

News From Congressman Ben Cline



CONGRESSMAN
BEN CLINE



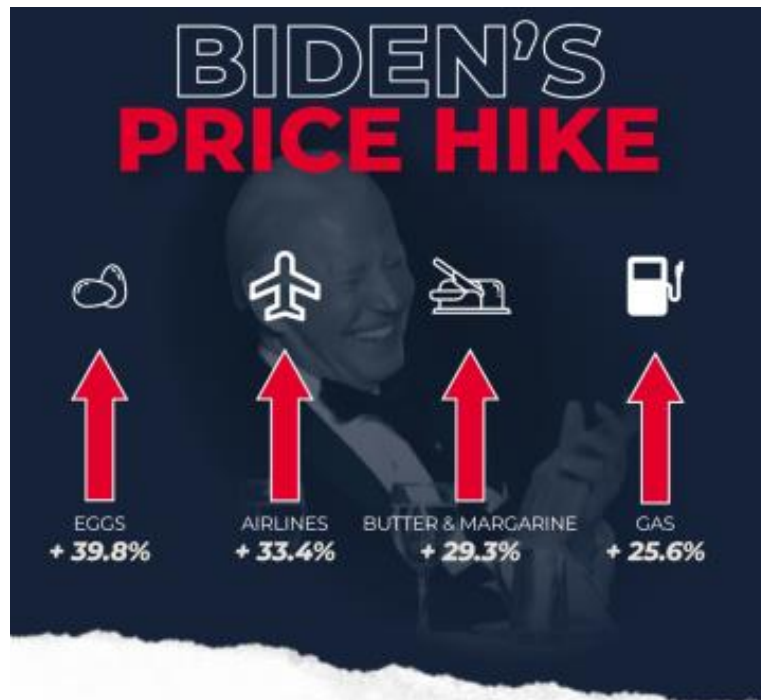
Sixth District Perspectives with Congressman Ben Cline

As Congress returned to Washington last week, Americans continued to face the impacts of one-party rule. The White House resumed its attempts to deceive the American people that inflation is no big deal, that the border is “secure,” and that Green New Deal anti-energy policies are not responsible for rising energy costs. Additionally, my colleagues and I continue to hold the Biden Administration accountable for undermining our military’s readiness because of their failed, unconstitutional policies, such as COVID vaccine mandates and canceling student loan debt. And I was proud to receive an award for my support of small businesses and met with VFW legislative representatives to hear about their priorities in helping Veterans. Lastly, this past week we paid tribute to the more than 81,500 American troops who remain missing from WWII to the Global War on Terror, and every American war for freedom in between. We humbly honored those whose debt we can never repay. As the flag outside my Washington office indicates, “You Are Not Forgotten”.

Inflation Rages On, White House Parties

All across the Sixth District, inflation has pummeled the budgets of hardworking Virginians, caused in large part by President Biden and House Democrats' multi-trillion-dollar spending spree. When President Biden took office in January '21, inflation was 1.6%. Today, it is a shocking 8.3%. The result? Americans' paychecks are shrinking as prices are rising: groceries +13.5%; electricity +15.8%; fuel oil +68.8%; gas +25.6.%; and rent +6.7%. Worse, a report from the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) showed that under the “Inflation Acceleration Act,” the debt will increase through 2026.

To help address this crisis, I have worked to push numerous pieces of legislation through the House to address inflation and rising energy prices. One example of this legislation is the *American Energy Independence from Russia Act*. This important bill includes strategies to encourage increased domestic production of crude oil, petroleum products, and natural gas to offset Russian and foreign oil dependency, which would help bring down prices across the board and restore energy independence. In addition, my colleagues and I are supporting a balanced budget that offers reasonable economic and fiscal policies, like keeping tax rates low, consolidating duplicate agencies, devolving responsibility over programs to the states, and implementing spending cuts to rescue this economy and get our fiscal house in order.



"The Border is Secure," Says VP Harris After 3.2 Million Illegal Crossings

The American people deserve the truth about President Biden's historic border crisis. From day one, the Biden Administration's disastrous open border and amnesty policies have made this crisis worse every single day, yet Biden is blind in seeing the chaos at our border. Americans should be outraged by his failed leadership. I've been to the southern border and one thing is clear – we need a border wall now. "Border Czar" Kamala Harris said, "the border is secure". The only thing that's secure is the cartels' cash flow from Biden's Border Crisis.



Addressing the border crisis on the House Floor

Fighting for Our Troops and Veterans

Our military is facing the lowest recruitment rates in history, and the Biden Administration is harming our military on multiple levels, from COVID vaccine mandates to student loan forgiveness.

Under Biden's leadership, his military COVID vaccine mandate is set to kick out over 100,000 servicemembers, jeopardizing our military's readiness. To address this threat to national security, my colleagues and I signed a letter to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin demanding he ends this disastrous mandate and prioritize the readiness of America's Armed Forces. Read more [here](#).

Further, the promise of the GI Bill for military service is one of the top reasons individuals join the military. Ending this incentive, at a time when the Armed Services are failing to meet their recruiting goals, will potentially have a detrimental impact on military readiness, and on our Nation's ability to fight wars and protect the homeland. That's why I signed a letter with Congressman Pat Fallon (R-PA) and our colleagues to President Biden seeking answers on how cancelling student loan debt will impact military recruitment. Read more [here](#).

Additionally, this week, I was proud to join my colleagues in supporting, in a bipartisan manner, legislation to care for our Veterans. The related bills that passed the House include:

-H.R. 7939 - *Student Veteran Emergency Relief Act of 2022*, enhances the portability of professional licenses of servicemembers and their spouses, which helps ease the unemployment rate of military spouses that is currently triple the national rate.

-H.R. 7846 - *Veterans' Compensation Cost of Living Adjustment Act of 2022*, would increase

the amounts paid for certain Veterans disability benefits by the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) used to determine changes to Social Security benefits.

-[H.R. 7735](#) - *Improving Access to the VA Home Loan Benefit Act of 2022*, directs the VA to update regulations regarding appraisals for VA home loans with the goal of decreasing the time it takes for a VA home loan to be finalized.

-[H.R. 5916](#) - *Wounded Warrior Access Act*, directs the VA to establish and maintain a website to enable a claimant or their representative to make records requests related to VA claims and benefits.

-[H.R. 8260](#) - *Faster Payments to Veterans' Survivors Act of 2022*, shortens the timeframe in which the VA must pay insurance benefits to an alternative beneficiary.



Source: [Department of Defense](#)

Pictures from Washington



Small businesses drive the engine of our economy and are critical to job creation. I was proud to receive the Guardian of Small Business Award by the National Federation of Independent Business, and I will continue to fight for policies in Congress that allow small businesses to thrive.

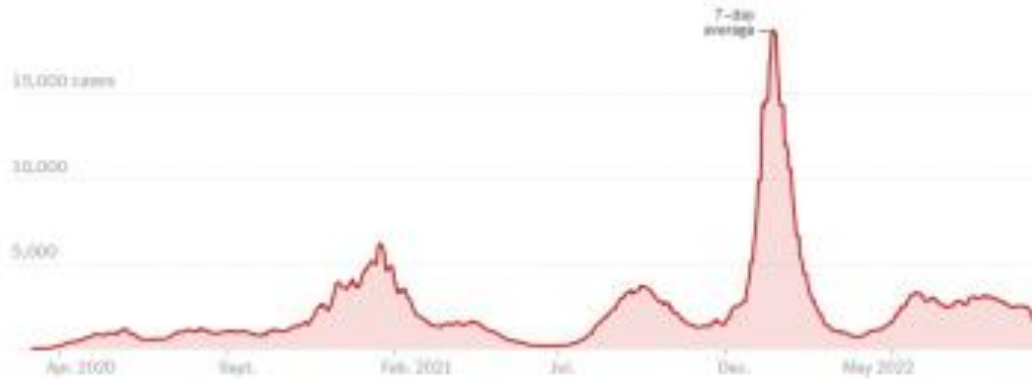


I was pleased to meet with Legislative Committee members of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). It was great to hear about their efforts to ensure our Veterans are represented in Washington.

COVID-19 Update

Last week in Virginia there was an average of 21 daily cases of COVID-19 per 100,000

residents, up from 20 last week. This week's COVID-19 test positivity rate was 17%, down from 22% 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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