

Report: Congressman Zach Nunn's First Year in Office Fails Iowans

# The Congressman's First Missteps

In the year since Congressman Zach Nunn assumed office to represent Iowa's 3rd Congressional District, his priorities have come into sharp focus, and unfortunately for his constituents, they paint a concerning picture. Abandoning the promises he made to his district, Zach Nunn has proven to be out of touch with the economic challenges his constituents face. Middle- and working-class Iowans need a champion, but Nunn has turned his back on those he is supposed to represent in favor of aligning himself with corporate special interests and the wealthiest of Americans.

For his first piece of legislation, Nunn introduced a dangerous budget proposal that raised alarms for lowans, as it would lead to massive cuts to essential programs such as Social Security and Medicare. On the same day he introduced the budget proposal, Nunn voted to protect wealthy and corporate tax cheats who don't pay what they owe, further highlighting a misalignment between his priorities and the needs of everyday lowans.

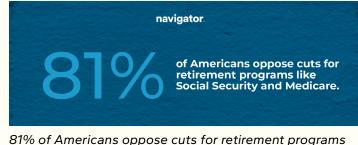
As we delve into Nunn's voting record, a consistent pattern emerges. His record of risking crucial programs like Social Security and Medicare, voting to cut assistance for small businesses, and working to make our tax code even less fair would have harmful implications for the people he represents. The people of the 3rd Congressional District need their representatives to fight for their interests, not continually vote for policies that would make it harder for them to take care of themselves and provide for their families. This review of Zach Nunn's first year in office aims to shed light on how his decisions and stances would impact the people he represents and urge constituents to call on him to stop voting for cuts to policies that lowans rely on and start voting to make the wealthy pay their fair share.

# Continuing to Neglect Iowans' Needs

### **Benefits Iowans Rely On**

When Congressman Zach Nunn assumed office just over one year ago, he introduced a bill to propose a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. The impact of this proposal could be devastating for hard-working lowans. Nunn's plan would threaten hard-earned benefits like Social Security and Medicare, as funding for these programs would be susceptible to changes in the amount of revenue the government brings in. This, in turn, would leave lowans vulnerable to sudden, potentially life-changing cuts to the programs, threatening the guarantee of a secure retirement these programs promise and affecting the income going to those in need and their ability to make ends meet. Cuts to Social Security would be incredibly harmful, considering nearly 30% of lowans over the age of 65 would be living in poverty were it not for Social Security, and about 40% of lowa seniors live in households that rely on the program for at least half of their income. Nunn has also voted multiple times to cut funding for the Social Security Administration, which would deteriorate the agency's ability to support the more than 650,000 lowans who depend on the program.

### Nunn's record goes against public opinion



like Social Security and Medicare. Source: Navigator Research survey of 1,000 registered voters, Nov 9-13, 2023

Not only has Zach Nunn threatened access to Social Security and Medicare, but he also supported legislation that would cut other critical benefits and services that lowans rely on. Last April, Nunn voted for the <u>"Default on America"</u> Act, which would have cut nutrition assistance for thousands of lowa women and children, raised housing costs for families, and put Medicaid coverage at risk for <u>nearly 230,000</u> lowans. The <u>majority of Americans</u> not only stand opposed to cutting funding for programs like Social Security, Medicare, and nutrition assistance for vulnerable families but also overwhelmingly support investing more in these critical lifelines.

"I'm lucky to have finally been able to retire after working as an education professional until I was seventy nine years old. I lived the American dream as I was told, and paid into Social Security so I can afford to live in my position now. But my Congressman, Zach Nunn, supports a plan that could cut Social Security benefits for so many rural lowans who hope to rely solely on these checks to pay the bills. This is especially true for single women like me who stayed home to raise our kids during our prime earning years. Congressman Nunn shouldn't threaten the benefits lowans earned."

- Jan Lunde, Atlantic, Iowa

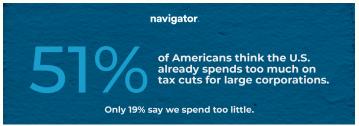
#### **Tax Fairness**

To the dismay of Iowa's 3rd Congressional District, Congressman Zach Nunn's first vote in office did nothing for his constituents - it would only help the ultra-wealthy who cheat on their taxes. Zach Nunn and his colleagues voted to cut funding the IRS has been using to reclaim hundreds of millions of dollars from wealthy individuals and huge businesses that tried to fly under the radar and scam the tax system. This vote to protect wealthy tax evaders was a clear misalignment with the economic struggles and aspirations of the everyday lowans Nunn purports to represent. Americans overwhelmingly want to see the wealthiest pay their fair share and support tax cuts for the middle and working classes. Constituents in Iowa's 3rd Congressional District are of the same mind and want to see their Congressman represent their interests, not those of the ultrawealthy and corporations.

Congressman Nunn also voted multiple times to give billions of dollars worth of tax breaks to huge corporations, as is evident by his votes for H.R. 1

and <u>H.R. 2811</u>. These bills would give tax breaks to big oil companies and <u>would not help</u> those struggling to make ends meet. These votes make it clear that Zach Nunn has prioritized those at the top rather than hard-working lowans.

#### Nunn's record goes against public opinion



51% of Americans think the U.S. already spends too much on tax cuts for large corporations. Only 19% say we spend too little.

<u>Source: Navigator Research survey of 1,001 registered</u> <u>voters, June 2-5, 2023</u>

"Zach Nunn has not been representing my interests. His tax cuts for corporations must be great for them, but they don't impact my life positively. For everyday lowans like me, not in the 1% of wealthiest Americans, these tax cuts are a slap to the face.

lowa isn't made up of millionaires, especially the 3rd Congressional District. Every time I hear about my representative doing something for the wealthy instead of families like mine, I am confused and disappointed. I'm calling on Congressman Nunn to listen to lowans like me!"

- Elizabeth Wearin, Red Oak, Iowa

#### Small Businesses

Small businesses are the lifeblood of local economies, and they employ <u>close to half</u> of all U.S. private sector workers. But small businesses trying to get by could find themselves at the mercy of Congressman Nunn's legislative choices. Zach Nunn voted for a <u>continuing resolution on</u> <u>September 29, 2023</u> that would have cut the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Entrepreneurial Administration's (SBA) Entrepreneurial Development Programs by 30%. This would have cut assistance for approximately 400,000 small businesses across America. House Republicans, including Zach Nunn, have also pushed us to the brink of a government shutdown multiple times with their extreme demands that would hurt working families. A government shutdown would deny <u>nearly</u> <u>\$1 million</u> in critical financing to Iowa small businesses each business day and more than <u>\$100 million a day</u> to small businesses across America. Contrary to the economic desires of Iowans, Nunn's votes could deter job creation and local economic development, impacting small businesses and entrepreneurs, workers, and our communities.

#### Nunn's record goes against public opinion



57% of Americans think the U.S. already spends too little to help small businesses. Only 8% say we spend too much. Source: Navigator Research survey of 1,000 registered voters, Nov 9-13, 2023

"I am proud to own a small business in Iowa. It allows me to give back to my community while also building a future for my family. What Congressman Zach Nunn fails to understand is that as a small business owner, legislation harmful to me and my business has a ripple effect on our economy – it also affects all of my employees and their families. That is why I am calling on Zach Nunn to support Iowa's small business owners instead of giving tax breaks to corporate giants."

- Mike Draper, Windsor Heights, owner of Raygun

## The Path Ahead of Us

In his first year in office, Zach Nunn's record has aligned more with the interests of corporations and the ultra-wealthy rather than those of hardworking lowa families in the 3rd Congressional District. He has voted repeatedly to make life less affordable for his constituents, supported plans that would jeopardize critical benefits like Social Security and Medicare, and voted to cut funding for small businesses.

At the same time, Congressman Nunn has supported extending tax breaks for the richest people and corporations in this nation, allowing them to grow their wealth without paying their fair share of taxes. He co-sponsored the <u>TCJA</u> <u>Permanency Act</u>, which would cement major tax breaks from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 that benefited the wealthy. In 2026, this bill would cut taxes for the richest 1% of Americans by over \$44 billion in total, and the richest 5% of Americans would receive more tax breaks than the bottom 80%. Iowans pay their fair share and expect corporations and the ultra-wealthy to do the same. If this legislation comes up for a vote this year, Congressman Nunn should oppose it.

Zach Nunn has made clear that he wants to give more tax breaks to the wealthy and would threaten lowans' hard-earned benefits to do so. He even joined the Republican Study Committee (RSC), a group that has a plan to do exactly that. The <u>RSC's</u> <u>budget proposal</u> would sacrifice the livelihood of lowans in the 3rd Congressional District and make cuts to programs like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid in order to fund proposals that give more tax breaks to the ultra-wealthy and corporations. Congressman Zach Nunn must do what's right by lowans and reject the RSC's budget proposal in favor of a budget that supports working people, while making the wealthy pay their fair share.

Our report highlights Nunn's first year in office, aiming to inform lowans about the impact of his decisions. Congressman Zach Nunn's stances on the core issues important to working families in the district—Social Security, Medicare, small businesses, and tax fairness—carry implications beyond Washington, D.C. As Nunn heads into his second year in Congress, his constituents are urging him to prioritize working and middle-class families by voting to make the wealthiest pay their fair share in taxes and voting against any more harmful cuts to the programs his constituents rely on.