

SHORT BIO

Elected in 1980, [Rep. Chris Smith of New Jersey](#), a Republican, is currently serving in his 40th year in the U.S. House of Representatives.

A prolific lawmaker, [Smith continues to rank second among all 435 Members of Congress in authoring bills that have been enacted into law](#). In like manner, he has authored scores of successful amendments and chaired hundreds of [congressional hearings](#).

This year marks the 20th anniversary of his [Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000](#)—the comprehensive, historic law that he authored to combat sex and labor trafficking both within the United States and around the world. Because of this and [four additional anti-human trafficking laws he wrote](#), many victims have been rescued and protected. Predators have been apprehended and jailed. Comprehensive prevention strategies have spared many from exploitation and abuse.

The Congressman's 2005 law, the [Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act](#) created the first, comprehensive federally-supported, national network to collect and use umbilical cord blood and adult stem cells for ethical research and treatments.

Smith also authored three laws to help individuals with autism including [the \\$1.8 Autism CARES Act of 2019](#), two laws to promote religious freedom in [Iraq and Syria](#) and [globally](#) and a [\\$30 billion reauthorization of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief \(PEPFAR\)](#)—and many other human rights, health and humanitarian initiatives. Congressman Smith is also a leader on legislation to combat neglected tropical diseases, Alzheimer's disease, Lyme disease and heart and stroke issues.

Smith twice chaired the Veterans' Committee and authored 14 laws improving educational, homeless, healthcare and other services for veterans.

In response to a child abduction from New Jersey that he helped resolve, Smith wrote the [Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2014](#).

Smith has served as Chairman of several committees, commissions and bipartisan caucuses including

- Veterans Affairs,
- Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations,
- Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe,
- China Commission,
- Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission,
- Special Representative on Human Trafficking OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,
- Lyme Disease Caucus,
- Alzheimer's Task Force,
- Autism Caucus,
- Trafficking Caucus,
- Heart and Lung Caucus,
- Pro-Life Caucus, and more.

Prior to his service in Congress, Smith worked as Director of Institutional Sales for his family's sporting goods company and as Executive Director of the New Jersey Right to Life Committee. He earned a degree in Business Administration at the College of New Jersey and has been married to Marie for 43 years.