**Talking Points For Ways and Means Member Day Hearing**

* Thank you Chairman \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Ranking Member \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for giving me the chance to testify in front of the Committee.
* I want to talk about three issues today that are pertinent to my constituents, as well as many other Americans across the Country.
* First, I want to bring up the state and local tax deduction or as it’s more commonly referred to, SALT.
* As you are all aware, the SALT deduction allows filers to deduct up to $10,000 of certain state and local taxes from their taxable income.
* This cap was a major change from long-standing federal policy which respected fiscal federalism between the federal government and state and local governments and worked to protect taxpayers from a form of double-taxation by forcing them to pay taxes on income that went to not to their expenses but to local governments.
* The average itemized filer in each of the 10 counties in my district reported a SALT burden from 12k-28k in 2021. In a state which already contributes more than any other in federal taxes, this additional burden is difficult to bear.
* As the Committee starts work on a new tax package, I’m asking you to support raising the SALT deduction cap. The Ways & Means Committee has an opportunity here to adjust the previous policy in a way that will help hard hit consumers and taxpayers by limiting double-taxation and demonstrate that this Congress hears their concerns.
* The next item I want to bring up is my bill, the No Medicaid for Illegal Immigrants Act, which I introduced this week.
* This bill would prohibit states from using both federal and state Medicaid funds to provide services for illegal immigrants. I recognize that much of this jurisdiction is shared with … ahem… another Committee, but there are significant opportunities here to ensure that scarce healthcare dollars are properly focused on Americans and not those who have abused our laws and borders.
* Border security is a top priority for my constituents, as is cutting back on wasteful spending.
* This bill will prevent states from spending billions of taxpayer dollars on benefits for illegal immigrants, while promoting fairness and fiscal responsibility.
* I wanted to end by thanking this Committee for all its work on the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act last Congress.
* This legislation was vital to my constituents, because it allows wildfire settlements to be exempted from federal income taxes.
* Many of my constituents have been victims of wildfires caused by utilities.
* For years they’ve been fighting to keep their disaster settlements from being classified as income.
* When a fire devastates a community, families need every resource available to them to rebuild. This bill will allow them to file amended tax returns, and take back the money that is owed to them.
* While this money won’t make them whole, it’s one more step towards recovery.
* Once again, thank you for the opportunity to testify in front of this Committee, and with that I’ll yield back.