

News From Congressman Ben Cline



CONGRESSMAN
BEN CLINE



Sixth District Perspectives *with Congressman Ben Cline*

Despite a repudiation of their policies all over the country on Election Day, Speaker Pelosi doubled down as she desperately tried to keep the President's agenda alive. Despite her efforts, she was only able to get the “infrastructure” package across the finish line and had to settle for a procedural rule vote on the reconciliation bill – leaving its final passage in limbo. With the economic crisis worsening, my Republican colleagues and I will oppose bills like these that will only cause inflation to rise even higher.

Also this week, I fought to protect the rights of essential workers from unconstitutional vaccine mandates and stood with our ally Israel in opposing the opening of a U.S. Consulate General for Palestinians in Jerusalem. This was in addition to cosponsoring legislation opposing the absurd proposal to reward illegal immigrants with \$450,000 for unlawfully crossing our border. The policies being pushed by this Administration are becoming more anti-freedom by the day, and I will continue to stand for the values that Sixth District residents sent me to Washington to represent.

Tax and Spending Spree:

The Biden-Pelosi boondoggle of a reconciliation bill not only adds trillions to our national debt and raises taxes on American families and businesses, but it grants mass amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants, weaponizes the IRS, allows tax dollars to fund abortion, and spends billions on climate programs. Tied together with the infrastructure bill, the reconciliation bill will further slow our economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, add to the already record-high inflation, and saddle future generations with crushing debt. For these reasons, I

opposed both the infrastructure bill and reconciliation rule when they came up for a vote in the House of Representatives.

Regarding our Nation's infrastructure, I was hopeful Congress would put politics aside and pass a stand-alone bill that truly meets the needs of the American people. Sadly, the 'infrastructure' legislation that came before the House put politics above progress and neglected traditional infrastructure. Of the \$1.2 trillion in the bill, just \$110 billion is allocated for roads and bridges, less than 15% of the legislation's total funding. To put this in perspective, the cost of widening I-81 is estimated to cost \$3.3 billion, well more than the estimated \$2.2 billion that would be allocated to address all of the road and bridge needs across the entire Commonwealth of Virginia. The Left instead prioritized the Green New Deal and social justice programs wasting tens of billions of dollars.

Improving our Nation's infrastructure - roads, bridges, transit, and rail - has been a top priority of mine since arriving in Congress in 2019. Whether testifying before committees, speaking on the House Floor, or corresponding with transportation officials, I have been a strong advocate for improving and expanding our infrastructure in the Sixth District, especially the widening of Interstate 81. I remain committed to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass legislation in our future to fix our traditional infrastructure system, but in a way that is fiscally responsible and targeted to address the core needs of regions like western Virginia.

Bankrupts **THE ECONOMY.**

- \$4.5 Trillion in New Spending.
- \$1.5 Trillion in New Taxes.
- \$3 Trillion in New Debt.
- Further fuels highest spike in prices in 40 years.

Historic Borrowing, Spending, Taxation, Inflation, & Wage Stagnation.

Benefits **THE WEALTHY.**

- SALT tax break of \$23,125 for millionaires.
- Homebuying and child care subsidies for couples making \$200,000+ a year.
- Electric vehicle subsidies for couples making \$500,000 a year.
- Government funded paid leave for millionaires.

Wealthy Tax Breaks & Handouts, & Special Interest Carveouts.

Builds **THE BUREAUCRACY.**

- 150+ new government programs.
- "tax", "fee", "penalty", used 635 times.
- \$550 billion for the Green New Deal.

More Washington Control Over Americans Through The Largest Expansion Of The Federal Government In 50 Years.

Economic Crisis:

Time and again I have spoken on the House Floor to highlight the out-of-control spending schemes of the House Democrats. But sadly, these words fall on deaf ears as they continue their efforts to push government dependence bills through the Chamber. The Majority will soon

realize that there is a direct correlation between fiscal irresponsibility and the economic woes we are facing.

Just this past quarter, the U.S. Gross Domestic Product slowed to a disappointing 2 percent and real disposable income decreased 5.6 percent; that's after already having decreased 30.2 percent in the second quarter. On top of all of this, inflation has increased every month since Joe Biden was sworn in and prices are at a 31-year high. Gas alone is now averaging \$3.39 a gallon – a seven year high.

With prices rising across the board, the average family is spending \$175 more a month on food, fuel, and housing in Biden's America. That's more than \$2,000 a year. Even MSNBC is saying Thanksgiving 2021 is, "shaping up to be the most expensive meal in the history of the holiday." This is in addition to massive workforce shortages that have wrought havoc on our supply chain and left a record number of container ships waiting to enter our ports. When Americans go to the store, they're finding two things – higher prices and empty shelves – and the policy failures of Joe Biden and Democrat Leadership are to blame.



Defending Essential Workers:

Businesses across the country are desperate for workers, and our Nation is facing a critical supply chain shortage. As grocery store shelves sit empty, and communities struggle to recover, President Biden should be doing everything possible to encourage Americans to show up to work. Instead, it is the Administration's plan to implement a vaccine mandate that would force millions of Americans out of work.

The federal government should not be mandating vaccines on American citizens, and threatening the jobs of folks who don't comply is simply wrong. That is why I joined several of my colleagues in introducing the *Keeping Our COVID-19 Heroes Employed Act*. This legislation would protect any individual who was deemed as essential during the COVID-19 pandemic from termination under President Biden's vaccine mandate. This includes Americans employed by the federal government, private entities that receive federal funds, and public entities that received funding from any of the six coronavirus response bills passed by Congress. It also would exempt public and private federal contractors from the mandate. This legislation is essential to protecting the rights of police officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, physicians, nurses, border patrol agents, truckers, grocery store workers, pilots, flight attendants, construction workers and so many others who kept America running during such a trying time.

**WE STAND WITH ALL ESSENTIAL
WORKERS ON THE FRONT LINES.**



Payoffs for Illegals:

The Biden Administration has been incentivizing illegal immigration since its first day in office through a series of catastrophic failures; stopping construction of the border wall, halting the Remain-in-Mexico Policy, and rolling back former President Trump's common-sense border protections that kept our nation safe. Now, under President Biden, we are witnessing the worst border numbers in a generation, and the worst self-inflicted border crisis in history. In addition to this travesty, the Biden Administration is now shockingly [proposing](#) rewarding illegal immigrants to the tune of \$450,000 a person, more than the death gratuity paid to families of service members killed in action. This is wrong. That is why I cosponsored the *Illegal Immigrant Payoff Prohibition Act of 2021*, which would prevent the Attorney General from making settlement payments to individuals and families who entered the United States illegally. Instead of rewarding illegal immigration, we should be discouraging it.



Standing With Israel:

This week, House Republicans came together to [express](#) our strong opposition to the Biden Administration's proposal to open a consulate general to the Palestinians in Israel's eternal capital, Jerusalem. Having a U.S. diplomatic mission to the Palestinians in Jerusalem would be inconsistent with the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 that became law, and was reaffirmed in recent years, with overwhelming bipartisan support. This law stated Jerusalem should be recognized as the capital of Israel and remain undivided. However, the Biden Administration's shameful move would have the unconscionable effect of undermining the United States' recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and signal support for dividing Jerusalem. Just recently, the Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority publicly [stated](#) that his reason for wanting this consulate opened is for the purpose of dividing Jerusalem. Israel has also made clear its opposition to the consulate opening, with both the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister stating they are against a consulate being opened in Jerusalem. The Biden Administration must

immediately stop pushing this misguided effort. Moreover, the Administration's insistence is wrongly creating a rift between the United States and Israel, one of our closest and most important allies, and moves the region further away from peace.



Farm Credit of the Virginias:

Farm Credit was created in 1916 and is now the largest provider of agricultural credit in the US. Farm Credit of the Virginias provides more than \$1.9 billion in financing to rural homeowners, farmers, and landowners in 96 counties in Virginia, West Virginia, and western Maryland, as well as offers other financial-related services. This week I enjoyed meeting with the group to discuss credit conditions in the Sixth District and the Farm Bill. If your organization would like to schedule a meeting, please reach out to one of my offices listed at the bottom of this page.





COVID-19 Update:

This week in Virginia there was an average of 15 cases of COVID-19 per every 100,000 residents. This is down from an average of 17 cases from one week prior. This week's positivity rate was 5.98% compared to last week's 6.55%. For more information, click [here](#).

New reported cases



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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