

State of the District Constituent Questions & Answers

1. *Rep. Adams, thank you for your advocacy for the residents of Matthews! We're excited to see the Silver Line come to fruition and the possibility of creating rail connectivity to both west Charlotte and the airport. Will additional federal funds expedite the construction of this project? We look forward to working with you and your leadership on this transformational project.*

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act made billions of dollars available to fund mass transit projects such as the Silver Line. Specifically, North Carolina has reserved \$900 million for projects like the light rail. Additionally, the IIJA made almost \$15 billion available in federal grant programs that our city and state can apply for those new dollars. Ensuring mass transit to connect cities and towns to uptown Charlotte and the airport remains a priority for both the light rail and our office.

2. *I'm very concerned about state laws being enacted that will deny women the right to make decisions about their reproductive health? Where do things stand with the Women's Health Act of 2021?*

State legislatures around the country are passing abortion-related measures. These measures often focus on when a woman may elect to have an abortion, providing very short timelines, which negatively impact women who elect to have abortions. Furthermore, these laws have a disproportionate impact on women of color, such as the measure passed in Texas earlier this year.

I proudly [co-sponsored](#) the [Women's Health Protection Act of 2021](#). I also spoke and voted in [favor of this bill when it came to the House](#) floor for a vote. In September 2021, the Women's Health Protection Act passed the House and awaiting consideration in the Senate. Please know that I will continue to fight tirelessly for women's reproductive rights.

3. *We have a severe shortage of protected public lands accessible to us. Nearest substantial area is the patchwork and incomplete Uwharrie National Forest an hour east. Can we get any money to establish or expand state or national parks or forest lands respectively?*

I was proud to support the permanent authorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund in 2019, which has historically been a primary funding source of the U.S. Department of the Interior for outdoor recreation development and land acquisition by local governments and state agencies. In North Carolina, it is administered by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Historically, the LCWF was able to [contribute](#) \$16 million to the Pisgah National Forest in NC and has also supported NC treasures such as the Uwharrie National Forest and

Headwaters State Forest. To apply for a project or find projects in your area, you can visit their [website](#). Please know I will continue to fight for robust funding for public land programs.

4. *Thx Congresswoman Adams for representing us. Lot's of local issues talked about. BUT, we've killed over 24,000 innocent people since our "war on terror" started after 911. 1) what are you doing to stop our drone warfare, especially 2) What are you doing to remove sanctions on Afghanistan; so that the people of Afghanistan don't starve?*

I believe that troops should not be sent into situations lightly, and I support stopping endless wars. I am a cosponsor of two bills that would repeal the 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) and initiate an eight-month sunset of the 2001 AUMF. Both AUMFs have been used by three successive Presidents to wage wars beyond the scope of Congress. I believe it is past time that we put an end to blank check wars. The defense authorization bill that passed in December [included](#) the establishment of an Afghanistan War Commission, an independent commission to look at the legacy of the 20-year war in the country. It is important that we learn the lessons of this war.

Additionally, the United States announced [three different immigration pathways](#) to evacuate and resettle vulnerable Afghans: Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) status, the Priority 2 (P2) Refugee Program, and the Humanitarian Parole. Congress also passed the FY 2022 Continuing Resolution on September 30, which included [\\$6.3 billion](#) to help provide Afghan humanitarian parolees with resettlement services and benefits, as the U.S. continues to be dedicated to aiding our Afghan allies.

5. *Why do you believe that throwing money around will fix an issue whereas it is proven that it only makes it worse? AKA Detroit, LA and NY.*

The Build Back Better package is one of the biggest cost-cutting packages for middle class families in history. It would help immediately address some of the biggest financial issues Americans face. Investments include more stable, affordable housing; reducing the nation's carbon output; increasing access to affordable childcare so that women can rejoin the workforce; and giving workers higher pay, paid leave, and higher quality healthcare through the prescription drug benefit.

While we may not always agree, staying informed of my constituents' priorities is one of the most important parts of my work, and I appreciate you participating in my State of the District address to express yours.

6. *middle class families should be afforded a larger child care credit. We encourage to have kids, but are not afforded any of the tools to be successful?*

The expanded Child Tax Credit has been crucial for helping families as they navigate the pandemic, cutting taxes by over \$250 million for over 100,000 families in North Carolina's 12th District. Additionally, the expanded CTC [cut hunger rates](#) in households with children by 33% and [reduced child poverty](#) by 29%. Unfortunately, this tax credit expired on the last day of 2021. As a result, [monthly payments](#) of the CTC have ceased and the credit has reduced to its previous value.

I supported the first expansion for the Child Tax Credit when I voted for the American Rescue Plan Act. Unfortunately, the expanded Child Tax Credit expired at the end of 2021. I have called on Congress to pass a [clean extension](#) of the expanded CTC, as it is vital that we bring back this critical lifeline for American families. Please know this is a priority of mine.

7. *With your strong concern regarding health of your constituents, where do you stand on the the proposed legislation to mitigate the 15% differential for physical therapy care provided to Medicare patients by physical therapist assistants? There are already concerns about the ability to provide PT and OT services in rural areas and this lessens the available providers to assist our persons who have Medicare coverage for their healthcare. As our population ages, physical therapy works hard to keep them aging well and functioning well in the community. There are some legislative proposals in the house to stop or at least delay this reduction. Will you back that legislation, Congresswoman Adams? Thank you for your time.*

H.R. 5536, [the Stabilizing Medicare Access to Rehabilitation and Therapy \(SMART\) Act](#), was introduced in October 2021 and would delay and mitigate the looming 15% cut to the Medicare reimbursement rate for physical and occupational therapy assistants. I believe in the importance of maintaining accessibility to critical therapy services. Please know that I am currently reviewing this bill for cosponsorship and will keep your views in mind should it come to the House floor.

8. *Rep. Adams thank you for the work do. I interested in your opinion on Rep. Lori Trahan's HR 2067 - MATE Act of 2021. I am an addiction psychiatrist that has struggled with the worsening opioid problems. I believe improving education of healthcare professionals will assist in seeing that the problems associated with the prescribing of opioids and not identifying and/or treating those with an opioid use disorder appropriately.*

I believe in the importance of our fight to improve mental health and substance abuse care for the millions of Americans who suffer and to help ensure earlier intervention and better treatment options for individuals and families who need help. H.R. 2067, the MATE Act of 2021, would require health care providers, as a condition of receiving or renewing a registration to prescribe potentially addictive drugs, to complete a one-time training on managing patients with substance

abuse disorders. Please know that I am currently reviewing this bill for consponsorship and will keep your views in mind should it come to the House floor.

9. Why are Medicare cost per month is higher than some Obama care premiums?

ACA health plans are offered at a range of prices, from bronze to platinum, with benefits and costs varying based on which coverage type is chosen and any federal subsidies the enrollee is eligible for. With Medicare, there are multiple parts, with Part A and Part B commonly referred to as original Medicare. Most people qualify for a premium-free Medicare Part A, and the standard monthly premium for Part B in 2022 is \$170.10 per month, although that will vary based on your yearly income. Medicare Parts C, D, and Medigap are additional options that are offered by insurance companies. Depending on which services are selected, Medicare or ACA plan costs will vary. Further information on Medicare costs can be found [here](#) and additional information on ACA plan costs can be found [here](#).

My office is happy to try and answer your question further if you are able to provide more details. You can contact us through my website at <https://adamsforms.house.gov/contact/>. Alternatively, I encourage you to contact Medicare directly at 1-800-MEDICARE for Medicare questions or the Healthcare Marketplace at 1-800-318-2596 for ACA plan questions.

10. Hello. Is there any initiative in place to work with local associations/non-profits to prepare small businesses for the upcoming opportunities and to include all minorities?

I encourage you to contact your local Small Business Administration office – you can find their North Carolina locations and contacts [here](#). Additionally, you can contact [SCORE Charlotte](#), which aims to provide free and confidential mentoring for small businesses.