflecting Correspondence Between Taylor And Its Office. “We initiated a search of the files maintained by the Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA). OLA was unable to locate any records responsive to your request.” [Department of the Navy, United States Marine Corps, FOIA Response Letter, 8/21/17]

Department Of Justice – Office Of Information Policy

No Responsive Documents

September 2017: The Office Of Information Policy Found No Responsive Documents Reflecting Correspondence Between Taylor And Its Office. “Please be advised that a search has been conducted of the electronic database of the Departmental Executive Secretariat, which is the official records repository for the Office of the Attorney General, and no records responsive to your request were located.” [Office of Information Policy, Department of Justice, FOIA Response Letter, 9/8/17]

Department Of Housing And Urban Development
September 2017: The Department Of Housing And Urban Development Found No Responsive Documents Reflecting Correspondence Between Taylor And Its Office. “A search of Headquarters’ records via the Department’s Correspondence Tracking System revealed that the Department does not have any responsive documents pertaining to your request.” [Department of Housing and Urban Development, FOIA Response Letter, 9/5/17]
Appendix X – Vote Statistics

Attendance Record

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Votes Eligible</th>
<th>Missed Votes</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Percentile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017 Jan-Mar</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>80th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Apr-Jun</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>59th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Jul-Sep</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>37th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Oct-Oct</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>545</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Vote Comparisons

Speakership Votes

Taylor Voted For Rep. Paul Ryan For Speaker Of The House

Taylor Voted Against An Amendment Exempting Rules Related To The Prevention Of Foodborne Illness Transmission. In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “Cicilline, D-R.I., amendment that would exempt rules related to the prevention of foodborne illness transmission. It would remove the bill's provision that would effectively overturn two Supreme Court decisions that require federal courts to defer to an agency's interpretation of the underlying law or rule when considering challenges to agency rules.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 190-232. [HR 5, Vote #38, 1/11/17; CQ, 1/11/17]

Taylor Voted For The $1.16 Trillion Omnibus Spending Bill. In May 2017, Taylor voted for “Adoption of the rule (H Res 305) that would provide for House floor consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill, with House amendment, intended to serve as the legislative vehicle for a measure that would provide $1.16 trillion in discretionary appropriations for federal departments and agencies covered by the 11 unfinished fiscal 2017 spending bills.” The resolution was passed by a vote of 230-188. [HRes 308, Vote #247, 5/3/17; CQ, 5/3/17]

Taylor Voted For Averting A Government Shutdown For At Least One Week By Funding The Government With A Continuing Resolution. In April 2017, Taylor voted for “Adoption of the rule (H Res 289) that would provide for House floor consideration of the joint resolution that would extend continuing appropriations for federal government operations through May 5, 2017. It would also provide for an extension, through May 5, 2017, of health care benefits for retired coal miners.” The rule was adopted by a vote of 235-178. [HRes 289, Vote #235, 2/28/17; CQ, 2/28/17]

Taylor Voted For Setting Forth The Congressional Budget For The United States Government For Fiscal Year 2017. January 2017, Taylor voted for “adoption of the concurrent resolution that includes reconciliation instructions for the House Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means Committees as well as the Senate Finance and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committees to develop legislation to reduce the deficit by at least $1 billion each over a 10-year period by January 27, 2017, which is expected to repeal parts of the 2010 health care law. The concurrent resolution also would set broad spending and revenue targets over the next 10 years. It would allow $3.3 trillion in new budget authority for fiscal 2017.” The resolution was adopted by a vote of 227-198. [S Con Res 3, Vote #58; CQ, 1/13/17]

Taylor Voted For Blocking A Resolution “Affirming That The Holocaust Occurred And That It Targeted Jews […] After The White House Omitted Mention Of Jews In [Its] International Holocaust Remembrance Day Statement.” In February 2017, Taylor voted for the “Byrne, R-Ala., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and the possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 91).” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 234-187. According to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, “The House on Feb. 7 blocked, 234-187, a Democratic bid to force floor debate on a resolution affirming that the Holocaust occurred and that it targeted Jews. Democrats raised this issue after the White House omitted mention of Jews in the International Holocaust Remembrance Day statement it released Jan. 27. Six million Jews died in the Holocaust carried out by German leader Adolf Hitler and
his Nazi regime between 1933-1945.” A yes vote was a vote to block the resolution. [HRes 91, Vote #81, 2/7/17; St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 2/13/17; CQ, 2/7/17; Democratic Leader—Previous Questions, 2/7/17]

### Other Votes

**Taylor Voted Against Exempting Alleged Constitutional Or Civil Rights Violations From The Lawsuit Reduction Act.** In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Conyers, D-Mich., amendment that would exempt from the bill's provisions actions alleging a violation of a constitutional or civil right.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 190-227. [HR 720, Vote #155, 3/10/17; CQ, 3/10/17]

**Consumer Protection**

### Key Votes

#### Privacy And Data

**Taylor Voted For Blocking A Bill To Reinstate FCC Rules Protecting The Privacy Of Broadband Customers.** In May 2017, Taylor voted for “Byrne, R-Ala., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 299).” Upon defeat of the motion, Democrats planned to offer an, “amendment to the Rule, which would make in order Ms. Rosen of Nevada’s bill, H.R. 1868. H.R. 1868 would reinstate the Federal Communications Commission’s rules adopted on October 27, 2016 that protect the privacy of broadband customers.” A vote yes was a vote to block the Democratic amendment. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 233-190. [HR 1868 (HRes 299), Vote #240, 5/2/17; CQ, 5/2/17]

**Taylor Voted For Consideration Of Nullification Of A Rule Requiring Internet Providers To Obtain Permission From Customers Before Using Or Selling Their Information.** In March 2017, Taylor voted for “adoption of the rule (H Res 230) that would provide for House floor consideration of the joint resolution that would disapprove and nullify a Federal Communications Commission rule that requires broadband internet service providers to obtain affirmative permission from customers to use or share their sensitive information.” The rule was adopted by a vote of 231-189. [HR 230, Vote #200, 3/28/17; CQ, 3/28/17]

**Taylor Voted For Nullifying A Rule Requiring Internet Providers To Obtain Permission From Customers Before Using Or Selling Their Sensitive Information.** In March 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the joint resolution that would disapprove and nullify a Federal Communications Commission rule that requires broadband internet service providers to obtain affirmative permission from customers to use or share their sensitive information, such as web browsing history, geolocation information, content of communications and Social Security numbers; to take reasonable measures to secure customer information; and to notify customers, the commission and law enforcement when a data breach occurs that could result in harm.” The resolution passed (thus cleared for the president) by a vote of 215-205. A “yea” was a vote in support of the president’s position. [SJRes 34, Vote #202, 3/28/17; CQ, 3/28/17]

### Other Votes

**Politicization Of The Office Of Register Of Copyrights**

**Taylor Voted For Allowing Consideration Of A Bill That Would “Likely… Increase Industry Influence” Over The Copyright Office.** In April 2017, Taylor voted for “Adoption of the rule (H Res 275) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill that would modify the process for selecting and appointing the U.S. Copyright Office's Register of Copyrights and would limit a Register of Copyrights' term to 10 years.” The rule was adopted by a vote of 237-186. [HR 1695 (HRes 275), Vote #225, 2/26/17; CQ, 2/26/17]
Electronic Frontier Foundation: HR 1695 Would “Effectively Strip The Librarian Of Congress Of Oversight Over The Register, And Is Likely To Increase Industry Influence Over An Already Highly Politicized Office.” “The U.S. House of Representatives today voted 378 to 48 to pass a controversial bill that would make the Register of Copyrights a presidential appointee. H.R. 1695, the Register of Copyrights Selection and Accountability Act of 2017, will effectively strip the Librarian of Congress of oversight over the Register, and is likely to increase industry influence over an already highly politicized office. The bill does nothing to improve the functioning of the Copyright Office, nor to fix any of the serious problems with copyright law, including its excessive and unpredictable penalties.” [EFF.org, 4/26/17]

Major Rules Reform & Consumer Protections

Taylor Voted Against Excluding Any Rule Related To Child Product Safety From Being Defined As A “Major Rule.” In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “Johnson, D-Ga., for Jackson Lee, D-Texas, amendment that would exclude rules related to the safety of products designed to be used or consumed by children younger than 2 years old from the definition of a ‘major rule.’” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 190-234. [HR 26, Vote #17, 1/15/17; CQ, 1/5/17]

A “Major Rule” Is Any Rule The OMB Has Found Could Result In A Cost To The Economy Of $100 Million Or More, A Major Increase In Costs Or “Adverse Effects On Competition, Employment, Investment,” And Other Economic Functions. “A ‘major rule’ is any rule that the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget finds has resulted in or is likely to result in: (1) an annual cost on the economy of $100 million or more (adjusted annually for inflation); (2) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, federal, state, or local government agencies, or geographic regions; or (3) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or the ability of U.S.-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises.” [HR 26, Summary, 1/5/17]

Taylor Voted Against An Amendment To HR 5, The Regulatory Accountability Act, Exempting Rules Related To The Safety Of Children’s Toys. In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “Ruiz, D-Calif., amendment that would exempt rules related to the safety of children's toys or products. It would remove the bill’s provision that would effectively overturn two Supreme Court decisions that require federal courts to defer to an agency's interpretation of the underlying law or rule when considering challenges to agency rules.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 190-233. [HR 5, Vote #40, 1/11/17; CQ, 1/11/17]

Taylor Voted For Allowing Consideration Of A Bill Requiring Federal Courts To Impose Sanctions On Parties That File Frivolous Lawsuits. In March 2017, Taylor voted for “adoption of the rule that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill (HR 720) that would require federal courts to impose sanctions on parties that file frivolous civil lawsuits. The rule would also provide for consideration of the bill (HR 985) that would prohibit federal courts from certifying proposed classes of individuals for a class-action lawsuit unless each member of the class has suffered the same type and degree of injury. Additionally, the bill would require asbestos trusts to issue quarterly reports on claims made against the trusts and payouts made by the trusts for asbestos-related injuries.” The rule was adopted by a vote of 233-184. [HRes 180, Vote #139, 3/9/17; CQ, 3/9/17]

Taylor Voted For The Fairness In Class Action Litigation Act, Prohibiting Federal Courts From Certifying Proposed Classes Of Individuals For A Class-Action Lawsuit Unless Each Member Of The Class Has Suffered The Same Injury. In March 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the bill that would prohibit federal courts from certifying proposed classes of individuals for a class-action lawsuit unless each member of the class has suffered the same type and degree of injury. Additionally, the bill would require asbestos trusts to issue quarterly reports on claims made against the trusts and payouts made by the trusts for asbestos-related injuries.” The bill was passed by a vote of 220-201. [HR 985, Vote #148, 3/9/17; CQ, 3/9/17]

Taylor Voted Against An Amendment To The Fairness In Class Action Litigation Act Ensuring That There Is No Conflict Of Interest Between The Counsel And Plaintiff. In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Deutch, D-Fla., amendment that would remove the bill’s prohibition on the use of class counsel if the
Taylor Voted Against An Amendment To The Fairness In Class Action Litigation Act Removing The Bill’s Requirement That Attorneys’ Fee Awards To Be Based On Equitable Relief. In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Deutch, D-Fla., amendment that would remove the bill's requirement that attorneys' fee awards to be based on equitable relief.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 189-228. [HR 985, Vote #141, 3/9/17; CQ, 3/9/17]

Taylor Voted Against An Amendment To The Fairness In Class Action Litigation Act Permitting Discovery Proceedings To Continue While Various Legal Motions Are Pending. In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Soto, D-Fla., amendment that would permit discovery proceedings to continue while various legal motions are pending before a court.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 192-230. [HR 985, Vote #142, 3/9/17; CQ, 3/9/17]

Taylor Voted Against An Amendment To The Fairness In Class Action Litigation Act Exempting Civil Action Cases Alleging Fraud From The Bill's Provisions. In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Johnson, D-Ga., amendment that would exempt cases related to civil actions alleging fraud from the bill's provisions related to class actions.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 190-230. [HR 985, Vote #143, 3/9/17; CQ, 3/9/17]

Taylor Voted Against An Amendment To The Fairness In Class Action Litigation Act Exempting Civil Rights Cases From The Bill's Provisions. In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Conyers, D-Mich., amendment that would exempt cases related to civil actions alleging violations of civil rights from the bill's provisions related to class actions.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 191-230. [HR 985, Vote #144, 3/9/17; CQ, 3/9/17]

Taylor Voted Against An Amendment To The Fairness In Class Action Litigation Act Requiring That Asbestos Trusts Provide Reports Available To The Public Regarding Demands Received And Payments Made. In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Jackson Lee, D-Texas, amendment that would replace the bill's provisions related to asbestos trusts with a requirement that asbestos trusts to provide a report available to the public regarding demands received and payments made.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 193-229. [HR 985, Vote #145, 3/9/17; CQ, 3/9/17]

Taylor Voted Against An Amendment To The Fairness In Class Action Litigation Act Exempting Claimants Living In Public Housing From The Bill's Provisions Related To Asbestos Trusts. In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Espaillat, D-N.Y., amendment that would exempt claimants living in public housing from the bill's provisions related to asbestos trusts.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 193-228. [HR 985, Vote #146, 3/9/17; CQ, 3/9/17]

Taylor Voted Against Recommitting The Fairness In Class Action Litigation Act Exempting Civil Actions Related To Protection Of Public Drinking Water. In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Kildee, D-Mich., motion to recommit the bill to the House Judiciary Committee with instructions to report it back immediately with an amendment that would exempt from the bill's provisions civil actions related to the protection of public drinking water supplies.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 188-234. [HR 985, Vote #147, 3/9/17; CQ, 3/9/17]

Taylor Voted For Amending Title 28, United States Code, To Prevent Fraudulent Joinder. In March 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the bill that would - for purposes of determining whether certain lawsuits are sent back from federal to state courts - establish a new standard for determining whether a defendant has been fraudulently joined to a case. Under the measure, federal courts would have to deny motions to remand a case back to state court if the court finds that there was fraud in the jurisdictional claim, the plaintiff’s claim against that defendant is not
Taylor Voted Against An Amendment Exempting Cases Which The Plaintiff Seeks Compensation For Public Health Risks From HR 725, A Bill Seeking To Prevent Fraudulent Joinder. In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Soto, D-Fla., amendment that would exempt cases in which the plaintiff seeks compensation for public health risks, including byproducts from hydraulic fracturing or water contamination.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 189-233. [HR 725, Vote #149, 3/9/17; CQ, 3/9/17]

Taylor Voted Against An Amendment Exempting Cases In Which The Plaintiff Seeks Compensation Related To The Bad Faith Of An Insurer From HR 725, A Bill Seeking To Prevent Fraudulent Joinder. In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Cartwright, D-Pa., amendment that would exempt cases in which the plaintiff seeks compensation related to the bad faith of an insurer.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 187-229. [HR 725, Vote #150, 3/9/17; CQ, 3/9/17]

Taylor Voted Against Recommitting HR 725, A Bill Seeking To Prevent Fraudulent Joinder, With An Amendment Exempting Civil Actions Related To Government Ethics. In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Kuster, D-N.H., motion to recommit the bill to the House Judiciary Committee with instructions to report it back immediately with an amendment that would exempt from the bill's provisions civil actions related to government ethics.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 187-233. [HR 725, Vote #151, 3/9/17; CQ, 3/9/17]

Taylor Voted For Changing Federal Rules Governing Civil Lawsuits To Require Federal Courts To Impose Sanctions On Parties That File Frivolous Lawsuits. In March 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the bill that would change federal rules governing civil lawsuits to require federal courts to impose sanctions on parties that file frivolous civil lawsuits. The sanctions would need to include monetary payments to the other party to cover the other party's attorney fees and costs. The bill also would eliminate the so-called "safe harbor" clause by removing the ability of parties to withdraw or correct claims considered frivolous within 21 days of filing.” The bill passed by a vote of 230-188. [HR 720, Vote #158, 3/10/17; CQ, 3/10/17]

Taylor Voted Against Retaining And Modifying The “Safe Harbor” Clause, Which Allows Parties To Withdraw Or Correct Claims Considered Frivolous Within Fourteen Days Of Filing. In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Soto, D-Fla., that would retain and modify the so-called 'safe harbor' clause related to frivolous civil lawsuits by allowing parties to withdraw or correct claims considered frivolous within 14 days of filing.” The clause was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 181-225. [HR 720, Vote #153, 3/10/17; CQ, 3/10/17]

Taylor Voted Against Removing A Provision From The Lawsuit Reduction Act That Sanctions For Frivolous Lawsuits Cover The Other Party's Legal Fees. In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Jackson Lee, D-Texas, amendment that would remove the bill's provision that sanctions for frivolous lawsuits would need to include monetary payments to the other party to cover the other party's attorney fees and costs.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 185-225. [HR 720, Vote #153, 3/10/17; CQ, 3/10/17]

Taylor Voted Against Exempting Actions Related To Federal Whistleblower Or Anti-Retaliation Laws From The Lawsuit Reduction Act. In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Jeffries, D-N.Y., amendment that would exempt from the bill’s provisions actions related to federal whistleblower or anti-retaliation laws.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by roll call vote, 189-229. [HR 720, Vote #153, 3/10/17; CQ, 3/10/17]

Taylor Voted Against Recommitting The Lawsuit Reduction Act With Instructions To Exempt Any Civil Action Related To The Constitution's Foreign Emoluments Clause. In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Lofgren, D-Calif., motion to recommit the bill to the House Judiciary Committee with instructions to
report it back immediately with an amendment that would exempt from the bill's provisions any civil action related to the foreign emoluments clause in the Constitution.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 186-232. [HR 720, Vote #157, 3/10/17; CQ, 3/10/17]

### Defense

#### Key Votes

**Secretary Of Defense James Mattis**

**Taylor Voted For Granting Gen. James Mattis An Exemption On The Prohibition Of Newly-Retired Officers From Serving As Secretary Of Defense.** In January 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the bill that would allow the first person to be confirmed secretary of Defense after the bill's enactment to serve in the position, even if the individual has not been retired from the military for seven years, so long as the person has been retired for at least three years. The bill would thus provide an exemption for President-elect Donald Trump's pick for the position, retired Marine Corps Gen. James Mattis, from a requirement for a seven-year waiting period before former servicemembers can be appointed to Defense secretary.” The bill passed (thus cleared for the president) by a vote of 268-151. [S 84, Vote #59, 1/13/17; CQ, 1/13/17]

**Other Votes**

**Taylor Voted For Providing $577.9 Billion In Discretionary Funding For The Defense Department In Fiscal 2017.** In March 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the bill that would provide $577.9 billion in discretionary funding for the Defense Department in fiscal 2017. The total would include $516.1 billion in base Defense Department funding subject to spending caps. It also would include $61.8 billion in overseas contingency operations funding. The bill would provide approximately $210.1 billion for operations and maintenance, approximately $117.8 billion for procurement, approximately $72.7 billion for research and development and $132.2 billion for military personnel, including a 2.1 percent pay raise. It also would provide roughly $34.1 billion for defense health programs. The measure would prohibit use of funds to construct or modify potential facilities in the United States to house Guantanamo Bay detainees.” The bill passed by a vote of 371-48. [HR 1301, Vote #136, 3/8/17; CQ, 3/8/17]

### Education

**Taylor Voted For Nullifying A Department Of Education Rule Requiring The Department To Define And Monitor Low-Performing Schools.** In February 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the joint resolution that would nullify an Education Department rule that requires states to define, subsequently monitor and intervene with schools deemed to be low-performing schools. Under the department's rule, states are required to measure academic achievement through factors such as graduation rates and English proficiency rates.” The resolution was passed by a vote of 234-190. [HJRes 57, Vote #84, 2/7/17; CQ, 2/7/17]

**Taylor Voted For Nullifying A Department Of Education Rule Requiring States To Annually Evaluate Teacher Certification Programs.** In February 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the joint resolution that would nullify an Education Department rule that requires states to annually evaluate the effectiveness of teacher preparation programs at higher education institutions. Programs are required to be ranked by level of performance and states would be required to provide assistance to the lowest-performing programs.” The resolution was passed by a vote of 240-181. [HJRes 8, Vote #85, 2/7/17; CQ, 2/7/17]

**Taylor Voted Against Exempting Rules Related To Consumer Protections For Student Loan Borrowers From The SCRUB Act.** In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Bonamici, D-Ore., amendment that would exempt from the bill's provisions rules related to providing consumer protections for student loan borrowers.” The
Energy

Taylor Voted Against Excluding Any Rule Pertaining To Nuclear Reactor Safety Standards From Being Defined As A “Major Rule.” In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “Nadler, D-N.Y., amendment that would exclude rules pertaining to nuclear reactor safety standards from the definition of a ‘major rule.’” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 194-231. [HR 26, Vote #19, 1/5/17; CQ, 1/5/17]

A “Major Rule” Is Any Rule The OMB Has Found Could Result In A Cost To The Economy Of $100 Million Or More, A Major Increase In Costs Or “Adverse Effects On Competition, Employment, Investment,” And Other Economic Functions. “A ‘major rule’ is any rule that the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget finds has resulted in or is likely to result in: (1) an annual cost on the economy of $100 million or more (adjusted annually for inflation); (2) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, federal, state, or local government agencies, or geographic regions; or (3) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or the ability of U.S.-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises.” [HR 26, Summary, 1/5/17]

Taylor Voted Against Excluding Any Rule Intended To Ensure Pipeline Safety From Being Defined As A “Major Rule.” In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “McNerney, D-Calif., for Pallone, D-N.J., amendment that would exclude rules intended to either ensure the safety of natural gas or hazardous materials pipelines or to prevent or reduce the impact of spills from such pipelines from the definition of a ‘major rule.’” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 190-235. [HR 26, Vote #19, 1/5/17; CQ, 1/5/17]

A “Major Rule” Is Any Rule The OMB Has Found Could Result In A Cost To The Economy Of $100 Million Or More, A Major Increase In Costs Or “Adverse Effects On Competition, Employment, Investment,” And Other Economic Functions. “A ‘major rule’ is any rule that the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget finds has resulted in or is likely to result in: (1) an annual cost on the economy of $100 million or more (adjusted annually for inflation); (2) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, federal, state, or local government agencies, or geographic regions; or (3) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or the ability of U.S.-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises.” [HR 26, Summary, 1/5/17]

Taylor Did Not Vote On Protect Oil & Gas Companies From Having To Publicly Disclose Payments To Foreign Governments. In February 2017, Taylor did not vote on “passage of the joint resolution that would nullify a Securities and Exchange Commission rule that requires companies that develop oil, natural gas or minerals to publicly report in detail payments to foreign governments or to the U.S. government totaling at least $100,000 annually per project for extraction, exploration or export of these resources.” The resolution passed by a vote of 235-187. [HJRes 41, Vote #72, 2/1/17; CQ, 2/1/17]

Taylor Voted For Nullifying A Bureau Of Land Management “Methane Rule” To Limit The Release Of Methane From Oil And Gas Operations On Federal Land. In February 2017, Taylor voted for “a Congressional Review Act resolution to nullify the Bureau of Land Management’s rule to limit the release of methane from oil and gas operations on federal land. […] The Interior Department’s BLM finalized the venting and flaring rule - also known as the methane rule - in November. It requires oil and gas operators to control releases of waste methane - a potent greenhouse gas - by adopting new technologies, more frequently inspecting for leaks and replacing outdated equipment that discharges large amounts of natural gas.” The resolution was passed by a vote of 221-191. [HJRes 36, Vote #78, 2/3/17; CQ News, 2/3/17]

Rule Would Force Companies To Capture Methane At Drilling Sites, Preventing An Estimated 180,000 Tons From Escaping Each Year, And Raising Millions In Revenue Each Year. “The methane emissions rule, issued by the Interior Department’s Bureau of Land Management in November, addresses a potent
greenhouse gas that is accelerating climate change. The rule would force oil and gas companies to capture methane that had been previously burned off or ‘flared’ at drilling sites. According to federal estimates, the rule would prevent roughly 180,000 tons a year of methane from escaping into the atmosphere and would boost federal revenue between $3 million and $13 million a year because firms only pay royalties on the oil and gas they capture and contain.” [Washington Post, 5/10/17]

### Environment

#### Key Votes

#### EPA & Science Integrity

**Taylor Voted For Providing For House Consideration Of A Bill Establishing A Selection Process For Members Of The EPA’s Science Advisory Board.** In March 2017, Taylor voted for the “adoption of the rule (H Res 233) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill that would establish a selection process for members of the EPA's Science Advisory Board. The bill would require board member nominees to disclose financial relationships that would be relevant to EPA advisory activities.” The rule was adopted by a vote of 232-188. [HRes 233, Vote #204, 3/29/17; CQ, 3/29/17]

**Taylor Voted Against An Amendment Exempting EPA Actions Related To Public Health Threats From The Bill’s Requirement That The Scientific Information Behind The EPA’s Actions Must Be Publicly Available.** In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “McEachin, D-Va., motion to recommit the bill to the House Science, Space and Technology Committee with instructions to report it back immediately with an amendment that would exempt EPA actions taken in response to a public health threat from the bill's requirement that the scientific information that influenced the EPA's actions must be publicly available.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 189-232. [HR 1430, Vote #205, 3/29/17; CQ, 3/29/17]

**Taylor Voted For Prohibiting The EPA From Proposing A Rule Unless The Scientific Information Backing It Up Is Publicly Available.** In March 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the bill that would prohibit the EPA from proposing, finalizing or disseminating a rule, regulation or standard unless the scientific and technical information on which the EPA's decisions relied is publicly available for independent analysis. It would require any personally identifiable information, trade secrets or sensitive business information to be redacted prior to the publication of the scientific information.” The bill was passed by a vote of 228-194. [HR 1430, Vote #206, 3/29/17, CQ, 3/29/17]

**Taylor Voted Against Prohibiting Any Member Of The EPA Science Advisory Board From Being Employed By Any Interests Before The Board During That Person’s Term And For Three Years After.** In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Foster, D-Ill., motion to recommit the bill the House Science, Space and Technology Committee with instructions to report it back immediately with an amendment that would prohibit, both during and for three years following a term on the board, Science Advisory Board members from being employed by any entity with interests before the board.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 189-233. [HR 1431, Vote #207, 3/30/17; CQ, 3/30/17]

**Taylor Voted For Establishing A Selection Process For EPA Science Advisory Board Members.** In March 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of a bill that would establish a selection process for members of the EPA's Science Advisory Board. The bill would require the board's members represent a variety of scientific and technical viewpoints. It would require board member nominees to disclose financial relationships that would be relevant to EPA advisory activities. It would require the board to generally avoid making policy determinations or recommendations to the EPA.” The bill was passed by a vote of 229-193. [HR 1431, Vote #208, 3/30/17; CQ, 3/30/17]
**Environmental Regulation**

Taylor Voted Against Requiring New Rules To Include Reports On Environmental Impact And Impacts On Low-Income And Rural Communities. In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “Grijalva, D-Ariz., amendment that would require agencies to include an accounting of greenhouse gas emission impacts associated with a rule in the report that would be required by the bill to be submitted to Congress. The report also would need to include an analysis of the rule's impacts on low-income and rural communities. If a rule would increase carbon equivalent emissions by 25,000 metric tons annually or possibly increase the risk of certain diseases to low-income or rural communities, then the rule would be considered a 'major rule.’” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 193-230. [HR 26, Vote #13, 1/5/17; CQ, 1/5/17]

Taylor Voted Against An Amendment To HR 5 Striking The Bill’s Requirement That The Forest Service And The Bureau Of Land Management Perform Regulatory Analyses. In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “Grijalva, D-Ariz., amendment that would remove provisions of the bill that would require the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to conduct regulatory flexibility analyses, which describe the impact on small businesses, for land management plans.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 185-236. [HR 5, Vote #43, 1/11/17; CQ, 1/11/17]

Taylor Did Not Vote On Nullifying The Stream Protection Rule Which Protects Streams From Contamination By Surface Coal Mining Operations. In February 2017, Taylor did not vote on “Passage of the joint resolution that would nullify an Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement rule that requires surface coal mining operations, to the extent possible, to avoid disturbing streams and land within 100 feet of the streams. The rule also includes provisions related to data collection and restoration and requires native trees and plants to be used to replant reclaimed mine sites.” The resolution was passed by a vote of 228-194. [HJRes 41, Vote #73, 2/1/17; CQ, 2/1/17]

Taylor Voted Against Exempting Rules Related To The Enforcement Of The Clean Air Act From The SCRUB Act. In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Raskin, D-Md., amendment that would exempt from the bill's provisions rules related to the enforcement of the Clean Air Act.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 189-231. [HR 998, Vote #110, 3/1/17; CQ, 3/1/17]

**Other Votes**

**Federal Land Management**

Taylor Voted For A Resolution Allowing Congress To More Easily Sell Federal Lands Without Concern For Taxpayer Costs, Establish Fines For Using Cameras On The House Floor. In January 2017, Taylor voted for the “Adoption of the resolution that would establish the rules of the House for the 115th Congress. Many of the rules that were in effect at the end of the 114th Congress would carry over. Among the rules changes, it would set monetary fines for using electronic devices on the House floor to take photos or videos.” The resolution was adopted by a vote of 234-193. [HRes 5, Vote #6, 1/3/17; CQ, 1/3/17]

HRes 5 Would “Make It Easier For Members Of The New Congress To Cede Federal Control Of Public Lands” Without Concern For Cost To U.S. Treasury. “House Republicans on Tuesday changed the way Congress calculates the cost of transferring federal lands to the states and other entities, a move that will make it easier for members of the new Congress to cede federal control of public lands. The provision, included as part as a larger rules package the House approved by a vote of 233 to 190 during its first day in session, highlights the extent to which some congressional Republicans hope to change longstanding rules now that the GOP will control the executive and the legislative branches starting Jan. 20. […] Under current Congressional Budget Office accounting rules, any transfer of federal land that generates revenue for the U.S. Treasury — whether through energy extraction, logging, grazing or other activities — has a cost. If lawmakers wanted to give such land to a state, local government or tribe, they would have to account for that loss in expected cash
flow. [...] The immediate impact of the rules change is that lawmakers cannot raise a budgetary point of order if a land transfer bill comes to the floor. Under existing House rules, any measure that costs the U.S. Treasury money must be offset by either budget cuts or a revenue-raising provision.” [Washington Post, 1/3/17]

Taylor Voted For Nullifying A Bureau Of Land Management Rule Directing The Agency To Develop Management Plans For Public Lands And Include Public Opinion. In February 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the joint resolution that would that would disapprove and nullify a Bureau of Land Management rule that amends the agency's procedures for the development of resource management plans for public lands. The rule directs BLM to design management plans that address resource issues in a number of programs related to wildfire prevention, wildlife habitat protection and demands for renewable and nonrenewable energy. The rule also provides additional opportunities for the public to submit information and comments on a plan revision or amendment.” The resolution was passed by a vote of 234-186. [HJRes 44, Vote #83, 2/7/17; CQ, 2/7/17]

Taylor Voted For Authorizing $1 Million For The Bureau Of Land Management To Survey The Boundary Along The Red River between Texas And Oklahoma. In February 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the bill that would authorize $1 million for the Bureau of Land Management to pay for a survey to identify the boundary, with respect to title and ownership, along the Red River on the border between Texas and Oklahoma. It would require the survey use the gradient boundary method of measurement established in the Supreme Court case Oklahoma v. Texas and that the survey be completed within two years of the bill's enactment.” The bill passed by a vote of 250-171. [HR 428, Vote #92, 2/14/17; CQ, 2/14/17]

Taylor Voted For “Kill[ing] A Federal Rule That Gives Americans More Of A Voice In Large-Scale Planning For Projects Using Public Land. . In February 2017, Taylor voted for the “adoption of the rule (H Res 91) that would provide for House floor consideration of a joint resolution of (H J Res 44) that would nullify a Bureau of Land Management rule that modifies the BLM's process of assessing and planning the development of public lands by increasing public involvement.” According to the Denver Post, “The U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday voted to kill a federal rule that gives Americans more of a voice in large-scale planning for projects using public land [...] [HJ Res 44] would nullify the Bureau of Land Management’s ‘Planning 2.0’ rule that took effect in December. That rule governs all planning for future uses of 250 million acres of federal public land that is concentrated in the West.” The rule was adopted by a vote of 233-186. [HJRes 44, Vote #82, 2/7/17; Denver Post, 2/7/17; CQ, 2/7/17]

**Ethics & Government Reform**

**Transparency**

Taylor Voted For Requiring Fannie Mae And Freddie Mac To Comply With FOIA While Under Conservatorship. In April 2017, Taylor voted for “Adoption of the rule (H Res 280) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill that would require that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac comply with the agency requirements of the Freedom of Information Act while they are under the conservatorship of the federal government. It would waive, through the calendar day of April 29, 2017, the two-thirds vote requirement to consider legislation on the same day it is reported from the House Rules Committee. It also would provide for consideration of measures under suspension of the rules through the calendar day of April 29, 2017.” The rule was adopted by a vote of 226-192. [HRes 280, Vote #230, 2/27/17; CQ, 2/27/17]

**Whistleblower Protections**

Taylor Voted Against Exempting Rules Related To Whistleblower Protections From The SCRUB Act. In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Cummings, D-Md., amendment that would exempt from the bill's provisions rules related to whistleblower protections and rules related to penalties for retaliation against whistleblowers.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 194-231. [HR 998, Vote #112, 3/1/17; CQ, 3/1/17]
Taylor Voted For Allowing Consideration Of A Bill To Permit More Securities To Be Used For Employee Compensation Without Disclosing Some Information To Investors. In April 2017, Taylor voted for the “adoption of the rule (H Res 240) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill that would direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to increase from $5 million to $10 million the annual amount of securities that privately-held companies can sell for employee compensation without needing to disclose certain information to investors.” The amendment passed 238 to 177. [HR 240, Vote #214, 4/4/17; CQ, 4/4/17]

Taylor Voted For Allowing Consideration Of A Bill To Permit More Investors To Join In On A Venture Capital Fund. In April 2017, Taylor voted for the adoption of the rule (H Res 242) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill that would increase from 100 to 250 the number of accredited investors who can form a venture capital fund to invest in small businesses.” The amendment passed 240 to 181. [HR 242, Vote #218, 4/5/17; CQ, 4/5/17]

Taylor Voted For Passage Of HR 79, Which Amends The Securities Act of 1933 To Ensure That Start-Ups Do Not Inadvertently Violating SEC Regulations Governing General Solicitation Of Potential Investors. In January 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the bill that would direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise regulations to exempt presentations made at certain events where businesses offer unregistered securities in the private market from a requirement that companies verify that individuals attending are accredited investors. The exemption from the verification requirement would apply to presentations made at events sponsored by: government entities, colleges, nonprofit groups, angel investor groups, venture capital associations, trade associations or any additional group that the SEC determines by regulation. Specific information related to the offering of securities could not be distributed at such events, other than information such as the type and amount of securities offered.” The bill passed by a vote of 344-73. [HR 79, Vote #31, 1/10/17; CQ, 1/10/17]

Taylor Voted Against An Amendment Allowing Securities Advertisers To Disclose Risks Rather Than Verifying Individuals As Accredited Investors. In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “Velazquez, D-N.Y., amendment that would require sponsors of events to provide attendees with a disclosure that would describe the event and the risks of investing in the advertised securities in order for the event to be exempt from the requirement that companies verify that individuals attending are accredited investors.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 167-249. [HR 79, Vote #29, 1/10/17; CQ, 1/10/17]

Taylor Voted Against An Amendment To HR 79 Regulating The Fees Event Sponsors Could Collect. In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “Clay, D-Mo., for Waters, D-Calif., amendment that would prohibit sponsors of events from receiving compensation for either introducing investors attending the event to issuers or for negotiating investments in order for the event to be exempt from the requirement that companies verify that individuals attending are accredited investors.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 163-253. [HR 79, Vote #30, 1/10/17; CQ, 1/10/17]

Taylor Voted For Passage Of HR 78, The SEC Regulatory Accountability Act. In January 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the bill that would require the Securities and Exchange Commission to conduct cost-benefit analyses of proposed regulations. It also would direct the commission to assess costs and benefits of alternatives, including the option of not regulating. It would require the SEC to, within two years of issuing rules with an annual cost more than $100 million, review whether these rules have met their goals. It also would require the SEC to periodically review existing rules and modify or repeal those found ineffective or excessively burdensome.” The bill passed by a vote of 243-184. [HR 78, Vote #51, 1/12/17; CQ, 1/12/17]

Taylor Voted Against An Amendment To HR 78, The SEC Regulatory Accountability Act, Requiring The SEC To Address Potential Conflicts Of Interest Related To Its Rulemaking. In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “Green, D-Texas, for Waters, D-Calif., amendment that would require the Securities and Exchange Commission, before issuing a regulation, to identify former employers of commissioners and senior
staff that would receive any benefit from a proposed regulation. The commission would need to determine whether the proposal should be amended to remedy a conflict of interest. It also would set similar requirements regarding conflicts of interest related to employers of certain former commissioners and senior staff.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 192-233. [HR 78, Vote #46, 1/12/17; CQ, 1/12/17]

Taylor Voted Against An Amendment To HR 78, The SEC Regulatory Accountability Act, Exempting Regulations Issued To Maintain U.S. Financial Stability. In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “Green, D-Texas, amendment that would exempt regulations issued to maintain or support U.S. financial stability.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 191-232. [HR 78, Vote #47, 1/12/17; CQ, 1/12/17]

Taylor Voted Against An Amendment To HR 78, The SEC Regulatory Accountability Act, Requiring The SEC Chairman And His Or Her Family To Divest From Banks Regulated By The Commission. In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “DeSaulnier, D-Calif., amendment that would require the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the individual's immediate family members divest securities in financial institutions regulated by the commission before the bill's requirements for cost-benefit analysis of new rules and review of existing rules could take effect.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 194-233. [HR 78, Vote #48, 1/12/17; CQ, 1/12/17]

Taylor Voted Against An Amendment To HR 78, The SEC Regulatory Accountability Act, Requiring The SEC Chairman And Commissioners Undergo Ethics Training. In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “Raskin, D-Md., amendment that would require the chairman and commissioners of the Securities and Exchange Commission undergo conduct and ethical standards training in relation to prior employment at financial institutions before the bill's requirements for cost-benefit analysis of new rules and review of existing rules could take effect.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 196-231. [HR 78, Vote #49, 1/12/17; CQ, 1/12/17]

Taylor Voted Against Requiring The SEC To Consider Whether Market Participants Would Have Incentive To Relocate Outside The U.S. In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “Bustos, D-Ill., motion to recommit the bill to the House Financial Services Committee with instructions to report back immediately with an amendment that would require the Securities and Exchange Commission, in determining the costs and benefits of proposed regulations, to consider whether market participants would have incentive to relocate outside the United States.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 195-232. [HR 78, Vote #50, 1/12/17; CQ, 1/12/17]

Taylor Voted For Passage Of HR 238, The Commodity End-User Relief Act, Reauthorizing Operations Of The Commodity Futures Trading Commission. In January 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the bill that would reauthorize operations of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission through fiscal 2021 at $250 million annually. It would amend the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial regulatory overhaul to modify and clarify how the commission is to regulate derivatives and swaps. For example, it would modify certain requirements for end users of derivatives, such as farmers and utilities that use derivatives to hedge risk, to ensure they are not subject to the same requirements as entities whose main business derives from swaps. The measure would require the commission to conduct cost-benefit analyses of its proposed rules. As amended, it would exempt all inter-affiliate transactions from being regulated as swaps.” The bill passed by a vote of 239-182. [HR 238, Vote #54, 1/12/17; CQ, 1/12/17]

Taylor Voted For An Amendment To HR 238, The Commodity End-User Relief Act, Removing Provisions That Designate How The Commodity Futures Trading Commission Is To Limit Excessive Speculation. In January 2017, Taylor voted for the “Conaway, R-Texas, amendment that would remove provisions in existing law that specifically designate how the Commodity Futures Trading Commission is to limit excessive speculation.” The amendment was adopted in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 236-191. [HR 238, Vote #52, 1/12/17; CQ, 1/12/17]
Taylor Voted Against Investigating Russian Interference In The Election 7 Times

**Taylor Voted Against Preventing The Underlying Bill From Applying To Any Individual Who Withheld Information From Congress Related To An Investigation Regarding Russian Influence Of The 2016 Presidential Election.** In April 2017, Taylor voted against a “motion to recommit the bill to the House Financial Services Committee with instructions to report it back immediately with an amendment that would prevent the bill’s provisions from applying to any individual that withheld information from Congress related to an investigation regarding individuals influencing the outcome of the 2016 U.S. presidential election.” The motion was rejected 228-185. [HR 1343, Vote #215, 4/4/17; CQ Floor Votes, 4/4/17]

**Taylor Voted For Blocking The Creation Of A Commission Investigating Foreign Interference in the 2016 Presidential Election.** In March 2017, Taylor voted for the “Newhouse, R-Wash., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 233) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill that would establish a selection process for members of the EPA’s Science Advisory Board.” A vote in favor is a vote to prevent investigation into Russia’s interference in the 2016 election. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 232-191. [HRes 233, Vote #203, 3/29/17; CQ, 3/29/17]

**Taylor Voted For Blocking Consideration Of Establishing An Investigation Into Foreign Interference In The 2016 Presidential Election.** In March 2017, Taylor voted for the “Woodall, R-Ga., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 229).” A vote in favor of the motion is a vote to block consideration of a bipartisan bill, The Presidential Tax Transparency Act. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 231-189. [HRes 229, Vote #197, 3/28/17; CQ, 3/28/17]

**Taylor Voted For Blocking Consideration Of A Rule Establishing The National Commission On Foreign Interference In The 2016 Election.** In March 2017, Taylor voted for the “Sessions, R-Texas, motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 156).” According to Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi’s office, “The Democratic Previous Question would amend the rule to allow for consideration of HR 356, to establish the National Commission on Foreign Interference II Election.” A vote yes was against establishing the commission. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 233-189. [HRes 156, Vote #115, 3/1/17; CQ, 3/1/17; Democratic Leader—Previous Questions, 3/1/17]

**Taylor Voted For Blocking The Establishment Of The National Commission On Foreign Interference In The 2016 Election.** In February 2017, Taylor voted for “Burgess, R-Texas, motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 123)” According to Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi’s office, “The Democratic Previous Question would amend the rule to allow for consideration of HR 356, to establish the National Commission on Foreign Interference in the 2016 Election.” A vote yes was against establishing the commission. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 233-190. [HRes 123, Vote #93, 2/15/17; CQ, 2/15/17; Democratic Leader—Previous Questions, 2/15/17]

**Taylor Voted For Blocking The Establishment Of A National Commission On Foreign Interference In The 2016 Election.** In February 2017, Taylor voted for the “Byrne, R-Ala., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and the possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 116)” According to Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi’s office, “The Democratic Previous Question would amend the rule to allow for consideration of HR 356, to establish the National Commission on Foreign Interference in the 2016 Election.” A vote yes was against establishing the commission. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 227-188. [HRes 116, Vote #90, 2/14/17; CQ, 2/14/17; Democratic Leader—Previous Questions, 2/14/17]
Taylor Voted For Blocking Consideration Of A Bill Establishing The National Commission On Foreign Interference In The 2016 Election. In January 2017, Taylor voted for the “Collins, R-Ga., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 33) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill (HR 79) that would exempt certain events from a Securities and Exchange Commission requirement that calls for verification that attendees are accredited investors, and a bill (HR 5) that would modify the federal rule-making process by codifying certain requirements, including a requirement that agencies estimate the cost of proposed regulations, and would subject rules likely to cost more than $100 million or $1 billion annually to additional procedural steps.” According to Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi’s office, “The Democratic Previous Question would amend the rule to allow for consideration of HR 356, to establish the National Commission on Foreign Interference in the 2016 Election.” A vote yes was against establishing the commission. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 234-179. [HRes 33, Vote #26, 1/10/17; CQ, 1/10/17; Democratic Leader—Previous Questions, 1/10/17]

Other Votes

Israel-Palestine

Taylor Voted For Blocking Consideration Of A Resolution To Express The House’s Support For A Two-State Solution To The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. In January 2017, Taylor voted for the “Collins, R-Ga., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 22).” According to Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi’s office, “The Democratic Previous Question would amend the rule to allow for consideration of H. Res. 23, which would express the sense of the House and reaffirm the United States policy in support of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.” A yes vote was a vote to block consideration of the resolution. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 235-188. [HR 22, Vote #9, 1/5/17; CQ, 1/5/17; Democratic Leader—Previous Questions, 1/5/17]

Taylor Voted For Expressing The House’s Opposition To A U.N. Security Council Resolution Criticizing Expansion Of Israeli Settlements In Unoccupied Areas. In January, 2017, Taylor voted for “adoption of the resolution that would express the House’s opposition to a U.N. Security Council resolution that criticized continued expansion of Israeli settlements in occupied areas” on the grounds that the U.N. Security Council Resolution was an obstacle to Israel-Palestinian peace. A yes vote was a vote to block criticism of the resolution. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 342-80. [HRes 11, Vote #11, 1/5/17; CQ, 1/5/17; Democratic Leader—Previous Questions, 1/5/17]

Russia

Taylor Voted Against A Motion Prohibiting The CFTC From Considering Foreign Swaps Regulatory Requirements Of Governments Found To Have Engaged In Cyber-Attacks On U.S. Elections. In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “Langevin, D-R.I., motion to recommit the bill to the House Agriculture Committee with instructions to report back immediately.” According to Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi’s office, “Democrats’ Motion to Recommit would prohibit the Commodity Futures Trading Commission from considering the swaps regulatory requirements of a foreign jurisdiction as comparable to United States swaps requirements, if the Director of National Intelligence has found that foreign jurisdiction engaged in cyber-attacks targeting any election in the United States.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 190-235. [HR 238, Vote #53, 1/12/17; DemocraticLeader.gov, 1/12/17; CQ, 1/12/17]

Guns

Taylor Voted For Blocking The Social Security Administration From Sharing Information With The National Instant Criminal Background Check System On People With Mental Disorders In Order To Prevent Them From Purchasing Firearms. In February 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the joint resolution that would nullify a Social Security Administration rule that outlines reporting of information by the agency for
inclusion in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System for gun purchases about certain non-elderly individuals with mental impairments who receive disability insurance or Supplemental Security Income benefits and use a "representative payee" because they cannot manage their benefit payments.” The resolution was passed by a vote of 235-180. [HJRes 40, Vote #77, 2/2/17; CQ, 2/2/17]

Taylor Voted For Prohibiting A Veterans Affairs Department Determination That An Individual Is Mentally Incompetent From Preventing The Individual From Buying A Gun. In March 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the bill that would prohibit a Veterans Affairs Department determination that an individual is mentally incompetent from being used as basis for that individual's inclusion in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, which would thereby prevent the individual from purchasing a gun. Under the measure, an individual could not be considered to be mentally defective without a judicial authority's finding that the individual poses a danger to himself or herself or others.” The bill passed by a vote of 240-175. [HR 1181, Vote #169, 3/16/17; CQ, 3/16/17]

Health Care

Major Rules

Taylor Voted Against Excluding Any Rule That Results In Reduced Incidence Of Diseases In Children From Being Defined As A “Major Rule.” In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “Castor, D-Fla., amendment that would exclude rules that would result in reduced incidence of cancer, early death, asthma attacks or respiratory disease in children from the definition of a ‘major rule.’” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 190-233. [HR 26, Vote #14, 1/5/17; CQ, 1/5/17]

A “Major Rule” Is Any Rule The OMB Has Found Could Result In A Cost To The Economy Of $100 Million Or More, A Major Increase In Costs Or “Adverse Effects On Competition, Employment, Investment,” And Other Economic Functions. “A ‘major rule’ is any rule that the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget finds has resulted in or is likely to result in: (1) an annual cost on the economy of $100 million or more (adjusted annually for inflation); (2) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, federal, state, or local government agencies, or geographic regions; or (3) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or the ability of U.S.-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises.” [HR 26, Summary, 1/5/17]

Taylor Voted Against Excluding Any Rule Related To Public Health Or Safety From Being Defined As A “Major Rule.” “In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “Cicilline, D-R.I., amendment that would exclude rules related to the protection of public health or safety from the definition of a ‘major rule.’” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 186-232. [HR 26, Vote #15, 1/5/17; CQ, 1/5/17]

A “Major Rule” Is Any Rule The OMB Has Found Could Result In A Cost To The Economy Of $100 Million Or More, A Major Increase In Costs Or “Adverse Effects On Competition, Employment, Investment,” And Other Economic Functions. “A ‘major rule’ is any rule that the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget finds has resulted in or is likely to result in: (1) an annual cost on the economy of $100 million or more (adjusted annually for inflation); (2) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, federal, state, or local government agencies, or geographic regions; or (3) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or the ability of U.S.-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises.” [HR 26, Summary, 1/5/17]

Taylor Voted Against Excluding Any Rule Pertaining To Workplace Health And Safety From Being Defined As A “Major Rule.” In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “Scott, D-Va., amendment that would exclude from the bill's provisions rules made by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration or the Mine Safety and Health Administration related to the prevention of traumatic injury, cancer or irreversible lung disease.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 193-232. [HR 26, Vote #20, 1/5/17; CQ, 1/5/17]
A “Major Rule” Is Any Rule The OMB Has Found Could Result In A Cost To The Economy Of $100 Million Or More, A Major Increase In Costs Or “Adverse Effects On Competition, Employment, Investment,” And Other Economic Functions. “A ‘major rule’ is any rule that the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget finds has resulted in or is likely to result in: (1) an annual cost on the economy of $100 million or more (adjusted annually for inflation); (2) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, federal, state, or local government agencies, or geographic regions; or (3) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or the ability of U.S.-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises.” [HR 26, Summary, 1/5/17]

Health Insurance

Taylor Voted For Eliminating “Stop-Loss” Insurance As Federally Recognized Health Care Insurance. In April 2017, Taylor voted for the “adoption of the rule (H Res 241) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill that would establish that ‘stop-loss’ insurance, coverage that protects businesses from certain large financial risks associated with providing insurance, would not be considered health care insurance under federal law.” The amendment passed 234 to 184. [HR 241, Vote #212, 4/4/17; CQ, 4/4/17]

Taylor Voted For Exempting Health Care Plans Sponsored By Trade And Business Associations From Most State Laws And Regulations. In March 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the bill that would exempt health care plans sponsored by trade and business associations from most state laws and regulations. The bill would allow an association sponsoring a health care plan to have full discretion to choose the health benefits included in the plan, as long as the plan would still meet certain statutory minimums. The sponsored health care plans could not make membership, payment or coverage conditional on factors related to the health of a member company's employees.” The bill passed by a vote of 236-175. [HR 1101, Vote #186, 3/22/17; CQ, 3/22/17]

Taylor Voted For Providing Consideration For A Bill Exempting Health Care Plans Sponsored By Trade And Business Associations From Most State Laws And Regulations. In March 2017, Taylor voted for the “adoption of the rule (H Res 210) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill that would exempt health care plans sponsored by trade and business associations from most state laws and regulations. The bill would allow the association sponsoring a health care plan to have full discretion to choose the health benefits included in the plan, as long as the plan would still meet certain statutory minimums.” The rule was adopted by a vote of 233-186. [HRes 210, Vote #180, 3/21/17; CQ, 3/21/17]

Taylor Voted Against Requiring Association Health Plans To Provide Coverage For Substance Abuse Disorder Treatments. In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Shea-Porter, D-N.H., motion to recommit the bill to the House Education and the Workforce Committee with instructions to report it back immediately with an amendment that would require association health plans to provide coverage for substance abuse disorder treatments.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 179-233. [HR 1101, Vote #185, 3/22/17; CQ, 3/22/17]

House Administration & Member Perks

Taylor Voted For Electing Paul Ryan Speaker Of The House. In January 2017, Taylor voted for the nomination of Paul D. Ryan, D-Wis., and Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., for Speaker of House of Representatives for the 115th Congress.” Ryan was elected by a vote of 239-189. [Vote #2, 1/3/17; CQ, 1/3/17]

Immigration

Key Votes

Taylor Voted 3 Times Against Blocking Trump's Muslim Ban
Taylor Voted For Blocking Consideration Of An Act Nullifying Trump’s Immigration Executive Order. In January 2017, Taylor voted for the “Newhouse, R-Wash., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and the possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 70).” According to Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi’s office, “The Democratic Previous Question would amend the rule to allow for consideration of HR 724, the Statue of Liberty Values Act of 2017, which provides that President Trump’s Immigration Executive Order shall have no force or effect.” A vote for the previous question was a vote in support of the executive order. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 236-183. [HRes 70, Vote #68, 1/30/17; CQ, 1/30/17; Democratic Leader—Previous Questions, 1/30/17]

Taylor Did Not Vote On Blocking Consideration Of An Act To Nullify Trump’s Immigration Executive Order. In February 2017, Taylor did not vote on the “Buck, R-Colo., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and the possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 71).” According to Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi’s office, “The Democratic Previous Question would amend the rule to allow for consideration of HR 724, the Statue of Liberty Values Act of 2017, which provides that President Trump’s Immigration Executive Order shall have no force or effect.” A vote for the previous question was a vote in support of the executive order. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 231-191. [HRes 71, Vote #70, 2/1/17; CQ, 2/1/17; Democratic Leader—Previous Questions, 2/1/17]

Taylor Voted For Blocking Consideration Of An Act Nullifying Trump’s Immigration Executive Order. In February 2017, Taylor voted for the “Cole, R-Okla., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and the possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 74).” According to Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi’s office, “The Democratic Previous Question would bring up HR 724, the Statue of Liberty Values Act, offered by Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, which would give the Republican Congress a second chance in as many days to defund and rescind President Trump’s unconstitutional and dangerous ban.” A vote for the previous question was a vote in support of the executive order. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 230-188. [HRes 74, Vote #74, 2/2/17; CQ, 2/2/17; Democratic Leader—Previous Questions, 2/2/17]

Labor

Key Votes

Taylor Voted For Undermining Worker Protections By Allowing Private-Sector Employees To Swap Overtime Pay For ‘Comp Time’

Taylor Voted For Allowing Private-Sector Employees To Swap Overtime Pay For ‘Comp Time.’ In May 2017, Taylor voted for “Passage of the bill that would allow private-sector employers to provide non-exempt employees compensatory time off at a rate of 1.5 hours per hour of overtime work. To be eligible, employees would be required to have worked at least 1,000 hours in a 12-month period. Employees would be limited to 160 hours of compensatory time and employers would be required to provide monetary compensation by Jan. 31, for any unused compensatory time accrued during the preceding year. The bill's provisions would sunset five years after enactment.” The bill was passed by a vote of 229-197. [HR 1180, Vote #244, 5/2/17; CQ, 5/2/17]

NBC News: Democrats Opposed The Bill, Saying It Weakened Worker Protections And Could Allow Employers, Who Would Have Final Say On Scheduled Comp Time, To “Kick The Can Down The Road On Money You Earned Putting In Extra Hours.” “The House of Representatives passed a bill Tuesday that would allow employees to swap overtime pay for “comp time,” a rules change congressional Republicans have tried to push through for more than two decades. […] Where do the Democrats stand? They really don't like this bill. Many progressives in the House argue that the proposal would chip away at protections for hardworking Americans and undermine the Fair Labor Standards Act. The measure, among other rules, would give employers the final say on when comp time can be used. In other words, House Dems fear, your boss could conceivably kick the can down the road on money you earned putting in extra hours. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a fierce advocate for workers' rights, blasted the bill as a ‘disgrace.’” [NBC News, 5/3/17]
Taylor Voted Against Blocking Protections From The Bill For Employees Who Receive Seven Or More Sick Days From Their Employers, Which Can Be Used To Seek Care For Pre-Existing Medical Conditions. In May 2017, Taylor voted against “Scott, D-Va., motion to recommit the bill to the House Education and the Workforce Committee with instructions to report it back immediately with an amendment that would exempt from the bill's provisions employees who receive seven or more sick days from their employer.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 192-234. [HR 1180, Vote #243, 5/2/17; CQ, 5/2/17]

Taylor Voted For Waive Certain Rules Making It Easier For The House To Pass A Bill To Allow Employees To Trade Overtime Pay For Comp Time. In May 2017, Taylor voted for “Adoption of the rule (H Res 299) that would allow private-sector employers to provide non-exempt employees compensatory time off at a rate of 1.5 hours per hour of overtime work. It would waive, through the legislative day of May 5, 2017, the two-thirds vote requirement to consider legislation on the same day it is reported from the House Rules Committee. It also would provide for consideration of measures under suspension of the rules on the legislative days of May 4 and May 5, 2017.” The rule was adopted by a vote of 230-193. [HR 1180 (HRes 299), Vote #241, 5/2/17; CQ, 5/2/17]

Other Votes

Taylor Voted For Nullifying A Department Of Labor Rule Exempting Certain Government-Administered State Retirement Savings Plans From Select Federal Regulations. In February 2017, Taylor voted for “Passage of the joint resolution that would nullify and disapprove of a Labor Department rule that exempts certain local government-administered retirement savings plans for non-government employees from select federal regulations governing pension plans. Under the rule, a city or county must have a population at least as large as the least populated state in the nation, and must administer a retirement plan for its own employees for the program to qualify for the exemption.” The resolution was passed by a vote of 234-191. [HJRes 67, Vote #95, 2/15/17; CQ, 2/15/17]

Taylor Voted For Nullifying A Department Of Labor Rule Exempting Certain Government-Administered State Retirement Savings Plans From Select Federal Regulations And Providing Guidance On ERISA Preemption. In February 2017, Taylor voted for “Passage of the joint resolution that would nullify and disapprove of a Labor Department rule that exempts certain state-administered retirement savings plans from select federal regulations governing pension plans if the state programs meet certain standards. Under the rule, the savings program must be established and administered by the state, and the savings plans must be voluntary for the employee for the program to qualify for the exemption.” The resolution was passed by a vote of 231-193. [HJRes 66, Vote #96, 2/15/17; CQ, 2/15/17]

Taylor Voted For Nullifying A Labor Department Rule Limiting The Occupations For Which States Can Require Drug Tests For People Applying For Unemployment Benefits. In February 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the joint resolution that would nullify and disapprove of a Labor Department rule that limits the occupations for which states can require drug tests for individuals applying for unemployment benefits. Under the rule, an individual can be required to be tested for drugs if an individual's typical employment is an occupation for which state or federal laws require an employee to be tested for controlled substances.” The resolution was passed by a vote of 236-189. [HJRes 42, Vote #97, 2/15/17; CQ, 2/15/17]

Taylor Voted For Nullifying A Department Of Labor Rule That Extends The Period Of Time In Which The Occupational Safety And Health Administration Can Issue Citations To Employers Who Do Not Maintain Workplace Injuries. In March 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of a joint resolution that would nullify and disapprove of an Occupational Safety and Health Administration rule that extends, from six months to five years, the period in which OSHA can issue citations to employers who do not maintain workplace injury or illness records.” The resolution was passed by a vote of 231-191. [HJRes 83, Vote #121, 3/1/17; CQ, 3/1/17]
Taylor Voted Against An Amendment To HR 5, The Regulatory Accountability Act, Exempting Rules Related To Occupational Health And Safety. In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “Scott, D-Va., amendment that would exempt rules related to occupational health and safety. It would remove the bill's provision that would effectively overturn two Supreme Court decisions that require federal courts to defer to an agency's interpretation of the underlying law or rule when considering challenges to agency rules.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 195-227. [HR 5, Vote #41, 1/11/17; CQ, 1/11/17]

Taylor Voted For Nullifying An Obama-Administration Rule Requiring Contractors To Disclose Labor Law Violations Within The Past Three Years. In February 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the joint resolution that would nullify a Defense Department, General Services Administration and NASA rule that requires companies that bid for federal contracts of more than $500,000 to disclose whether they have been determined in the previous three years to have violated certain federal labor laws and equivalent state laws.” The resolution was passed by a vote of 236-187. [HJRes, 37, Vote #76, 2/2/17; CQ, 2/2/17]

Land Access & Hunting Issues

Taylor Voted For Overturning A Rule Barring Alaska From Allowing Non-Subsistence Hunting On National Wildlife Reserves. In February 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the joint resolution that would nullify an Interior Department rule that prohibits certain predator control methods on federal lands in Alaska. The rule prevents Alaska, which typically has the authority to manage hunting and trapping practices on federal lands within the state, from allowing certain non-subsistence hunting practices on national wildlife refuges. Under the rule, prohibited practices include using traps to hunt bears and the taking of wolves and coyotes during denning season.” The resolution was passed by a vote of 225-193. [HJRes 69, Vote #98, 2/16/17; CQ, 2/16/17]

Native American Issues

Taylor Voted Against Exempting Rules Related To Federal Obligations To Tribal Governments And Tribal Sovereignty From The SCRUB Act. In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Moore, D-Wis., amendment that would exempt from the bill's provisions rules related to federal obligations to tribal governments and rules related to supporting tribal sovereignty.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 197-229. [HR 998, Vote #111, 3/1/17; CQ, 3/1/17]

Regulatory Reform

Taylor Voted For A Bill Allowing Congress To Disapprove Of Regulations Issued During A President's Final Year. In January 2017, Taylor voted for the “Passage of the bill that would permit a new Congress to use the procedures under the Congressional Review Act to disapprove, en bloc, multiple regulations issued during the final year of a president's term.” The bill passed by a vote of 238-184. [HR 21, Vote #8, 1/4/17; CQ, 1/4/17]

Taylor Voted For Passage Of HR 26, The Regulations From The Executive In Need Of Scrutiny Act Of 2017. In January 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the bill that would require Congress to approve, by enacting legislation, any "major rule" issued by an agency in order for them to take effect. A ‘major rule’ would include any regulation with an annual economic impact of $100 million or more; rules that would significantly harm employment, investment or U.S. economic competitiveness; or rules that would cause a major increase in costs or prices for consumers or industries. The bill also would create an expedited consideration process in both the House and the Senate for joint resolutions of approval. As amended, the measure would require that for new rules, agencies repeal or amend an existing rule or rules to offset any annual costs of the new rule before the new rule could take effect. As amended, it would create a process to sunset existing rules if Congress had not approved them within 10 years of the bill's enactment.” The bill passed by a vote of 237-187. [HR 26, Vote #23, 1/5/17; CQ, 1/5/17]
Taylor Voted For Requiring Agencies Offset Annual Costs Of Any New Rule By Repealing Or Amending An Existing Rule. In January 2017, Taylor voted for the “Messer, R-Ind., amendment that would require that for new rules, agencies repeal or amend an existing rule or rules to offset any annual costs of the new rule before the new rule could take effect.” The amendment was adopted in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 235 to 185. [HR 26, Vote #12, 1/5/17; CQ, 1/5/17]

Taylor Voted For Creating A Process For Congress To Review All Rules Currently In Effect Over A Ten-Year Period. In January 2017, Taylor voted for the “King, R-Iowa, amendment that would require each agency annually, for 10 years, to submit to Congress for review at least 10 percent of the agency's existing rules, and would sunset certain rules if Congress had not approved them within 10 years of the bill's enactment.” The amendment was adopted in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 230-193. [HR 26, Vote #21, 1/5/17; CQ, 1/5/17]

Taylor Voted For Passage Of HR 5, The Regulatory Accountability Act of 2017. In January 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the bill that would modify the federal rule-making process, including by codifying requirements for agencies to consider costs and benefits of alternatives. The bill would create additional steps that agencies would need to follow when planning "major" rules with annual costs of more than $100 million or "high-impact" rules with annual costs of more than $1 billion. For example, agencies would need to hold an advanced-notice comment period prior to proposing such rules to determine whether to continue the rule-making process. The measure would postpone the effective dates of "high impact" rules until any lawsuits filed within 60 days of the rule's publication in the Federal Register are resolved. It would effectively overturn two Supreme Court decisions that require federal courts to defer to an agency's interpretation of the underlying law or rule when considering legal challenges to rules. It would also require agencies to evaluate the "indirect" impacts of proposed rules on small businesses.” The bill passed by a vote of 238-183. [HR 5, Vote #45, 1/11/17; CQ, 1/11/17]

Taylor Voted Against An Amendment To HR 5, The Regulatory Accountability Act, Exempting Rules That Significantly Benefit The Workforce. In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “Johnson, D-Ga., amendment that would exempt rules related to improving employment and wages, especially for workers with disabilities or limited English proficiency. It would remove the bill's provision that would effectively overturn two Supreme Court decisions that require federal courts to defer to an agency's interpretation of the underlying law or rule when considering challenges to agency rules.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 188-234. [HR 5, Vote #39, 1/11/17; CQ, 1/11/17]

Taylor Voted For Establishing A Commission To Review And Cut Regulations That Are Unnecessarily Burdensome. In March 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the bill that would establish a nine-member commission to review existing federal regulations and identify regulations that should be repealed on the basis of reducing costs on the U.S. economy. The commission would identify those regulatory policies that it deems should be repealed immediately, and would set up a "Cut-Go" system that would require agencies to repeal existing rules to offset costs before issuing a new rule. As amended, the commission, in identifying which rules should be repealed, would be required to evaluate the extent to which a repeal of a rule would impact public health. It would bar from membership on the commission individuals who have been registered lobbyists during the previous two years.” The bill passed by a vote of 240-185. [HR 998, Vote #114, 3/1/17; CQ, 3/1/17]

Taylor Voted Against Preventing Funding For Carrying Out The Requirements Of The SCRUB Act. In February 2017, Taylor voted against the “Plaskett, D-V.I., amendment that would remove the bill's authorization of up to $30 million and would prohibit funds authorized or appropriated by other laws from being made available to implement the bill's provisions.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 181-243. [HR 998, Vote #106, 2/28/17; CQ, 2/28/17]

Taylor Voted For Requiring The Office Of Management And Budget's Office Of Information & Regulatory Affairs To Review Significant Government Regulatory Actions. In March 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the bill that would require the Office of Management and Budget's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs to review significant government regulatory actions to insure that they are consistent with relevant laws and do not
conflict with regulations issued by other agencies. The bill would define significant regulatory actions as those that are likely to have an annual economic effect of $100 million or more. As amended, it would require OIRA to keep a log of all of its communications with an agency related to a regulation before a regulation is submitted for review. The communications would be required to be published when the regulation is published in the Federal Register.” The bill passed by a vote of 241-184. [HR 1009, Vote #120, 3/1/17; CQ, 3/1/17]

**Taylor Voted For An Amendment Requiring Agencies To Ensure New Rules Are Not Duplicative.** In March 2017, Taylor voted for the “Young, R-Iowa, amendment that would require each agency to describe what steps were taken in order to ensure that a new rule or regulation would not be duplicative or conflict with any existing or planned regulatory action.” The amendment was adopted in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 265-158. [HR 1009, Vote #117, 3/1/17; CQ, 3/1/17]

**Taylor Voted Against An Amendment Protecting Independent Agencies From Executive Branch Review.** In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Connolly, D-Va., amendment that would exempt independent agencies from the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs' reviews required under the bill.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 188-234. [HR 1009, Vote #118, 3/1/17; CQ, 3/1/17]

**Taylor Voted Against Consideration Of An Amendment Exempting The Office Of Government Ethics From Executive Branch Review.** In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Cartwright, D-Pa., motion to recommit the bill to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee with instructions to immediately report it back with an amendment that would exempt the Office of Government Ethics from the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs' reviews required under the bill.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 193-234. [HR 1009, Vote #119, 3/1/17; CQ, 3/1/17]

**Taylor Did Not Vote On Requiring Federal Agencies To Maintain Online Databases Of Regulatory Actions Taken And Pending.** In March 2017, Taylor did not vote on “passage of the bill that would require federal agencies to maintain and regularly update detailed online databases of regulatory actions taken and pending before the agency. Under the measure, an agency would be required to list whether it is considering alternatives and whether it is accepting comments. It would explicitly prohibit agencies from directly advocating support or opposition for pending regulatory actions in public communications. As amended, the measure would require an agency to list regulatory actions issued by the agency, or any other agency, that would duplicate or overlap with the agency's pending regulatory action.” The bill passed by a vote of 246-176. [HR 1004, Vote #126, 3/2/17; CQ, 3/2/17]

**Taylor Did Not Vote On An Amendment To The Regulatory Integrity Act Defining The Term Propaganda As Information Or Claims Not Widely Accepted By The Scientific Community.** In March 2017, Taylor did not vote on the “Jackson Lee, D-Texas, amendment that would define the terms propaganda, publicity and advocacy as information or claims that are not widely accepted in the scientific community or not supported by empirical data.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 180-234. [HR 1004, Vote #122, 3/2/17; CQ, 3/2/17]

**Taylor Did Not Vote On An Amendment Requiring An Agency To List Regulatory Actions That Would Duplicate Or Overlap With The Agency’s Pending Regulatory Action.** In March 2017, Taylor did not vote on the “Farenthold, R-Texas, for Messer, R-Ind., amendment that would require an agency to list regulatory actions issued by the agency, or any other agency, that would duplicate or overlap with the agency's pending regulatory action.” The amendment was adopted in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 263-145. [HR 1004, Vote #123, 3/2/17; CQ, 3/2/17]

**Taylor Did Not Vote On An Amendment To The Regulatory Integrity Act Specifying That The Bill’s Restrictions On Agency Communications Would Not Apply To Any Communication Protected By The First Amendment.** In March 2017, Taylor did not vote on the “Jackson Lee, D-Texas, amendment that would specify that the bill’s restrictions on agency communications would not apply to any communication that would
be protected under the First Amendment to the Constitution.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 189-232. [HR 1004, Vote #124, 3/2/17; CQ, 3/2/17]

Taylor Voted For An Amendment Prohibiting Agencies From Appealing To The Public Concerning A Proposed Rule. In January 2017, Taylor voted for the “Peterson, D-Minn., amendment that would prohibit agencies from appealing to the public to advocate in support or against a proposed rule.” The amendment was adopted in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 260-161. [HR 5, Vote #36, 1/11/17; CQ, 1/11/17]

Votes Pertaining To The ‘Chevron Deference’

Taylor Voted Against An Amendment Undermining The Supreme Court Precedent ‘Chevron Deference’ In Regulatory Lawsuits. In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “Ruiz, D-Calif., amendment that would exempt rules related to the safety of children's toys or products. It would remove the bill's provision that would effectively overturn two Supreme Court decisions that require federal courts to defer to an agency's interpretation of the underlying law or rule when considering challenges to agency rules.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 190-233. [HR 5, Vote #40, 1/11/17; CQ, 1/11/17]

Taylor Voted For An Amendment To Undermine The Supreme Court Precedent ‘Chevron Deference’ Under Which Courts Defer To Regulators Interpretation Of Ambiguous Legislation. In January 2017, Taylor voted for the “Goodlatte, R-Va., amendment that would prohibit a court, while reviewing an agency's rule, from interpreting a gap or ambiguity in a rule or law as an implicit delegation of legislative rule-making authority to the agency.” The amendment was adopted in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 237-185. [HR 5, Vote #35, 1/11/17; CQ, 1/11/17]

Taylor Voted Against An Amendment To Undermine The Chevron Deference Legal Precedent. In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “Tonko, D-N.Y., amendment that would exempt any rules made under a 2016 chemical safety law. It would remove the bill's provision that would effectively overturn two Supreme Court decisions that require federal courts to defer to an agency's interpretation of the underlying law or rule when considering challenges to agency rules.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 188-235. [HR 5, Vote #42, 1/11/17; CQ, 1/11/17]

Seniors

Prescription Drug Costs

Taylor Voted Against Consideration Of An Amendment Lowering Out-Of-Pocket Drug Costs For Seniors. In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “Demings, D-Fla., motion to recommit the bill to the House Judiciary Committee with instructions to report back immediately with an amendment that would exempt regulations that significantly lower seniors' out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs under Medicare Part D. It would remove the bill's provision that would effectively overturn two Supreme Court decisions that require federal courts to defer to an agency's interpretation of the underlying law or rule when considering challenges to agency rules.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 190-233. [HR 5, Vote #44, 1/11/17; CQ, 1/11/17]

Transportation

Taylor Voted Against Exempting Rules Related To Airspace Safety From The SCRUB Act. In February 2017, Taylor voted against the “Krishnamoorthi, D-Ill., amendment that would exempt rules related to the safety of the national airspace system.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 189-234. [HR 998, Vote #107, 2/28/17; CQ, 2/28/17]

Taylor Voted Against Exempting Rules Related To Airport Noise Restrictions From The SCRUB Act. In February 2017, Taylor voted against the “Krishnamoorthi, D-Ill., amendment that would exempt rules related to
airport noise restrictions.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 192-230. [HR 998, Vote #108, 2/28/17; CQ, 2/28/17]

**Veterans Affairs**

**Taylor Voted For Blocking A Bill To Exempt The VA From The Trump Administration’s Hiring Freeze.** In March 2017, Taylor voted for the “Buck, R-Colo., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule that would provide for House floor consideration of a bill (HR 1259).” According to Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL), a vote for the motion was a vote to block “an amendment to the rule to bring up HR 696, Representative Schrader's bill to exempt the Department of Veterans Affairs from Donald John Trump's hiring freeze. As we have already discussed, my amendment to allow the VA Secretary to fill vacant positions, regardless of whether they were vacated before or after the hiring freeze, was blocked last night in the Rules Committee. There are nearly 47,000 vacant positions within the VA, and we should not be limiting the VA's authority to fill these positions, especially as we continue to work towards reducing patient wait times.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 227-185. [HRes 198, Vote #162, 3/16/17; Democratic Leader—Previous Questions, 3/16/17; Congressional Record, H2099, 3/16/17; CQ, 3/16/17]

**Taylor Voted For Providing For Consideration Of A Bill Creating New VA Staffing And Retention Programs And A Bill Prohibiting A VA Determination That A Veteran Is Mentally Incompetent From Automatically Preventing A Veteran From Being Able To Buy A Gun.** In March 2017, Taylor voted for “adoption of rule that would provide for House floor consideration of a bill (HR 1259) that would expand the Veterans Affairs Department's ability to fire, demote and suspend employees for misconduct; a bill (HR 1367) that would establish various new staffing, recruitment and retention programs at the VA; and a bill (HR 1181) that would prohibit a VA determination that a veteran is mentally incompetent from automatically preventing the veteran from being able to purchase a gun.” The rule was adopted by a vote of 229-187. [HRes 198, Vote #163, 3/16/17; CQ, 3/16/17]

**Taylor Voted Against Removing The Expansion Of The Veteran Affairs Department’s Ability To Fire, Demote, Or Suspend Employees For Misconduct From The VA Accountability First Act.** In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Walz, D-Minn., amendment that would remove the bill's provisions that would expand the Veterans Affairs Department's ability to fire, demote and suspend employees for misconduct, and would alternatively expand the VA's authority to suspend or demote senior executives. It would allow for the removal of non-executives for performance issues occurring only within a preceding two-year period.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 194-223. [HR 1259, Vote #165, 3/16/17; CQ, 3/16/17]

**Taylor Voted Against Replacing The Proposed VA Employee Removal Process For A Process That Provides For The Removal Of VA Employees For Misconduct Related To Public Health And Safety In The VA Accountability First Act.** In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Takano, D-Calif., amendment that would replace the bill's proposed VA employee removal process with an alternative process that would provide for the suspension and removal of Veterans Affairs Department employees for misconduct that is a threat to public health and safety. Suspended employees would be entitled to a written statement of the charges,
a hearing and a review of their case. It would also provide for back pay for suspended whistleblowers.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 183-232. [HR 1259, Vote #166, 3/16/17; CQ, 3/16/17]

Taylor Voted Against Consideration Of An Amendment Extending Whistleblower Protections In The VA. In March 2017, Taylor voted against the “Kihuen, D-Nev., motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs with instructions to report it back immediately with an amendment that would extend the bill’s whistleblower protections to individuals that make disclosures to the central whistleblower office, including those who do so anonymously. It would also exempt veterans and whistleblowers from the bill’s provisions that would expand the Veterans Affairs Department’s ability to fire, demote and suspend employees for misconduct or poor performance.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 189-229. [HR 1259, Vote #167, 3/16/17; CQ, 3/16/17]

Taylor Voted For Updating VA Guidelines On The Employee Hiring And Evaluation Process. In March 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the bill that would require the Veterans Affairs Inspector General to determine non-clinical VA health care positions that should be eligible for expedited hiring, require annual performance reviews for all political appointees at the VA, and would require the VA to establish a database with information on qualified individuals who previously applied for a position at the VA. The measure would require that the information from the database be used to fill positions that have been vacant for an extended period of time. As amended, it would prohibit the secretary of the VA from appointing former political appointees to non-political positions one grade higher than their last position at the VA without having to go through a competitive selection process.” The bill passed by a vote of 412-0. [HR 1367, Vote #171, 3/17/17; CQ, 3/17/17]

Women & Gender Issues

Women & Health Care Reform

Taylor Voted For Prohibiting Federal Funds Including Individual And Small Business Tax Credits Under The ACA From Being Used To Pay For Abortion Serves Or Health Insurance Plans That Include Abortion Coverage And Would Ban Multistate Health Plans The Provide Abortion Coverage From State Exchanges. In January 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the bill that would permanently prohibit federal funds from being used to pay for abortion services or health insurance plans that include abortion coverage. It also would prohibit the District of Columbia from using its own local funds to provide or pay for abortions. Individuals and small businesses also could not receive tax credits under the 2010 health care law related to purchases of health insurance plans that include abortion coverage. The bill would require the Office of Personnel Management to ensure that, starting in 2018, no multistate qualified health plan offered in a state insurance exchange provides coverage that includes abortion. The provisions would not apply to pregnancies resulting from rape or incest, or to situations where the woman would die unless an abortion is performed.” The bill passed by a vote of 238-183. [HR 7, Vote #65, 1/24/17; CQ, 1/24/17]

Taylor Voted Against Consideration Of An Amendment That Prevents Insurance Plans From Charging Women Higher Premiums Than Men. In January 2017, Taylor voted against the “Schakowsky, D-Ill., motion to recommit the bill to the House Energy and Commerce Committee with instructions to report back immediately with an amendment that would state that the bill could not be interpreted to allow health insurance plans to charge women higher premiums than they charge men.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 187-235. [HR 7, Vote #64, 1/24/17; CQ, 1/24/17]

Taylor Voted For Nullifying A Rule Preventing States From Restricting Federal Family Planning Funding To A Health Provider That Provides Abortion. In February 2017, Taylor voted for “passage of the joint resolution that would nullify and disapprove of a Health and Human Services Department rule that prevents states from restricting federal family planning funding to a health provider, such as denying funds to a center that provides abortions, for any basis other than its ability to provide health services. Under the rule, HHS can withhold family planning grants to any state that restricts the participation of a health provider in the family planning
services grant program.” The resolution was passed by a vote of 230-188. [HJRes 43, Vote #99, 2/16/17; CQ, 2/16/17]

**Vote Reversed Obama Rule Preventing States From Withholding Grants From Planned Parenthood.**

“The House voted Thursday to overturn an Obama-era rule banning states from denying federal funds to Planned Parenthood and other health care providers that perform abortions. The rule was designed to prohibit states from withholding family planning funding from providers for reasons other than their ability to offer family-planning services. The Republican-led House voted 230-188 largely along party lines to dismiss the rule under the Congressional Review Act, which allows Congress to overturn recently enacted regulations.” [USA Today, 2/16/17]
Appendix XII – State Legislative Record


Interest Group Ratings

2014-2017: House Of Delegates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Lifetime Average</th>
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<td>NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia</td>
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