

My pledge to the people of Indiana's 6th Congressional district

At least 20% of my congressional salary will be donated to charities that serve the economically disadvantaged citizens of the 6th district.

I am running for office to be a public servant and not to profit off of the American people. When I leave office I will donate 100% of the increase in my net worth since the time I entered office to charities that serve the economically disadvantaged citizens of the 6th district.

My wife and I will continue to be Hoosiers. We will own our home in Indiana and rent a basic apartment in Washington DC. During Congressional breaks, we will spend our time in Indiana and be here on weekends whenever possible to get your feedback and to learn about what you need from our federal government.

My wife and I will not accept the lucrative health insurance benefits that members of Congress enjoy. We will elect instead to be covered by a marketplace plan offered by the ACA (or whichever plan is available to the general public while I am in office) so that we experience the same challenges of health care that are experienced by the general public.

I will accept no campaign contributions from corporations or special interests.

I will not accept employment from any lobbying organization after leaving office.

I will have a diverse staff that is representative of the entire population of the 6th district.

I have gotten to where I am in life through relentless hard work. I have worked not just for myself, but for the benefit of my clients and for the less fortunate in our community. No one will work harder on behalf of the American people, and particularly on behalf of the citizens of the 6th district.

Whenever possible, I will make myself available for town hall meetings within the district, even when I know that something I supported might not be popular with some in attendance. I will endeavor to be available for a citizens meeting in every county within the district at least once each year. With the technology that is available today I will also endeavor to hold a quarterly online town hall where I will take questions and comments as time allows from those who attend virtually.

When I have a problem with someone, I will address it with that person directly and not tweet about it.

I feel that one of the most important functions of government is providing education for our children. I do believe that education is most effective when schools and teachers have as much control locally as possible. I will have a panel of former and current principals and superintendents that I will go to for feedback and advice when considering any bill involving public schools. I will have a similar panel of school teachers that includes teachers in rural and urban schools at all levels to find out how the federal government can support our public schools, rather than imposing additional burdens upon them.

Many of the problems that our society faces are issues of the human condition. No problem of the human condition has ever been solved by throwing money at it. The only way to solve such problems and to truly help people is for people to get involved in a way that puts them emotionally at risk. This is why so many of the truly good teachers, social workers and ministry leaders get burned out. They truly invest themselves into people and have had their hearts broken too many times. I pledge to listen to our teachers and social workers, to work with them to find ways for our government to support them, and to lift them up and regenerate these difference makers in our society rather than making their jobs more difficult and stressful as our government so often does.

I will fight to protect religious liberty for all. This includes the right to not be discriminated against if you don't believe in any god or religion.

I will be a leader because I know what it is to be a servant.