

KEY LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY VICTORIES OF
SENATOR EDWARD MARKEY
UNITED STATES HOUSE AND SENATE
1976 - PRESENT

This document includes 49 examples of public interest victories or ongoing battles on which then-Representative Edward Markey, and now Senator Edward Markey, has made an indelible mark on the work of the US Congress and the regulatory process of the Executive Branch. This is only a subset of the more than 500 laws that he has sponsored or cosponsored to date, but they are all lasting achievements on behalf the American people for which Senator Markey was a primary or prime advocate. They are why Markey stands apart when it comes to securing in law and regulation the promotion of social justice, public health, safe and affordable transportation, a sustainable environment, a fair marketplace, investor protections, public privacy, and access to public communications and to the courts for the American people.

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IMPROVING HEALTH CARE

FIGHTING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC: For the last six months, our entire country has been in the throes of a deadly pandemic, with many unemployed workers losing their healthcare protection at work, reinforcing the need for Medicare for All. The pandemic has brought into stark relief the disproportionate effects on the elderly, the poor and people of color. Markey believes health care is a right, not a privilege. That is why he is an original cosponsor of Senator Bernie Sanders' push for Medicare for All, and he is attacking the pandemic head-on, pushing for important improvements for the public in ongoing pandemic legislation. He was the first member of the US Senate to call on President Donald Trump to designate this crisis as a national emergency and to invoke the Defense Production Act to ensure the production of personal protection equipment for front-line healthcare and essential workers. He has called for a Permanent Health Chief to address the virus, and introduced legislation to appoint a permanent Pandemic Prevention and Response Coordinator at the National Security Council. He has joined with Senators Sanders (D-VT) and Kamala Harris (D-CA) to advocate for the *Monthly Economic Crisis Support Act*, which would provide \$2000 per month to individuals until the pandemic is over. As a member of the Senate Committee on Small Business, he has introduced legislation with Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) to provide increased aid to support small businesses of color, singling out the need to protect the self-employed and gig workers lacking paid leave when staying at home to protect public health. Markey and Senator Elizabeth Warren have demanded that the 19 largest banks and credit unions support a moratorium on ATM fees, overdraft penalties and other fees during the pandemic. Markey has called for worker and consumer protections to accompany funds flowing to the airline and cruise industries, and he is demanding that the travel insurance industry honor consumer claims for the cost of travel cancelled due to the coronavirus. He has introduced a package of bills to provide seniors tax relief from IRA and Social Security distributions. And Markey has introduced a bill to invest \$1 billion for research and development of a universal coronavirus vaccine, so that we are not caught unprepared in the future.

COMBATING THE OPIOID CRISIS: Markey's *INTERDICT Act* was signed into law in 2018 and is helping stop the flow of the illicit opioid fentanyl across the U.S. border. He is also author of the *Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act* law, which for the first-time increased access to medication-assisted therapies by expanding the number of patients qualified physicians could treat with medication-assisted therapies. Markey's *Opioid-Related Infectious Diseases Act* became law and authorizes the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to expand the scope of an existing CDC initiative to focus on eliminating infectious diseases caused by injection drug use. He is also author of the *National Milestones to Measure Progress in Ending the Opioid Epidemic Act*, which became law and requires the Department of Health and Human Services to set tangible benchmarks for how it is addressing the opioid epidemic.

SEEKING CURES FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE: Alzheimer's disease directly affected Ed Markey's mother and father, leading him to found the Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease, to establish clinical training fellowships in Alzheimer's through the National Institute of Aging, and to amend Medicare rules to allow patients to attend religious services and adult daycare accompanied by their caregivers without jeopardizing benefits. In 2011, President Obama signed Markey's *National Alzheimer's Project Act* (NAPA) into law. NAPA provides that, for the first time, the Administration must prepare a government-wide

strategic plan for the fight against the disease. Further, after Sen. Markey and Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID) introduced the *Alzheimer's Accountability Act* (S. 2192) to require the Director of NIH to submit directly to the President and Congress an annual budget to meet the NAPA's goal of preventing and treating Alzheimer's disease by the year 2025. Markey worked with the Appropriations Committee to get this bill incorporated as a part of the government spending bill ("Cromnibus") that was signed into law at the end of 2014.

DRUG TRIAL DISCLOSURES: In 2007, when it came to light that some pharmaceutical companies were failing to disclose to the public the adverse results of drug and biologic trials, Markey successfully passed a law to strengthen disclosure of all results, both positive and negative, so that the benefits of knowing what failed were shared widely with the scientific community and the public.

CHILDREN'S MEDICAL DEVICES: Also, in 2007, Markey passed legislation to adjust standards for approval of medical devices intended for pediatric patients. Prior to this law, most medical devices for children were "off-label" adult devices that were then jury-rigged for younger patients.

REDUCING TELEVISION VIOLENCE: In 1996, Markey passed legislation that embraced technology to confront unfiltered violence in television programming while respecting First Amendment rights. By requiring a "V-Chip" (a term coined by Markey) in all new television sets that can be set to read ratings for violence, sex or vulgar language, Markey's legislation empowered parents with a new tool to block the reception of programming carrying such ratings.

SPURRING RESEARCH FOR DEADLY DISEASES: Markey authored legislation signed into law in 2010 to improve access to clinical trials for Americans with rare diseases such as cystic fibrosis. Markey's *Improving Access to Clinical Trials Act* permits individuals with rare disorders to participate in clinical trials without forfeiting their Medicaid or Supplemental Social Security benefits, which had been a barrier to their ability to participate.

ENSURING ACCESS TO RADIO ISOTOPES FOR MEDICAL PROCEDURES: In 2009, Markey sponsored and the House passed H.R. 3276, the bipartisan *American Medical Isotopes Production Act*. The legislation created incentives for the domestic development of medical isotopes that are used for critical medical procedures such as the detection and staging of cancer and the diagnosis of heart disease. A version of Markey's bill was signed into law as part of the *Defense Department Authorization Act* in late 2012.

PROTECTING CONSUMERS

CONSUMER AUTO SAFETY: In 2000, Congress considered the *TREAD Act*, a law to address the failure of Ford and Firestone to report defects in tire treads and SUV design that were leading to fatal rollover accidents, killing 10,000 people a year. Markey successfully inserted two key provisions. First, his law established a dynamic rollover testing requirement that forced the design of safer SUVs, ultimately saving thousands of lives each year. Second, his law requires drivers to be alerted on the vehicle dashboard to low tire inflation, one of the reasons for tread separation revealed by the investigation by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

CRACKING DOWN ON HARASSING AND ILLEGAL ROBOCALLS: In 2020, Markey teamed with Senator John Thune (R-S.D.) to pass the *TRACED Act*, providing new authority to the FCC to combat the epidemic of illegal robocalls. The law requires telecommunications carriers to implement, at no extra charge, a number-authentication system to help consumers identify who's calling. It also increases penalties for robocallers who violate the law.

PUBLIC DATABASE FOR DANGEROUS TOYS AND OTHER CONSUMER PRODUCTS: In 2007, in response to reports of cribs that killed sleeping infants, exploding televisions and toys laced with lead or the date rape drug, Markey passed a law to make public and searchable an online database where reports of injuries, illnesses or deaths potentially caused by defective products such as toys could be logged while the Consumer Product Safety Commission considered how to prevent further harm. The Markey amendment – included in the final bill to reform the CPSC -- resulted in the creation of the [saferproducts.gov](https://www.saferproducts.gov) database.

CONSUMER PROTECTION FOR ENERGY CONSUMERS: As an additional buffer against regional oil spikes that could crush consumers, Markey fought successfully to establish a Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve. While the National Strategic Petroleum Reserve is intended to provide supplies of crude oil to refineries during price spikes or shortages, the Regional Reserve stores petroleum products, such as heating oil, for the Northeast when refineries may be supplied with crude oil, but refined products are not reaching key markets and consumers are paying the price.

EMPLOYEE AND CONSUMER ACCESS TO THE COURTS: In order to shine a spotlight on how arbitration clauses were being used by industry in all types of product and service contracts to deny a consumer or employee access to the courts to combat fraud and discrimination, Markey used his chairmanship of the subcommittee overseeing the securities industry to commission a series of GAO reports exposing the practice of forcing employees into mandatory arbitration. These reports, released in 2000, revealed the failures of a system which forced workers to resolve claims regarding sexual harassment, racial discrimination, or age discrimination before arbitration panels dominated by industry, instead of having the right to go to court. These Markey reports were an early warning of how the use of arbitration was being deployed by corporate lawyers to protect companies from being challenged for misconduct and ultimately led to the limits proposed by the Consumer Financial Protection Board on such contracts.

HOLDING CORPORATIONS ACCOUNTABLE: Markey has successfully opposed and stopped, year after year, industry efforts to nationalize state tort law to protect corporations from being held accountable for the harm done by defective products. By preempting state courts and state judges with a national tort law, corporate America has sought to cap the damages recoverable by harmed consumers and limit other consumer rights in an effort that continues but has so far not prevailed.

EXPOSING SHAMEFUL GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENTS ON HUMANS: In 1986, Markey issued a report, "American Nuclear Guinea Pigs: Three Decades of Radiation Experiments on U.S. Citizens," which exposed the history of Cold War experiments carried out from the 1940s to the 1970s in which approximately 695 persons were exposed to radiation that provided little or no medical benefit to the subjects. In some cases, experiments were conducted

upon populations whose use as subjects were of particular concern – the elderly, prisoners, hospital patients suffering from terminal illnesses or who might not have had their full faculties or been able to give informed consent. Markey called on the Reagan administration to conduct long-term follow-up of those affected and provide compensation to anyone who suffered harm. Neither the Reagan nor Bush administrations were willing to do so, but the Clinton Administration finally ordered an investigation that found even more experiments had taken place -- including some using mentally handicapped boys at the Fernald School in Waltham, MA. President Clinton issued a formal apology to all the victims, created a Presidential Bioethics Advisory Panel to set ethical guidelines for all future use of human subjects in medical experiments, and establish a process for compensation of victims of the experiments that had taken place.

FRAUD IN PUBLIC ROYALTIES PAID BY COAL COMPANIES: In 1983, Markey used his position as chair of an oversight subcommittee with jurisdiction over public lands to expose the vast and illegal underpayment of royalties by coal companies mining coal from public lands, leading to the resignation of Interior Department Secretary James Watt.

FIGHTING MONOPOLIES

TELECOM MONOPOLIES: In the early 1980s, when AT&T attempted to resist competition, keep consumer prices high and retain its obsolete bottleneck control of the nation's telecommunications system, Markey used his position on the Telecommunications Subcommittee of the House to side with the upstart competitors seeking a foothold in the long-distance and consumer marketplace.

TELECOM MARKETPLACE COMPETITION: Following six years of leading the effort to rewrite telecommunications law to reflect rapidly changing technology and threats to consumer choice, Markey succeeded in passing the *Telecommunications Act of 1996*. This landmark bill launched the broadband Internet era and unleashed billions of dollars in investment. It opened up the telecommunications marketplace to innovation, entrepreneurial activity and consumer choice by cracking open local phone markets to competition while permitting the local phone company to provide competition and consumer choice to established cable companies in the multichannel TV business and to incumbent long-distance providers in the long-distance marketplace.

NEW SATELLITE COMPETITION TO CABLE MONOPOLIES: Markey also was instrumental in jumpstarting the growth of the rooftop satellite industry, by requiring vertically-integrated cable monopolies to share programming with competitors. Such competition headed off the kind of consumer price gouging that occurs when monopolies are allowed to go unchecked and offered consumers much-needed choice. The emergence of digital satellite TV competition also compelled the cable companies to upgrade their facilities to digital technology and spurred the launch of cable modem service.

NET NEUTRALITY: Markey has been the champion of Net Neutrality and has led the fight to protect the free and open Internet from discriminatory treatment by Internet Service Providers

(ISPs). In 2018, he successfully won a Senate vote to overturn a Trump FCC decision gutting Net Neutrality protections and has kept the pressure on to safeguard this vitally important policy for consumers and entrepreneurs.

SPECTRUM FOR ENTREPRENEURS: In 1993, Telecommunications Subcommittee Chair Markey and the Energy & Commerce Committee Chair John Dingell (D-MI) joined in passing a landmark law freeing 200 megahertz of spectrum for the Federal Communications Commission to re-allocate to new entrants into the telecommunications provider marketplace. This seeded a period of spectacular growth of wireless telecommunications, economic productivity, innovation and new jobs.

STOCK MARKET REFORM AND INVESTOR PROTECTION: In 1988, 1990 and 1993, in the wake of shenanigans on Wall Street leading to stock volatility and insider trading, Congress passed four new laws authored by Markey to strengthen investor protection, crack down on insider trading, and deter stock fraud and program trading. One created the bounty now available for those who blow the whistle on insider traders. Another created an online database and hotline so that consumers can now check on the disciplinary records of their stock broker. Another beefed up oversight of the government securities market and reigned in abusive “rollups” of limited partnerships. Then-SEC chairman Arthur Levitt called these bills “the most significant legislative reform” of Wall Street since the 1940s.

DEMOCRATIZING THE INFORMATION MARKETPLACE

EQUAL ACCESS TO DIGITAL EDUCATION: Markey is the author of a multibillion-dollar program to reduce social injustice by reducing the digital divide in America between the rich and poor. He led the House effort to establish an “E-Rate” (“educational rate”), a universal service program for schools and libraries overseen by the FCC. This program provides discounted telecommunications services to K-12 schools and public libraries, with the deepest discounts to the poorest schools.

CHILDREN’S TELEVISION: In 1995-96, Markey took on broadcasters on behalf of parents and children by forcing every broadcast licensee to make children’s educational television programming an explicit obligation of holding a public license. When the broadcasters attempted to undo an FCC proposal to quantify the children’s TV obligation at a minimum of 3-hours per week, Markey mounted a national campaign to Save the Children’s Television Rule, which resulted in a key vote at the FCC to strengthen the rule. Markey is also a staunch supporter of the Public Broadcasting System, successfully blocking repeated attempts to “zero-out” funding.

THREATS TO EMERGING ONLINE BUSINESSES: In 1983, as chair of the House Telecommunications Subcommittee, Markey successfully confronted the Reagan Administration’s FCC proposal to impose “per-minute” charges instead of “flat-rate” charges on small startup online companies. He headed off a similar threat in 1987. These decisions have proved to be critically important FCC policy decisions affecting the development of the Internet.

CABLE CONSUMER PROTECTION: In 1992, Markey led the successful Congressional fight to impose controls on sky-rocketing cable television rates. To achieve this victory for cable consumers, Markey had to overcome a presidential veto – the only successful override of a veto during George H.W. Bush Administration.

LEADING THE CLEAN ENERGY/CLEAN ENVIRONMENT ANSWER TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS

THE GREEN NEW DEAL: Senator Markey and freshman Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) have laid out a call to action – the Green New Deal – which has already radically changed an atmosphere of climate paralysis at the federal level. Their proposal is not only rigorous with respect to the goals called for by the UN’s panel on climate change, but also demands that the U.S. response to climate change incorporate social justice and employment goals. The response has been transformative, thrusting the climate crisis to the top of the agenda of the Democratic presidential primary contenders and into the Democratic platform. However, Markey has been leading for years to lay the groundwork for this moment, through the initiatives outlined below.

PUBLIC EDUCATION ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS: In 2007, Speaker Nancy Pelosi appointed Markey chair of the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, and charged him with educating the country regarding the urgency of global warming and with developing policies that would address the climate crisis. Over the next 4 years, Chairman Markey conducted more than 50 hearings on climate change issues -- the most thorough and far-reaching examination of this existential crisis ever undertaken by Congress, amassing a body of evidence that supported the need to move quickly, boldly and urgently towards a clean energy future, so that American workers and businesses could benefit from the new global market for clean energy sources like solar and wind, and so that the next generation would not be saddled with the steadily rising cost of not addressing climate change.

FIGHTING CLIMATE AND OIL DEPENDENCY THROUGH FUEL ECONOMY: The first major product of this new push to combat climate change was legislation to finally set new, higher fuel economy for America’s automobiles and light trucks. The standards were first doubled from 1976-1985 under the 1976 law, but then were left stagnant for decades in response to auto industry lobbying, despite the advance of technology since initial implementation of the 1976 law. Markey persisted in introducing and pressing for higher standards for several Congresses, but was repeatedly blocked by the grip of this powerful industry on Congress. Finally, in 2007, Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Markey engineered a strategy that overcame that opposition and passed targets for fuel economy that, once implemented, were required to achieve at least 35 mpg by 2020, which translates into much cleaner air, sharply reduced carbon emissions from transportation, and dramatic consumer savings. The bill also required ‘maximum feasible’ standards to be set each year after 2020, which the Obama Administration used to set even more aggressive standards for future years as more cost-effective fuel-efficient technologies became available. Even as the Trump Administration fights to roll back these standards, the consumer savings from the 2007 law and subsequent regulation have been estimated by the Union of Concerned Scientists to total almost \$110 billion to date.

THE ONLY COMPREHENSIVE CLIMATE LEGISLATION TO PASS ANY CHAMBER OF CONGRESS: Following the victory on auto fuel economy, Markey and Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) co-authored and passed the *American Clean Energy and Security Act* in 2009. The Waxman-Markey bill was the first, and to date the only, industry-wide climate bill to pass the House or Senate. The bill placed a price on fossil fuel emissions, promoted renewable energy, and set a target of 83 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. While it

was never brought to the floor of the Senate for a vote, it stands as the highest level of national climate action that either chamber of Congress has achieved to date.

NATIONWIDE APPLIANCE EFFICIENCY STANDARDS: In 1987, Markey engineered legislation to impose a national minimum standard on the efficiency of energy guzzling consumer appliances. Much of the power for our refrigerators, freezers, and ovens is provided by coal-burning electricity plants. Over time, Markey’s law made completely unnecessary the energy equivalent to 60 new coal plants, with all the air and water and greenhouse gas pollution that comes with such facilities.

CLEANING UP A NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHTMARE IN WOBURN: Markey met with Woburn families concerned about the high incidence of childhood leukemia in their neighborhood, which they believed was due to toxic contamination from industrial sites in the city. He championed their cause and worked to enact the Superfund law to clean up the nation’s most toxic waste sites, including Woburn and other sites in Massachusetts.

HOLDING BRITISH PETROLEUM ACCOUNTABLE FOR GULF OIL SPILL: In response to the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in April 2010, Markey repeatedly pressed BP for specifics on how much oil was leaking. He demanded that BP provide him with the live feed of the footage of the underwater oil leakage and then made the feed available to the public on his Congressional website, enabling scientists to determine that BP was grossly underestimating the flow rate of oil gushing into the Gulf. The popularity of the “SpillCam” as an information resource led to it being named Word of the Year for 2010. In June 2010, Markey proposed a new commission with power to subpoena BP’s internal records. Ed also introduced H.R. 501 along with other House Democrats, legislation to implement the recommendations of the BP Spill Commission. He called for and ensured that BP establish a \$500 million research fund to evaluate the effects of the spill and develop ways to prevent such incidents in the future. In November 2012, the Department of Justice announced a \$4.5 billion settlement between the U.S. government and BP, which included an indictment of BP executive David Rainey for lying to Congress during the first closed-door briefing held by Markey on May 4, 2010 and manipulating documents related to the size of the spill.

CLEAN AIR: The passage of the *Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990* incorporated Markey’s energy efficiency amendment to the Clean Air Act which provided \$400 million in incentives for coal-powered electric plants to comply with limits on particulate emissions and acid rain by reducing demand for their polluting product, rather than spending rate-payer funds on expensive technology to keep polluting.

LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE: As a member of the House Energy & Commerce Committee, Markey recognized from his first day in Congress that the Northeast is particularly vulnerable to spikes in home heating oil rates that disproportionately affect the poor and the elderly. Thus, he has fought repeatedly, and successfully, to protect the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), rallying the Massachusetts delegation to put pressure on the appropriations process to preserve this protection for the poor. The program assists eligible low-income households with their heating and cooling energy costs, bill payment assistance, energy crisis assistance, weatherization and energy-related home repairs

PROTECTION FROM TOXIC CHEMICALS: As the Ranking Democrat on the Senate Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management and Regulatory Oversight, Markey successfully fought to strengthen the 2016 reauthorization of the *Toxic Substances Control Act*, securing changes to ensure EPA and states had the tools to test, ban or otherwise restrict dangerous chemicals that can harm children and communities.

ENERGY CONSERVATION VERSUS SYNFUELS: In 1980, Markey led the fight for the House version of the Energy Conservation and Solar Bank – the progressive alternative to the Carter Administration’s \$88 billion proposal to subsidize the crash synthetic fuels program. Markey demonstrated that with energy efficiency alone, the country could create twice the energy at half the price. By confronting this powerful industry, Markey was able to undercut the push by the fossil fuels industry for expensive, unaffordable and polluting synfuels – a bad idea that has never been revived.

RENEWABLE ENERGY: Working with the activist-led Campaign for Safe Energy, Markey was picked to give a national address at the National Democratic Convention in 1980, in which he laid out a vision for a future based on safe, clean renewable energy instead of fossil fuels and nuclear power.

LENGTHENING DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME: Markey led the successful fight to save energy and boost economic activity by extending daylight savings time three weeks in the spring and a week in the fall.

IMPROVING SAFETY AT LNG FACILITIES: In response to concerns over safety at liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals, such as the one located in his then-Congressional district in Everett, Markey authored the *Fuels Transportation Safety Amendments Act of 1979*, a law that requires the Secretary of Energy to establish minimum standards for the location, construction, and operation of any new LNG facility. The law also required the Secretary of Energy to establish minimum safety standards for existing LNG facilities, and established civil and criminal penalties for the violation of safety or financial responsibility standards.

PROMOTING GUN SAFETY

BANNING CHINESE ASSAULT WEAPONS: In 1994, during consideration of a related bill regarding trade with China, Markey introduced an amendment to close a loophole that had permitted import of military-style assault weapons from China that could then be sold on the streets of America for the price of a pair of sneakers. President Clinton subsequently made Markey’s ban a condition of extending MFN to China.

RESEARCHING GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION: Markey led a push in the Senate to repeal a 20-year provision that prevented the Center for Disease Control and Prevention from spending any funds on gathering data and doing research into gun violence prevention. His pressure helped result in the appropriations of \$25 million in FY 2020 – the first such appropriation since the ban initially passed in 1996.

PROTECTING PRIVACY

CHILDREN’S ONLINE PRIVACY PROTECTION: Facing a flood of web sites aimed at children as consumers and seeking to amass private information about children for upselling or abusive commercial targeting, Markey was the House leader of the successful fight for the *Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act*, a 1998 law which now requires parental consent before websites aimed at children can collect private information about the child or family.

FINANCIAL PRIVACY PROTECTION: As the founder of the Privacy Caucus in the House, Markey also forced initial privacy reforms to the financial services industry with amendments passed during consideration of the *Financial Services Modernization Act in 1999*, including the requirement that privacy disclosures meet stricter standards about with whom a consumer’s information could be shared including, importantly, the opportunity to “opt-out” of sharing

STOPPING THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

NUCLEAR FREEZE: In the early 1980’s, Markey became a national leader of the movement to stop the nuclear arms race by winning an amendment to reverse this expensive and deadly madness, beginning with a Nuclear Freeze on all new weapons.

NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION: In 2005 Markey won an amendment to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons by restricting exports of nuclear fuel to non-nuclear weapons states not party to the non-proliferation treaty (NPT) and lacking full-scope safeguards. India, for example, has never signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS: In 1982, Markey authored Nuclear Peril, a book warning of the spread of nuclear weapons through civilian nuclear commerce and lax enforcement of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

STRENGTHENING HOMELAND SECURITY

PROTECTIONS AGAINST TERRORISM: Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Markey was named by Leader Nancy Pelosi to the newly-created Select Committee on Homeland Security, where he served from 2003-2009. He focused on closing security gaps in areas of our homeland defenses particularly vulnerable to attack, such as nuclear, aviation, rail, liquefied natural gas and chemical security. In 2007, he successfully secured major new security mandates into legislation implementing the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission that were signed into law by President George W. Bush, including provisions requiring that 100 percent of the cargo carried on passenger planes be screened for bombs, just like the passenger baggage. Reflecting Markey’s leadership on homeland security policy, in 2008 National Journal named Markey to its “Homeland Security 100”, a list of the top leaders influencing homeland security policy, identifying him as “a tenacious watchdog, relentlessly prodding the Bush administration to crack down on what he sees as critical gaps in the nation’s security.”

SECURING “DIRTY BOMB” MATERIALS: Markey first sounded the alarm about the potential that a terrorist might target a nuclear reactor in 1991. After a decades-long effort to force the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to strengthen security, he successfully passed amendments in 2005 to improve the security of materials that could be stolen to make a “dirty” bomb and ensure that nuclear utilities planned and trained for potential terrorist attacks.
