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After a relaxing Thanksgiving spent with family and friends, I've been back in D.C. this week! Before diving into the craziness of votes, expulsions, and committee activity this week, I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge Judge Edward Smith, who passed away this week. He will be greatly missed by our community – he had so much more left to give to the administration of justice in his courtroom. He will be remembered for his kindness and his commitment to fair treatment under the law. He was a friend of mine, and I will miss him deeply.

Turning back to the chaos in D.C. – this week, the House voted to expel Mr. Santos. As Ranking Member of the Ethics Committee, you may have seen me on various news outlets explaining this process. I want to be clear: the Ethics Committee report on Mr. Santos, had unanimous, bipartisan support every step of the way. The resolution to expel Mr. Santos had strong bipartisan support. This is a sign of good government – when elected officials break public trust, we have a responsibility to hold them accountable. That is why I voted to expel him today: to maintain the highest level of integrity in government that Americans deserve.

Rep. Wild Speaks on House Floor About Rural Health Challenges and Legislation Image

I've long said that your zip code shouldn't determine your access to high quality, affordable health care. This week, I joined my colleagues from the Bipartisan Rural Health Caucus to discuss the unique challenges faced by rural communities to accessing health care.

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, almost a third of people live in federally designated Health Professional Shortage Areas – meaning their communities do not have sufficient medical personnel. Our communities are already facing medical personnel shortages – we can't afford to compound this problem by penalizing our teaching hospitals. That's why I partnered with Representative Meuser to introduce the bipartisan Fairness for Rural Teaching Hospitals Act. This bill would allow rural hospitals, including St. Luke's Easton Campus and St. Luke's Miners Memorial Hospital, to receive fair reimbursements from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This legislation is critical for allowing our rural hospitals to attract, train, and retain talented health care professionals to our communities.



Rep. Wild Cosponsors Modernizing Opioid Treatment Access Act

Since joining Congress, I've fought hard to destignatize mental health and addiction treatment, and to expand access to these lifesaving treatments for members of our community. That's why I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 1359, the Modernizing Opioid Treatment Access Act. This evidence-based legislation would help increase access to care for individuals combatting opioid use disorder by reforming outdated regulations.

I will never stop fighting to expand access to care for all members of our community, commonwealth, and country. To anyone in our community who is currently struggling with substance abuse or addiction – please know there is help out there. To talk with an expert and learn more about the treatment options available, call the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's hotline at 1-800-662-HELP or visit their website.