



News From Congressman Ben Cline



CONGRESSMAN
BEN CLINE



Sixth District Perspectives with Congressman Ben Cline

While home in Virginia's Sixth Congressional District last week, I had the opportunity to hear from community and business leaders from Feeding Southwest Virginia, Cabinetworks in Mount Jackson, and the Virginia Apartment Management Association about their projects, innovations, and initiatives to support the Commonwealth.

While Congress was out of town last week, President Biden announced his plan to cancel \$10,000 in student loan debt that will cost hardworking Americans at least \$300 billion. With the national debt approaching record levels and inflation surging at a 40-year high, higher costs are the last thing they need.

As your Representative, I am preparing to fight for your interests in Washington as Congress returns this fall and help ensure the safety, security, and freedom for the people of western Virginia.

Biden's Student Loan Debt "Forgiveness" Increases Inflation, Higher Tuition

Most Americans understand personal responsibility. If you take out a loan, you repay that loan. Instead, the Biden Administration wants to transfer over \$300 billion of student loan debt to taxpayers — hardworking Americans who either didn't take on student loans or made sacrifices to pay off their loans. Most of these benefits from canceling student loan debt would go to households in the top 60 percent of earners, and over 50 percent of those with student loan debt are enrolled in advanced college degrees. With our nation facing 40-year high inflation and over \$30 trillion in debt, President Biden's student loan debt "forgiveness" plan would only fuel

more inflation. Americans need real reform to curtail runaway costs in higher education but transferring student loan debt will only be a green light for colleges to continue tuition hikes.

Alternatively, Congress can pass commonsense, fiscally responsible reforms that protects students, borrowers, and taxpayers. Measures that provide targeted relief to borrowers most in need, reins in runaway loan forgiveness programs, and prohibits colleges from charging exorbitant repayment costs are just a few ideas to start.



Prioritizing America's Readiness

Failure to meet military service recruiting goals will have a detrimental impact on readiness and our ability to fight our Nation's future battles. Unfortunately, this scenario could play itself out in the near future. With the military struggling to meet its recruiting goals, and the Army loosening its standards for acceptance, now is not the time to disqualify active duty service members due to their COVID vaccine status. Recognizing this, my colleagues and I sent a letter to Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin calling on the Defense Department to end its military vaccine mandate after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) changed its guidance for the unvaccinated, removing the military's justification for penalizing U.S. service members. This will have a detrimental impact on readiness that our enemies will surely notice. Read more on my letter in the Daily Caller [here](#).



Source: [Department of Defense](#)

Visiting Feeding Southwest Virginia's Mobile Marketplace

I had a great time visiting Feeding Southwest Virginia's mobile marketplace in Roanoke and meeting with the organization's leadership and staff. I was impressed by their efforts to fight hunger and help families in our community get the healthy produce they need. Read more on my visit in WDBJ7 [here](#).



Touring Across the Sixth District



I was pleased to visit Cabinetworks' facility in Mount Jackson and meet with leadership and employees. As a supporter of small businesses, I enjoyed learning more about how we can help our manufacturers in the kitchen cabinet industry.



I was pleased to meet with leadership of the Virginia Apartment Management Association at the Reserve at Stone Port in Harrisonburg and hear about their work to promote quality rental housing opportunities throughout the Commonwealth.

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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