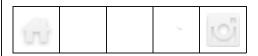
# Sixth District Perspectives with Congressman Ben Cline

News From Congressman Ben Cline





# Sixth District Perspectives with Congressman Ben Cline

It was a disappointing week back in Congress, as business-as-usual unfortunately won the day. Instead of protecting Americans' civil liberties, the House reauthorized FISA Section 702, which allows for the continued warrantless surveillance of Americans. Joe Biden's border crisis and economic crisis are wreaking havoc on the country, as new statistics came out last week showing the devastating consequences of his failed policies. As war rages in the Middle East, the United States must continue to support one of our strongest allies, Israel, in their fight to defend themselves against the barbaric attacks. On the brighter side, it was great to see Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin in Bath County and meet with folks across the district and in my D.C. office. Rest assured, I will continue to fight for the issues important to the Sixth District.

## **Protecting Americans From Warrantless Surveillance**

Last week, I voted against H.R. 7888, the Reforming Intelligence and Securing America Act. My vote no reflected the flawed reauthorization of FISA Section 702. While it is critical that our intelligence agencies have the resources they need to counter foreign terrorism, we know that some FBI officials have misused the FISA process to surveil American citizens. This is unacceptable.

Not only does this violate Americans' Fourth Amendment rights, but it continues to diminish the already waning American people's trust in our intelligence agencies. It is critical that we put forth legislation that protects Americans' civil liberties, not the opposite. As long as FISA Section 702 allows our intelligence agencies to spy on American citizens without a warrant, I will continue to vote NO.



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As we approach the renewal of Section 702 of FISA, it's clear - simply rubber-stamping its extension will continue to diminish the already waning American people's trust in our intelligence agencies.

#### **Standing With Our Greatest Ally in the Middle East**

Under Joe Biden's feckless leadership, from Afghanistan to Iran, we've witnessed a worrisome trend of diminishing American strength on the global stage. This posture has only served to embolden nations like Iran, culminating in their recent unjustified and direct attacks on Israel. In these trying times, as Israel faces threats to its existence from every side, it's imperative that we reaffirm our commitment to our most steadfast ally in the Middle East.

House Republicans recognize the importance of not just standing with Israel through words but through decisive actions. Our commitment to Israel's security and sovereignty is unwavering, and through US policy and funding, we aim to reinforce that promise.

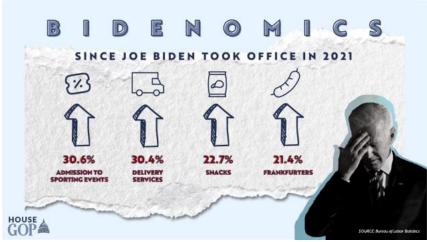


#### **Bidenflation Continues To Hurt American's Wallets**

This month, the Consumer Price Index (CPI), a principal gauge of inflation, reported a sharper increase than anticipated. In March alone, the CPI rose at an annual rate of 3.5%, marking a staggering overall inflation surge of 19.4% since Joe Biden took office.

Bidenflation continues to act as a stealth tax on every American family. This situation is not a coincidence but the direct consequence of the Biden Administration and Far Left Democrats' unrestrained spending habits. Their disregard for fiscal responsibility is placing a significant burden on our economy, and ultimately, on the American people.

House Republicans have been at the forefront of efforts to stop reckless spending and to advocate for a return to fiscal responsibility in Washington. Our commitment to the American people is to fight tirelessly to ensure our economy is stronger for everyone and for future generations to come.



Biden's Failed Border Policies Attract Dangerous Criminals

Joe Biden's failed Far Left open border policies are attracting every type of individual including those who are dangerous criminals that pose a direct threat to the safety of American communities. Since October 1, 2023, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers in the Del Rio sector alone have arrested over 54 convicted sexual predators. This alarming figure represents just a small fraction of the criminals that have managed to enter the country, given the staggering number of 1.8 million individuals classified as "gotaways" since the beginning of Joe Biden's presidency.

Last week during an Appropriations committee hearing, FBI Director Wray even expressed his concern to me about the backlog in processing DNA tests of illegal immigrants coming into our country. These individuals are entering the country without any screening for criminal backgrounds, carrying the potential for increased violence, drug trafficking, and other illegal activities that compromise the safety and security of U.S. citizens. The gravity of this situation cannot be overstated. The ripple effects of these open border policies are felt in the rise of crime rates, strained public resources, and the general feeling of insecurity among American families.

Joe Biden, FBI Director Wray, and DHS Secretary Mayorkas are failing to protect the American people from the dangerous threat to our national security and humanitarian crisis at our southern border. That is why this week, the House transmitted the duly passed articles of impeachment against Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas for willfully and systemically refusing to comply with federal immigration laws and breach of the public trust to Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer should have fulfilled his constitutional obligation and held a trial in the Senate for Mayorkas immediately. Failing to do so and allowing Mayorkas to remain in office is a direct threat to the safety and security of every American.



### **Meetings on the Hill**



It was great to meet with Jonathan Bucher, a representative from Stoneburner, to hear more about the work they do to serve the contracting, lumber, and building material needs of the Valley.



I enjoyed meeting with representatives from LYCRA and learning more about their efforts to create innovative, industry-leading fiber and technology solutions for the fashion and textile industries.

#### **District Travels**



It was great to welcome Virginia's amazing Governor Glenn Youngkin once again to #Vao6.



I had a great afternoon speaking with Luray High School's Government classes this week to talk about the work I do in Washington and around the Valley for Virginia's Sixth District. They brought excellent questions and great insight into the future of our country.



It was a pleasure touring the new 3rd floor center of the Heart and Vascular Center at Augusta Health in Fishersville last week. The new center allows Augusta Health's cardiology department to treat even more patients and combat heart disease across the Valley.



Thank you to the Virginia National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association for inviting me to speak at their annual conference in Harrisonburg this week.

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 <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u> pages.

Ben Cline