



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Spanberger Response to Rep. Brat Comparing Addiction Challenges to Campaigning**

HENRICO, VA — Today, in response to [Congressman Brat comparing the challenges](#) of campaigning to those who are incarcerated and struggling with addiction, Abigail Spanberger released the following statement:

“These comments are disturbing and damaging in the way that they belittle and trivialize addiction and the challenges facing those in recovery. However, time and time again, Congressman Brat has demonstrated he is a politician who is more concerned with his own re-election than the struggles and well-being of people in our communities, and sadly, his comments aren’t surprising. The truth is that Congressman Brat has also taken massive campaign contributions from pharmaceutical companies, voted to give them a billion-dollar tax break, and voted to limit access to addiction services. Addressing the addiction crisis across our country requires us to support those who are struggling, ensure the availability of the resources necessary for treatment, and not stigmatize substance use disorders. Through his votes and with his recent disturbing comments, Congressman Brat has made it clear that he has no interest in doing any of the above.”

Just this morning, when asked what keeps [Congressman Brat awake at night](#), he replied, “five million dollars worth... of negative nonsense and falsehoods against me.”

Congressman Brat voted last year for the American Health Care Act (AHCA), which according to [reports at the time](#), “would make substance-abuse treatment prohibitively expensive and, in particular, medication-assisted treatment.”

*Abigail Spanberger is a former CIA officer and the Democratic nominee running for Congress against Dave Brat in Virginia's 7th Congressional District. She believes in leadership that flows from our shared American values of integrity, responsibility, and decency, and she wants to work to move this country forward together. To learn more, please visit [AbigailSpanberger.com](http://AbigailSpanberger.com)*

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