



News From Congressman Ben Cline



Sixth District Perspectives with Congressman Ben Cline

While the U.S. faces great challenges at home, ensuring the safety of Americans on our soil and abroad is the highest priority of the Federal government. The successful operation of neutralizing the al Qaeda leader al-Zawahiri was a success of our defense and intelligence operations, and the mission sends a message to those that wish to do Americans harm: We will find you and finish you.

With a second straight quarter of negative economic growth, coupled with another historic rise in interest rates and 40-year high inflation, the Nation officially entered a recession. No matter how Biden and Pelosi want to redefine recession, the impact of one-party rule has had dire consequences for American families. Not to be outdone, Democrats continued their attack on the Constitution with an assault weapons ban, while, over in the Senate, remnants of Build Back Better were resurrected to the tune of \$740 billion. Further, while I understand the importance of being able to have an increase in parts necessary to power today's world, I could not in good conscience support the corporate welfare-filled CHIPS bill that benefited large corporations while doing little for the mom-and-pop manufacturers who truly need the help. However, I was pleased to support legislation that extends telehealth services post-COVID-19 to the benefit of rural areas like ours. As always, I was pleased to meet with constituents and had the opportunity to honor the 100th birthday of a member of the Greatest Generation. I look forward to meeting with constituents and businesses across western Virginia as Congress begins its August District Work period. I will continue fighting for you as your Representative, and I hope to see you around the District in the coming weeks.

The Recession

Massive deficit spending to the tune of multiple trillions of dollars on the part of House Democrats and President Biden to push their radical agenda has finally caught up with the American economy, and the consequences are disastrous. On top of 40-year high inflation, continually high gas prices, open border policies, and skyrocketing crime in America, the Federal Reserve raised interest rates by another .75%, which will cause a ripple effect across the economy negatively affecting mortgages, auto, and credit loans.

Moreover, second quarter GDP dropped by .9%, and this came on the heels of a 1.6% drop the previous quarter, meaning we are in a recession. Of course, sadly, families across the country and hard-working Virginians have felt this recession long before government numbers confirmed it. Shrinking paychecks, rising food, fuel, and housing costs are eating away at the family budget with no real help in sight. To rescue this economy from the precipice, we must restore fiscal responsibility in Congress. Unfortunately, it appears House Democrats have no plans to stop their spending spree, but you may rest assured my Republican colleagues and I will be united in fighting for responsible governance.



Source: [The Economic Times](#)

Assault Weapons Ban

Democrats are saying the quiet part out loud now: They are coming for your guns, as House Democrats passed an assault weapons ban last week. Democrats' consistent and multi-faceted attack on the Constitution is inexcusable. As recent as May, the Supreme Court reaffirmed the rights of law-abiding citizens to exercise their right to keep and bear arms. However, House Democrats continue to ignore this and choose to chip away at the Constitution all in an attempt to strengthen their grip on power.

With its passage, Democrats are seeking to outlaw the import, sale, manufacture, and transfer of some of the most popular firearms in America. Rather than truly making our communities safer as Democrats claim, this ban will undermine the ability of Americans to defend themselves and infringe upon the Second Amendment rights of all Americans. Though the measure now goes over to the Senate for action, I will remain a steadfast defender of the Second Amendment and stand firm for the Constitution. I took to the House Floor to defend the Second Amendment from these unconstitutional efforts.



Defending the Second Amendment during House Floor debate

Revived "Build Back Better"

At a time when left is right and up is down for Democrats, Senate Democrats have struck a deal that spends \$740 billion more, yet somehow ends inflation and cuts the deficit. Specifically, the bill includes not only \$480 billion in tax hikes that will hit workers through slashed wages, but also \$370 billion in Green New Deal climate spending, provides more money for Obamacare that will cause a continued increase in health care costs, and seeks \$38 billion in new taxes on American oil and gas producers, exacerbating the energy crisis and the soaring prices at the pump that are hitting Americans hard. Further, the bill calls for hiring an army of 80,000 IRS agents to harass the private financial accounts of Americans and to ramp up audits on small businesses and taxpayers. Numerous studies, including from the Penn Wharton Budget Model, forecast that this continued spending will worsen inflation in the near term. In the long term, such spending will drive this Nation closer to the fiscal cliff, which is why Republicans are working to put an end to the lavish spending of the Washington establishment. This kind of policy has never worked, and this package will not be an exception.

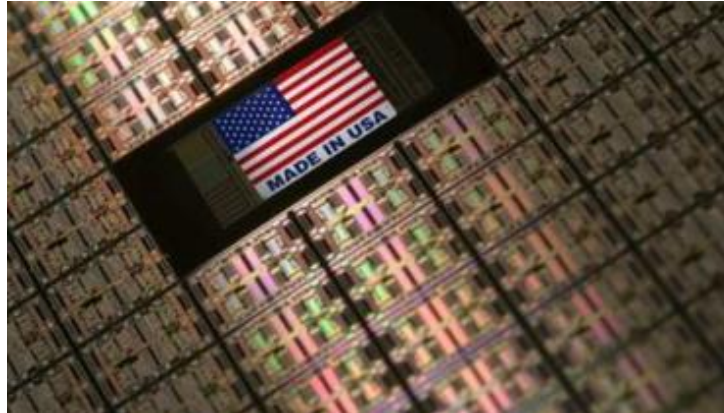


Source: Fox News

Corporate Welfare

Congress failed to adequately come to terms on an American competitiveness package that would sufficiently confront the growing threat of communist China. Instead, the House was faced with the decision of whether to send billions in corporate welfare to one specific industry,

semiconductor companies, that do not need government support. I have been an ardent opponent of corporate welfare and government bailouts. The government should not be deciding winners and losers in the private sector with taxpayer money. Further, rather than a massive package of corporate welfare for one specific industry, which will beget further welfare for endless industries when our national debt is \$30 trillion, Republicans sought alternatives such as broad-based tax incentives. Additionally, the U.S. is already on track to ramp up production with new semiconductor facilities, and moreover the package lacked any guardrail to ensure that the investments would not shift to China. Congress's economic goal should be to create an open, free market with sufficiently low levels of regulation to allow industries to flourish across the economy and globally, rather than tipping the scales in the private sector to the benefit of one industry today, another tomorrow.



Source: [WSJ](#)

Advancing Telehealth Beyond COVID-19 Act

Telehealth is essential in rural areas like ours, and in positive news out of Congress last week, I was pleased to support the *Advancing Telehealth Beyond COVID-19 Act*, which would continue areas of telehealth authorities under Medicare that were authorized during the COVID-19 pandemic. Though not permanent, this extension would last until 2024, a vital extension during ongoing health challenges for Americans. Further, the bill would remove unnecessary barriers to telehealth and allow broader access to health services for all individuals, including those in rural areas, a major step towards modernizing America's medical services.



Source: [CCHP](#)

Honoring a Sixth District Resident

I had the honor of saluting and paying tribute to Strasburg resident and World War II Veteran Donald Keller on the celebration of his 100th birthday. The Sixth District thanks Mr. Keller for his service and contributions to the town of Strasburg, and we wish him well on his day.



Honoring WWII Veteran Donald Keller for his 100th Birthday

Constituent Meetings and Congressional Business



Assembling United Service Organization (USO) care packages for deployed troops



Meeting with the American Association of Christian Schools



Meeting with the Hunter family from Lexington after their tour of the Capitol

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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