

SIXTH DISTRICT PERSPECTIVES WITH CONGRESSMAN BEN CLINE



News From Congressman Ben Cline



Sixth District Perspectives *with Congressman Ben Cline*

I am heartbroken by the tragic events in Texas. We are united as a Nation in our grief for those loved ones lost, and Elizabeth and I continue to pray for the children, teachers, parents, and entire Uvalde community impacted by this evil act.

In Washington this week, one-party rule continues to have negative effects on the American people. The Biden Administration's struggle to address the baby formula shortage that has been brewing for months and their halting of American energy exploration while gas prices hit another historic high demonstrates their failed "government first, American last" approach. In addition, my colleagues and I warned against ending Title 42 when America's southern border has seen the highest illegal immigration numbers in history, and worse yet, the Administration plans to cede a dangerous amount of sovereign, democratic authority to the World Health Organization (WHO) that failed in its handling of COVID 19. Fortunately, however, this week the House took numerous actions to modernize services and assist our Veterans as we celebrate Armed Forces Day and approach Memorial Day. And while the Supreme Court continues to deal with the fallout of the leaked opinion, I spoke out fervently for life on the House Floor. I also honored the iconic Roanoker Restaurant that is closing its doors, after nearly 81 years.

Addressing the Baby Formula Crisis:

In the midst of the economic crisis facing Americans, the Biden Administration's inaction and supply chain failure has now created a severe shortage of baby formula. On Friday, the House passed H.R. 7790, claiming the legislation would help solve the crisis. However, in reality, the legislation gave the FDA \$28 million for salaries and expenses without any specific plan as to how the money would be used to address the baby formula shortage. The bill was an attempt by Speaker Pelosi to distract from the Biden Administration's failure to address this growing

crisis. Instead, I [wrote](#) to the Administration this week and supported passage of H.R. 7791, which directly addressed this issue for vulnerable populations. Additionally, I cosponsored legislation to immediately remove non-safety-related, burdensome regulations and permit the swift import of new types and brands of baby formula.



(Photo from Roanoke, VA)

Supporting our Veterans:

In recognition of Armed Forces Day and as we move toward Memorial Day, Congress took numerous actions to honor those currently serving, our Nation's Veterans, and those whose memory we observe on Memorial Day. In particular, the House focused on legislation benefiting female Veterans, which is the fastest growing segment of the Veteran population. In addition to voting for the below bills, I met with Virginia Veterans and Defense Affairs Secretary Craig Crenshaw and his Deputy, Jason Pak, to discuss how the Commonwealth can increase work opportunities for Veterans and how we can help military spouses with their license and credentialing requirements making it easier for them to find work. While a few of the Veteran bills I supported are below, a comprehensive list can be found [here](#).

- **H.R. 5738, the Lactation Spaces for Veteran Moms Act** codifies the requirement to have a lactation space at every medical center in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).
- **H.R. 2724, the VA Peer Support Enhancement for MST Survivors Act** requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that each individual who files a claim relating to military sexual trauma is assigned a peer support specialist during the claims process, unless the individual elects to not have such support.
- **H.R. 5754, the Patient Advocate Tracker Act** requires the Office of Patient Advocacy within the Veterans Health Administration to establish an information technology system that allows Veterans or their representatives to electronically file a complaint with a patient advocate and review the status of a filed complaint.
- **S. 4089, the Veterans Rapid Retraining Assistance Program Restoration and Recovery Act** prohibits the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) from charging any entitlement to retraining assistance under the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program in situations where an individual was unable to complete a course or program as a result of the closure of an educational institution or the disapproval of a program by the state approving agency or the VA.



Rep. Cline Meets with Virginia Veterans and Defense Affairs Secretary Craig Crenshaw and Deputy Secretary Jason Pak

Opposing Overreach:

Later this month, the World Health Organization (WHO) will vote on amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR) and a new pandemic treaty that vastly expands the organization's authority and resources. This is a dangerous move considering the WHO failed to warn the rest of the world during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequently has failed to adequately investigate the pandemic's origin. The proposed changes to the IHR pursued by the WHO and the Biden Administration will not prevent another pandemic but instead cedes more of Americans' freedom to an unelected world body. Currently, the proposed changes would grant WHO the power to, among other things, declare and impose extensive lockdowns, collude with Big Tech to censor and control information, and regulate international travel. This is unacceptable, and the Biden Administration should not support granting any additional authority or resources to the WHO that would compromise the sovereignty of the United States. In response to this proposal, I wrote to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, who leads the U.S. delegation to the World Health Assembly, opposing this potential action. The full letter can be found [here](#).

Protecting the Border:

Ahead of the expiration of Title 42, I joined 21 of my Problem Solvers Caucus colleagues in sending a bipartisan [letter](#) to President Biden and Administration officials urging them to postpone the rescission of the public health order until a comprehensive plan is in place to manage the transition. We raised concerns that the abrupt cancellation will overwhelm law enforcement resources and border infrastructure as well as accelerate the humanitarian and national security challenges. Further, the bipartisan group of members suggested that further consultation and coordination is necessary before executing any changes to the current immigration restrictions. To date, there are too many unanswered questions related to the

Department of Homeland Security having a sufficient plan to maintain a humane and orderly process, adequately protect the health of our families and communities, and ensure those providing services to migrants have the capacity to assist. Fortunately, a federal judge temporarily blocked the Biden Administration's plan to lift Title 42 just before it expired. However, a spokesperson for the Department of Justice said it plans to appeal the decision. Rest assured, I will continue to fight to ensure this vital policy remains in place.



Standing for the Unborn:

Since the Supreme Court's 1973 ruling in *Roe v Wade*, more than 63 million unborn American babies have had their lives cut short. That is simply unacceptable, and I took to the House Floor this week to stand up for women, for children, and for the moral integrity of our Nation. Science tells us that preborn humans are, in fact, humans. But unfortunately, the pro-abortion Left has decided that "human" does not automatically grant the right to life. That mindset is a travesty, and God willing, come the summer, the court will uphold the sanctity of life and grant state legislatures and those they represent, the power to determine the question of life. Here in Washington, I will always be a voice for the voiceless and Stand for Life as we fight to protect the unborn.



The Roanoker:

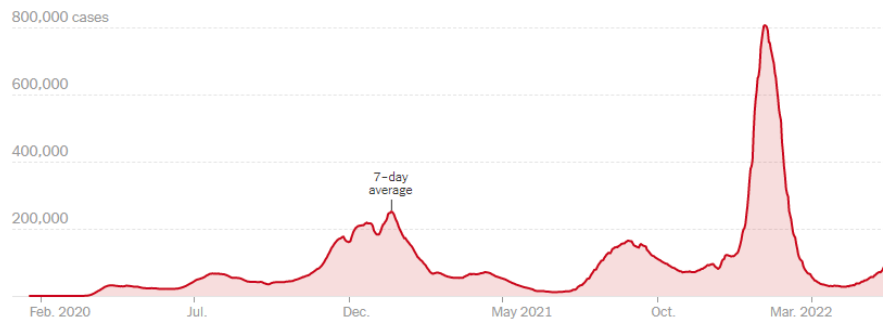
This week, I honored The Roanoker Restaurant – an establishment so iconic it carries its city's namesake. Opened in 1941 by Crafton Warren, this Roanoke staple has served as a gathering place for generations. For nearly 81 years, The Roanoker provided folks across the Star City a place to come together over a delicious, down-home meal. Its current owner, Butch Craft, began working at the restaurant more than 52 years ago before eventually taking over the business. Over the course of its storied history, the restaurant has moved throughout Roanoke, before making its way to its current, and unfortunately, final home on Colonial Ave in 1982. This week, the entire Star City was saddened to learn that after more than eight decades

in business, The Roanoker will be closing its doors at the end of the month. One resident said it best, "It's going to be greatly missed, no doubt about it. It's going to be so, so missed. It certainly will be missed, and I would like to take a moment to thank the Warren family, Butch Craft, and everyone who worked at The Roanoker who made diners feel at home for so many years.



COVID-19 Update:

Last week in Virginia there was an average of **34.7** daily cases of COVID-19 per every 100,000 residents. This is up from an average of **18.6** cases from one week prior. This week's positivity rate was **13.6%**, up from an average of 9.3% last week. For more information, click [here](#).



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.

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