

# Sixth District Perspectives with Congressman Ben Cline

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As we mark the 100th Day of the 118th Congress this week, House Republicans have produced results in fulfilling our Commitment to America and getting our Nation back on track. Unfortunately, inflation keeps persisting as we continue to suffer the consequences of Biden and Democrats' out-of-control spending. Additionally, I joined my colleagues in demanding answers from the DoD as to why religious clergy were shut out from performing spiritual guidance to wounded soldiers and personnel at Walter Reed. We also celebrated the 75th birthday of the founding of the U.S. Air Force Reserve. As the fight in Washington continues, I'll continue to bring the concerns of Virginia's Sixth

District to the hearing rooms and negotiating tables.

## 100 Days of Victories in the People's House of Representatives

The country is in crisis under the Biden Administration. Last November, the American people voted for a Republican-led House Majority to reverse course and get our country back on track. We have delivered. In just the first 100 days, House Republicans have voted to:

- ◇ Pass the Parents Bill of Rights

- ◇ Repeal funding for Biden's IRS army

- ◇ End proxy voting, forcing Members of Congress to show up for work

- ◇ Protect taxpayers & farmers

- ◇ Unleash American energy

- ◇ Conduct oversight to hold government accountable

And much more. As the 118th Congress

continues, we will keep fighting to restore the core principles that make our country great.



KEEPING OUR  
**COMMITMENT**

- ✓ Repealed 87,000 IRS Agents
- ✓ Ended Proxy Voting
- ✓ Reopened the People's House
- ✓ Eliminated the Military Vaccine Mandate
- ✓ Established Bipartisan China Select Committee
- ✓ Blocked Biden's WOTUS Rule
- ✓ Stopped the Selling of SPR to China
- ✓ Nullified DC's Soft on Crime Bill
- ✓ Terminated the COVID National Emergency
- ✓ H.R. 5: Parents Bill of Rights
- ✓ H.R. 1: Lower Energy Costs Act Officially Passed

## The High Price of Reckless Spending and Continued Inflation

This week was another sad reminder that the trillions of dollars in deficit-spending by the Biden Administration and Democrats are still slashing the paychecks of hardworking Americans, as the latest report showed prices are up 5% from last year:

X Eggs UP [36.0%](#)

X Electricity UP [10.2%](#)

X Bread UP [15.2%](#)

X Airline fares UP [17.7%](#)



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There is a silver lining: House Republicans are putting forth a balanced budget and including spending cuts along with a debt ceiling increase.

Defending the Freedom of Our Servicemembers

## to Practice Their Faith

Pastoral care has played a vital role in America's history by providing spiritual guidance, hope, and comfort to armed servicemembers, on the battlefield, on bases, and in military hospitals. Yet during last Holy Week troubling news was uncovered that Walter Reed National Military Medical Center sent a "cease and desist" letter to Holy Name College Friary -- a group of Catholic priests who have served at the hospital for over 20 years -- ordering them to stop providing pastoral care at their facility. Rest assured, I am working to remedy this egregious attack on Christian servicemembers and ensure this unconstitutional abuse of power never happens again to our men and women in uniform. See the full letter demanding answers I joined in writing to Defense Secretary Austin along with my colleagues attached [here](#).

April 11, 2023

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin, III  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Secretary Austin:

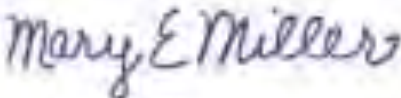
Last week, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center sent a "cease and desist" letter to Holy Name College Friary, a group of Catholic priests, ordering them to stop providing pastoral care at their facility. The same group of priests have served at Walter Reed for almost 20 years, and this order came days before Easter. Forcing priests to stop providing care during Holy Week is not only morally wrong, but also a violation of the First Amendment.

Priests have stood alongside our service members through the darkest days of our history. They joined American service members on the battlefield and provided care to all in need. We demand answers to the following questions:

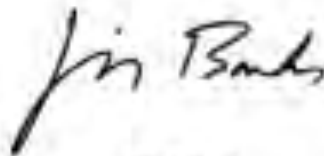
1. Why did the Biden Administration choose Holy Week to send a "cease and desist" letter forcing Catholic priests to stop providing care?
2. After nearly 20 years of service, why did the Biden Administration choose now to terminate the contract with the Holy Name College Friary?
3. Is the Biden Administration aware that they may have violated countless service members' right to free exercise of religion?
4. How does the Biden Administration plan to ensure Christian service members receive the pastoral care they deserve?
5. The Archdiocese of the Military has informed us that the contract for providing pastoral care was awarded to a for-profit, secular company that does not provide pastoral care. Who was awarded the contract and why?
6. Please provide us with all documents related to this contract including the RFP/RFQ, contract terms, applications, proposal review comments, award letter, and all internal emails and documents related to this contract.

This attack on the Christian faith by the Biden Administration during Holy Week is unconscionable. We must get answers to ensure that this never happens again to our service members. Please provide answers no later than April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Sincerely,



Mary E. Miller  
Member of Congress



Jim Banks  
Member of Congress

Air Force Reserve 75th Birthday

Founded on April 14, 1948, the U.S. Air Force Reserve

has served and stood by for duty ever since. Join me in wishing a happy 75th birthday to the Air Force Reserve. Thank you to all who have worn the uniform for their dedication to fly, fight, and win.



Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Congressman. If my office can ever be of assistance, please contact my Washington office at (202) 225-5431.

For the latest updates from Washington and across the Sixth District, please follow my [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Clive". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dash over the "i".