Herrell Doesn’t Care About Kids
Herrell’s record on children is atrocious—she doesn’t vote to protect them and doesn’t encourage positive growth. She voted against increasing penalties for child abusers, including repeat offenders and voted against prohibiting corporal punishment in public schools. She also voted against a bill that would “give the Children, Youth and Families Department the tools to intervene at programs for troubled youth that faced abuse allegations.” She even voted against a bill that would have penalized persons for smoking in a car when kids aged 13 and younger are present.

But protecting kids’ physical safety isn’t the only issue Herrell falls short on. While in the legislature, she voted against establishing an early childhood education system and even said that the state Public Education Department should be abolished. And Herrell voted against allowing tax credits for businesses and employers who hire foster kids to give them a chance to develop skills they may not get in foster care.

Our children deserve better than Yvette Herrell; we shouldn’t send her to Congress.

ALT: Doesn’t Care About Kids’ Safety (Hazing / Scott Chandler)
Herrell’s record on children is atrocious. She voted against increasing penalties for child abusers, including repeat offenders, and voted against prohibiting corporal punishment in public schools. She was one of two representatives who voted against an anti-hazing bill. She even voted against a bill that would have penalized persons for smoking in a car when kids aged 13 and younger are present.

But perhaps the most disgusting display of her apathy towards kids came when she voted against a bill that would “give the Children, Youth and Families Department the tools to intervene at programs for troubled youth that faced abuse allegations.” Although nobody knows exactly why she voted this way, there can be no doubt that it benefited one of her

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1 Final Vote, HB 182, 2015
2 Final Vote, HB 182, 2015
3 Final Vote, HB 172, #2951; 3/8/2011
4 Final Vote, HB 342, Vote #4574, 2/17/2014
6 Final Vote, HB 148, 2015
7 Fiscal Impact, HB 148, 2015
8 Final Vote SB 120, #3236; 3/17/2011
9 KSVP – Good Morning Artesia, 5/15/18; 5:08-5:38
10 Final Vote, SB 231, 2018
11 “Tax incentive for hiring foster youth heads to governor,” Cynthia Miller, Las Vegas Optic, 2/16/2018
12 Final Vote, HB 182, 2015
13 Final Vote, HB 182, 2015
14 Final Vote, HB 172, #2951; 3/8/2011
15 Final Vote, HB 427, #428; 3/13/2017
16 Final Vote, HB 148, 2015
17 Fiscal Impact, HB 148, 2015
18 Final Vote, HB 342, Vote #4574, 2/17/2014
supporters, Scott Chandler. Chandler, the owner of the Tierra Blanca Ranch, was accused of allowing child abuse to run rampant on his ranch. These allegations first became public in 2013, when an employee was accused of hitting children and forcing them to wear leg shackles for minor rule infractions. 20 That same year, a 16-year-old boy died while at the ranch.21 Later the public found out that reports of child abuse dated back to 2006. 22

Yvette’s vote came in 2014, after the abuse allegations had surfaced. Chandler rewarded Yvette for her legislative vote by hosting a fundraiser for her in December 2017 23 and donating to her campaign in 2018.24 Chandler’s mother, a defendant in a lawsuit against the ranch, also donated to Yvette in 2017 and 2018. 25

It’s hard to believe that there is no connection between Herrell’s vote against child safety is unrelated to her later financial support from a child abuse enabler. Even if there isn’t a connection, both elements demonstrate an appalling departure from the values we stand for in New Mexico. We cannot afford to send Herrell to Congress.

**Herrell Sides with Tobacco Companies over New Mexicans**

Yvette Herrell cares more about the interests of tobacco companies than the health of her constituents. Herrell has voted against limiting public use of e-cigarettes26 and co-sponsored a Big Tobacco-backed bill27 that weakly regulated e-cigarettes, allowing them to avoid the restrictions that apply to tobacco products.28 Herrell has repeatedly voted29 against30 making tobacco companies pay their fair share for the harm they’ve caused New Mexicans. And Herrell even voted31 to allow children to be exposed to secondhand smoke.32 It’s no coincidence that Herrell sides with big tobacco – she took thousands of dollars from major tobacco companies while voting for their interests as a state legislator. Even when the health of New Mexicans is on the line, Herrell is more concerned about the bottom lines of her donors.

**Herrell is No Friend to Seniors**

Yvette Herrell’s policies do not help our senior citizens.

For starters, Herrell puts seniors’ social security benefits at risk. Herrell is a big supporter of the Balanced Budget Amendment33 (BBA) and was even a co-founder of the Balanced Budget Amendment

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24 Yvette4Congress, Receipts, FEC database [Scott Chandler, $1,500, 11/2/2018]
25 Yvette4Congress, Receipts, FEC database [Kay Chandler, $100; 5/8/2018] [Kay Chandler, $2,100; 12/31/2017] [Kay Chandler, $500; 12/29/2017]
26 Fiscal Impact, SB 318, 2017
27 HB 42, 2015
28 “Legislative Roundup,” The New Mexican, 2/23/2015
29 Final Vote, SB 397, 2011
30 Final Vote, SB 225, 2012
31 Final Vote, HB 148, 2015
32 Fiscal Impact, HB 148, 2015
33 Yvette Herrell for Congress, Facebook post, 4/12/18
She doesn’t mention that a BBA would cut Social Security benefits since it would no longer be able to pay seniors’ their benefits using Treasury savings. \(^{35}\)

And while Herrell is out promoting policies that endanger seniors’ benefits, she’s also voting to cut benefits to everyone but herself. In 2011, Herrell voted\(^ {36}\) to raise the retirement age to collect pension benefits for public employees. Fittingly, the bill exempted members of the legislature from the retirement age increase.

Herrell also voted\(^ {37}\) to impose new fees on the elderly and disabled who required disabled parking placards. Even GOP governor Martinez was appalled by the bill and rightly vetoed it. \(^{38}\)

Seniors need to know that their member of Congress is fighting for them. They can’t count on Herrell.

**Herrell voted against funding for students and teachers**
Now more than ever, teachers and students need all the support they can get from the government, but Herrell has shown that she is not an ally to education.

In 2014, Herrell voted against\(^ {39}\) a bipartisan budget bill that included $17.5 million in educational programs favored by GOP Gov. Martinez; it also would have included a 3% pay raise for public school employees and a 4.4% increase in higher education spending. \(^{40}\) It’s no surprise that she voted against the bill since she’s said that the state Education Department should be abolished. \(^{41}\)

Herrell also voted\(^ {42}\) for a bill that would hurt college-attending students by adjusting lottery tuition scholarship award amounts so that students were “provided a lump sum each year instead of guaranteeing full payment for all students on the scholarship.” \(^{43}\)

Our schools need a member of Congress they can count on. They deserve better than Yvette Herrell.

**Herrell Is Anti-Union and Anti-Worker**
Yvette Herrell doesn’t support the hardworking unions of New Mexico.

Herrell voted for Right-to-Work legislation\(^ {44}\) that would hamstring our state’s unions and severely harm the middle class – the same legislation has been shown to lower average wages by $1,500 per year in other states. \(^{45}\)

While she was in the legislature, she voted against\(^ {46}\) raising the minimum wage in accordance with cost-of-living adjustments and excused herself from voting on raising the minimum wage to $9.25 an hour. \(^{47}\)

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\(^{34}\) "About Us," Balanced Budget Amendment Task Force website, via webarchive, 8/10/2013

\(^{35}\) "Constitutional Balanced Budget Amendment Poses Serious Risks," Richard Kogan, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 3/16/2018

\(^{36}\) Final Vote, HB 644, 2011

\(^{37}\) Final Vote, HB 644, 2011

\(^{38}\) "EDITORIAL: State-pension reform overdue -- if it's done right," Santa Fe New Mexican, 3/17/2011

\(^{39}\) Final Vote SB 313, #4624; 2/19/2014

\(^{40}\) "Budget deal reached in NM legislature, heads to governor," Rob Nikolewski, State Capital Newsfeed, New Mexico Watchdog, 2/19/2014

\(^{41}\) "KSVP – Good Morning Artesia, 5/15/18; 5:08-5:38

\(^{42}\) Final Vote SB 347, #4692; 2/20/2014

\(^{43}\) "Legislative session starts in combat, ends in compromise," Walter Rubel, Las Cruces Sun-news, 2/20/2014

\(^{44}\) Final Vote, HB 75, 2015

\(^{45}\) "'Right to Work' Is the Wrong Answer for New Mexico’s Economy," Alyssa Davis and Gordon Lafer, Economic Policy Institute, 2/4/2015

\(^{46}\) Final Vote, SJR 13, #4625; 2/19/14

\(^{47}\) Final Vote, HB 442, #272; 3/3/2017
Herrell also voted\textsuperscript{48} to reduce unemployment benefit wages and to reduce the total maximum benefit allowed by roughly 20 percent.\textsuperscript{49}

Herrell’s apathy towards New Mexico’s workers doesn’t stop there: she voted against allowing workers to use accrued sick leave to care for sick family members\textsuperscript{50}, and even voted to allow companies to stop paying disabled workers if they wanted to take more time to recover.\textsuperscript{51}

Herrell has shown that she won’t stand up for the good workers in our state.

\textbf{ALT: Herrell’s values are incompatible with pandemic recovery}

In these uncertain times, we are looking to the government to keep our communities afloat. With most of the population on unemployment benefits because of the Coronavirus pandemic, how would Herrell have represented her district? So far, Herrell has been afraid to speak up much about her position. She’s said that coronavirus relief packages should not include “bailouts for the states” and has blamed a lack of a balanced budget on the financial difficulties the country currently has.\textsuperscript{52}

But while her primary GOP opponents both outwardly supported the CARES Act, Herrell has refused to say she supports the bill and has demurred on all requests for clarification.\textsuperscript{53} The truth is that we don’t need clarification—look at her record. The CARES Act provides unemployment benefits to those who need it, but in 2015, Herrell voted\textsuperscript{54} to reduce unemployment benefit wages and to reduce the total maximum benefit allowed by roughly 20 percent.\textsuperscript{55} Herrell has also voted allowing workers to use accrued sick leave to care for sick family members,\textsuperscript{56} a valuable privilege that goes a long way in times like these.

Herrell’s values do not line up with the needs of our current moment. She would do us a disservice in Congress.

\textsuperscript{48} Final Vote, HB 482, 2015
\textsuperscript{49} “Unemployment benefits cut fails,” Sherry Robinson, The Gallup Independent, 3/18/2015
\textsuperscript{50} Final Vote HB 86, #85; 2/8/2017
\textsuperscript{51} Fiscal Impact, HB 250, 2015
\textsuperscript{52} “Radio Interview: Rural Route Radio with Yvette Herrell,” DCCC, 4/30/2020
\textsuperscript{53} “Republicans in House race weigh in on stimulus bill,” Alex Ross, Roswell Daily Record, 4/2/20
\textsuperscript{54} Final Vote, HB 482, 2015
\textsuperscript{55} “Unemployment benefits cut fails,” Sherry Robinson, The Gallup Independent, 3/18/2015
\textsuperscript{56} Final Vote HB 86, #85; 2/8/2017
PERSONAL

Herrell has used her power to help herself, not us
We are living in a time of unprecedented shamelessness, where politicians leverage their offices for personal enrichment without even bothering to cover their tracks. Yvette Herrell has proven that she is just as swampy as the rest of them, repeatedly using her office to fatten her and her family’s wallets.

Herrell failed to disclose $440,000 in rent her company received from state agencies
While Herrell was a state legislator, her company purchased two properties that were being leased by the NM Taxation and Revenue Department and NM Environmental Department. Over the next five years, Herrell’s company quietly collected $440,000 in rent from taxpayers, none of which was disclosed on Herrell’s ethics filings. It wasn’t until Herrell was caught that she finally amended years’ worth of transparency documents to reflect that she had been enriching herself through the state while also serving in the legislature.

Herrell requested $1 million in funds to renovate headquarters for mother’s organization
As a state legislator, Herrell repeatedly use her power to benefit an organization led by her mother. When her mother’s organization, TBHS, sought special historical recognition state for its headquarters, Herrell testified on their behalf before a state committee. When the organization’s headquarters needed renovation, Herrell sponsored a request for three quarters of a million dollars in taxpayer funds, over 50% more than the organization actually wanted; the group ended up receiving more than half a million dollars for the renovation, which was still more than they had requested. Herrell even requested another $250,000 in taxpayer funds for MORE renovations to her mother’s headquarters just three years later. It’s no wonder that, after Herrell secured considerable funding for TBHS, her mother was promoted to President of the organization.

Herrell got the Attorney General to crack down on her real estate competitors
As a state legislator, Herrell repeatedly contacted state bodies about a minor policy issue concerning property auctioneers. According to Herrell, these auctioneers were earning commissions on property sales like a real estate broker would, upsetting brokers in her community who felt that they had gone through the licensing process for nothing. Herrell eventually sought a formal opinion from the Attorney General to put a stop to the practice, and it worked. Of course, Herrell didn’t mention in her letter that she owned a real estate firm and made tens of thousands of dollars a year from commissions, or that her firm’s brokers offer the same services that non-broker auctioneers were now banned from performing. Other legislators have even sponsored bills to undue Herrell’s legal maneuver, to no avail.

In Congress, Herrell would have access to an entire new set of governmental powers she could abuse without scruples. We need someone who will work for us in Washington, not just help themselves.

Herrell can’t be trusted
Representative Democracy is built on trust between the citizens and their elected officials. They tell us how they’ll govern, and we decide who we send to Washington. But what if you can’t trust them to tell the truth? Yvette Herrell has demonstrated time and again that we can’t believe what she says.

For years, Herrell said that she wasn’t receiving extra taxpayer-funded income on the side, but her company had actually raked in nearly half a million dollars in rent from state government offices.

On her website, Herrell says that she believes in protecting elections from fraud and securing our border, but her alleged values and policy stances had been plagiarized verbatim from other websites.

Herrell even spread a false rumor that her female political opponent had an affair and collaborated with
a sleazy political cartoonist to make it go viral; Herrell denied having ever spread the rumor, even though the cartoonist had text messages with Herrell going back months.

There’s too much at stake to put someone so reckless and untrustworthy in charge. We deserve better than Herrell.

**Herrell is a Cowardly Candidate and a Sore Loser**

Yvette Herrell knows that her radical positions on stripping healthcare from millions of Americans and jeopardizing Social Security would be unpopular with New Mexico’s voters, so she tries to avoid voters altogether. Herrell did not participate in a single debate during the 2018 general election, even going so far as to avoid phone calls and emails about them. Herrell hasn’t gotten braver since 2018: she skipped the first major 2020 debate with her Republican opponents. Herrell tries to dodge debates at every turn because she knows that if she participates, New Mexicans won’t like what they see.

Herrell’s bad behavior extends past elections, too. After losing fair and square in 2018, Herrell spent months whining about “signs of fraud” in the election and claiming officials “took it away” from her with no evidence to back it up. Even after desperately searching thousands of ballots for these so-called “signs of fraud,” Herrell was unable to find anything to back up her claim. Yvette Herrell is a sore loser who doesn’t respect our nation’s democratic process, and New Mexicans deserve better.

**Herrell is a Swamp Monster (Ethics and Compensation)**

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57 “Republican who lost race for House seat vows to try again,” Associated Press, 5/7/2019
58 “Losing candidate delivers hot-air ad,” Milan Simonich, The Santa Fe New Mexican, 2/14/2020
59 “Republican Herrell will not contest US House race loss,” AP, 1/7/2019
Herrell is a career politician and the type of swamp monster D.C. loves. While she was in the state legislature, she was only one of 10 representatives to vote against the creation of an independent ethics commission that would investigate complaints against state officers. And when a common-sense bill that would prohibit lawmakers from becoming lobbyists two years after leaving office, Herrell voted against it.

Meanwhile, despite claiming to be a fiscal conservative, Herrell, has voted repeatedly for the “Feed Bill,” the periodic funding bill that allocates tens of millions of taxpayer dollars to fund politician expenses, including per diem costs or mileage for days they called out sick. Rather than call for accountability, Herrell rubber stamped a system where “Lawmakers [are] not required to submit vouchers during the legislative session for per diem. Instead, they [write] their initials besides their names on a list and [pick] up their checks.” Oh and Herrell certainly has picked up her checks! She’s received over $100,000 in taxpayer-funded reimbursements over the years, including for travel to multiple meetings with a “conservative, corporate-backed lobbying organization.”

We’ve seen enough pork and waste in Washington. Sending Herrell to Congress will only make the problem worse.

**Herrell is a Swamp Monster (Career Politician)**

If we want real representation in Congress, we need to send someone who shares our values, not a career politician. Yvette Herrell was raised by a politician who has been running for various offices since the 1970s. She worked for multiple politicians before getting elected herself, spending nearly a decade in office making things worse for New Mexico. Herrell is desperate to get to Washington; she’s admitted that she knew she wanted to run for Congress years ago—before she ran for state legislature—because she “had a calling.” She often brags about how often she goes to D.C. and the “great relationships” she has there. That’s why she can’t let go of the fact that New Mexicans already made their choice in 2018—they don’t want Herrell to represent them.

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60 Final Vote, HJR 5, 2016  
61 Fiscal Impact, HJR 5, 2016  
62 Final Vote, HB 82, #4479, 2/13/14  
63 “Lawmakers missing due to illness still collecting payments,” Patrick Malone, Las Cruces Sun-News, 2/18/2014  
64 “Lawmakers missing due to illness still collecting payments,” Patrick Malone, Las Cruces Sun-News, 2/18/2014  
65 Alamogordo Daily News, 7/11/17  
66 “Candidate Herrell stumps in Deming: Herrell visits with Luna County Republicans,” Xchelzin Peña, Deming Headlight, 10/23/2019  
67 KVPN – Good Morning Artesia, 5/15/18 (04:14 – 04:49)