

### **1. What are the most important responsibilities of a federal representative in Congress?**

In business, the customer is always your top priority. As a Congressman, it's the constituent. Being present and accessible to your constituents is key. That's why I opened four offices in Cumberland, Hagerstown, Frederick, and Gaithersburg for the first time in recent memory. The more my team and I can be present and help the people of the 6th District navigate issues with the government, the better. Over the past two years, my team and I have responded to over 90,000 messages from constituents, solved 7,000 problems with federal agencies for Marylanders, and recovered or saved over 16 million dollars in benefits owed to our constituents. It's also important to be a voice for the people you represent, especially those who don't have a PAC or a lobbyist advocating on their behalf. That's why I take no money from PACs, lobbyists, or special interests. Standing up for every day Americans and making progress on real issues that impact our communities, like the opioid crisis, our unjust criminal justice system, our education system, and our lack of mental health resources, is essential to being an effective representative.

### **2. Name one issue you are truly passionate about and tell us why?**

Opioid addiction and substance use disorder are killing tens of thousands of Americans every year. In fact, more people died of an overdose last year than ever before, and COVID-19 is making the problem worse. For me, it's personal. Four years ago, my family experienced the same pain that countless families across the country experience every day. My nephew Ian, who was like a son to me, struggled with opioid addiction for years. Despite going to the best treatment and working with the best counselors, Ian lost his battle with addiction alone in a hotel room on Christmas Eve. I ran for Congress to fight so that no one else will have to experience that pain and heartbreak. In my first two years in office, we've made great progress. I formed the bipartisan Freshmen Working Group on Addiction, bringing together 65 Members of Congress from both parties laser-focused on solutions for addiction. We've introduced over 50 bills tackling every aspect of this crisis. Most recently, the House unanimously passed my bill to provide support for families with a loved one suffering from addiction. I won't stop fighting until we end this epidemic.

### **3. What do you believe to be the greatest challenge facing the country in the coming two years, and how do you see being a part of the solution in Washington, DC?**

Education gave me the opportunity to go from working on a struggling family farm to starting a successful business. Every child should have this same opportunity regardless of where they start in life. Sadly, too many children don't get this opportunity because of their race or socioeconomic status, disability, or zip code. That is just plain wrong, and we can fix it. We can start with universal Pre-K to give every child a fair start and implement free community college like we've seen at Garrett College. We also need to invest in good teachers by offering competitive pay, increased training opportunities, and other incentives. As the only member of Congress from Maryland serving on the Education and Labor Committee, I know that investing in our children's education is good for our students and families, good for our economy, and good for the country.