

Congressman Dwight Evans has dedicated his life to the cause of urban renewal, working tirelessly to provide economic and educational opportunity to those who too often live in the shadows, the poor and underserved.

The congressman's commitment has resulted in the rebirth of once-blighted neighborhoods along Philadelphia's Ogontz Avenue, in West Oak Lane, an area that now serves as a magnet for working families.

One of his first jobs out of college was as a teacher in the School District of Philadelphia; shortly thereafter he became a job developer for the Urban League of Philadelphia.

In 1980, at the age of 26, Congressman Evans was first elected state representative from the 203rd Legislative District. Far from being a "go-along-get-along" legislator, over the course of 36 years in the Pennsylvania Legislature, he earned a reputation as a pragmatic leader who knows how to put public policy above politics.

Congressman Evans made history in 1990 by becoming the first African-American Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, a position he held for two decades. In that role, he was instrumental in helping Philadelphia and communities across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania receive funding for economic development, job training, education, infrastructure and the arts.

A champion for teachers and innovation in education, Congressman Evans helped start the West Oak Lane Charter School, a unionized school, which has helped teach thousands of kids from grades K-8.

One of Congressman Evans' proudest achievements has been his work to combat hunger and increase access to quality foods in underserved communities. During his time in the Pennsylvania Legislature, the congressman championed the Pennsylvania Fresh Food Financing Initiative, which links public and private funds to expand and build grocery stores in food deserts across our state. Through the initiative the congressman brought nearly 100 grocery stores to underserved areas across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that previously had very limited access to fresh fruits and vegetables, and created more than 5,000 jobs.

The Fresh Food Financing Initiative was widely recognized as one of the top public policy initiatives in the country. The Obama administration championed Congressman Evans' approach and used the Pennsylvania initiative as a model for the nation, replicating it in several other states across the country, including California, New York, New Jersey, Louisiana, and Illinois.

In 2013, Congressman Evans released his political biography titled, "Making Ideas Matter: My Life as a Policy Entrepreneur," written with Pulitzer Prize-winning author William Ecenbarger, and published by the University of Pennsylvania's Fels Institute of Government.

Over the course of his career in public service, Congressman Evans has lectured around the country on his signature public policy initiatives. He has been the recipient of numerous awards including an honorary doctorate from Lincoln University.

In his first two years in Washington, Congressman Evans achieved successes as a member of the House Agriculture Committee working on the Farm Bill, a major bill Congress only passes every five years. Congressman Evans successfully pushed to keep the Farm Bill from including unnecessary and burdensome work requirements that could have denied millions of people who

benefit from the SNAP food assistance program, formerly known as food stamps, the help they need to keep themselves and their families from going hungry.

In the Farm Bill, Congressman Evans also achieved renewal of the Healthy Food Financing Initiative, the national program to bring grocery stores to “food desert” neighborhoods and communities, which is modeled on a Pennsylvania program he created. He also helped to make sure that the Farm Bill will provide at least \$40 million for agricultural scholarships for students at historically black colleges and universities around the country.

Congressman Evans is a longtime advocate for criminal justice reform. He strongly supported the First Step Act, a new federal law that will make several needed reforms such as cutting back on mandatory minimum sentences, making crack-cocaine sentence reforms retroactive to bring older sentences in line with 2010 reforms that made newer crack sentences more like powder-cocaine sentences, expanding “good time credits” that well-behaved inmates can use to get out of prison a little earlier; and creating “earned time credits” that encourage inmates to take part in rehabilitative programs for an earlier release.

In the 116th Congress, he intends to go beyond the First Step Act by pressing for bail reform, national Clean Slate legislation similar to a law recently passed in Pennsylvania, and a bill to have the FBI clean up faulty criminal background records that keep people from getting jobs.

Congressman Evans is a member of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force. In addition to supporting existing legislation that has been blocked but can pass in the new Democratic-majority House, he is working on new legislation to fight gun violence.

In his first two years in Congress, he has also built on his longtime advocacy for small business by winning passage of new federal laws to help small businesses. Under his H.R. 6347, the 7(a) Real Estate Harmonization Act, appraisal costs passed on to Small Business Administration borrowers should be greatly reduced since formal appraisals will only be mandatory on loans over \$500,000, instead of the current \$250,000, or above any threshold established by the regulators in the future. Congressman Evans also introduced the House version of a new law that will require the SBA and U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to work together to create valuable training for domestic and international patent protection for America’s small businesses.

In the new Congress, he is serving on the powerful Ways and Means Committee, which oversees taxes, trade, Social Security and Medicare. Congressman Evans will reintroduce his first bill, which would include schools in the federal rehabilitation tax credit so our students and teachers can have safe, up-to-date places to learn and teach. He is also serving as vice chair of the Small Business Committee.

Congressman Evans serves as an at-large member of the executive committee of the Congressional Black Caucus, and is also a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus; Medicare for All Caucus; Task Force on Poverty, Income Inequality, and Opportunity; LGBT Equality Caucus and Expand Social Security Caucus.

In the Democratic House, he has a stronger platform to advocate for the priorities of the communities he represents: Northwest and West Philadelphia and parts of North, South and Center City Philadelphia.

Congressman Evans has deep roots in the district. One of five children, he grew up in North Philadelphia and Germantown and today lives just minutes from his alma mater, Germantown High School. A resident of the West Oak Lane neighborhood, he is a graduate of the Community College of Philadelphia and LaSalle University.

By working on priorities such as health care, reducing gun violence, criminal justice reform, and helping small businesses, Congressman Evans is continuing his work to rebuild Philadelphia, and America, block by block!