

## A YEAR IN REVIEW

### A LETTER FROM YOUR CONGRESSWOMAN



#### Representatives Escobar, Salazar Introduce Historic, Bipartisan Immigration Reform

In May, Representatives Veronica Escobar (TX-16) and Maria Elvira Salazar (FL-27) are announcing the Dignity Act of 2023, a historic, bipartisan immigration reform bill. This legislation has been over six months in the making; it addresses border security and infrastructure, creates legal status for undocumented immigrants already living in the United States with the possibility of earning citizenship, establishes new pathways for asylum seekers, and creates new legal pathways for economic migrants and unaccompanied minors. - **CONTINUED ON PAGE**

It has been a whirlwind of a year! I'm thrilled about the progress we've made for El Paso, especially securing the Crown Jewel of West Texas - Castner Range - as a national monument. As your Congresswoman, my job is to tirelessly advocate for our community. From comprehensive immigration reform to fighting for federal funding for our institutions & organizations in El Paso, I'm proud of the wins we secured this year.

Your Congresswoman,  
*Veronica Escobar*

## Need help with a federal agency?

My caseworkers can assist with all federal agencies, including

- Social Security Administration
- Internal Revenue Service
- US Passport Agency
- Veterans Administration
- USCIS
- Department of Labor

& more!

Call my El Paso office today at  
**915-541-1400.**



This year, we helped Kevin navigate his application through the Department of the Army so he could receive his service dog - Ed - after retirement.



“Decades of congressional inaction on immigration law has real consequences, and the humanitarian crisis unfolding before our eyes requires a bipartisan solution,” **said Congresswoman Escobar.** “I have seen the toll our broken immigration system has on federal personnel, local representatives, nonprofits, and the migrants themselves, and the need for a realistic, common-sense compromise could not be more urgent. These challenging times call for both compassion and action, and the Dignity Act of 2023

offers a bipartisan, meaningful approach that restores dignity to people who have tried to navigate a broken system for far too long. With the introduction of this legislation that Representative Salazar and I have been working on since December 2022, it is our hope that Congress seizes the opportunity to solve the immigration challenges of today and tomorrow.” his comprehensive bill makes meaningful reforms to several aspects of our immigration system.

It grants additional pathways to citizenship, including through the new dignity program, certified agricultural worker status, or service through the armed forces; It grants legal status to undocumented immigrants already living in the United States with the possibility of earning citizenship. It establishes new pathways for asylum seekers and creates new regional processing centers. It creates new legal pathways for economic migrants and unaccompanied minors.



## Congresswoman Escobar Announces Designation of Castner Range as a National Monument

In March, Congresswoman Veronica Escobar (TX-16) proudly announced that the Castner Range – the crown jewel of West Texas – will be designated as a national monument by President Biden. The designation was granted through the President’s use of the Antiquities Act. “I’m absolutely thrilled about the designation,” said Congresswoman Veronica Escobar. “Today’s historic announcement has been decades in the making. Generations of activists have dedicated countless hours and resources toward achieving this once seemingly impossible goal. It brings me such joy to know that El Pasoans will soon be able to enjoy the beauty of this majestic, expansive landmark for years to come.” The announcement to designate Castner Range as a national monument comes after over 50 years of advocacy from the community.

Castner Range consists of over 7,000 acres of land that was formerly used by Fort Bliss Army Base as an artillery and munitions range. The Army ceased operations on Castner Range in 1966 and declared the land excess in 1971, at which community support for conserving the range as open space began to build. Congresswoman Escobar has been a fierce and tireless advocate for this designation. During her first term, she introduced the Castner Range National Monument Act, a bill to conserve and protect Castner. During a Natural Resources Committee Hearing in May 2021, Congresswoman Escobar testified about the importance of supporting her legislation and what it would mean to El Pasoans. In addition to pursuing this designation through legislative means, Congresswoman Escobar invited several key

Biden Administration officials in El Paso to expedite the protection of Castner Range. In March 2022, she hosted Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland for a tour of Castner Range. Most recently, she welcomed the Undersecretary of the Army and native El Pasoan Gabe Camarillo back home in August 2022 to continue discussions about the designation. This visit was a follow-up to a meeting in June 2022 coordinated by Congresswoman Escobar in which several El Paso stakeholders joined her for a meeting at the Pentagon with Undersecretary Camarillo and the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Additionally, Congresswoman Escobar also wrote to President Biden twice over the past year, urging him to designate Castner through the Antiquities Act.





### WORD SEARCH

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Castner Range  
 Chihuahuas  
 Chuco Town  
 El Paso

Locomotives  
 Scenic Drive  
 Sun City  
 The Star

## Congresswoman Escobar Commemorates 88 Years of Social Security

In August, Congresswoman Veronica Escobar (TX-16) released the following statement in celebration of 88 years of Social Security, renewing her commitment to protect and expand the program:

“Almost nine decades ago, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law, and since then it has provided our country with the most comprehensive retirement, disability, and survivors benefits.

“I am proud to join my fellow Democrats

in Congress and President Biden to protect this sacred promise between generations of Americans.

“With a recently announced 3.2% cost of living adjustment increase for fiscal year 2024, AARP estimates that recipients will receive \$59 more per month or about \$700 for the year. While this is welcome news, this modest increase is a reminder of the need to strengthen Social Security, not cut it.

“That’s why I’m proud to support the Social Security 2100 Act

because I know how important this program is to El Pasoans and Americans across the nation.

“This legislation will provide an across-the-board benefit increase, improve the annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA), repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) that currently penalize many public servants, and improve customer service at the Social Security Administration. I will continue to fight alongside my colleagues to pass this bill and defend Social Security.”





## Visits Around El Paso with Congresswoman Escobar



Hilos de Plata Senior Center



Wellington Chew Senior Center



City of Socorro Community Meeting



Armijo Park Mobile Office Hours



Yucca Neighborhood Association Meeting



District 7 Community Meeting

## Congresswoman Escobar Thrilled About Reduced Healthcare Costs Made Possible by Inflation Reduction Act

In 2022, Congresswoman Veronica Escobar (TX-16) proudly voted for the Inflation Reduction Act and was the only member of our region to do so. As a result, El Pasoans are seeing the positive impacts take effect. Effective January 1, 2023, out-of-pocket costs for insulin were capped at \$35 per monthly prescription among Medicare Part D enrollees. A similar cap came into effect in Medicare Part B on July 1, 2023. An estimated 1.5 million Medicare beneficiaries who use insulin would have saved \$734 million in Part D and \$27 million in Part

B if these caps had been in effect in 2020. Additionally, in September, the Biden Administration announced an initial group of medicines that will be subject to price negotiations with Medicare. They include **Eliquis** for preventing strokes and blood clots; **Jardiance** for diabetes and heart failure; **Xarelto** for preventing strokes and blood clots; **Januvia** for diabetes; **Farxiga** for diabetes, heart failure, and chronic kidney disease; **Entresto** for heart failure; **Enbrel** for arthritis and other autoimmune conditions; **Imbruvica** for

blood cancers; **Stelara** for Crohn's disease; and lastly **Fiasp and NovoLog** insulin products for diabetes. These negotiations were made possible because of the Inflation Reduction Act, and this news is projected to reduce premiums and out-of-pocket costs for over 623,000 seniors in Texas and save the government \$98.5 billion. I'm thrilled about what this news will mean for El Pasoans. Affordable healthcare is near and dear to my heart and has long been a priority of mine as a public servant to our community.

### 2023: By the Numbers

Federal Dollars Brought to El Paso: Over \$212 Million

Federal Dollars Returned to El Pasoans: \$4.9 million

Casework Cases Resolved: Over 1,350

Responses to Letters: Over 12,600

Mail Sent: Over 107,000

