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## SIXTH DISTRICT PERSPECTIVES WITH CONGRESSMAN BEN CLINE

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News From Congressman Ben Cline



CONGRESSMAN  
**BEN CLINE**



### **Sixth District Perspectives** *with Congressman Ben Cline*

This week we mourn the loss of Capitol Police Officer William “Billy” Evans, who was killed during an attempted breach of the Capitol Building Complex with a vehicle. Those who protect the institution of Congress do so selflessly and provide security and safety to Members of Congress, their staff, and the community. Elizabeth and I offer our condolences to the Evans family and continue to pray for a second officer who was injured. We extend our thanks to the entire Capitol Police Force for their continued service to our Nation.

#### **Signed Into Law:**

In 2019, I introduced and had signed into law the *Small Business Reorganization Act*, which simplified the process for entrepreneurs to use bankruptcy as a means of reorganization instead of closing down. Under this bill, businesses with less than \$2.7 million of debt could file for bankruptcy in a timelier and more cost-effective manner. While in bankruptcy reorganization, a small business can negotiate with creditors while keeping the doors open, employees on payroll, and suppliers and vendors paid. In 2020, a provision in the *CARES Act* raised the \$2.7 million threshold in my initial bill to \$7.5 million. While this provision was set to expire on March 27, 2021, Judiciary Chairman Nadler and I introduced the *COVID-19 Bankruptcy Relief Extension Act of 2021*, which extends this provision, and thus the \$7.5 million threshold, for an additional year. I was pleased that on March 27 the President signed this bill into law, meaning significantly more businesses struggling from the pandemic can take advantage of this bill. Having this legislation signed into law is a great example of how both parties can put partisanship aside and work to find realistic solutions to benefit the American people.

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**Deficit Spending:**

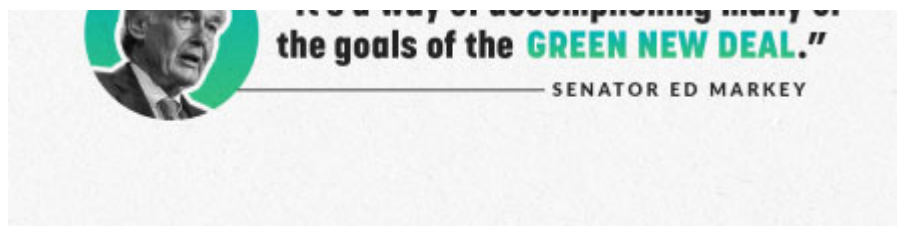
Unfortunately, as we've come to know, not all legislation in Congress is bipartisan. While improving our Nation's infrastructure should be, the Biden Administration has proposed a massive \$3 trillion package that fails to prioritize our crumbling roads, bridges, ports, and rail systems. Instead it includes \$174 billion to build 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations, \$213 billion for sustainable housing, \$35 billion for climate science research, \$45 billion for the EPA, \$10 billion for a Civilian Climate Corps, and \$27 billion for a National Green Bank. To make matters worse, the Biden Administration plans to pass the largest tax increase in more than 30 years to help pay for it. I stand ready to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to help revitalize our Nation's infrastructure such as I-81. But any plan must be fiscally responsible, a true transportation bill and not climate legislation, and fair for rural communities like ours.

**DEMOCRATS'  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
BILL IS *NOT* ABOUT  
INFRASTRUCTURE:**

**"This infrastructure package  
generally seems to be shaping up in  
[The **GREEN NEW DEAL'S**] framework."**

REP. ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ

**"It's a way of accomplishing many of**



**Connecting with Constituents:**

Before the Coronavirus pandemic began, I promised to hold in-person town halls throughout the Sixth District. In fact, since being elected, I have hosted 25 in-person town halls – with at least one being held in each locality throughout our region. I hope to continue those sorts of in-person forums in the near future but, for now, as restrictions on public gatherings remain in place, virtual town halls remain one of the best and safest options to connect directly with constituents to ensure their voices are heard in Washington. While my first seven telephone town halls were District-wide, I've begun hosting regional forums, which allow me to focus on the unique issues facing each of our individual communities. This week, I was pleased to host my ninth telephone town hall for residents of Roanoke City and Roanoke County. I look forward to holding similar events like this throughout the District in the future.



**Vaccine Clinic:**

Frontline workers across the Sixth District have been working tirelessly to administer COVID-19 vaccines to those who choose to get it since December of last year. One of the largest vaccination sites in the area is hosted by the Roanoke City Alleghany Health District and Carilion Clinic at the Berglund Center in Roanoke. On Wednesdays, the site vaccinates around 3,500 people and upwards of 1,500 individuals on Thursdays. This week, I was pleased to tour the facility and take time to thank those working there. Their efforts are paying off, and on Wednesday, the clinic celebrated the vaccination of more than 100,000 people. As someone who has chosen to receive the vaccine, I am grateful to these dedicated folks for all their hard work.

**Chris's Coffee & Custard:**

Beth and Alan Woodrum of Roanoke are the proud parents of three boys – their youngest of whom, Chris, has Down Syndrome. Amazing folks like Chris with a disability oftentimes struggle to find employment – not because they are incapable of doing the job, but because many aren't willing to give them a chance. As of 2020, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, only 17.9 percent of people with a disability were employed. To help bridge this gap, the Woodrum family recently opened Chris's Coffee & Custard in Roanoke. This tremendous coffee shop creates opportunities for gainful and meaningful employment for individuals with intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities. I enjoyed visiting with the staff this week to see their operation first-hand and try their tasty treats. I must say, their custard was out of this world.

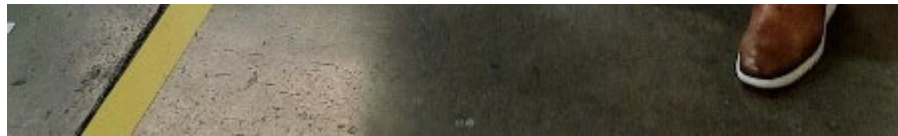




**Integrated Textile Solutions:**

Integrated Textile Solutions (ITS), headquartered in Salem with a brick and mortar shop in Vinton, is one of the Department of Defense's most trusted manufacturers in Virginia. Since its founding in 1936, the company has grown both in size and in the products it makes. For the past 30 years, the company has worked to protect those whose job it is to protect all of us. Not only do they provide equipment to the U.S. Military like shelters, body armor, decontamination products, and tactical gear, but they also provide products that have been invaluable during the pandemic such as masks, medical gowns, hoods, and tunics. I appreciated the chance to tour ITS' facility this week and hear from the owner about the company's mission to serve those serving us.





**Roanoke Rescue Mission:**

The Roanoke Rescue Mission has been dedicated to providing assistance to struggling individuals and families since 1948. This week, I had the privilege of touring the Mission and volunteered for a shift serving meals to those in need. On any given night, the Roanoke Rescue Mission's dedicated staff and volunteers provide emergency shelter for nearly 250 men, women, and children and serve upwards of 600 meals a day. Not only do they provide food and shelter, but also offer several other services to those suffering from homelessness, disabilities, addiction, or abuse. The overwhelming contributions this organization makes to the Roanoke community simply cannot be overstated.



**Other District Travels:**



*Valley Health Vaccine Clinic (Woodstock)*



*Rocco Building Supplies (Harrisonburg)*



*Roanoke Economic Development Update*

**COVID-19 Update:**

As of April 3, 2021, Virginia has had 623,881 total cases of COVID-19, including confirmed lab tests and clinical diagnoses, according to the Virginia Department of Health. The current death toll in the Commonwealth stands at 10,287. Further, according to the VDH's COVID-19 vaccine data dashboard, as of April 3rd, 2,704,038 people have been vaccinated with at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, and 1,467,640 people are fully vaccinated.



**Happy Easter:**

To those celebrating throughout the Sixth District, I wish you a blessed and healthy Easter.

“Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.” ~ Matthew 28:5-6







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 Cline".

**Washington D.C. Office**  
2443 Rayburn  
House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-5431

**Harrisonburg Office**  
70 N Mason St  
Suite 110  
Harrisonburg, VA 22802  
Phone: (540) 432-2391

**Lynchburg Office**  
916 Main St  
Suite 300  
Lynchburg, VA 24504  
Phone: (434) 845-8306

**Roanoke Office**  
10 Franklin Rd SE  
Suite 510  
Roanoke, VA 24011  
Phone: (540) 857-2672

**Staunton Office**  
117 S Lewis St  
Suite 215  
Staunton, VA 24401  
Phone: (540) 885-3861

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